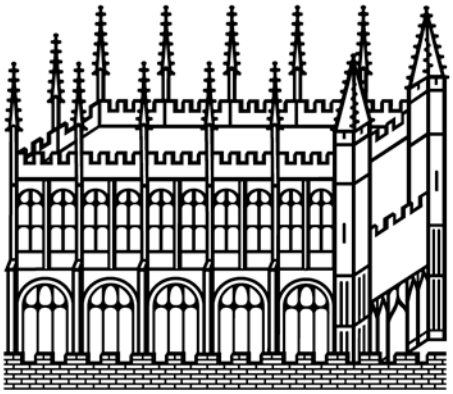

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## In Memoriam—W. E. Henley.

*This section of* SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES *was in course of despatch to subscribers when sad word came of the "passing" of my colleague and co-editor, Mr William Ernest Henley. Hence a few hours' delay to add this note.*

*Alas! and alas! that Time has not spared him to see the actual finish of a work the completion of which he has had, for many years, very strongly at heart indeed. Almost his last lines to me—a month's break occurred after we had sent the current section to press —were, "I rejoice to hear of your new start for the good word, 'Finis'"; and more than once he expressed himself as delighted to realise that the end* was *in sight. As a matter of fact, save for proof-reading and actual publication, our task was practically complete. Fair headway had also been made on the revision of the first volume, a revision with which my colleague was especially concerned, and on which he was at work till less than three weeks since. Still, when all is said, there remains the fact of irreparable loss—in "final suggestions" and "finishing touches."*

*Subscribers may be assured of faithful trusteeship on my part to include all the material suggestions and additions left in my hands. Much of it will find a fitting place in the proposed joint Terminal Essay, long roughly outlined, and often discussed, between us. There, also, I hope to tell something of the story of Mr Henley's long-sustained labour of love on this book.*

*At the moment, however, I can do little more than add my own personal tribute of reverent affection, high esteem, and sincere gratitude to one who is, humanly speaking, no longer amongst us. It is a tribute which I am persuaded is being silently paid, as I write, by hundreds who feel that in him they have had a true friend, guide, and helper.*

*JOHN S. FARMER.*

*18 Bury St., W.C.,*
*20th July 1903.*

# 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

JOHN S. FARMER & W. E. HENLEY

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MAY 1929

# A Dictionary of Slang and its Analogues.

**STRADA REALE HIGHLANDERS,** *subs. phr.* (military). — The 1st Batt. Gordon Highlanders, late The 75th Foot (KING). [In 1812 the regiment was detailed for Mediterranean service, and for some time formed the Main Guard of the Governor's residence in the Strada Reale, Valetta.]

**STRADDLE,** *subs.* (Stock Exchange). —A contract in which the holder can call for (or the signatory can deliver) stock at a fixed price: a speculation covering both a PUT and a CALL (*q.v.*): *cf.* SPREAD-EAGLE. Also as *verb.*

*Verb.* (American political). — To adopt a non-committal attitude; to favour both sides; 'to sit on the FENCE' (*q.v.*): also as *subs.*

1884. *Nation*, 3 July, 4. The platform contains the well-known plank STRADDLING the tariff question.

**STRAIGHTS (THE),** *subs.* (old London). — *See* quot. 1816.

[NARES: 'formerly frequented by profligates; a Cant name.] *See* BERMUDAS.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Faire*, ii. 6. Look into my angle o' the town (the STREIGHTS, or the Bermudas) where the quarrelling lesson is read. *Ibid.* Turn pirates here at land, Ha' their Bermudas, and their STRAIGHTS i' th' Strand.

1816. GIFFORD, *Jonson.* Note to above. Cant names then given to the places frequented by bullies, knights of the post, and fencing masters. . . . These STREIGHTS consisted of a nest of obscure courts, alleys, and avenues, running between the bottom of St Martin's Lane, Half Moon, and Chandos Street.

*Adj.* (colloquial). — STRAIGHT, generic for honesty, has, like ROUND (*q.v.*), and SQUARE (*q.v.*), a large colloquial vogue. Thus a STRAIGHT (= an exact) thinker; a STRAIGHT (= a chaste) PIECE (*q.v.*); a STRAIGHT (= an out-and-out) TORY: hence STRAIGHT-OUT = thorough-going; STRAIGHT (= NEAT: also duty-paid) WHISKEY; STRAIGHT (= candid) SPEECH; STRAIGHT (= honest) PEOPLE, LIVING, etc.; STRAIGHT (= honestly acquired) GOODS: also of persons = SQUARE (*q.v.*); a STRAIGHT (= a trustworthy) TIP, GRIFFIN, etc. (*q.v.*);

a STRAIGHT ( = an unsmiling) FACE; STRAIGHT (or STRAIGHT-OUT = outright, thorough; STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN (IN THE STRAIGHT, or ON THE STRAIGHT) = plain, honest, free from crookedness of all kinds; OUT OF THE STRAIGHT = dishonest, crooked.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 88. I'm a STRAIGHT-spoken kind o' creetur, That blurts right out what's in his head.

1856. *New York Courier*, Sept. In the Presidential contest of 1844, no man was more fierce in his hostility to Henry Clay than the present candidate of the STRAIGHT Whigs for the Vice-Presidency.

1872. *New York Tribune*, 7 Mar. When . . . Blair . . . declared, in a speech from the steps of the Manhattan Club, that the main plank in the Democratic platform was whiskey STRAIGHT, he probably shocked a few of his more orthodox and respectable hearers.

1886. *Fort. Rev.*, N.S., xxxix. 76. Dissipating their rare and precious cash on whiskey STRAIGHT in the ever-recurring bar-rooms.

1886. *St James's Gaz.*, 11 Nov. 'The husband of Lady Usk, a virtuous lady, who, as we are frequently told, is perfectly STRAIGHT and all that sort of thing.'

1887. *Referee*, 17 Ap. 'But going to first principles, nothing can be STRAIGHTER or more likely to work to an employer's interest than for his jockey to back his own mount.'

1872. *Nation*, 22 Aug., 113. Other STRAIGHT-OUTS, as they call themselves . . . cannot take Grant and the Republicans. *Ibid.* (1888), 6 Dec., 459. He shows himself to be a man of wide reading, a pretty STRAIGHT thinker, and a lively and independent critic.

1891. GOULD, *Double Event*, 22. He's got the STRAIGHT griff for something.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 9. 'If that isn't a good 'un,' the bookie cried, 'I'll forfeit a fiver, STRAIGHT.'

1901. *Free Lance*, 30 Nov., 217. 1. Uncommonly sharp sons, who, if they live, and run STRAIGHT, may get into the Cabinet or do anything else.

1902. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxix. When he had me locked in with him he gave me the STRAIGHT tip.

1903. KENNEDY, *Sailor Tramp*, xix. What do I know about him? Why that he's all right. That he's STRAIGHT GOODS.

IN THE STRAIGHT, *adv. phr.* (common).—Nearing the end; within sight of a finish; orig. a racing term.

1903. *T. P.'s Weekly*, 2 Jan., 248. 1. Good, I'm IN THE STRAIGHT now . . . Thank Heaven that's done.

STRAIGHT AS A POUND OF CANDLES (or AS A LOON'S LEG), *adv. phr.* (common).—As honest as may be. Also 'as STRAIGHT as the backbone of a herring (RAY), as a die, arrow,' etc.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xiii. My hair . . . hung down upon my shoulders, AS lank and STRAIGHT AS A POUND OF CANDLES.

1865. DOWNING, *Letters*, 42. They were puzzled with the accounts; but I saw through it in a minit, and made it all AS STRAIGHT AS A LOON'S LEG.

STRAIGHT! *intj.* (common).—Fact! Honest Injun!

1890. CHEVALIER, *Coster's Courtship*. STRAIGHT! ses I, I'm on the job for better or for wuss.

**STRAIGHT-LACED**, *adj. phr.* (B.E. and GROSE).—'Precise, squeemish, puritanical, nice.'

**STRAIN**, *verb.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, (TYRWHITT), 9627. 'Merchant's Tale.' He that night in armes wold hire STREINE.

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Hen. VIII.*, iv. 1. Our King has all the Indies in his arms, And more and richer when he STRAINS that lady.

TO STRAIN HARD, *verb. phr.* (B. E.)—'To ly heavily.'

TO STRAIN ONE'S TATERS, *verb. phr.* (common).—To urinate: *see* PISS.

**STRAM,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A walk; spec. a society parade. As *verb*=to walk stiffly: also (provincial: HALLIWELL)=to dash down violently, to beat.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 508. I hed sech a STRAM this mornin'.

2. (venery).—*See* STRUMPET.

**STRAMASH,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A disturbance; a ROUGH AND TUMBLE (*q.v.*). As *verb*=to beat, bang, destroy.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.* 'House Warming.' More calling and bawling, and squalling and falling, Oh, what a fearful STRAMASH they're all in.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xxxvi. I and three other University men . . . had a noble STRAMASH on Folly Bridge. That is the last fighting I have seen.

**STRAMMEL.** *See* STRUMMEL.

**STRAMMER,** *subs.* (colloquial).—Anything exceptional: *see* WHOPPER. STRAMMING=huge, great.

**STRANDED,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Penniless; friendless.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 26. Now, the bank was a trifle dyspeptic—a quid was its longest reach—And Yiffler could see himself STRANDED, for he sighted a pebbly beach.

**STRANGER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A sovereign: formerly a guinea (GROSE): *see* RHINO.

2. (common.)—A visitor: *cf.* the folk-saying of a badly burning candle, or a stalk in tea: 'A stranger's coming.'

**STRANGLE-GOOSE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A poulterer (GROSE).

**STRAP,** *subs.* (old).—1. A barber. [Strap, a barber in SMOLLETT'S *Roderick Random*, 1748.]

2. (common).—Credit: orig. credit for drink. ON STRAP='on TICK' (*q.v.*); STRAPPED=penniless, bankrupt. *See* HARD-UP.

1857. *Nat. Intelligencer*, Oct. Lowndes is STRAPPED; had to pay his wife's cousin's last quarter's rent, which consumed what he had reserved for current expenses.

1903. KENNEDY, *Sailor Tramp*, I. ix. 'Say, . . . are you STRAPPED?' 'Oh . . . I'm not hard up. I'm all right.' *Ibid.*, II. i. Why didn't you come to me when you were STRAPPED?

*Verb.* (venery).—1. 'To lie with a woman': see GREENS and RIDE (B.E. and GROSE).

2. (common).—To flog; to beat. Hence STRAPPING (or A DOSE OF STRAP-OIL or OIL OF STRAP'EM) = a thrashing; an April fool joke is to send a lad for 'a penn'orth of STRAP OIL': *cf.* STIRRUP-OIL.

3. (Scots).—To hang.

1825. SCOTT, *St Ronan's Well*, xiv. It's a crime baith by the law of God and man, and mony a pretty man has been STRAPPED for it.

4. (old).—To work (GROSE).

*See* BLACKSTRAP.

**STRAPPADO,** *subs.* (old).—A form of torture: the culprit, his legs tied, was hoisted by a rope fastened to his arms behind his back, and was given a rapid descent stopped so suddenly that the jerk often dislocated the joints of arms and shoulders. This was repeated once or twice. *Cf.* SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTER.

1587. HAKLUYT; *Voyages*, II. 253. It was told vs we should have ye STRAPPADO.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. An I were at the STRAPPADO, or all the racks in the world, I would not tell you on compulsion.

*c.* 1603. HEYWOOD, *Woman Killed*, etc. [PEARSON, *Works* (1874), II. 141]. I would . . . Be rack'd, STRAPPADO'D, put to any torment.

1613. PURCHAS, *Pilgrimage*, 341. They vse also the STRAPPADO, hoising them vp and downe by the armes with a corde.

1622. MARKHAM, *Epist. of Warre*. STRAPPADO [enumerated with] gallow, gibbets, and scaffolds [which the Provost Marshall was bound to provide on occasion.]

1633. CALLOT, *Misères*. [In this work there is a sketch of a culprit suspended from a high beam, the executioner holding with both hands the end of one of four spokes which act like a wheel and lever for hoisting or lowering the culprit, the executioner's right foot pressing against a lower spoke, his left foot on the ground.]

1688. R. HOLME, *Acad. Armory*, III. vii. 310. [Holme writes as though the STRAPPADO were still in use in the army] the jerk not only breaketh his arms to pieces, but also shaketh all his joynts out of joint; which punishment is better to be hanged, than for a man to undergo.

**STRAPPER**, *subs.* (old).—'A swingeing two-handed woman' (B. E. and GROSE); anything big or bulky: *cf.* WHOPPER. STRAPPING = tall, robust, well-made.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [*Works* (1725), iv. 105]. At last a crew of STRAPPING jades, That were, or should have been her maids.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 3. Has he not got a Lady that's a STRAPPER? *Ibid.*, 26. A STRAPPING LASS, She must be marry'd, or she'll grow too busy.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double Dealer*, iii. 10. Then that other great STRAPPING Lady.

1700. FARQUHAR, *Constant Couple*, i. 1. There are five-and-thirty STRAPPING officers gone this morning.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Pereg. Pickle*, lxxxvii. Ah, you STRAPPER, what a jolly bitch you are.

1778. DARBLAY, *Diary* (1893), i. 88. 'You who are light and little can soon recover, but I who am a gross man might suffer severely.' . . . Poor Lady Sadd, who is quite a STRAPPER, made no answer.

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, xx. 'She's a rare one, is she not, Jane?' 'Yes, sir.' 'A STRAPPER, a real STRAPPER, big, brown and buxom.'

1885. *D. Tel.*, 25 Aug. 'The police, fine STRAPPING fellows, usually Irish, wear white ducks in fine weather.'

**STRAVAG** (or **STRAVAIG**), *verb.* (Scots and Irish).—To tramp; to loaf; to abscond. Hence STRAVAIGER = a vagabond.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tip*. Your merry goblins soon STRAVAG.

1888. BLACK, *Far Lochaber*, vii. Prancing down to the shore and back from the shore—and STRAVAYGING about the place.

**STRAW**, *subs.* (old).—1. Generic for worthlessness. Thus, NOT WORTH A STRAW = of no appreciable value; TO CARE NOT A STRAW = to care not at all; A MAN (or FACE) OF STRAW = a man of no standing or substance, a sham: in quot. 1700 = a fumbler; STRAW-BAIL = professional security; STRAW-SHOES (MAN or WITNESS) = a perjured witness; STRAW-BID = a fictitious offer; STRAW-BIDDER = a buyer who cannot fulfil his contract; STRAW-VOTE = a snatch vote; STRAWYARDER (nautical) = a land-lubber playing the sailor; spec. a blackleg doing shipboard duty during a strike.

*d.* 1400. CHAUCER, *Tale of Melibeus*. And whan that they ben accompliced, yet ben they NOT WORTH A STRE.

. . . *Nugæ Poeticæ*, 48. Whatesoevery he be, and yf that he Whante money to plede the lawe, Do whate he cane in ys mater than Shale NOT prove WORTHE A STRAWE.

*c.* 1500. *Roberte the Deuyll* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 229, 261]. The Duke . . . asked Robert, iff he woulde lyue vnder awe Of God, and the order of knight-hode beare, He aunswered: I sett NOT thereby A STRAWE.

1534. UDAL, *Ralph Roister Doister* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), iii. 128]. Then A STRAW for her. . . . She shall not be my wife were she never so fair.

*c.* 1540. *Doctour Doubble-Ale*, 10. Popish lawes; That are NOT WORTH TWO STRAWES, Except it be with dawes.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iii. 2. Mistake me not; no life, I prize it NOT A STRAW, but for mine honour.

1675. WYCHERLEY, *Country Wife*, iv. 3. I will not be your drudge by day, to squire your wife about, and be your MAN OF STRAW or scarecrow only to pies and jays that would be nibbling at your forbidden fruit.

1700. DRYDEN, *Wife of Bath's Tale*. When you my ravish'd predecessor saw You were not then become this MAN OF STRAW.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. i. 9. No Zealot valu'd if A STRAW. But mounted . . . like Hunter's o'er a five-barr'd Gate.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 508. Off drops the vizor, and a FACE OF STRAW appears.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, vi. 387. All those, however, were MEN OF STRAW with me.

1754. FIELDING, *Jon. Wild*, I. ii. . . . He had likewise the remarkable honour of walking in Westminster Hall with a STRAW in his shoe.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 198. To me how all your matters go, Don't signify a single STRAW.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 104. The players are not MEN OF STRAW as I foolishly believed.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, iii. He CARED NOT A STRAW that he was a man of fortune, of family, of consequence; he must be a man of *ton*, or he was . . . no man.

1848. THACKERAY, *Snobs*, xviii. Why the deuce should Mrs Botibol blow me a kiss? . . . I don't CARE A STRAW for Mrs Botibol.

1876. *Telegram* from Washington, 13 Mar. [BARTLETT]. The House post-office committee has agreed to report Luttrell's bill to prevent STRAW-BIDDING for mail contracts, and to punish STRAW-BIDDERS when caught.

1892. SYDNEY, *England and English*, ii. 275. Perjury at this time [*c.* 1750] was a regular trade. . . . The lawyer who required convenient witnesses . . . going into Westminster Hall . . . would address a STRAW-MAN with a 'Don't you remember?' (at the same time holding out a fee).

1902. *Sp. Times*, 1 Feb., 2 i. I DO NOT CARE TWO STRAWS what alleged people write about myself.

2. (common).—A long clay pipe; a churchwarden.

3. (common).—A straw hat. Also STRAWYARD, and (schools) STRAWER.

PHRASES. IN THE STRAW = in childbed (GROSE); TO BREAK A STRAW = to quarrel; TO LAY A STRAW = to pause; TO DRAW (or PICK) STRAWS = to show signs of sleep; A PAD IN THE STRAW = anything amiss; TO THROW STRAWS AGAINST THE WIND (COLES) = to essay the impossible. Also (proverbial) 'A STRAW shows which way the wind blows'; 'He gives STRAW to his dog, and bones to his ass' (of one given to absurdities); 'To make a block of a STRAW'; 'To stumble at a STRAW and leap over a block,' etc., etc.

1526. *Pilgr. Perf.* [W. de W., 1531], 93. Lest of a STRAWE we make a block.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, v. 2. Ye perceive by this lingring there is a PAD IN THE STRAW.

15 [?] COLLIER, *Old Ballads* [HALLIWELL]. Here lyes in dede the PADDE WITHIN THE STRAWE.

1562. J. HEYWOOD. *Prov. and Epig.* (1867), 76. s.v. Ye stumbled at a STRAWE, and lept ouer a blocke.

1564. UDAL, *Erasmus's Apoph.*, 68. I prophecie (quoth he) that Plato and Dionysius wil erre many daies to an ende BREAKE A STRAWE betwene them.

1637. HOLLAND, *Camden*, 141. But LAY A STRAW here, for in a trifling matter others as well as myselfe may thinke these notes sufficient, if not superfluous.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Lincoln.' Our English plain Proverb *de Puerperis*, 'they are IN THE STRAW,' shows Feather-Beds to be of no ancient use among the common sort of our nation.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. iv. 18. We sipp'd our Fuddle As Women IN THE STRAW do Caudle.

1710. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, iii. *Lady Ans.* I'm sure 'tis time for all honest folks to go to bed. *Miss.* Indeed my eyes DRAW STRAWS. (She's almost asleep.)

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. STRAW. One eye DRAWS STRAW, and t'other serves the thatcher.

1786. BURGOYNE, *Heiress*, i. 1. *Mrs Blandish.* You take care to send to all the lying-in ladies? *Prompt.* At their doors, madam, before the first load of *straw.* (Reading his memorandum, as he goes out.) Ladies IN THE STRAW, ministers, etc.

1796. WOLCOT, *Peter Pindar*, 213. Their eyelids did not once PICK STRAWS, And wink and sink away; No, no, they were as brisk as bees.

1839. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg.* Although, by the vulgar popular saw, All mothers are said to be IN THE STRAW, Some children are born in clover.

**STRAWBERRY**, *subs.* (common).—A nevus; a birthmark.

*c.* 1866. BURNAND and SULLIVAN, *Box and Cox.* Have you a STRAWBERRY MARK on your left arm? No! Then you are my long lost brother.

TO CUT DOWN AN OAK, AND SET UP A STRAWBERRY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To waste; *cf.* Ital. *Cavar un chiodo e piantar una cavicchia* (=To dig up a nail and plant a pin).

**STRAWBERRY-LEAVES**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A dukedom: a ducal coronet is ornamented with eight strawberry-leaves.

**STRAWBERRY-PREACHER**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A non-resident; one who visited his cure only once a year.

**STRAWBOOTS**, *subs.* (military).—1. The 7th Dragoon Guards; also Old Strawboots, and The Straws. Also (2) the 7th Hussars. [Tradition says from these regiments having been employed in quelling agricultural riots.]

**STRAW-CHIPPER**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A barber; *cf.* STRUMMEL-FAKER and NOB-THATCHER.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, i. 5. Our dashing STRAW-CHIPPERS . . . in Burlington Arcade.

**STRAWING**, *subs.* (streets').—See quot.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 229. STRAWING, or selling straws in the street, and giving away with them something that is really or fictionally forbidden to be sold, as indecent papers, political songs, and the like.

**STRAW-RIDE**, *subs. phr.* (American).—A driving excursion in a STRAWED-down van or sleigh.

**STRAWYARD**, *subs.* (tramps').—*See* quot.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 138. They come back to London to avail themselves of the shelter of the night asylums or refuges for the destitute (usually called STRAW-YARDS by the poor).

Hence, LIKE A STRAWYARD BULL, *phr.* (common).—A jocose retort to the question, 'How are you?' 'Like a STRAWYARD BULL, full of fuck and half-starved.'

*See* STRAW, *subs.* 3.

**STREAK**, *subs.* (American).—1. A mental peculiarity: *cf.* TWIST, KINK, etc. Also a fit of temper: whence STREAKY, *adj.* = (1)

irritable ; short-tempered ; (2) mean ; (3) FLABBERGASTED (*q.v.*); and (4) variable. Also STREAKED.

1647. COWLEY, *The Mistress*, 'Wisdom.' Some STREAKS, too, of Divinity ran, Partly of Monk, and partly Puritan.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*. 1 S. ii. But wen it comes to bein' killed, I tell ye I felt STREAKED, The fust time 'tever I found out wy baggonets wuz peaked.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 1 S. Daniel Webster was a great man, I tell you; he'd talk King William out of sight in half an hour. If he was in your house of Commons, he'd make some of your great folks look pretty STREAKED.

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers*, 121. You know almost everybody has their queer STREAKS.

1856. STOWE, *Dred*, I. 120. Just act, now, as if you had got a STREAK of something in you, such as a man ought for to have who is married to one of the very first families in old Virginia.

1888. EGGLESTON, *The Graysons*, xviii. Mrs Button had been churning, and the butter 'took a contrary STREAK,' as she expressed it, and refused to come.

2. (common). — A run ; a sequence of prosperities or adversities.

*Verb.* (common).—To decamp swiftly ; to go with a rush : also TO MAKE STREAKS, TO STREAK OFF LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING, or TO GO LIKE A STREAK.

1604. HEYWOOD, *If You Know Not Me* [PEARSON, *Works* (1874) I. 292]. Have you beheld the like [a blazing star]? Look how it STREAKS.

1768. ROSS, *Helenore*. O'er hill and dale with fury she did dreel, A' roads to her were good and bad alike ; Nane o't she wyl'd, but forward on did STREAK.

1843. CARLTON, *New Purchase*, I. 78. I was certain it wasn't no fox or wolf, but a dog ; and if I didn't STREAK OFF like greased lightnin'.

1845. SIMMS, *Wigwam and Cabin*, 85. 'Twas a satisfaction to have such a horse, and 'twas a pleasure to crop him, and STREAK IT away, at a brushing canter, for a good five miles at a stretch.

1847. RUXTON, *Far West*, 79. What brings a duck a STREAKING IT down stream, if humans ain't behind her? and who's in these diggins but Indians?

1850. PORTER, *Tales of South-west*, 165. When I did get near, he'd stop and look, cock his ears, and give a snuff, as if he'd never seen a man afore, and then STREAK IT off as if I had been an Indian.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 59. As soon as I touched land, I STREAKED IT for home, as hard as I could lay legs to the ground.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, III. 108. The way they are STREAKING IT down the dark road to ruin is sorrowful to steam locomotives.

1865. DOWNING, *Letters*, 91. I STREAKED IT for Washington, and it was well-nigh upon midnight when I reached the White House.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 172. They jest STREAKED IT out through the buttery-door.

1886. *Field*, 25 Sep. Mayflower, first to take the breeze, went STREAKING away from Galatea.

**STREAMERS**, *subs. pl.* (common).—The Aurora Borealis ; Northern Lights.

1805. SCOTT, *Lay of Last Minstrel*, ii. 8. He knew, by the STREAMERS that shot so bright, That spirits were riding the northern light.

**STREAM'S-TOWN**, *subs. phr.* (venery). — The female *pudendum* : *cf.* MONOSYLLABLE (GROSE). *See* TIPPERARY FORTUNE.

**STREET**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. The people living in a street.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, IV. 3, 281. The STREET should see as she walk'd overhead.

1620. MIDDLETON, *Chaste Maid*, v. 2. All the whole STREET will hate us, And the world point me out cruel.

2. (colloquial). — A capacity, a method; a LINE (*q.v.*): *e.g.* 'That's not in my STREET'='I am not concerned' or 'That's not my way of doing,' etc.; IN THE SAME STREET=(1) on (or under) the same conditions; and (2) equal with.

1362. CHAUCER, *A.B.C.*, 70. Than makest thou his pees with his sovereign, And bringest him out of the croked STREETE.

1900. KENNARD, *Right Sort*, xx. Though not IN THE SAME STREET with King Olaf, it won't do to estimate Singing Bird's chance too lightly.

THE STREET, *subs. phr.* (old). —A centre of trade or exchange; spec. (American) Wall Street; *cf.* HOUSE, LANE, etc.

1612. PETER MARTYR [tr. EDEN, *First Books on America* [ARBER], 186]. Common places whyther marchauntes resort as to the burse or STREATE.

*See* GRUB STREET; KEY; QUEER STREET; SPIN.

**STREET-GANGER,** *subs. phr.* (thieves'). —A beggar.

**STREET-HOUND,** *subs. phr.* (American). —A rough, bully, or loafer.

1872. *Sacremento Weekly Union*, 24 Feb., 2. Pettifoggers, polite loafers, STREET-HOUNDS, hoodlums, and bummers.

**STREET-PITCHER,** *subs. phr.* (common). —Anyone who stands, or takes a PITCH (*q.v.*), in the streets—vendor, mendicant, etc.

**STREET-WALKER,** *subs. phr.* (common). —1. A harlot working on the pavement; *see* TART. Hence STREET-WALKING=questing for men.

2. (old). —*See* quot.

1618. MYNSHUL, *Essays on a Prison* (1821), 59. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 64. He has the new substantives key-turner (turnkey) and STREET-WALKER; these are both used of jailers.]

**STRENGTH.** ON THE STRENGTH, *phr.* (colloquial: military). —On the muster roll.

1889. FORBES [*Eng. Illus. Mag.*, vi. 525]. The colonel had put the widow woman ON THE STRENGTH; she was no longer an unrecognised waif, but had her regimental position.

**STREPEROUS.** *See* OBSTREPEROUS.

**STRETCH,** *subs.* (Old Cant). —1. A yard.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. STRETCH . . . The cove was lagged for prigging a peter with several STRETCH of dobbin from a drag.

2. (thieves'). —A year; THREE STRETCH=three years' imprisonment.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* I did not fall again for a STRETCH. This time I got two moon for assaulting the reelers when canon.

1888. GREENWOOD, *Undercurrents of Lond. Life.* 'All right, Sam.' 'How much, Toby?' 'Three STRETCH,' by which the sympathetic Sam knows his friend means 'three years.'

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. Before you can open a paddin-ken, you must get a licence from the charpering carsey which lasts for a STRETCH.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 116. I wished I'd been doing a STRETCH, sir, the year that we nobbled the crack.

1900. GRIFFITHS, *Fast and Loose*, xix. You know me; if you don't you ought, for I got you that last STRETCH in Tothill Fields.

3. (orig. University: now general). —A walk. TO STRETCH A LEG (or ONE'S LEGS)=to walk.

1653. WALTON, *Complete Angler*, 43. I have STRETCHED MY LEGS up Tottenham Hill to overtake you.

Verb. (old).—1. To hang; to SWING (*q.v.*): *see* LADDER. STRETCHING (STRETCHING-MATCH, or STRETCHING-BEE)= a hanging (B. E. and GROSE).

1623. MABBE, *Spanish Rogue* (1630), 7. He should STRETCH for it.

*c.* 1816.] MAYER, *Song*, 'The Night Before Larry was STRETCHED.' The rumbler jugg'd off from his feet, And he died with his face to the city.

2. (old).—To exaggerate; to lie: 'He STRETCHED hard'= 'He told a whistling lie' (B. E. and GROSE). Hence STRETCHER =an exaggeration, a falsehood.

*d.* 1844. FIELD, *Drama at Pokerville*. Whenever Mrs Oscar Dust told a STRETCHER, old Waters was expected to swear to it.

*d.* 1879. CLIFFORD, *Lectures*, I. 229. It is only by a STRETCH of language that we can be said to desire that which is inconceivable.

ON (or AT) A STRETCH, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—Continuously; at one and the same time.

*c.* 1832. HALIBURTON, *Traits of American Humour*. Chunky used to whistle three days and nights ON A STRETCH.

1841. BULWER, *Night and Morning*, ii. 8. She could not entertain the child long ON A STRETCH.

1885. *St James's Gaz.*, 23 Sep. Drivers and others frequently make twenty-four hours AT A STRETCH.

TO STRETCH LEATHER, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To possess a woman: *see* RIDE. LEATHER =MUTTON (*q.v.*); LEATHER-STRETCHER=the *penis*: *see* PRICK and *cf.* KID-STRETCHER.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. vi. note. The vigour and STRETCHING-LEATHERNESS of the suffering part; for we see but very few women, however weakly they be, but what happily get over the condition you are in.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1725), iv. 74. If they once do come together, He'll find that Dido's REACKING LEATHER.

TO STRETCH ONE'S LEGS ACCORDING TO THE COVERLET, *verb. phr.* (old).—To adapt oneself to circumstances; 'to cut one's coat according to the cloth' (RAY).

TO STRETCH (or STRAIN) A POINT, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To exceed a limit: *see* POINT.

**STRETCHER**, *subs.* (common).—1. In *pl.* = braces. Hence STRETCHER-FENCER=a vendor of braces.

2. (University).—A University Extension student.

3. *See* STRETCH.

4. (B. E.).—'The piece of Wood that lies cross the Boat where on the Water-man rests his Feet.'

**STRETCH-HALTER** (or **HEMP**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A scoundrel; one who badly needs a hanging: *cf.* CRACK-ROPE, WAG-HALTER; SCAPE-GALLOWS, etc.

1604. HEYWOOD, *If You Know Not Me* [PEARSON, *Works* (1874), I. 283]. Look here, I know this is the shop, by that same STRETCH-HALTER.

1629. *Schoole of Good Manners* [quoted by NARES]. To mocke anybody by blabboring out the tongue is the part of STRETCH-HALTERS and lewd boyes, not of well mannered children.

**STRETCHY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Sleepy; languid; inclined to stretch and yawn.

1872. CLEMENS, *Roughing It*, xxvii. In the night the pup would get STRETCHY and brace its feet against the old man's back.

**'STREWTH**, *intg.* (common).—'God's truth!'

1892. KIPLING, *Barrack Room Ballads*, 'C. B.' Drunk and resistin' the guard! 'STREWTH! but I socked at 'em 'ard.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 7. 'Strewth! I'll have a drink, And wish all pals a prosperous New Year.

**STRIDE**, *subs.* (theatrical).—In *pl.* = trousers: *see* KICKS.

TO STRIDE A POT, *verb. phr.* (common).—To piss (of women): hence AS GOOD AS EVER STRODE A POT = as good as ever PISSED (*q.v.*).

TO TAKE IN ONE'S STRIDE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To do easily, and without an effort, as a hunter or a steeple-fencer takes a fence.

**STRIDE-WIDE**, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—Ale. [HALLIWELL: 'mentioned in HARRISON'S *England*, 202'.]

**STRIKE**, *subs.* (common).—A sovereign; 20*s.* (GROSE).

2. (American political).—*See* quot 1890. Whence STRIKER = a blackmailer.

1883. *Nation*, 6 Sep., 200. If he can elect such a ticket even in Virginia alone he will take the field after election as a STRIKER, and will offer his electoral votes to whichever candidate will give the highest terms.

1890. *Century Dict.*, s.v. Strike, *n.* 13. Any unscrupulous attempt to extort money or to obtain other personal advantage by initiating an attack with the intention of being bought off, as by introducing a bill into a legislature hostile 'to some moneyed interest, with the hope of being paid to let the matter drop.'

*Verb.* (old).—Generic for getting money: to steal (HARMAN, B. E.); to beg, to borrow (*e.g.* 'to STRIKE (or SPRING, *q.v.*) a man for a quid'); to get into debt (*cf.* TO STRIKE A LIGHT = to run up an alehouse score): *see* quot. *c.* 1696. Hence STRIKING = a robbery, swindle, or imposition; and STRIKER = a robber with violence.

1591. GREENE, *Art of Cony Catching* [NARES]. The cutting a pocket, or picking a purse, is called STRIKING.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Hen. IV.*, ii. 1. 82. I am joined with no foot-land rakers, no long-staff sixpenny STRIKERS.

1628. EARLE, *Microcos*, Appen. 254. 'Now we have well bousd, let us STRIKE some chete.'

1655. SHIRLEY, *Gent. of Venice* [NARES]. I must borrow money, And that some call a STRIKING.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. STRIKE . . . STRIKE all the Cheats, c. Rob all you meet. STRIKE the Cull, c. Beg of that Gentleman. STRIKE the Cly, c. get that Fellow's Money from him. He has STRUCK the Quidds, c. he has got the Cole from him. He STRIKES every Body, c. he borrows Money every where, he runs in every one's Debt.

2. (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE. Hence STRIKER = a wencher.

1620. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. III. iv. 1. Gave her a familiar touch with his wand, which she mistaking for her lover, said Ah, Landre, a good Knight should STRIKE before, and not behind.

1639. MASSINGER, *Un. Combat*, iv. 2. That, if the sign deceive me not, in time, Will prove a notable STRIKER, like his father.

STRIKE ME BLIND! *intj.* (common).—An oath.

STRIKE ME LUCK (or LUCKY), *phr.* (old).—Originally used in clenching a bargain: the hands were struck together, and the buyer left a luck-penny in the hands of the seller. Hence an oath or ejaculation (BEE).

1616. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Scornful Lady*, ii. Come STRIKE ME LUCK with earnest and draw the writings. There's a God's-penny for thee.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. i. 540. But if that's all you stand upon, Here, STRIKE ME LUCK, it shall be done.

TO MAKE A STRIKE, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To achieve, succeed, or be lucky: at ninepins: to knock all the pins down with one ball.

*See* BRIGHT; HEAP; JIGGER; OIL; RICH; ROSE.

**STRIKE-ME-BLIND,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—Rice.

**STRILL,** *subs.* (provincial).—A cheating lie (HOTTEN).

**STRING,** *subs.* (printers'). — A hoax; a discredited story. Hence as *verb*=to hoax, to deceive. Also (BEE) ON A STRING (or LINE)=hoaxed, bamboozled; STUFFED (*q.v.*).

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 68. You can't kid me . . . they've been having you ON STRING.

*Verb.* (billiards).—To cast for play: each player to the top of the table to return to balk; the one nearest the bottom cushion has then the choice.

IN A STRING, *phr.* (old).—At command.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 27. 'A Sea Lieutenant.' In fine, he is the Captain's humble Pig IN A STRING.

TO HARP UPON ONE STRING, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To repeat incessantly (HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, 1546).

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 14. But her parents, ever HARPING UPON ONE STRING, expounded this aversenesse and declining of hers to a modest bashfull shame.

TO FEEL LIKE GOING TO HEAVEN IN A STRING, *verb. phr.* (old).—To feel blindly and confusedly happy.

**STRINGER,** *subs.* (old). — 1. A wencher: *see* MUTTON-MONGER.

1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Kn. Burning Pestle*, i. 1. A whoreson tyrant, hath beene an old STRINGER in his days, I warrant.

2. (cricket).—A difficult ball to play.

**STRINGY-BARK,** *subs. phr.* (Australian).—*See* quot.

1890. A. J. VOGAN, *Black Police*, 217. STRINGY-BARK, a curious combination of fusil oil and turpentine, labelled 'whisky.'

*Adj.* (Australian). — Rough, uncultured; hence mean, ne'er-do-weel: equivalent to 'bush,' and usually in contempt.

1833. *New South Wales Magazine*, Oct., i. 173. I am but, to use a colonial expression, a STRINGY-BARK carpenter.

1853. C. RUDSTON READ, *Australian Gold Fields*, 53. After swimming a small river about 100 yards wide he'd arrive at old Geordy's, a STRINGY-BARK settler.

1892. NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, 30. He was a Larikin of the Larikins, this tiny STRINGY-BARK, who haunted my thoughts.

**STRIP,** *verb.* (old).—1. *See* quot.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. STRIP, c. to Rob or Gut a House, to unrig any Body, or to Bite them of their Money. STRIP THE KEN, c. to Gut the House. STRIP THE TABLE, c. to Winn all the Money on the Place. *Ibid.* 'Poor, naked': *e.g.* 'We have STRIPT the Cull'='We have got all the Fool's Money'; 'The Cove's STRIPT'='the Rogue has not a Jack left to help himself.'

**STRIPE,** *subs.* (colloquial). — A characteristic; kind; KIDNEY (*q.v.*). Spec. (American)=persons of the same political colour.

1613. W. BROWNE, *Britannia's Pastorals*, i. 2. I shall go on; and first in differing STRIPE The flood-god's speech thus tune an oaten pipe.

1856. *New York Herald*, 7 July. The call of the Soft-shell Convention was signed by twelve men of the Free-Soil Buffalo STRIPE.

1875. STEDMAN, *Vict. Poets*, 256. Various poems are of a democratic, liberal STRIPE.

THE STRIPES, *subs. phr.* (American).—Short for 'STARS AND STRIPES' (*q.v.*).

**STRIP-ME-NAKED,** *subs. phr.* (old). — Gin. Also STARK-NAKED (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1820. EGAN, *Randle's Diary.* Then shall young Bacchus see his glittering shrine Delug'd with STRIP-ME-NAKED 'stead of wine.

**STRIPPED,** *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial). — Unadulterated; NEAT (*q.v.*).

**STRIPPER,** *subs.* (gaming).—In *pl.* = high cards cut wedge-shape, a little wider than the rest, so as to be easily drawn in a crooked game: *cf.* CONCAVES AND CONVEXES, LONGS AND SHORTS, etc.

**STRIVE,** *verb.* (Christ's Hospital).—To write with care: *cf.* SCRUB.

**STROKE,** *verb.* (venery).—1. To copulate: *see* RIDE; also as *subs.* = the act of kind (GROSE).

2. (venery). To grope (*cf.* STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, viii., xxii.).

**STROKER,** *subs.* (old).—A flatterer; a sycophant.

1632. JONSON, *Magnet. Lady*, iv. 1. Dame Polish, My lady's STROKER.

**STROLLER,** *subs.* (B.E. and GROSE). —*See* quots.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. STROWLERS, c. Vagabonds, Itinerants, Men of no settled Abode, of a Precarious Life, Wanderers of Fortune, such as, Gypsies, Beggers, Pedlers, Hawkers, Mountebanks, Fidlers, Country-Players, Rope-dancers, Juglers, Tumblers, showers of Tricks, and Raree-show-men.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. STROLLER . . . itinerants of different kinds.

**STROLLING-MORT,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—*See* quot. 1696 (HARMAN, GROSE).

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. STROWLING-MORTS, c. pretending to be Widows, sometimes Travel the Countries, making Laces upon Ewes, Beggers-tape, &c. Are light Finger'd, Subtil, Hypocritical, Cruel, and often dangerous to meet, especially when a Ruffler is with them.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*, 'Maunder's Praise of His STROWLING MORT. Doxy, oh! thy glaziers shine As glimmar; by the Salomon!

**STROMMEL,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. Straw (HARMAN, DEKKER, B.E., and GROSE). Also STRAMMEL.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 84. Bene Lightmans to thy quarromes, in what lipken hast thou lypped in this darkemans, whether in a lybbege or in the STRUMMELL?

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. The bantling's born; the doxy's in the STRUMMEL, Laid by an Autumn mort of their own crew That served for midwife.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, xxviii. Sleep on the STRAMMEL in his barn.

2. (old).—Hair (GROSE and VAUX). Hence TO HAVE ONE'S STRUMMEL FAKED IN TWIG = to have it dressed in style; STRUMMEL-FAKER = a barber: *cf.* STRAW-CHIPPER.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood.* 'Jerry Juniper's Chant.' With my STRUMMEL FAKED IN the newest TWIG.

**STRONG.** *See* COME and GO.

**STRONG MAN.** TO PLAY THE PART OF THE STRONG MAN, *verb. phr.* (old).—'To be whipped at the cart's tail'; *i.e.*, 'to push the cart and horses too' (GROSE).

**STRUE,** *verb.* (schools').—'Construe.'

**STRUM,** *subs.* (old).—1. A wig (B. E.). [GROSE: 'Cambridge'.]

2. *See* STRUMPET.

*Verb.* (GROSE).—'To play badly on the harpsichord or any other stringed instrument. A strummer of wire, a player on any instrument strung with wire.'

**STRUMPET** (or **STRUM**), *subs.* (old).—A harlot: *see* TART (B. E. and GROSE). As *adj.* = wanton; as *verb* = (1) to play the whore; and (2) to hold up to contempt as a strumpet; also STRUM = to copulate (GROSE and BYRON); STRUMPETOCRACY = government by the privities; and THE STRUM (or STRAM), *subs.* = street-walking.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Com. Errors*, ii. 2. 146. STRUMPETED by the contagion. *Ibid.* (1602). *Othello*, v. 1. 'I am no STRUMPET; but of life as honest, As you that thus abuse me.'

1594. NASHE, *Unf. Trav.* (1890), 101. Out whore! STRUMPET . . . away with her to prison.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, *Palandrina*, a common queane, a harlot, a STRUMPET, a gill.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch*, v. 1. Daintily abus'd! you've put a just upon me—a common STRUMPET.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Gaultière*, A whore, drab, queane, STRUMPET.

1622. MARMION, *Holland's Leaguer*, ii. 2. Didst thou think that I could be corrupted To personate a STRUMPET'S dalliance?

1630. *Times Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 88. Shameless STRUMPETS, whose vncurbéd swing Many poor soules vnto confusion bring.

1633. FORD, *Broken Heart*, iv. 2. Poor Penthea's name is STRUMPETED.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 75. You now Have caught a most notorious STRUMPET.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 52. Keeping a saucy STRUMPET under my nose.

1818. BYRON, *Beppo*, ii. Guitars, and every other sort of STRUMMING. *Ibid.* 'To Thomas Moore.' Guitarring or STRUMMING, now? O, Thomas Moore.

*c.* 1857. CARLYLE, *Misc.*, iv. 80. The STRUMPETOCRACY sits at its ease, in high-cushioned lordliness.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good Night*. You judes that clobber for the STRAM.

**STRUNT**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Epig. and Satyres*. Consenting she, his art'rizde STRUNT he drew, And to 'es venereous game he hastily flew.

2. (Scots).—Liquor.

1787. BURNS, *Hallowe'en*, xxviii. Syne, wi' a social glass of STRUNT, They parted aff careerin'.

**STRUT-NODDY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A mincing fool.

**STUB**, *subs.* (old).—1. A fool: *see* BUFFLE.

1632–74. MILTON, *Letters on Education*. Our dullest and laziest youth, our stocks and STUBS.

2. (American).—A counterfoil of a cheque. Hence STUB-BOOK = a book of counterfoils of cheques or other duplicate records.

1886. *Report of Secretary of Treas.*, 700. The filed STUB-BOOKS of stamps.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 136. Miss Hill's attorney . . . endeavoured to have produced in court, in evidence of Senator Sharon's maintenance of the plaintiff, the millionaire's check STUBS.

*Verb.* (Felsted).—To kick a football about.

**STUBBLE**, *subs.* (venery).—The pubic hair: *see* FLEECE. TO SHOOT OVER THE STUBBLE (or IN THE BUSH) = to ejaculate before intromission; TO TAKE A TURN IN THE STUBBLE = to copulate: *see* RIDE and GREENS. *Cf.* The Sportsman's Toast: 'POINTER AND STUBBLE.'

TO STUBBLE ONE'S WHIDDS (or TO STUBBLE IT), *verb. phr.* (Old Cant). — To hold one's tongue (B. E. and GROSE).

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxxii. STUBBLE IT, you ben, you deserve to cly the jerk for your patter. *Ibid.* (1830), *Paul Clifford.* STUBBLE YOUR WHIDS, you wants to trick I.

**STUBBS,** *adv.* (Old Cant).—Nothing (GROSE and VAUX).

**STUB-FACED,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Pitted with small pox (GROSE).

**STUCK.** *See* STICK in various senses: also PIG.

**STUCK-UP,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Conceited; purse-proud; assuming airs, dignity, or importance. Also (rare) as *subs.*

18[?]. *Betsy Bobbet*, 272. She was dressed up like a doll, but she didn't act STUCK-UP a mite.

1839. DICKENS, *Nicholas Nickleby*, ix. 'He's a nasty STUCK-UP monkey, that's what I consider him,' said Mrs Squeers, reverting to Nicholas. 'Supposing he is,' said Squeers, 'he's as well STUCK-UP in our schoolroom as anywhere else.'

1847. A. SMITH, *The Natural History of* STUCK-UP *People* [Title].

1863. OLIPHANT, *Salem Chapel*, i. Them STUCK-UP ways may do with the Church folks as can't help themselves, but they'll never do with us Dissenters.

1879. EGGLESTON, *Hoosier Schoolmaster.* She was so dog on STUCK-UP that she turned up her nose . . . because I tuck a sheet off the bed to splice out the tablecloth.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 68. These STUCKUPPY snipsters as jaw about quiet and peace.

1899. WESTCOTT, *David Harum*, xii. Mr Robinson instantly arrived at the determination that the stranger was STUCK-UP.

**STUDY,** *subs.* (B. E.).—'A Closet of Books.'

*See* BROWN STUDY.

**STUFF,** *subs.* (once literary, now colloquial). — 1. Belongings: furniture, goods, utensils: generic. The literary usage lingers in 'household-STUFF,' and in such a tributary sense as 'food-STUFFS,' 'bread-STUFFS' (=raw material).

1360. *Anturs of Arther and Sir Amadace* [Camden Soc.], 21. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 67. STUFFE stands for equipment; this led to its sense of *furniture.*]

1427–9. *Wills and Inventories* [Surtees Soc.], 75. STUFFE of myn houses of offices as panetre and buttre.

*c.* 1430. *Destr. Troy* [E.E.T.S.], 5775. Assemblit were some the same in the fight, And restorit full stithly the STUFF of the Grekes.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Comedy of Errors*, iv. 4. 162. Away, to get our STUFF aboard. *Ibid.* (1609), *Tempest*, i. 2. Rich garments, linens, STUFFS, and necessaries.

2. (old colloquial).—Money: generic (BEE).

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 261. Hector had got no great store of STUFF Called cash, but ancient blood enough.

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, i. 1. Has she got the STUFF, Mr Fag? Is she rich, hey?

1891. GOULD, *Double Event*, 160. When his party plank the STUFF down it's generally a moral.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 50. Every sport with STUFF in his pockets and lots of good clothes.

1903. KENNEDY, *Sailor Tramp*, i. iv. The sailor had spent over ten dollars by this time. 'How did—did youish get the STUFF, Sailor?' he asked.

3. (old: still colloquial).—In contempt for anything to be swallowed: spec. medicine.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Cymbeline*, v. 5. 255. A certain STUFF, which being ta'en, would cease The present power of life.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 17. Sandy tipp'd him a dose of that kind, that, when taken, It isn't The STUFF, but the patient that's shaken.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 429. They carry . . . pint bladders of STUFF, or jigger-STUFF (spirit made at an illicit still) . . . and a tidy sale some of them had.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 114. I was to doctor the STUFF, And be somewhere on hand with a pistol if the hocussing turned out a muff.

4. (colloquial). — Twaddle; fustian; trash—spoken or written. Spec. in such phrases as 'STUFF!' = 'Rubbish!' 'STUFF AND NONSENSE!' = 'What ROT' (*q.v.*)! (B. E. and GROSE). As *verb* = to GAMMON (*q.v.*): to fill full of lies, prejudice, statistics, victuals, etc. Whence STUFFING (journalists') = superfluous matter, used to fill a given space; PADDING (*q.v.*).

1579. GOSSON, *School of Abuses* [ARBER], 66. What STUFFE is this?

1701. FARQUHAR, *Sir Harry Wildair*, iii. 1. *Sir Harry.* There is a repose, I see, in the next room. *Lady Lure.* Unnatural STUFF! *Sir Harry.* . . . As fulsome as a sack-posset.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 1. 278. A Deal of such STUFF they sung to the deaf Ocean.

1770. FOOTE, *Lame Lover* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 184. Some is pronounced to be NONSENSE AND STUFF; here we transpose].

1802. W. TAYLOR, *Roberds, Men.*, i. 425. If these topics be insufficient habitually to supply what compositors call the requisite STUFFING, recourse is to be had to amusive anecdotes.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 109. If they commended a piece I was ravished . . . but suppose they pronounced it bad? why, then I maintained that it was infernal STUFF.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. STUFF. . . . Ridiculous or deceitful talk . . . if meant to harm another . . . is bloody STUFF. She hearkened to his STUFF, and got ruinated. . . . Bawdry is STUFF, that's certain.

1853. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, i. You'll allow me to observe it's anything but STUFF AND NONSENSE. . . . I have not paid a farthing of the money yet. . . .

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xix. It's all STUFF to say Sally's shoulders are too much loaded.

5. (prison).—Tobacco.

6. (American).—(*a*) A simpleton, a weakling; and (*b*) a respectable citizen (thieves').

7. (legal).—A Junior Counsel: as distinguished from SILK (*q.v.*): also STUFF-GOWN.

1903. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 19 Feb., i. 2. 'Silk and STUFF' [Title of Legal Column].

*Verb.* (colloquial).—To gorge; TO WOLF (*q.v.*).

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 31. My drinking kept pace with my eating, and when I could STUFF no longer, I went to bed.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 58. He eat as long as he could STUFF.

1868. W. S. GILBERT, *Etiquette.* He longed to lay him down upon the shelly bed, and STUFF; He had often eaten oysters, but had never had enough.

TO STUFF A BALLOT-BOX, *verb. phr.* (American political).—To tamper with returns by the surreptitious introduction into the ballot-box of bogus voting papers. Hence STUFFER = a cheating teller.

**STUFFER.** *See* HEELER, quot. 1888, and STUFF.

**STUFFING.** *See* KNOCK and STUFF, sense 4.

**STUFFY,** *adj.* (American). — 1. Angry, sulky, obstinate.

2. (colloquial).—Close; airless; malodorous.

**STULING-KEN.** *See* STALL, *subs.* 5.

**STUMBLE.** *See* TRUCKLE-BED.

**STUMER,** *subs.* (common).—Generic for sham: spec. a worthless cheque.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 8. 'The Merry STUMER' . . . STUMER tricks . . . STUMER stake . . . STUMER note . . . STUMER cheque.

1902. *Sp. Times*, 1 Feb., 3. 1. He had borrowed a few hundred franks from her, and had given her as security a STUMER in the shape of an unfinished history of Corsica.

**STUMP,** *subs.* (old).—1. In *pl.* = legs. As *verb* = to walk: spec. stiffly, heavily, or noisily; whence TO STIR ONE'S STUMPS = to bestir oneself, to increase one's speed.

*c.* 1609. WEBSTER, *Appius and Virginia*, ii. 3. I can bestir my STUMPS as soon as another, if fit occasion be offered.

1617. BRAITHWAITE, *Law of Drinking*, 70. His long practice of the pot has exempt him from being prest a souldier: hee has quite lost the use of his STUMPS, how should he then possibly keepe his march?

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, iii. 1. How should we bustle forward? Give some counsel How to BESTIR OUR STUMPS in these cross ways.

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 262. This makes him STIRRE HIS STUMPS, and to answer her letter with such speedy cheerefulnesse, as Mellida can expect no lesse then all successe to her desires.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, 1. ii. 926. Getting up on STUMP and huckle, He with the foe began to buckle.

1675. COTTON, *Burl. on Burl.* (1770), 247. Those fat STUMPS thou walkst upon.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, 1. ii. 17. I had not long, on City Stones, BESTIRR'D MY STUMPS and Marrowbones.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 5. Then cease your canting sobs and groans, And STIR YOUR STUMPS to save your bones.

1798. MORTON, *Secrets Worth Knowing*, i. 1. A parcel of lazy chaps, I dare say — but I'll make them STIR THEIR STUMPS.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 344. The reader may guess whether I did not STIR MY STUMPS.

1818. SCOTT, *Heart of Midlothian*, xii. He rose from his seat, STUMPED across the room.

1835. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 1 S. xxvi. I guess our great nation may be STUMPED to produce more eleganter liquor than this here. It's the dandy, that's a fact.

1841. LYTTON, *Night and Morning*, ii. 2. STUMP IT, my cove; that's a Bow-street runner.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 4. The guard picks him off the coach top, and sets him on his legs, and they STUMP off into the bar.

1860. *Funny Fellow*, 7 May, 1. Hallo, my kiddy, STIR YOUR STUMPS. . . . Make haste, young chip, my boots to shine.

1891. MARRIOTT-WATSON, *Web of Spider*, xiii. I'll go bail we wouldn't ha' got another half-mile on our STUMPS.

2. (old). — Money: generic; also STUMPY (GROSE). Hence as *verb* (or TO STUMP UP) = to pay; STUMPED (or PUT TO ONE'S STUMPS) = poor, hard-up, put to shift (GROSE); TO PAY ON THE STUMP = to disburse readily and promptly.

1821. EGAN, *Real Life*, 1. 142. She shall STUMP UP the rubbish before I leave her.

1836. DICKENS, *Sk. by Boz*, 'Walkins Tottle.' Why don't you ask your old governor to STUMP UP? *Ibid.*, 'First Cab-driver.' Reduced to despair, they ransomed themselves by the payment of sixpence a head, or, to adopt his own figurative expression . . . forked out the STUMPY.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.* 'Old Woman in Grey.' (Save its synonyms, 'Spanish,' 'Blunt,' 'STUMPY,' and 'Rhino'), II. 47. [He] . . . was STUMPED and hard up. *Ibid.*, 48. My trusty old crony, do STUMP UP three thousand once more as a loan.

183[?]. HOOD, *Tale of a Trumpet.* But common prudence would bid you STUMP IT, For not to enlarge, It's the regular charge At a Fancy Fair for a penny trumpet.

1835. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*, III. ii. 'Don't you know our history?—haven't you heard, my dear fellow, we are STUMPED!' 'STUMPED,' said I, almost unconsciously repeating the quaint, but wofully expressive word. 'Positively STUMPED,' said Daly. 'Don't speak loud. I thought, of course, you had heard of it. Blinkinsop has bolted.'

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, ii. Down with the STUMPY; a tizzy for a pot of half-and-half.

1882. BLACKMORE, *Christowell*, I. xxiii. How much is the captain going to STUMP UP?

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 63. In the annals of the absolutely STUMPED.

3. (common).—A blockhead: *see* BUFFLE.

4. (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. Also CARNAL STUMP.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xlv. I hope To see some brawny, juicy rump Well tickled with my CARNAL STUMP.

*Verb.* (old).—1. To boast; to SWAGGER (*q.v.*). Hence STUMPER=a braggart (BAILEY and DYCHE).

1748. DYCHE, *Dict.*, s.v. BOUNCE . . . to swagger, boast, crack, STUMP, or pretend to great matters.

2. (colloquial).—To challenge, defy, puzzle, or confound; and (in an absolute sense) to ruin. As *subs.* (AMERICAN)=an attempt to puzzle or confound; STUMPER =a puzzler; UP A STUMP=confounded, UP A TREE (*q.v.*).

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.* To be all 'abroad,' to be STUMPED, not to know where To go, so disgraced as not to be 'placed,' Or, as Crocky would say to Jem Bland, 'to be nowhere.'

1838. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches.* Instead of STUMPING his antagonist by launching out his cash, he shakes a portentous fist under his nose, and the affair is settled.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 135. Heavens and earth! thinks I, what does all this mean? I knowed I hadn't done any thing to be put in prison for, and I never was so STUMPED.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life.* My note was a STUMPER to Sally; so she got Jess to explain it.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. xi. That beastly Euclid altogether STUMPS me. . . . *Ibid.* They say it ain't a bad thing . . . to get your head shaved. . . . I think I shall try the dodge . . . when I've STUMPED the examiner I can wear my own . . . locks again.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, ii. 'And my father and mother?' breathlessly demanded Julian. 'There I'm STUMPED,' carelessly answered Sir Aubrey.

3. (American).—To travel the country for the purpose of making partizan or personal speeches from stumps or other improvised platforms. Originally backwoods electioneering, and spec. on one's own account: now general. Frequently, but not necessarily, in a derogatory sense. Also TO GO ON THE STUMP (or TO TAKE THE STUMP). Hence STUMPER (STUMP ORATOR or STUMP-SPEAKER)=(1) an electioneer; and (2) a bombastic SPOUTER (*q.v.*), with such derivatives as STUMP-ORATOR, STUMP-SPEECH, etc. [WORCESTER: 'A cant phrase'.]

1843. CARLTON. *New Purchase*, I. 211. We had of course a passion for STUMP SPEAKING. But, recollect, we often mount the stump only figuratively; and very good STUMP SPEECHES are delivered from a table, a chair, a whiskey-barrel, and the like. Sometimes we make the best STUMP SPEECHES on horseback.

1848. *New York Herald*, 21 June, 'Letter from Washington.' The Hon. W. R. Thompson of Indiana, one of the most popular STUMP SPEAKERS of the day.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, I. 132. When you see a politician extra full of patriotism, and stuffed with STUMP SPEECHES, you may take it for granted he wants office either for himself or for some particular friend.

1862. *Punch*, 5 Ap. Though not clear which STUMP I'LL TAKE, That STUMP shall be colossal; Whether I'm Slavery's advocate, Or Liberty's apostle.

1872. *Figaro*, 30 Nov. Greeley's too great a roarer, and depended too much ON THE STUMP.

1884. PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY, *Trottings of a Tenderfoot.* If a constitution was to grow up strong, it didn't want forcing with a lot of STUMP-SPOUTER'S rubbish, and so on, and so on.

1884. *Punch*, 11 Oct. Fancy, old chump, Me doing the sawdusty reglar, and follering swells ON THE STUMP.

STUMP AND RUMP, *adv. phr.* (colloquial). — Completely: *cf.* STOCK AND BLOCK; ROOT AND BRANCH; STICK AND STONE, etc.

**STUMPER,** *subs.* (Tonbridge School). — 1. Small cricket: played with a stump. At Harrow STUMPS.

2. (colloquial). — A wicket-keeper.

3. (common).—Anything that bowls out; a CORKER (*q.v.*): *see* WHOPPER.

*See* STUMP.

**STUMP-OF-THE-GUTTER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot. with an eye on STUMPY = short, squat, dumpy.

1764. O'HARA, *Midas*, i. 5. You STUMP-O'-THE-GUTTER, you hop-o'-my-thumb, A husband must for you from Liliput come.

**STUMP-TAIL CURRENCY,** *subs. phr.* (American).—Currency issued by certain banks of doubtful credit prior to the Civil War (BARTLETT).

**STUN,** *verb.* (thieves').—To cheat; to DO (*q.v.*). TO STUN OUT OF THE REGULARS = to swindle a man of his share of booty.

**STUNLAW,** *subs.* (back slang).—Walnuts.

**STUNNER,** *subs.* (colloquial). — Generic for astonishment: *see* WHOPPER. STUNNING = amazing, strikingly large, good, etc.; TO PUT THE STUNNERS ON = to perplex, confound, astonish.

1848. THACKERAY, *Snobs*, xxv. For the performance of 'Gettin' up Stairs,' I have no other name but that it was a STUNNER.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 471. He wears a STUNNING fawny on his finger.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green.* You get on STUNNINGLY, Giglamps.

1857. WHITTY, *Fr. Bohemia.* 193. 'He had seen her at the Crystal Palace? and she was sure he had applauded—so kind!' 'Why—yes,' said Jack . . . 'I think you are a STUNNER.'

1863. OUIDA, *Held in Bondage*, i. 245. The girl is STUNNING, the blokes say.

1874. *Siliad*, 102. 'Golden Nell,' the idol of the West, the peerless belle . . . she is a STUNNER.

1877. *Boston Jo.*, 19 May. This is a STUNNER,—a sockdolager, so to speak.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 29. She's a smart gin when she's away from grog, and a STUNNER at cutting out on a camp.

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 16. 1. *Lady Dashout.* 'Those short skirts . . . must be simply delightful to walk in.' *Lady Jack.* 'They're perfectly STUNNING.'

**STUPID** (or **STUPE**), *subs.* (colloquial).—A blockhead: *see* BUFFLE.

1762. BICKERSTAFF, *Love in a Village*, ii. 2. Was ever such a poor STUPE?

1860. ELIOT, *Mill on the Floss*, i. 9. Tom . . . inconsiderately laughed . . . and told her she was a STUPID.

**STURDY-BEGGAR,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—'The fifth and last of the most ancient Order of Canters' (B. E.); 'beggars that rather demand than ask' (GROSE).

1569. STRYPE, *Order of City of London.* Those that were Vagabonds, and STURDY BEGGARS, they were to carry to Bridewel.

1572. [*Encyclo. Dict.*, s.v.]. A term occurring in the Act 14 Eliz., c. 5, and used to distinguish 'beggars able to work' from 'beggars impotent to serve'; hence=a vagrant or tramp. By a statute of the Commonwealth, 1656, 'all and every idle and dissolute persons, vagrant and wandering from their usual place of living or abode without sufficient cause or business, and fiddlers and minstrels,' were adjudged rogues, vagabonds, and STURDY BEGGARS within the meaning of the Act of Elizabeth.

**STURIBEN** (or **STURIBIN**), *subs.* (thieves'). —A prison; spec. (American) a State prison. Also STIR.

**STYX**, *subs.* (The Leys School). —A urinal.

**SUB**, *subs.* (colloquial). —(1) A subaltern; (2) a subordinate; (3) a subscription; (4) a subject; and (5) *see* quot. 1866. As *verb* (workmen's)=to draw money in advance.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 8. No longer was he heard to sing, Like loyal SUBS, 'God Save the King!'

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xxvi. When we were SUBS together in camp in 1803.

1866. HARRIS [*Evidence before Totness Election Commission*]. The voters ask for SUB, which is the term used here for money, as sugar and paint are used elsewhere.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good-Night*, 2. You bleeding bonnets, pugs, and SUBS.

**SUB-BEAU** (or **DEMI-BEAU**), *subs. phr.* (B. E.). —'A wou'd-befine.'

**SUBLIME RASCAL**, *subs. phr.* (old). —A lawyer: *see* GREENBAG.

**SUB ROSA**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). —Secretly; confidentially.

**SUBSTANCE.** *See* SHADOW.

**SUBURB**, *subs.* and *adj.* (old colloquial). —Generic for disorder and loose-living. [*See* quot. 1822.] Thus HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS = a brothel; SUBURB-WENCH (DRAB, SINNER, etc.)=a whore; SUBURB (=wanton) TRICKS; SUBURB (=blackguard) HUMOUR; MINION OF THE SUBURBS = a STALLION (*q.v.*); SUBURB-TRADE = harlotry; SUBURB-JUSTICE = 'money is right'; SUBURB-GARDEN (or GARDEN-HOUSE)= a *petite maison*: (*a*) a lodging for a KEEP (*q.v.*), and (*b*) a private FUCKERY (*q.v.*); SUBURBAN-ROARER=a bawdy-house bully. *See* quots.

1583. STUBBS, *Anat. Abuses*, 57. In the fields and SUBURBES of the cities, they have GARDENS wherein they may (and doubtless do) many of them play the filthy persons.

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, i. 2. It will do well for a SUBURB HUMOUR.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Measure for Measure*, i. 2. But shall all our houses of resort in the SUBURBS be pulled down? *Ibid.* (1607), *Julius Cæsar*, ii. 1. Dwell I but in the SUBURBS of your good pleasure? If it be no more, Portia is Brutus' harlot, not his wife.

1605. *London Prodigal*, v. 1. Sweet lady, if you have any friend, or GARDEN-HOUSE, I am yours to command in all secret service.

1607. BEAUMONT, *Woman Hater*, ii. This is no GARDEN-HOUSE, in my conscience she went forth with no dishonest intent.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, ii. 1. Ay, ay, gamesters, mock a plain, plump, soft WENCH OF THE SUBURBS, do; because she's juicy and wholesome.

1632. MASSINGER, *Emp. of the East*, i. 2. *Infor.* The MINION OF THE SUBURBS. *Pul.* What hath he to do in Constantinople? *Ibid.* (1659). *City Madam*, iii. I know them, swaggering, SUBURBAN ROARERS, Sixpenny truckers.

1632. ROWLEY, *New Wonder*, i. Come, we'll dine together, after walk abroad Unto my SUBERB GARDEN; where, if thou'lt hear, I'll read my heart to thee.

1633. MARMION, *Fine Companion*, iv. 1. There's a wench has her SUBURB TRICKS about her, I warrant you.

1640. BROME, *Sparagus Garden*, ii. 3. Some SUBURBE JUSTICE that sits o' the skirts o' the city and lives by't.

1661. MIDDLETON, *Mayor of Quin.* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), xi. 120.] Man, who in some GARDEN-HOUSE, Taking his lustful time, Surprizes her.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 132. Or else some dirty SUBURB-DRAB, Has help'd the Rascal to a Clap.

1682. RADCLIFFE, *Poems*, 25. A Guiney to me was no more Than Fifteen Pence to a SUBURB WHORE.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. SUBURBS. In the SUBURBS the citizens had their GARDENS and banqueting HOUSES, where, unless they are much slandered, many ntrigues were carried on.

**SUCCUBA**, *subs.* (venery).—A mistress; a harlot.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, ii. 1. My glasses Cut . . . to multiply the figures, as I walk Naked between my SUCCUBÆ.

**SUCCUBUS**, *subs.* (old).—A thieving hanger-on; a scoundrel.

1700. FARQUHAR, *Constant Couple*, iv. 3. Here's an old SUCCUBUS, madam, that has stole two silver spoons.

**SUCK**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. 'Wine or strong Drink' (B. E. and GROSE). Also (2) a small draught: *see* quot. 1625. Hence RUM-SUCK = excellent tipple; SUCKY = drunkish; SUCK-SPIGOT (-PINT, -POT, -BOTTLE, or -CAN) = a confirmed tippler: also SUCKER; SUCKERDOM = the world of topers; SUCK-CASA = a public house. As *verb* = to tipple, to SOAK (*q.v.*). Also TO SUCK ONE'S FACE = 'to delight in drinking' (B. E.); SUCTION = BOOZE (*q.v.*): hence TO LIVE ON SUCTION = to drink hard; POWER OF SUCTION = capacity for BOOZING.

1585. *Nomenclator.* Ebriosus . . . A dronkard: a SUCKSPIGGET: a great drinker.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Humeur*, a SUCKE-PINTE or swill-pot, a notable drunkard.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SUCK. We'll go and SUCK OUR FACES, but if they toute us, we'll take rattle and brush, c. let's go to Drink and be merry, but if we be Smelt, by the People of the House, we must Scower off.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, ii. 9. Out upon you, for a Damn'd Derby-Ale Sot . . . such a Swill-Belly SUCK-BOTTLE.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxiii. Wery good power o' SUCTION, Sammy.

1862. *N. Y. Tribune* [BARTLETT]. In resisting the tax on whiskey, it has been shown that one distiller in Ohio, who makes 8000 gallons a day, would pay into the treasury $375,600 a year, if SUCKERDOM continued thirsty.

2. (old).—A breast pocket (GROSE).

1625. MASSINGER, *New Way*, etc., i. 1. 'No house? nor no tobacco?' 'Not a SUCK, sir; nor the remainder of a single can.'

3. (University).—A toady: *cf.* SUCKER. Whence TO SUCK UP TO = to insinuate into one's good graces: *cf.* BUMSUCKER.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 43. That little swine Manders . . . [is] always SUCKIN' UP TO King.

4. (common).—A cheat; a trick: also SUCK-IN. TO SUCK IN = to TAKE IN (*q.v.*); and SUCKER (*q.v.*) = a greenhorn, a dupe: *see* SUCKING.

*d.* 1758. RAMSAY, *General Mistake.* This SUCKER thinks nane wise But him than can to immense riches rise.

1842. CLAVERS, *Forest Life*, i. 109. 'I ain't bound to drive nobody in the middle of the night,' said the driver; 'so you don't try to SUCK me IN there.'

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, ii. 316. I can't help saying it confidentially, and before man alone, that life is all moonshine,—a monstrous humbug,—a grand SUCK IN.

1887. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Mocassin.* Such men always take it for granted that an Englishman is a SUCKER.

1887. *New York Semi-Weekly Tribune,* 11 Jan. The . . . SUCKERS . . . despite . . . oft-repeated warnings, swallowed the hook so clumsily baited.

1888. *Cincinnatti Enquirer.* The goldasted . . . mugwump has made SUCKERS of us again with his cracks about coming into the league.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories,* 54. A SUCKER had no more chance against those fellows than a snowball has in a red-hot oven. Every deck was marked.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay,* v. Anyone who will get those French and English SUCKERS to invest good money out here, *ought to live.*

*Verb.* (common). — 1. To extract ideas or money; TO PUMP (*q.v.*): *e.g.* TO SUCK ONE'S BRAINS = to find out all one knows (GROSE). *See* SUCKER, *subs.* 1.

2. (American University).—To use a CRIB (*q.v.*). Hence SUCKER = a PONY (*q.v.*).

TO TEACH ONE'S GRANDMA (or GRANNIE) TO SUCK EGGS, *verb. phr.* (common).—To instruct an expert; to talk old to one's elders (RAY, *Lex. Bal.*). *See* GRANDMOTHER and *add* the following quotation and analogous PHRASES: — TO TEACH one's GRANNIE to grope her ducks, to sup sour milk, to sard or to spin; to TEACH ONE'S FATHER to get children. Also *Il ne faut pas apprendre aux poissons à nager* = You must not TEACH FISH to swim.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes,* 23. Some buds of youthful purity . . . Were engaged TO LECTURE GRANDMAS ON THE ART OF SUCKING EGGS.

*See* MONKEY and SUGAR-STICK.

**SUCKER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A parasite; a SPONGER (*q.v.*). Also BUMSUCKER (*q.v.*). Spec. (American political) = a black-mailer. Also SUCK, *verb* = to sponge upon: whence TO SUCK DRY = to exhaust: *cf.* proverbial saying, 'Children SUCK the mother when young, and the father when old.'

1856. DOW, *Sermons,* III. Of the scaly tribe, I may mention those SUCKERS belonging to the body loaferish, that never rise to the surface of respectability, whose sole study appears to be to see how much they can get without the least physical exertion.

2. (trade).—A SUCKING pig. Also (old) = any youngling: *e.g.* a RABBIT-SUCKER = a young rabbit, etc.

1591. LYLY, *Endymion,* v. 2. I prefer an olde cony before a RABBET-SUCKER, and an ancient henne before a young chicken peeper.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Hen. IV.,* ii. 4. If thou dost it half so gravely, so majestically, both in word and matter, hang me up by the heels for a RABBIT-SUCKER.

1599. PORTER, *Two Angry Women of Abingdon* [STEEVENS]. Close as a RABBIT-SUCKER from an old coney.

1882. *Standard,* 3 Sep. For SUCKERS the demand was not very brisk.

3. (American).—A native of Illinois (which = the SUCKER STATE: *see* STATE).

1848. DURIVAGE, *Stray Subjects,* 79. There is a swarm of SUCKERS, hoosiers, buckeyes, corncrackers and wolverines eternally on the *qui vive* in those parts.

1854. *N. Y. Tribune,* 19 Oct. A band of music was sent thirty miles to wake up the sleepy SUCKERS, and draw them, by the magic of their music, to the Douglas gathering at Quincy, Illinois.

4 (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. Also SUCK-AND-SWALLOW = the female privity.

1730. *Broadside Song*, 'Gee ho, Dobbin' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), ii. 204]. I worked at her pump till the SUCKER grew dry, And then I left pumping a good Reason why.

*See* SUCK and SUCKING.

**SUCK-FYST**, *subs.* (old).—A parasite (COTGRAVE, s.v. *Hume-vessie*).

**SUCKING**, *adj.* (old colloquial).—Young, unexperienced, callow: *cf.* SUCKER = a greenhorn, and SUCKING DOVE = a dupe or simpleton (GROSE and BEE). *Cf.* SUCKING-NELSON (=a midshipmite), POET-SUCKER, etc.

1680. DRYDEN, *Spanish Friar*, iii. 2. This is no Father Dominie, no huge overgrown abbey-lubber; this is but a diminutive SUCKING FRIAR.

1668. DRYDEN, *All for Love*. Preface. My enemies are but SUCKING criticks, who would fain be nibbling ere there teeth are come.

1849. BRÖNTE, *Shirley*, xiv. The very curates . . . she . . . looked upon as SUCKING SAINTS.

1849. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, xxv. Mr. Wagg . . . said, 'Rather a shy place for a SUCKING county member, ay, Pynsent?' *Ibid.* (1855), *Newcomes*, v. I suppose you're a young barrister, SUCKING LAWYER, or that sort of thing, because you was put at the end of the table, and nobody took notice of you.

**SUCKSTER** (and **SUCKSTRESS**), *subs.* (venery).—A practitioner of irrumation; a CUNNILINGIST (*q.v.*).

**SUCTION**, *subs.* (Winchester).—Sweetmeats: *cf.* (prov.) SUCKER and SUCKET.

**SUCTION.** *See* SUCK.

**SUDDEN DEATH**, *subs. phr.* (common).—*See* quot.

*b.* 1842. MAGINN, *Bob Burke's Duel*. . . . Which is it to be—two out of three, as at Newmarket, or the first toss to decide? SUDDEN DEATH, said I, and there will soon be an end of it.

2. (University).—A crumpet or Sally Lunn.

3. (colonial).—*See* SPATCHCOCK.

**SUDS.** IN THE SUDS, *phr.* (old).—Troubled; perplexed; angry (GROSE).

1617. *Letter* [Nares]. The lord Coke is left IN THE SUDS, but sure it is Gods doing, according to the old saying, Perdere quos vult Jupiter prius dementat.

1619. FLETCHER, *Wild Goose Chase*, ii. 3. Will you forsake me now and leave me i' THE SUDS?

1622. *Good Newes and Bad Newes*. Now land is sold, and money gone in goods, He calls out, Andrew, I am IN THE SUDDES.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 7. How fond soever . . . of his dear Duck's Company, he makes no tiresome stay with her . . . so taking . . . Farewell, he leaves her IN THE SUDDS.

1730. SWIFT, *Death and Daphne*. Away the frighted spectre scuds, And leaves my lady IN THE SUDS.

1737. FIELDING, *Tumble-down Dick, or Phaeton* IN THE SUDS. [Title.]

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 459. Whene'er he wanted to deceive you, And helpless IN THE SUDS to leave you.

**SUETTY-ISAAC**, *subs. phr.* (prison).—Suet pudding: also SOAPY-ISAAC.

**SUFFER**, *verb.* (colloquial). — In mock pity — 'Do you SUFFER much?'

**SUFFERER**, *subs.* (common). — 1. A tailor.

2. (common).—A loser.

**SUGAR**, *subs.* (common). — 1. Money: generic: *see* RHINO. Also (rhyming) SUGAR-AND-HONEY.

1862. *Cornhill Mag.*, Nov. 648. We have just touched for a rattling stake of SUGAR at Brum.

1887. BONWICK, *Romance of Wool Trade*, 273. I hear him sing out 'sold again, and got the SUGAR'; 'half a sheep for a shilling.'

2. (old).—Flattery; GAMMON (*q.v.*). Also as *verb*, etc.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 1. 48. With devotion's visage And pious action we do SUGAR o'er The devil himself.

*Verb.* (rowing).—To malinger at the oars; to shirk while pretending to row hard.

TO SUGAR OFF, *verb. phr.* (American).—To amount to: in speaking of large sums of money.

**SUGAR-CANDY,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Brandy.

**SUGAR-BASIN.** *See* SUGAR-STICK.

**SUGARED,** *adj.* (common).—Astonished; perplexed; GAMMONED (*q.v.*).

1901. *Troddles*, 38. He stood there aghast with his mouth wide open . . . and ever and again he murmured in profound astonishment . . . 'Well — I'm — SUGARED!'

**SUGAR-LOAF,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A high-crowned hat: conical like a SUGAR-LOAF.

**SUGAR-STICK,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK (GROSE). SUGAR-BASIN = the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. TO SUCK THE SUGAR-STICK = to receive a man.

**SUGAR-STICK BRIGADE,** *subs. phr.* (military).—The Ordnance Store Corps.

**SUICIDE,** *subs.* (old). — Four horses driven in a line; HARUM-SCARUM. *See* TANDEM, RANDOM, UNICORN, etc. (GROSE).

**SUIT,** *subs.* (old).—1. *See* quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. SUIT. In general synonymous with game; as, what SUIT did you give it to 'em upon? in what manner did you rob them, or upon what pretence, etc., did you defraud them? One species of imposition is said to be a prime SUIT, another a queer SUIT: a man describing the pretext he used to obtain money from another, would say, I draw'd him of a quid upon the SUIT of so and so, naming the ground of his application. A person having engaged with another on very advantageous terms to serve or work for him, will declare that he is upon a good SUIT. To use great submission and respect in asking any favour of another, is called giving it to him upon the humble SUIT.

2. (thieves').—*See* quot.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard*. Bargaining with a pickpocket for a SUIT, or to speak in more intelligible language, a watch and seals.

3. (colloquial). — Generic for completeness: *e.g.* a SUIT (=full head) OF HAIR; A SUIT (=a complete set) OF TEETH; A SUIT OF MOURNING = two black eyes (GROSE). *See* subs. 2.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, ii. 1. The face of this gentleman was strikingly marked by a SUIT of enormous black WHISKERS that flowed together and united under his chin.

**SUIT-AND-CLOAK,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—'Good store of Brandy or any agreable Liquor, let down Gutter-lane' (B. E. and GROSE).

**SUIT TO A HAIR.** *See* HAIR.

**SUKEY,** *subs.* (common).—1. A kettle (BEE).

2. (common). — A common name for a general servant or SLAVEY (*q.v.*): *cf.* JEAMES = footman. SUKEY-TAWDRY = 'a slatternly female in fine tawdry' (GROSE).

**SULKY**, *subs.* (old).—'A one-horse chaise or carriage, capable of holding but one person: called by the French a *désobligeante*' (GROSE).

*d.* 1892. WHITTIER, *Countess.* The country doctor's ancient SULKY.

**SULLEN**, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* = the sulks. SICK OF THE SULLENS (or SULLEN-SICK) = very gloomy.

1580. LILY, *Euphues*, 258. [A lady is] SICK OF THE SOLENS.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Rich. II.*, ii. 1. 139. Let them die that age and SULLENS have.

1632. MASSINGER, *Emp. of East*, iii. 4. If she be not SICK OF THE SULLENS, I see not the least infirmity in her.

1650. FULLER, *Pisgah Sight*, II. vii. 7. On the denyall Ahab falls SULLEN-SICK.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, i. 330. If the state . . . lie SULLEN-SICK of Naboth's vineyard, the lawyer is perchance not sent for, but gone to.

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, i. 84. If his Majesty were moody, and not inclin'd to his propositions, he would fetch him out of that SULLEN with a pleasant jest.

1833. LAMB, *Pop. Fallacies*, xvi. A long and desperate fit of THE SULLENS.

**SULTRY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Lively, exciting, perhaps unpleasant: *cf.* HOT, WARM, etc.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 156. Anyway, the possession of it will make it more SULTRY for you.

**SUMMER-COMPLAINT**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Diarrhœa.

**SUMMER-BIRD**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A cuckold [CUCKOO, *q.v.*]. Also SUMMER-CABBAGE = a woman [*cf. supra* and CABBAGE (or GREENS) = copulation].

1560. *Scholehouse of Women*, 317. Some other knave Shall dub her husband a SUMMER-BIRD.

1673. *Sackful of News.* So the poor man was cruelly beaten, and made a SUMMER'S BIRD.

**SUMMER-GAME**, *subs. phr.* (American gaming).—A game for amusement only, or with another's money.

**SUMMER'S-DAY.** AS NICE (PROPER, GOODLY, etc.) AS ONE CAN SEE IN A SUMMER'S-DAY, *phr.* (old).—As nice (proper, etc.) as may be: *cf.* DAY'S-MARCH.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, i. 2. A proper man AS ONE SHALL SEE IN A SUMMER'S DAY. *Ibid.* (1599), *Henry V.*, iii. 6. As prave words AS YOU SHALL SEE IN A SUMMER'S DAY.

1594. LILY, *Mother Bombie* (1632), § x. They say hee is as goodly a youth at the pridge AS ONE SHALL SEE IN A SUMMER'S DAY.

1742. FIELDING, *Joseph Andrews*, IV. xv. AS FINE a fat thriving child AS YOU SHALL SEE IN A SUMMER'S DAY.

**SUMPH**, *subs.* (Scots).—A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE. Hence SUMPHISH = stupid.

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, i. 104. 'And you, ye silly SUMPH,' she said to poor Yellowley, 'what do ye stand glowering there for?'

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'Lord of Thoulouse.' Put your conjuring cap on, consider and see, If you can't beat that stupid old SUMPH with his tea.

1844. NAYLOR, *Reynard the Fox*, 37. A very SUMPH art thou, I wis.

1849–50. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, Captain SUMPH (one of the characters in this novel].

**SUMPSIMUS.** *See* MUMPSIMUS.]

**SUMPSY**, *subs.* (legal).—An action of *assumpsit.*

**SUN.** BEEN IN THE SUN (or SUNSHINE, or GOT THE SUN IN ONE'S EYES), *phr.* (common).—Drunk: *see* SCREWED (RAY, GROSE).

1840. DICKENS, *Old Curiosity Shop*, ii. Last night he had had 'the SUN very strong IN HIS EYES'; by which expression he was understood to convey to his hearers, in the most delicate manner possible, the information that he had been extremely drunk.

1857. ELIOT, *Janet's Repentance*, i. He was in that condition which his groom indicated with poetic ambiguity by saying that 'master HAD BEEN IN THE SUNSHINE.'

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 75. She was thick in the clear, fairly sosselled on beer.—IN THE SUN is poetical license.

TO MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES, *verb. phr.* (old proverbial).—To seize an opportunity.

1509. BARCLAY, *Ship of Fools* (1874), ii. 45. BE BESY about your hay WHILE PHEBUS IS SHINING.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*. When the SUNNE SHINETH, MAKE HAY.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 296. MAKE HAY WHILE THE SUN SHINES. You are on the high road to fortune; push forward.

TO GET THE SUN OVER THE FOREYARD, *verb. phr.* (nautical). To drink before noon.

*See* KNIGHT; SHOOT.

**SUNBURNT**, *adj.* (old colloquial). 1. Superficial; hackneyed; unbeautiful.

1570. ASCHAM, *Schoolmaster*, 137. But to dwell in epitomes and books of common places, and not to bind himself daily by orderly study . . . maketh so many seeming and SUNBURNT ministers as we have; whose learning is gotten in a summer heat, and washed away with a Christmas snow again.

1612. WEBSTER, *White Devil*, v. 1. It is a dowry, Methinks should make that SUN-BURNT proverb false, And wash the Æthiop white.

1881. DAVIES, *Supp. Glossary*, s.v. SUNBURNT. Ascham applies the word curiously to superficial scholars, whose mind receives as transient an impression from what they read as the face does from exposure to the summer sun.

2. (old).—'Having many (male) children' (B. E. and GROSE); and (3) 'CLAPPED' (GROSE).

**SUNDAY.** *See* SHOW-SUNDAY; MONTH OF SUNDAYS and QUEEN DICK.

**SUNDAY-BEST** (or **-CLOTHES**), *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. Clothes kept for use on Sundays and holidays; best clothes.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 30. In his SUNDAY JACKET drest, And perch'd up higher than the rest.

1866. GASKELL, *Wives and Daughters*, xlv. Mrs Gibson was off, all in her SUNDAY BEST.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 'Her SUNDAY CLOTHES,' 105. Her SUNDAY BEST was her week-day worst, 'Twas simply a caution to snakes.

2. (venery).—An *erecto penis*: as in the phrase, 'the old man (=the *penis*) has got his Sunday clothes on': *see* HORN.

**SUNDAY FACE**, *subs. phr.* (common).—The posteriors: *see* BUM.

**SUNDAY-MAN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. 'One who goes abroad on that day only, for fear of arrests' (GROSE).

2. (common).—A prostitute's bully. Also SUNDAY GIRL=a WEEK-END (*q.v.*) mistress.

**SUNDAY-SAINT**, *subs. phr.* (common). — One who roisters through the week and pulls a long face on Sunday.

**SUNDAY'S-FELLOW**, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1611. TARLETON, *Jests*. One asked Tarlton why Munday was called *Sundaies fellow?* Because he is a sausie fellow, saies Tarlton, to compare with that holy day. But it may be Munday thinkes himselfe Sundayes fellow because it followes Sunday, and is next after; but he comes a day after the faire for that.

**SUNDERLAND-FITTER,** *subs. phr.* (provincial).—The Knave of Clubs (HALLIWELL).

**SUN-DODGER,** *subs.* (military).—A heliographer.

1900. *Illust. Bits*, 22 Dec., 10. A first-class trooper with over three years' service to his name, and a qualified SUN-DODGER according to the regimental signalling instructor.

**SUN-DOG,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A mock sun.

189[?]. KIPLING, *Three Sealers* [*Works* (1898), xi. 256]. The good fog heaved like a splitten sail, to the right and left she bore, And you saw the SUNDOGS in the haze.

**SUNDOWNER,** *subs.* (Australian).—*See* quots. and OVERLANDMAN.

1880. OAKLEY, *Victoria in 1880*, 114. [Title of poem] THE SUNDOWNER.

1888. MACDONALD, *Gum Boughs*, 32. When the real SUNDOWNER haunts these banks for a season, he is content with a black pannikin, a clasp knife, and a platter whittled out of primæval bark.

1890. *Argus*, 20 Sept., 13. 5. SUNDOWNERS are still the plague of squatocracy, their petition for 'rashons' and a bed amounting to a demand.

1891. ADAMS, *John Webb's End*, 34. 'Swagsmen' too, genuine, or only 'SUNDOWNERS,'—men who loaf about till sunset, and then come in with the demand for the unrefusable 'rations.'

1892. *Scribner's Magazine*, Feb., 143. They swell the noble army of swagmen or SUNDOWNERS, who are chiefly the fearful human wrecks which the ebbing tide of mining industry has left stranded in Australia. [This writer does not differentiate between SWAGMAN (*q.v.*) and SUNDOWNER.]

1893. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 Aug., 8. 7. Numbers of men who came to be known by the class name of SUNDOWNERS, from their habit of straggling up at fall of evening with the stereotyped appeal for work; and work being at that hour impossible, they were sent to the travellers' hut for shelter and to the storekeeper or cook for the pannikin of flour, the bit of mutton, the sufficiency of tea for a brew, which made up a ration.

1896. *Windsor Magazine*, Dec., 132. 'A SUNDOWNER?' I queried. 'Yes; the lowest class of nomad. . . . They approach a station only at sunset, hence the name.'

**SUNNY-BANK,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'A good rousing winter fire' (B. E. and GROSE).

**SUNNY SOUTH,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—The mouth.

1887. *Referee*, 7 Nov., 7. 3. She'd a Grecian, 'I suppose,' And of 'Hampstead Heath' two rows, In her SUNNY SOUTH.

**SUNSHADES,** *subs. pl.* (Stock Exchange).—The Sunehales Extension of the Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway Company shares.

**SUNSHINE.** *See* SUN.

**SUPE (or SUPER),** *subs.* (theatrical).—1. A supernumerary: whence SUPER-MASTER = the director of the supernumeraries: also as *verb.* 2. (Australian) = the superintendent of a station.

1870. GORDON, *Bush Ballads*, 23. What's up with our SUPER to-night? The man's mad.

1884. YATES, *Fifty Years of London Life*, 1. ii. Preternaturally stupid people as . . . the SUPERS are found to be.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Colonial Reformer*, ix. That SUPER'S a growlin' ignorant beggar as runs a feller from daylight to dark for nothing at all.

1890. *Argus*, 10 June, 4. 1. He . . . bragged of how he had bested the SUPER who tried to 'wing him' in the scrub.

3. (old).—A watch: SUPE AND SLANG = watch and chain; SUPER-SCREWING = stealing watches.

*c.*1866. VANCE, *Chickaleary Cove.* How to do a cross-fan for a SUPER or a slang.

4. (American University).—A toady: spec. one who BUM-SUCKS (*q.v.*) the professors.

**SUPERANNUATE,** *verb.* (Winchester).—*See* quot.

*c.*1840. MANSFIELD, *School Life* (1866) 237. SUPERANNUATE—a boy who was obliged to leave at Election, owing to his being past eighteen years of age. Founders were not SUPERANNUATE till they were twenty-five.

**SUPERFINE REVIEW,** *subs. phr.* (literary).—*The Saturday Review.* [A coinage of Thackeray's (1860-3) in *The Roundabout Papers.*]

**SUPERNACULUM,** *subs. and adv.* (old).—1. *See* quots. [Garden Latin: *super naculum* = on the nail.] Whence (2) right liquor; and (3) *see* quot. 1823.

1592. NASHE, *Pierce Pennilesse*, G. 2 v. a. Drinking SUPER NAGULUM, a devise of drinking new come out of Fraunce: which is, after a man hath turned up the bottom of the cup, to drop it on his naile, and make a pearle with that is left; which if it slide, and he cannot make it stand on, by reason ther's too much, he must drinke againe for his penance.

1598. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, viii. 348. I confess Cupid's carouse, he plays SUPER-NEGULUM with my liquor of life.

1617. BRAITHWAITE, *Law of Drinking*, 17. They without any difficulty at all can soake and sucke it *ἐν τοῦ νῦν*, to a nayle [margin, SUPER-NACULUM].

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, ii. 1. Bacchus, the god of brewed wine and sugar, grand patron of rob-pots, upsy-freesy tipplers, and SUPER-NACULUM takers, headwarden of Vintners' Hall, ale-conner.

. . . . *Timon* [DYCE], 38. I drinke this to thee SUPER NACULUM.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, 2,Aaa, 3, r° 1. As when he drinkes out all the totall summe, Gave it the stile of SUPER-NACULLUM.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 61. Says, Look, here's SUPER-NACULUM.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SUPERNACULUM, not so much as a Drop left to be poured upon the Thumb-nail, so cleaverly was the Liquor tipt off.

1704. KING, *Orpheus*. Their jests were SUPERNACULUM, I snatch'd the rubies from each thumb.

1719. SWIFT, *To Dr. Sheridan*, Dec. 14. But I doubt the oraculum is a poor SUPERNACULUM.

1746. *De* SUPERNACULO *Anglorum*. 'Est vox hybrida, ex Latina prepositione *super* et Germano *nagel* (a nail) composita'; [NARES: which agrees with the account in Pierce Penilesse, and accounts for the *nagulum*, and *negulum*].

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SUPERNACULUM. Good liquor, of which there is not even a drop left sufficient to wet one's nail.

1822. BYRON, *Werner*, i. 1. The SUPERNACULUM! twenty years of age, if 'tis a day.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. SUPERNACULUM. Any article of consumption unusually good—as a superior pinch of snuff, a 'drop of brandy like a nosegay,' or port vintage 1816.

1835. *Edin. Rev.*, lxii. 41. Drinking SUPERNACULUM.

*d.* 1891. LOWELL, *Eurydice*. And empty to each radiant summer A SUPERNACULUM of summer.

**SUPERSTITIOUS-PIE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

*c.* 1696. B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SUPERSTITIOUS-PIES, Minc'd, or Christmas-Pies, so Nick-nam'd by the Puritans, or Precisians, tho' they can Eat em, but affecting to be singular, make them a Month or six Weeks before Christmas, or the Feast of Christ.

**SUPOUCH,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—'An Hostess or Landlady' (B. E.).

**SUPPER,** *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. TO GIVE THE OLD MAN HIS SUPPER = to confer the conjugal embrace; TO WARM THE OLD MAN'S SUPPER = to sit before the fire with petticoats lifted: Fr. *faire petite chapelle.*

TO SET ONE HIS SUPPER, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To perform a feat impossible for another to imitate.

**SUPPLE.** To SUPPLE BOTH ENDS OF IT, *verb. phr.* (Scots venery). —To knock down a PRICK (*q.v.*).

*d.* 1796. BURNS [*Merry Muses* (1800), 93]. I SOUPLED it Tho bauldly he did blatter.

**SUPPLE TWELFTH,** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 12th Lancers.

**SURAT,** *subs.* (provincial). — *See* quot.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. An adulterated article of inferior quality. Since the American Civil War, it has not been unusual for manufacturers to mix American cotton with SURAT, and, the latter being an inferior article, the people in Lancashire have begun to apply the term SURAT to any article of inferior or adulterated quality.

**SURE.** To MAKE (or BE) SURE TO, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial.—To betroth ; to be engaged to marry.

*d.* 1535. SIR T. MORE, *Hist. Rich. III.* The King was SURE TO Dame Elizabeth Lucy, and her husband before God.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick*, etc., iii. 1. I am but newly SURE yet TO the widow.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Accordailles* . . . The betrothing or MAKING SURE of a man and woman together.

1665. J. COTGRAVE, *Wits Interpreter*, 177. She's that's MADE SURE to him she loves not well, Her banes are asked here, but she weds in hell.

1632. BROME, *Northern Lass.* I presumed you had BEEN SURE, as fast as faith could bind you.

SURE AS THE CREED (AS EGGS, FATE, DEATH, A GUN, etc.), *phr.* (colloquial).—As sure as may be ; of a certainty. [*See* EGGS and GUN for numerous quots.]

1393. GOWER, *Confessio Amantis.* SIKER AS THE CREDE.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Prov. Similes.' As SURE as check or Exchequer pay. This was a proverb in Queen Elizabeth's time ; the credit of the Exchequer beginning in, and determining with her reign, saith Dr Fuller. *Ibid.* As SURE (or as round) as a juggler's box. . . . As SURE as a louse in bosom. . . . As SURE as a louse in Pomfret. . . . As SURE as a coat on one's back.

1703. STEELE, *Tender Husband*, iii. 2. She's distracted, AS SURE AS A GUN.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 439. But SURE AS EGGS, whilst folks are sleeping We both again should catch thee peeping.

*d.* 1774. GOLDSMITH [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 188. I may mention as idioms of this age . . . AS SURE AS EGGS IS EGGS, handsome is as handsome does . . . from Goldsmith].

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 143. AS SURE AS A GUN then he is going to make a night of it.

**SURE CARD** (or **THING**), *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A certainty ; anything entirely trustworthy (B. E.).

1537. *Thersites* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), i. 363]. This is a SURE CARD, this piece of work.

1579. LYLY, *Euphues* (1636), A. IV. A cleere conscience is a SURE CARD.

1589. R. HARVEY, *Plain Perc.*, 12. To get a SURE CARD on their side, Either calles for Iustice.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Tit. Andron.* v., 1. 100. AS SURE A CARD as ever won the set.

1613. FLETCHER, *Captain* [quoted by Gifford, *Jonson*, ii. 284]. *For.* You know the juggling captain? *Clown.* Ay ; there's a SURE CARD.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Entire Sentences.' A clear conscience is a SURE CARD.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. A SURE CARD, a trusty Tool, or Confiding Man.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, i. 'Of a Soldier's Life.' To be sure that Christopher the Collier was a SURE CARD to trust to.

1742. FIELDING, *J. Andrews*, IV. iii. We have one SURE CARD, which is to carry him before Justice Frolick.

**SURESBY,** *subs.* (old).—A dependable person : *cf.* RUDESBY, WIGSBY, etc.

1586. WITHALS, *Dict.*, 564. Lydius sive Herculeus lapis ; hee is old SURESBY.

1611. CORVAT, *Crudities*, i. 42. Old SURESBYES, to serue for all turnes.

1614. *Terence in English.* You are the same man that you were: old SUREBIE, no flinsher.

*d.*1657. BRADFORD, *Sermons* [Rept.]. Yes, there is one which is SURESBY as they say, to serve if anything will serve.

**SURF,** *sub.* (theatrical).—A half-and-half PROFESSIONAL (*q.v.*) player or musician: combining some daily occupation with nightly duty on or in connection with the boards.

**SURLY,** AS SURLY AS A BUTCHER'S DOG, *phr.* (old).—Very surly (RAY).

**SURLY-BOOTS** (or **SURLING**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A grumpy morose fellow: *cf.* LAZY-BOOTS.

*d.*1623. CAMDEN, *Remains*, 176. And as for these sowre SURLINGS, they are to be commended to Sieur Gaulard.

1812. COOMBE, *Syntax*, I. xxii. A sudden jolt their slumbers broke, They started all, and all awoke; When SURLY-BOOTS yawn'd wide and spoke.

**SURPRISERS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 46th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

**SURTOUT,** *subs.* (B. E.).—'A loose, great, or riding Coat' (B. E.).

**SURVEYOR OF THE HIGHWAY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A man reeling drunk (GROSE): *see* INSPECTOR.

**SURVEYOR OF THE PAVEMENT,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A man in the pillory (GROSE and BEE).

**SUSPENSE.** IN DEADLY SUSPENSE, *adv. phr.* (old).—Hanged (GROSE).

**SUS. PER COLL.,** *phr.* (old).—'Hanged by the neck'—Lat. *suspensus per collum.* [GROSE: 'persons who have been hanged are thus entered in the jailer's books.']

1850. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, II. xxv. That lamentable note of SUS. PER COLL. at the name of the last male of her line. *Ibid.* (1867), *Denis Duval*, i. None of us Duvals have been SUSPERCOLLATED to my knowledge.

**SUSPICION,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A very small quantity: *cf.* Fr. *soupçon.*

1863. HAWTHORNE, *Our Old Home.* A mere spice or SUSPICION of austerity which made it all the more enjoyable.

1867. TROLLOPE, *Last Chronicles of Barset*, xlix. He was engaged in brushing a SUSPICION of dust from his black gaiters.

1886. *D. Tel.*, 25 Sep. With just a SUSPICION of Irish brogue that only serves to increase the interest of her piquancy and fun.

*Verb.* (American).—To suspect.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxx. 349. They somehow SUSPICION'D he wasn't quite sound on hell.

1899. WESTCOTT, *David Harum*, i. Didn't ye SUSPICION nuthin' when he took ye up like that?

**SUT,** *adj.* (tailors').—Satisfactory; fortunate.

**SWAB,** *subs.* (old).—1. *See* SWABBER.

2. (nautical).—A naval officer's epaulet: jocose or in contempt: *cf.* SWABBER, sense 1.

**SWABBER,** *subs.* (old).—1. 'The sorriest sea-men put to wash and clean the ship' (B. E. and GROSE: in this sense good Shakspearean English); hence (2) a term of contempt. Also SWAB.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, i. 5. 216. *Mar.* Will you hoist sail, sir? . . . *Vio.* No, good SWABBER; I am to hull here a little longer. *Ibid.* (1609), ii. 2. 48. The master, the SWABBER, the boatswain, and I.

1609. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Scornful Lady*, iii. 1. My lady speaks with no such SWABBERS.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, i. 1. More fit to be a SWABBER to the Flemish, After a drunken surfeit.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 33. This being said, our lusty SWABBER Groan'd like a Woman in her Labour.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 42. I am his SWABBER . . . his brawl, his errand boy.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*. xxiv. He swore accordingly at the lieutenant, and called him . . . SWAB and lubbard.

1886. BESANT, *World Went Well*, etc., xxix. Luke was a grass comber and land SWAB.

3. (old).—'The ace of hearts, knave of clubs, ace and deuce of trumps at whist' (B. E. and GROSE): the holder was entitled to a portion of the stakes. [These four cards were only incident to betting at whist.]

*c.* 1700. SWIFT [quoted by STRUTT, *Sports and Pastimes* (1801, etc.), 436]. The clergymen used to play at whist and SWOBBERS; playing now and then a sober game at whist for pastime, it might be pardoned; but he could not digest those wicked SWOBBERS.

1754. FIELDING, *Jonathan Wild*, i. iv. As whisk and SWABBERS was the game then in the chief vogue, they were oblig'd to look for a fourth person, in order to make up their parties.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, i. 225. The society of half a dozen of clowns to play at whisk and SWABBERS would give her more pleasure than if Ariosto himself were to awake from the dead.

**SWACK**, *subs.* (Christ's Hospital).—Deception. Hence TO SWACK UP=to deceive; TO TAKE IN (*q.v.*). Also SWACK-UP = a falsehood.

**SWAD**, *subs.* (old).—1. A reproach: generic; spec. (1) a rustic or clodhopper; and (2) a disbanded soldier (GROSE), now-a-days a militiaman. Also SWADDER, SWADKIN, SWADGILL, and SWADDY.

1534. HOLINSHED, *Chron. of Ireland*. Three drunken SWADS that kept the castell thought that this showt was nought else but a dreame.

1588. GREENE, *Perimedes*. Let countrey swaines and silly SWADS be still; To court, yoong wag, and wanton there thy fill.

1592. LYLY, *Midas*, iv. 3. I'll warrant, that was devised by some country SWAD.

1593. PEELE, *Honour of the Garter*. There came a pilfring SWAD And would have prayd upon this ornament.

1606. *Return from Parnassus*. But hang them, SWADDS, the basest corner in my thoughts is too gallant a roome to lodge them in.

1622. TAYLOR, *Motto*. I have opinion, and have ever had, That when I see a stagg'ring drunken SWAD, Then that a man worse then an asse I see.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, ii. 1. Now I remember me, There was one busie fellow was their leader, A blunt squat SWAD.

1638. BRAITHWAITE, *Survey of History*. A squeazed SWAD without either meanes, manners, or mannor.

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 22. How should the reasonable soule (unlesse all his prime faculties were drowned and drenched in the lees of sense) affect such a SWAD?

1656. BLOUNT, *Glossog.*, 627. SWAD, in the North, is a pescod shell; thence used for an empty shallow-headed fellow.

*d.* 1701. DRYDEN, *Counter Scuffle* [Misc., iii. 340]. Wer't not for us, thou SWAD, quoth he, Where wouldst thou fog to get a fee?

2. (common).—A lump, bunch, crowd, mass: also SWOD.

1840. HALIBURTON, *The Clockmaker*, 3 S. vi. How is a colonist able to pay for this almighty SWAD of everlasting plunder, seein' he has no gold or silver?

1865. *Major Downing's Letters*, 35. There was a SWAD of fine folks, and the house was well-nigh upon chuck full.

1869. *Overland Monthly*, iii. 131. A Texan never has a great quantity of any thing, but he has scads of it or oodles or dead oodles, or scadoodles, or SWADS.

**SWADDER,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. *See* quot.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 72. These SWADDERS and Pedlars be not all evil, but of an indifferent behaviour.

2. *See* SWAD.

**SWADDLE,** *verb.* (old).—To cudgel; to rope's end (B. E. and GROSE); to swathe round with lash or stick. Hence SWADLER (Old Cant) = 'The tenth Order of the Canting Tribe' (B. E.) 'who not only rob, but beat and often murder passengers' (GROSE).

*c.*1570. *Wife Lapped in Morels Skin*, 845. [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iv. 214]. I sweare by God, and by saynt John, Thy bones will I SWADDLE, so have I blisse.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Chaperon*. Hee bangde, belammed, thumped, SWADLED her.

1612–3. FLETCHER, *Captain*, ii. 1. Were it not for taking So just an execution from his hands, . . . I would SWADDLE ye, 'Till I could draw off both your skins like scabbards.

1636. DAVENANT, *Wits*, iii. 1. (1673). How now, housewife? Do you slight authority? Behold this staff! in very truth I shall SWADDLE you with the King's wand of office.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. 1. v. 23. Great on the bench, great in the saddle, He could as well bind o'er as SWADDLE.

*d.*1701. DRYDEN, *Counter-Scuffle* [Misc., iii. 347]. Behind the door he stood to hear, For in he durst not come, for fear Of SWADLING.

**SWADDLER,** *subs.* (Irish).—1. A Methodist (GROSE). Hence spec. (2) those who in winter play the Protestant, for the sake of the blankets, coals, etc., given by proselytisers. Also (3), in America, a street preacher, spec. (American thieves') a preaching confederate.

1820. SOUTHEY, *Life of Wesley*, ii. 153. It happened that Cennick, preaching on Christmas Day, took for his text these words from St. Luke's Gospel, 'And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling-clothes, lying in a manger.' A Catholic who was present, and to whom the language of Scripture was a novelty, thought this so ridiculous that he called the preacher a SWADDLER in derision.

1845. COKE and MOORE, *Life of Wesley*, 288. Butler and his mob were now in higher spirits than ever; they scoured the streets day and night, frequently hallooing as they went along, 'Five pounds for a SWADDLER's head!'

1889. *Academy*, 11 May, 317. To revive Sir W. Petty's Colony by importing Northern Presbyterians and Cornish SWADDLERS.

2. *See* SWAD and SWADDLE.

**SWAG,** *subs.* (Old Cant). — 1. A shop: spec. a mart for stolen goods. Whence a RUM-SWAG = 'a shop full of rich goods' (B. E.); and SWAG-BARROW = a coster's cart. Hence (2) generic for property; spec. booty: *see* quots. 1785, 1819, and 1823. Also SWAG-CHOVEY BLOKE = a marine store dealer; SWAGSMAN = (1) a receiver of stolen goods, and (2) a miscellaneous dealer in 'City penn'orths' and other cheap stuff, wholesale or retail.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWAG, a bundle, parcel, or package; as a SWAG of SNOW, etc. The SWAG, is a term used in speaking of any booty you have lately obtained, be it of what kind it may, except money, as Where did you LUMBER THE SWAG? that is, where did you deposit the stolen property? To carry THE SWAG is to be the bearer of the stolen goods to a

place of safety. A SWAG of any thing, signifies emphatically a great deal. To have knap'd a good SWAG, is to have got a good booty.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. SWAG. Wearing-apparel, linen, piece-goods, etc., are all comprehended under the name of SWAG, when describing any speak lately made, etc., in order to distinguish them from plate, jewellery, or other more portable articles.

1823. BEE, *Dict. of Turf*, s.v. SWAG (the)—store of money. 'The SWAG lies upstairs, in a chest of drawers. . . . Rum-SWAG—A good deal of it.

1827. CUNNINGHAM, *Two Years in New South Wales*, ii. 59. A number of the slang phrases current in St. Giles's Greek bid fair to become legitimatized in the dictionary of this colony: plant, SWAG, pulling up, and other epithets of the Tom and Jerry school, are established—the dross passing here as genuine, even among all ranks.

1837. MUDIE, *Felonry of New South Wales*, 181. In short, having brought with her a supply of the SWAG, as the convicts call their ill-gotten cash, a wife seldom fails of having her husband assigned to her, in which case the transported felon finds himself his own master.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xix. 'It's all arranged about bringing off the SWAG, is it?' asked the Jew. Sikes nodded.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Legends*, 'Misadv. at Margate.' He said 'he'd done me wery brown, and neatly stowed the SWAG.'

1851–61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, ii. 93. SWAGMEN who sell low-priced millinery.

1856. READE, *Never too Late*, etc., xlvi. He will shake all that nonsense to blazes when he finds himself out under the moon with the SWAG on one side and the gallows on the other.

1861. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xxxvii. If any enterprising burglar had taken it into his head to crack that particular crib known as the Bridge Hotel, and got clean off with the SWAG, he might have retired on the hard-earned fruits of a well-spent life into happier lands.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 121. The gentleman swore he'd been bested, And Sam had passed on the SWAG.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 282. 'It ain't such a bad lot,' he said; 'I chew every day, get a big SWAG once in a while.'

3. (Australian). — A tramp's bundle in a BLUEY (*q.v.*); hence personal luggage; TRAPS (*q.v.*). As *verb* = to tramp the bush carrying a SWAG; SWAGMAN (SWAGGER or SWAGGIE) = a man travelling in search of work: *cf.* SUNDOWNER.

1853. SIDNEY, *Three Colonies*, 361. His leathern overalls, his fancy stick, and his SWAG done up in mackintosh.

1861. MCCOMBIE, *Australian Sketches*, 5. There was the solitary pedestrian, with the whole of his supplies, consisting of a blanket and other necessary articles, strapped across his shoulders: this load is called the SWAG and the mode of travelling SWAGGING it.

1865. J. O. TUCKER, *Australian Story*, i. 86. The cumbrous weight of blankets that comprised my SWAG.

1873. TROLLOPE, *Australia and New Zealand*, i. 285. SWAG, which consists of his personal properties rolled up in a blanket.

1875. LADY BARKER, *Station Amusements in New Zealand*, 154. Describing the real SWAGGER, clad in flannel shirt, moleskin trowsers, and what were once thick boots.

1879. J. BRUNTON STEPHENS, *Drought and Doctrine* (*Works*, 309). Rememberin' the needful, I gets up an' quietly slips To the porch to see—a SWAGSMAN—with our bottle at his lips.

1883. KEIGHLEY, *Who are You?* 36. Then took a drink of tea . . . Such as the SWAGMEN in our goodly land Have with some humour named the post-and-rail.

1890. *Argus*, 2 Aug., 4, 2. He strapped the whole lot together, SWAG-like. *Ibid.* (1896), The Argus, 23 March, 5, 1. The minister's house is the sure mark for every stone-broke SWAGGER in search of clothes or victuals.

1891. BOLDREWOOD, *A Sydney-side Saxon*, 156. We pulled up a SWAGMAN. He was walking very slow; he was a bit lame too. His SWAG wasn't heavy, for he had only a rag of a blue blanket, a billy of water in his hand, and very little else.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 26 July, 2. 1. The unmarried shearer, roaming, SWAG on back, from station to station, chasing summer down the latitudes, leads an active, pleasant life enough.

**SWAG-BELLY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A very fat man or woman; a swing-paunch. [SWAG = to weigh heavily.] Hence SWAGGY (or SWAG-BELLIED) = fat, FORTY-GUTTED (*q.v.*).

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Langue Francoyse.* I SWAGGE, as a fatte persons belly swaggeth as he goth.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, ii. 3. I learned it in England, where, indeed, they are most potent in potting: your Dane, your German, and your SWAG-BELLIED Hollander . . . are nothing to your English.

1646. BROWNE, *Vulg. Errors*, III. iv. His SWAGGY and prominent BELLY.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. 'Pant. Prog.,' v. However, so many SWAGBELLIES and puff-bags will hardly go to St Hiacco, as there did in the year 524.

1886. OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 462. The *swagge* of 1303 [*see* quot. 1530] is here used of a fat man's belly; hence the swag-bellied Hollander, and also the later SWAGGER.

**SWAGGER**, *subs.* and *verb.* (once literary: now colloquial: B. E. and GROSE).—Bluster; bravado; roaring insolence; SIDE (*q.v.*). As *verb* = to strut defiantly; to boast; to bluster; to affect or obtrude superiority: *see* quot. 1898. Also derivatives such as SWAGGERER and SWAGGERING.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Ruffo* . . . Also a ruffling roister or ruffian, a SWAGGRER.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. Your ancient SWAGGERER comes not in my doors. *Ibid.* (1599), *Hen. V.*, iv. 7. 131. A rascal that SWAGGERED with me last night.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Ho*, iv. 1. A SWAGGERING fellow, sir, that speaks not like a man of God's making, swears he must speak with you, and will speak with you.

1612. ROWLANDS, *Hist. Rogues* [RIBTON-TURNER, 582]. They chose a notable SWAGGERING rogue called Puffing Dicke to reuell over them.

*c.* 1622. HEYWOOD, *Fair Maid of the West* [PEARSON, *Works*, (1894), ii. 279]. Can we not live in compasse of the Law, But must be SWAGGERED out on't?

1636. DAVENANT, *Wits*, i. 2. And SWAGGER in the wool [that] we shall borrow from our own flocks.

1678. CUDWORTH, *Intellectual System*, 61. It was Atheism openly SWAGGERING, under the glorious appearance of wisdom and philosophy.

1699. DRYDEN, *Cox and Fox*, 443. [He] SWAGGERETH like a lord about his hall.

1725. SWIFT, *Will Wood's Petition.* The butcher is stout, and he values no SWAGGER. *Ibid. Court and Empire of Japan.* He would SWAGGER the boldest man into a dread of his power.

1765. GOLDSMITH, *Essays*, x. The bunters who SWAGGER in the streets of London.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas*, 136. She could put on as brazen-faced a SWAGGER as the most impudent dog in town.

1835. MARRYATT, *Pacha of Many Tales.* 'The Water Carrier.' It requires but an impudent SWAGGER and you are taken on your own representation.

1844. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, xv. As for the SWAGGER . . . I deny it *in toto*, being always most modest in my demeanour.

1880. PAYN, *Confid. Agent*, xi. The captain [put] . . . a good deal of SIDE ON, which became a positive SWAGGER as he emerged into the more fashionable street.

1898. WARNER, *Harrow School*, 280. The rules of 'SWAGGER' or [SIDE] are most complex . . . And a new boy is apt to find himself entangled. He goes out with his umbrella rolled up . . . or carries it by its middle, or under his arm, or he walks on the middle terrace after chapel, or he innocently wears his 'blues' open when it is hot, or turns his trousers up when it is wet, and . . . he is SWAGGERING. Lady visitors sometimes think small boys at Harrow rude . . . to stick close to the wall . . . and shoulder the world into the gutter—it is modesty; to walk in the road is SWAGGER. To loiter at the house door, or to sing or whistle in the passages, and to wear a hat in the house are also forms of SWAGGER.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 107. He wore a new cricketing belt round his loins, as low down as he could get it to go; the lower down the greater assumption of 'push' SWAGGER.

*Adj.* (common). — TIP-TOP (*q.v.*); SWELL (*q.v.*); extremely new.

1886. *New York Tribune* (Semi-Weekly), 2 Nov. His gambling parties were so SWAGGER that rich money-lenders who wanted to extend their social relations did not mind to what extent they . . . lost money at them.

1897. OUIDA, *Massarines*, 8. Lord, ma'am, they'll pocket the marrons glacés at the table d'hôte and take the matches away from their bedrooms; but, then, you see, ma'am, them as are SWAGGER can do them things.

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 43. 'We are now living in a very different style.' . . . 'It looks a great deal more SWAGGER certainly.'

**SWAINING,** *subs.* (common). — Love-making; SPOONING (*q.v.*).

1839. MRS. TROLLOPE, *Michael Armstrong*, i. His general manner had a good deal of what in female slang is called SWAINING.

**SWALLOW,** *subs.* (once literary: now vulgar or colloquial).—1. The throat: also SWALLOW-PIPE; (2) the act of swallowing; and (3) a mouthful: hence (4) taste, relish, inclination, or capacity. As *verb*=to receive, endure, or embrace credulously, patiently, without examination, scruple or reserve; occasionally TO SWALLOW WHOLE. (B. E.). Hence SWALLOWABLE=credible.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iv. 2. 195. I saw a smith stand . . . With open mouth SWALLOWING a tailor's news. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for Meas.*, iii. 1. 235. Left her . . . SWALLOWED his vows whole, pretending in her discoveries of dishonour.

1613. PURCHAS, *Pilgrimage*, 92. The mother (not able to SWALLOW her shame and grief) Cast herselfe into the lake to bee swallowed of the water.

1616–25. *Court and Times Jas. I.*, ii. 442. [A man] SWALLOWS indignities.

1690. LOCKE, *Human Understanding*, IV. xx. 4. Here men . . . must . . . SWALLOW down opinions as silly people do empiric pills, without knowing what they are made of.

1703. FARQUHAR, *Inconstant*, iii. 1. I have SWALLOWED my words already; I have eaten them up.

1796. WOLCOT ('Peter Pindar'), *Works*, 147. Each paunch with guttling was so swelled, Not one bit more could pass your SWALLOW-PIPE.

1834. WILSON, *Noctes Ambros.*, Dec. Attend to the differences between a civilized SWALLOW and a barbarous bolt.

1841. *Punch*, i. 169. Men with SWALLOWS like Thames Tunnels, in fact accomplished gaggers and unrivalled wiry watchers.

1849. MAITLAND, *Essays on the Reformation*, 315. An anecdote in its hundredth edition, and its most mitigated and SWALLOWABLE form.

1885. BUCK, *Handbook of Med. Sci.*, v. 4. A SWALLOW or two of hot milk sometimes aids in coughing up tenacious mucus.

1899. WESTCOTT, *David Harum*, xxiii. She took a SWALLOW of the wine. 'How do you like it?' asked David.

PHRASES. — 'One SWALLOW does not make a spring' (HEYWOOD, 1546 = proverbial); TO SWALLOW A SPIDER=to become a bankrupt (RAY); 'You say true; will you SWALLOW my knife?' (a sarcastic retort on an impossible story); TO SWALLOW A TAVERN TOKEN=to get drunk; TO SWALLOW THE CACKLE=to learn a part (theatrical); 'He has SWALLOWED a stake, and cannot stoop' (of a very upright unbending person).

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, i. 3. Drunk, sir! you hear not me say so: perhaps he SWALLOWED A TAVERN TOKEN or some such device.

**SWALLOW-TAIL,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. *See* quot. 1544.

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus* [GILES, ii. 130]. Having two points or barbs, looking backward to the stele and the feathers, which surely we call in English a broad arrow head, or a SWALLOW-TAIL.

1828. SCOTT, *Fair Maid of Perth*, ii. 223. The English then strode forward, . . . and sent off their volleys of SWALLOW-TAILS before we could call on St. Andrew.

2. (nautical).—The points of a burgee.

3. (common).—A dress coat; a STEEL-PEN COAT (*q.v.*).

1886. *Referee*, 29 Aug. He is stripped of his SWALLOW-TAIL and his pseudonym, and marched off to the guard-room again.

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*, 50. Here is one of the new police, with blue SWALLOW-TAIL COAT tightly buttoned, and white trousers.

1902. LYNCH, *Unseen Hand*, i. He passed his hand caressingly over the lapel of an immaculate SWALLOW-TAIL.

4. (? punning nonce-word).—A tongue always wagging.

1690. D'URFEY, *Collin's Walk*, i. He'd tire your ear with pentagons . . . And all your outworks would assail With his eternal SWALLOW'S TAIL.

**SWAN.** I SWAN, *intj.* (American).—'I swear!' Also (more emphatically), 'I SWAN TO MAN!'

1842. CLAVERS, *Forest Life*, i. 29. 'Well, I SWAN!' exclaimed the mamma, giving a round box on the ear to a dirty little urchin.

1862. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 2 S. i. But they du preach, I SWAN TO MAN, it's puf'kly indescrib'le. *Ibid.* vi. I SWAN, You half forgit you've gut a body on.

1899. WESTCOTT, *David Harum*, xiv. 'You c'n git round on your pins 'bout's lively's they make 'em, I guess, I SWAN,' he exclaimed.

**SWANK,** *verb.* (public school).—To work hard: *cf.* SWINK. SWANKER=a hard-working student.

**SWANKEY,** *subs.* (common).—Any weak tipple: spec. small beer. Also (fishermen's) a mixture of water, molasses, and vinegar.

**SWANNERY.** TO KEEP A SWANNERY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To boast of one's own doings, possessions, etc.; to make out that all one's geese are swans (GROSE).

**SWAN-SLINGER,** *subs. phr.* (theatrical.—A player fond of or famous for SPOUTING BILL (*q.v.*); a Shakspearean actor: the same as 'slinging the Swan of Avon.'

**SWAP** (or **SWOP**), *subs.* (colloquial).—An act of barter; an exchange. As *verb* = to exchange; to strike a bargain. (B.E.) GROSE [='Irish Cant.'] and BEE.

1360. *Sir Gawayn* [E.E.T.S]. 35. [OLIPHANT, *New. Eng.*, i. 58. The old SWAP gets the new sense of 'make an exchange.'

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, v. 3. Soft, 'I'le not SWAP my father for all this.' . . . 'What, doe you thinke I'le be coz'ned of my father?'

1692. DRYDEN, *Cleomenes*. I would have SWOPP'D Youth for old age, and all my life behind, To have been then a momentary man.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Red.*, II. ii. 5. Those, who to preserve their Health, Had SWOP'D their little Store of Wealth.

1724. SWIFT, *Wood's Half-pence*. A fine lady SWAPPING her moles for the mange.

1781. PARKER, *View of Society*, II. 48. The hostler then says he has a choice nag or daisy-kicker to sell or SWAP.

1819. SCOTT, *Bride of Lammermoor*, xxvi. For the pouther, I e'en changed it . . . for gin and brandy . . . a gude SWAP too.

1830. COBBETT, *Rural Rides*, (1886), I. 199. It is barter, truck, change, dicker, as the Yankees call it, but as our horse jockies call it, SWAP, or chop.

1853. READE, *Gold*, i. Carry out a cargo of pea-jackets and four-penny bits to SWAP for gold dust.

1862. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 2 S. v. We'd better take maysures for shetting up shop, And put off our stock by a vendoo or SWOP.

1887. EGGLESTON, *Graysons*, x. Farmers frequented the town, to meet old friends and get the better of them in SWAPPING horses.

1894. BAKER, *New Timothy*, 187. Not even the greasy cards can stand against the attractions of a SWAP of horses, and these join the group.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xiv. You two countries ought to SWAP grandmothers, and then you'd match.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, ii. Don Andrès proposes to SWAP herd for herd, taking our cattle as they run, at fifteen dollars, and giving us half-breed sheep at three.

TO GET THE SWAP (or SWOP), *verb. phr.* (common). — To be dismissed.

TO SWAP OFF, *verb. phr.* (American). — To cheat; TO SELL (*q.v.*).

1880. HARRIS, *Uncle Remus*, iv. Den Brer Fox know dat he been SWAP OFF mighty bad.

**SWAPPER**, *subs.* (common).—Anything large or big: *see* WHOPPER. Hence SWAPPING = huge; strong; A1.

1589. *Countercuffe given to Martin Junior.* A filch-man in his hande, a SWAPPING ale dagger at his back, containing by estimation some two or three pounds of yron in the hyltes and chape.

1624. MIDDLETON, *Game at Chess*, iv. 2. Ay, marry, sir, here's SWAPPING sins indeed.

**SWARM**, *verb.* (colloquial). — To climb; TO SHIN UP.

. . . *Syr Isumbras*, 351. He SWARMED UP into a tree, Whyle eyther of them might other se.

1888. *Spectator* [*Century Dict.*]. SWARMING UP the lightning conductor of a great church to fix a flag at the top of the steeple.

**SWARRY**, *subs.* (common). — A boiled leg of mutton and trimmings.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxviii. Honourably accounts for Mr. Weller's absence by describing a . . . SWARRY . . . a boiled leg of mutton, hot, with caper sauce, turnips, and potatoes.

**SWARTWOUT**, *verb.* (American).—To abscond. [From the name of a public defaulter in New York.]

**SWASH**, *verb.* (old).—1. To make a noise: *see* quot. 1662. Hence SWASH-BUCKLER (SWASH, SWASHER or SWINGE-BUCKLER) = a sworder good at a lively peal on his opposite's target; and, therefore, by implication, a ruffler, bully, Hector. As *subs.* = bluster, vapouring, roaring; SWASHING (or SWASHY) = (1) noisy (a SWASHING blow); and (2) = loud-mouthed and quarrelsome.

1560. PILKINGTON, *Works* [PARKER], 151. A drunkard, a whore-hunter, a gamer, a SWASH-BUCKLER, a ruffian to waste his money in proud apparel.

1577-87. HOLINSHED, *Chron. Ireland*, 87. Whereby a man maie see how manie bloudie quarels a bralling SWASH-BUCKLER maie picke out of a bottle of haie, namelie when his braines are forebitten with a bottle of nappie ale.

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, ii. 220. Their tayls with croompled knot twisting SWASHLYE they wrigled.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, i. 1. Draw, if you be men—Gregory, remember thy SWASHING blow. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Henry IV.*, iii. 2. 24. *Shallow.* You had not four such SWINGE-BUCKLERS in all the inns o' court again. *Ibid.* (1599), *Henry V.*, iii. 2. As young as I am, I have observed these three SWASHERS [Nym, Pistol, and Bardolph]. I am boy to them all three. *Ibid.* (1601), *As You Like It*, i. 3. We'll have a SWASHING and a martial outside, As many other mannish cowards have.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, 74. A bravo, a SWASH-BUCKLER, one that for mony and good cheere will follow any man to defend him and fight for him, but if any danger come, he runs away the first and leaves him in the lurch. *Ibid.*, 127. To fence, TO SWASH with swords, to swagger.

1609. HOLLAND, *Am. Mar.* Leo, a notarie afterwards, master of the offices, a very SWASH-BUCKLER at every funerall, a knowne robber, and a Pannonian; one who breathed foorth of his savage mouth crueltie, and yet was neverthelesse greedie still of mans bloud.

1611. CORYAT, *Crudities*, i. 54. Their men are very ruffians and SWASH-BUCKLERS, having exceeding long blacke haire curled, and swords or other weapons by their sides.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Bravache.* A roister, cutter, swaggerer, SWASH BUCKLER, one thats ever vaunting of his owne valour.

1625, JONSON, *Staple of News*, v. 1. I do confess a SWASHING blow.

1636. HEYWOOD, *Love's Mistress*, 25. *Ille ipse*, the same; I desire no more than this sheep-hook in my hand to encounter with that SWASH-BUCKLER.

1637. DAVENANT, *Brit. Triumph.* [NARES.] With courtly knights, not roaring country SWASHES.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'London.' A ruffian is the same with a swaggerer, so called, because endeavouring to make that side to swag or weigh down whereon he ingageth. The same also with SWASH-BUCKLER, from swashing or making a noise on bucklers.

1677. *Ovid de Arte Amandi*, 141. Or score out husbands in the charcoal ashes, With country knights, nor roaring city SWASHES.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 143. The lovely Aurora metamorphosed herself in a twinkling, and resumed her SWASHING outside.

**SWASH-BUCKET,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A slattern.

**SWAT,** *subs.* (old).—1. A blow. As *subs.* = to strike; to hit.

*Verb.* (school).—To work hard; TO SWEAT (*q.v.*). [Orig. dialectical.] Also as *subs.* = hard study: spec. (Royal Military Academy) = mathematics.

**SWATCHEL,** *subs.* (Punch and Judy).—Punch. Hence SWATCHEL (or SCHWASSLE)-BOX = the Punch and Judy show; SWATCHEL-COVE = a Punch and Judy man: spec. the patterer. The other terms connected with this drama of the streets are:—MOZZY = Judy; DARKEY = the negro; VAMPO = the clown; VAMPIRE = the ghost; BUFFER = the dog; BUFFER-FIGURE = the dog's master; CROCODILE = the demon; FILIO = the baby; THE FRAME = the street arrangement; PEEPSIES = the panpipes; NOBBING-SLUM = the bag for collecting money; THE LETTER CLOTH = the advertisement; TAMBOUR = the drum; THE STALK (or PROP) = the gallows; THE SLUM FAKE = the coffin; THE SLUM = the call.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good Night.* You SWATCHEL-COVES that pitch and slam.

**SWATTLED,** *adj.* (common).—Drunk: *see* Screwed.

**SWEAR,** *subs.* (colloquial).—An oath; a CUSS (*q.v.*): also SWEAR-WORD. Also (colloquial) TO SWEAR AT (said of anything incongruous): *e.g.* 'His frock coat SWORE at his bowler-hat; TO SWEAR LIKE A LORD (TROOPER, etc.) = to volley oaths, TO MAKE THE AIR BLUE (*q.v.*); TO SWEAR THROUGH A NINE INCH PLANK (nautical) = to back up any lie (C. RUSSELL: 'a favourite expression of Lord Nelson when referring to American skippers').

1531. ELYOT, *Governour* (1834), 87. He that sweareth deep, SWEARETH LIKE A LORD.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Ordinary* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), x. 295]. Gull'd by my SWEAR; by my SWEAR, gull'd. *Ibid.* I lose the taking, by my SWEAR, of taking As much, whiles that I am receiving this.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'He'll SWEAR through a nine inch board, a dagger out of sheath, the devil out of hell, 'till he's black in the face.'

1756. FOOTE, *Eng. Returned from Paris.* [To] SWEAR LIKE A TROOPER.

18[?]. *Elect. Review* (Amer.). [*Century.*] There has been in the past an immense quantity of scolding, occasionally a SWEAR-WORD.

1887. *St. James's Gaz.*, 4 June. It is a dreadful thing to say, but I felt that if I didn't utter a big SWEAR at that moment something would happen.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii. 258. What is new in it . . . may SWEAR AT the old furniture and the delightful old portraits.

**SWEAT**, *verb.* (once literary; now colloquial).—1. To work hard; to drudge; to put in LICKS (*q.v.*); also TO SWEAT ONE'S GUTS OUT. *Cf.* modern (public school) SWAT (or SWOT)=fagging, hard study, especially mathematics, whence SWOT also=a mathematician; and as *verb*, to fag, or study hard (see quot. 1864).

1551. ROBYNSON, *More's Utopia*, ii. 11. Watching, waiting, and SWEATING; hoping shortly to obtain it.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, v. 3. 255. If you do SWEAT to put a tyrant down, You sleep in peace the tyrant being slain.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, v. 5. Come, brother, thank the Countess; She hath SWEAT to make your peace.

1622. FLETCHER, *Spanish Curate*, iii. 3. I could out-plead An advocate, and SWEAT as much as he Does for a double fee.

*d.* 1667. COWLEY, *Tree of Knowledge*, 4. Henceforth, said God, the wretched Sons of Earth Shall SWEAT for Food in vain.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. SWOT. This word originated at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in the broad Scotch pronunciation of Dr. Wallace, one of the Professors, of the word 'SWEAT.'

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life in Our Public Schools*. So much for work or SWOT, as the Harrovian, in common with other boys, somewhat inelegantly terms the more important part of instruction he receives at school.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky and Co.*, 135. Fags bully each other horrid; but the upper forms are supposed to be SWOTTIN' for exams.

2. (common).—To suffer; to pay the penalty. Also (*trans.*) to beat; to pay out.

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Coxcomb*, v. 1. Well, Jarvis, thou hadst wrongs, and, if I live, Some of the best shall SWEAT for't.

3. (old).—*See* quots.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 332. These SWEATERS . . . seem to me to have at present but a rough kind of discipline among them.

*c.* 1780. *Ireland Sixty Years Ago*, (1847), 13. Others were known by the sobriquet of 'SWEATERS and Pinkindindies.' It was their practice to cut off a small portion of the scabbards of the swords which every one then wore, and prick, or 'pink' the persons with whom they quarrelled with the naked points, which were sufficiently protruded to inflict considerable pain, but not sufficient to cause death.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* (3rd ed.), s.v. SWEATING. A diversion practised by the bloods of the last century, who styled themselves Mohocks: these gentlemen lay in wait to surprise some person late in the night, when surrounding him, they with their swords pricked him in the posteriors, which obliged him to be constantly turning round: this they continued till they thought him sufficiently SWEATED.

4. (common).—To extort, lose, or squander money freely; TO FLEECE (*q.v.*); TO BLEED (*q.v.*): *see* quot. 1784. Also TO SWEAT ONE'S PURSE=to cause one to spend everything.

1784. *Ireland Sixty Years Ago*, (1847), 14. They determined to amuse themselves by SWEATING him, *i.e.*, making him give up all his fire-arms.

5. (common).—To work for (or employ labour at) starvation wages; to submit to extortion (or to extort). Hence SWEATER=an employer of underpaid labour: usually a middleman between the actual employer and employed; a grinding taskmaster. Whence SWEATING-SYSTEM, SWEATER, SWEATED, etc.

1850. C. KINGSLEY, *Cheap Clothes and Nasty*. At the honourable shops the master deals directly with his workmen; while at the dishonourable ones, the work is let out to contractors or middle-men—

'SWEATERS,' as their victims significantly call them—who, in their turn, let it out again, sometimes to the workmen, sometimes to fresh middle-men, so that out of the price paid for labour on each article, not only the workmen, but the SWEATER, and perhaps the SWEATER'S SWEATER, and a third, and a fourth, and a fifth, have to draw their profit.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 64. I have many a time heard both husband and wife—one couple especially who were SWEATING for a gorgeous clothes emporium—say that they had not time to be clean.

1882. *Contemp. Review*, lvi. 880. It is possible that several of the minor industries of the East End are absolutely dependent upon the fact that a low type of SWEATED and overworked labour is employed at starvation wages.

1883. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 29 Oct. SWEATERS' hacks turning out frockcoats.

1886. *Echo*, 1 Dec. Recently a trade journal published a list of SWEATING firms in the clothing trade, each of which probably has grounds of action.

1887. *Nineteenth Century*, xxii. 489. They declared that they were being SWEATED, that the hunger for work induced men to accept starvation rates.

6. (old).—To pawn.

*c.* 1811. MAHER, *The Night Before Larry was Stretched*. A bit in their sacks, too, they fetched; They SWEATED their duds till they riz it.

PHRASES.—IN A SWEAT=(1) in a hurry, and (2) in a state of terror, impatient; TO SWEAT COINS=to remove part of the metal from coins (chiefly gold) by friction or acids, yet in such a manner that the depreciation is imperceptible.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWEATING. A mode of diminishing the gold coin, practised chiefly by the Jews, who corrode it with aqua regia.

1796. WOLCOT, *Peter Pindar*, 109. His each vile sixpence that the world hath cheated, And his art that every guinea SWEATED.

1875. JEVONS, *Money and Mech. of Exch.*, 115. No one now actually refuses any gold money in retail business, so that the SWEATER, if he exists at all, has all the opportunities he can desire.

18[?]. THOR FREDUR, *Sketches from Shady Places* [S. J. and C.]. By far the most scientific form of smashing is that which is called SWEATING—the modern equivalent for the ruder art of 'clipping,' so fully described in Macaulay's History. Here the galvanic battery is brought into requisition, the metal being dissolved equally from all the surfaces of the coin operated upon, and that, too, without impairing the sharpness of 'image or superscription.' Sufficient metal for the SWEATER'S purpose being removed, the coin is polished afresh.

**SWEAT-BOX**, *subs. phr.* The cell used for prisoners while awaiting appearance before a magistrate.

**SWEATER**, *subs.* (Winchester).—1. A servant. Hence SWEAT-GALLERY=fagging juniors. *See* SWEAT and SWOT.

2. (athletic).—A thick coat (or flannel jersey) worn by contestants after a finish until they can be rubbed down.

3. (Stock Exchange). — *See* quot.

1871. ATKIN, *House Scraps* [SWEATER]. A broker who works for such small commissions as to prevent other brokers getting the business, whilst hardly being profitable to himself.

4. *See* SWEAT in all senses.

**SWEAT-PITS**, *subs. pl.* (old).—The arm-pits.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, v. 27. By nature she is almost as rank as a Red Herring, yet . . . she so Rectifies the Effluvia that arises from her SWEAT-PITS, that she smells as fragrant as a Perfumer's-Shop next Door to a Tallow-Chandler's.

**SWEEP**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A sweepstakes.

2. (common).—A term of contempt: *e.g.* 'What a SWEEP the man is'; 'You dirty SWEEP.'

TO SWEEP THE BOARD, *verb. phr.* (orig. gaming: now general).—To take everything; to pocket all the stakes. Also TO MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP=to CLEAN OUT (*q.v.*); to remove entirely. Also SWEEP=at whist, taking all the tricks in the hand; a SLAM (*q.v.*).

1680. COTTON [SINGER, *Hist. Cards* (1816), 346]. He who hath five cards of a suit . . . SWEEPS THE BOARD.

1711. POPE, *Rape of Lock*, iii. 50. Spadillio first . . . Led off two captive trumps, and SWEPT THE BOARD.

1822. SCOTT, *Fort. Nigel*, xxi. 'Tis the sitting gamester SWEEPS THE BOARD.

1868. BLUNT, *Ref. Church England*, 316. The CLEAN SWEEP which had been made of so many ancient rights.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 163. They [Indians] burnt thirty-two houses in Springfield . . . MADE A CLEAN SWEEP on't.

THE SWEEPS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Rifle Brigade. [Their facings from formation (1800) have been black.]

**SWEEP'S-FRILL**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Beard and whiskers worn round the chin, the rest of the face being clean shaven.

1892. *Tit Bits*, 19 March, 421, 2. The SWEEP'S FRILL would, I imagine, have made the Antinous, or the Apollo Belvedere, look undignified and slovenly.

**SWEET**, *adj.* (old and thieves').—1. Gullible; easily deceived. 2. Expert, dextrous, clever: *e.g.* 'SWEET's your hand' (said of a clever thief). Hence, TO SWEETEN A VICTIM=to allay his suspicions (GROSE); to decoy, draw in, and bite (B. E. and GROSE): *see* SWEETENER.

**SWEETBREAD**, *subs.* (old).—A bribe; a TIP (*q.v.*).

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, ii. 163. A few SWEETBREADS that I gave him out of my purse.

**SWEETBRIAR**, *subs.* (venery).—The female pubic hair: *cf.* GROVE OF EGLANTINE (CAREW). *See* FLEECE.

**SWEETEN**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A beggar. Also as *verb*=to give alms (GROSE).

*Verb.* (cards: espec. poker).—To contribute to the pool. Hence SWEETENING=money paid into the pool or kitty.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 191. Then along came a big jack pot that had been enlarged by repeated SWEETENINGS.

TO SWEETEN AND PINCH, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1678. *Four for a Penny* (Harl. Misc., iv. 147). A main part of his [a bum-bailiff's] office is to swear and bluster . . . and cry, 'Confound us, why do we wait? let us shop him'; whilst the other meekly replies, 'Jack, be patient, it is a civil gentleman, and I know will consider us'; which species of wheedling, in terms of their art, is called SWEETEN AND PINCH.

**SWEETENER**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A GUINEA-DROPPER (*q.v.*): [A coin is PLANTED (*q.v.*), and a likely passer-by is offered a share because present at the discovery; to get change, 'drinks' are suggested, and the victim goes out fleeced].—(B. E. and GROSE).

1699. *Country Gentleman's Vade Mecum*, 97. Guinea dropping or SWEETNING is a paultry little cheat that was recommended to the world about thirty years ago by a memorable gentleman that has since had the misfortune to be taken off, I mean hang'd, for a misdemeanour upon the highway.

2. (auctioneers').—A RUNNER-UP (*q.v.*) of prices; a BONNET (*q.v.*).

3. (common). — In *pl.* = the lips. TO FAKE THE SWEETENERS = to kiss.

4. (old).—'One who decoys persons to game' (BAILEY). Also SWEETEN, *verb* (B. E. and GROSE) = to decoy, to draw in.

**SWEETHEART**, etc., *subs.* (old colloquial and literary).—1. A mistress, *pour le bon motif;* and (2) *see* quots. Also variants: SWEET, SWEETING, SWEETKINS, SWEET-LIPS, etc. Also SWEETKIN, *adj.* = delicate, dainty; and SWEET ON = in love with; partial to.

*c.* 1534. *Milner of Abington* [HAZLITT. *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 113]. Now, I pray you, my lemman free, A gowne cloath then buie you me . . . By Jesu, he saide, my SWEETING, I have but three shylling.

1552. HULOET, *Abecdarium*, s.v. Darlynge, a wanton terme used in veneriall speach, as be these: honycombe, pyggisnye, SWETEHERT, true love.

1593. NASHE, *Choise of Valentynes*, 89. Sweete heart, . . ., but thy self, true lover I haue none . . . With that she wanton faints, and falle's vpon hir bedd.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew* . . . TO BE SWEET ON, cant, to coakse, wheedle, entice or allure.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWEET-HEART . . . a girl's lover or a man's mistress. *Ibid.* s.v. SWEETNERS . . . TO BE SWEET UPON; to coax, wheedle, court or allure. He seemed SWEET UPON that wench; he seemed to court that girl.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. SWEET (TO BE)—to talk kind, conciliating to the other sex.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iv. 15. Missis is SWEET enough ON you, Master, to sell herself up, slap, to get you out of trouble.

1895. OPPENHEIM, *Peer and the Woman*, II. ii. I don't know that we should have stopped so long, only Brown's rather SWEET ON the place.

SWEETHEART AND BAG-PUDDING! *phr.* (old: RAY).—Said of a girl got with child.

1608. DAY, *Humour out of Breath*, ii. 1. Farewell, SWEET HEART.—God a mercy, BAG-PUDDING.

**SWEETIES**, *subs. pl.* (common).—Sweetmeats: also SWEET-STUFF.

*d.* 1758. RAMSAY, *Poems*, II. 547. SWEETIES to bestow on lasses.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 216. The SWEET-STUFF maker (I never heard them called confectioners) bought his 'paper' at the stationer's, or the old book-shops.

1863. THACKERAY, *Roundabout Papers*, X. Instead of finding bonbons or SWEETIES in the packets which we pluck off the boughs, we find enclosed Mr. Carnifex's review of the quarter's meat.

**SWEET-LIPS**, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. An epicure; a glutton.

2. *See* SWEETHEART.

**SWEET-MEAT**, *subs. phr.* (venery). — 1. The *penis*: *see* PRICK. Also (2) a kept mistress of tender years.

SWEET MEAT MUST HAVE SOUR SAUCE, *phr.* (old).—*See* quot. It. *Se à mangiate le candele ora caga gli stoppini.*

1726. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.* s.v. SWEET . . . AFTER SWEET MEAT COMES SOUR SAUCE . . . an excellent monition to temperance and sobriety.

**SWEET-PEA**, *subs.* (women's). — Urination: spec. in the open air. Hence, TO PLANT (or DO) A SWEET PEA = TO PISS (*q.v.*): *cf.* TO PLUCK A ROSE. Also in Conundrums: 'What's the sweetest flower in the nursery?' or 'What flower does a woman like after a long walk?' *Ans.* A sweet-pea.

**SWEET-SCENTED HOLE,** *subs. phr.* (venery). — The female *pudendum* : *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1690. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxx. With his nervous horn he removed all the infection that might be lurking in some blind cranny of the . . . SWEET-SCENTED HOLE.

**SWEET-TOOTH,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A liking for sweet things or sweetmeats.

**SWELL,** *subs.* (old).—1. *See* quots. 1785 and 1890. Hence, as *adj.* (also SWELLISH) = (1) elegant, stylish, dandified; and (2) first-rate, TIP-TOP (*q.v.*). Also derivatives and combinations such as SWELLDOM = the world of fashion; TO LIVE IN SWELL-STREET = to reside in the West End; A SWELL HUNG IN CHAINS = a bejewelled man or woman; A HOWLING SWELL (*see* HOWLING); SWELL-HEAD (or BLOCK) = a vain coxcomb (Amer.).

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWELL, a gentleman; but any well-dressed person is emphatically termed a SWELL, or a RANK SWELL. A family man who appears to have plenty of money, and makes a genteel figure, is said by his associates to be in SWELL STREET. Any thing remarkable for its beauty or elegance, is called a SWELL article; so a SWELL crib is a genteel house; a SWELL mollisher, an elegantly-dressed woman, etc. Sometimes, in alluding to a particular gentleman, whose name is not requisite, he is styled, THE SWELL, meaning the person who is the object of your discourse, or attention; and whether he is called THE SWELL, the cove, or the gory, is immaterial, as in the following (in addition to many other) examples:—I was turned up at China-street, because THE SWELL would not appear; meaning, of course, the prosecutor: again, speaking of a person whom you were on the point of robbing, but who has taken the alarm, and is therefore on his guard, you will say to your pall, It's of no use, the cove is as down as a hammer; or, We may as well stow it, the gory's leary.

1811. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, s.v. CADGE the SWELLS, beg of the gentlemen.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib's Memorial*. . . . What madness could impel So rum a flat to face so prime a SWELL.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. NOB. A . . . nob . . . differs from SWELL, inasmuch as the latter makes a show of his finery; whereas the nob, relying upon intrinsic worth, or bonâ-fide property, or intellectual ability, is clad in plainness.

1823. BYRON, *Don Juan*, xi. 17. Poor Tom was once a kiddy upon town, A thorough varmint and a real SWELL. *Ibid.*, xi. 19. So prime, so SWELL, so nutty, and so knowing.

1835. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*, III. ii. At the ball, my eldest girl danced with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and found him very chatty, though a bit of a SWELL.

1840–45. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (1862), 70. No! no!—The Abbey may do very well For a feudal nob, or poetical 'SWELL.'

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 341. Not one SWELL in a score would view it in any light than a ream concern.

1854. THACKERAY [*Leech's Pictures* in *Quarterly Review*, No. 191]. Corinthian, it appears, was the phrase applied to men of fashion and ton . . . they were the brilliant predecessors of the SWELL of the present period. *Ibid.* (1855), *Newcomes*, xliii. This isn't the moment, when all SWELLDOM is at her feet, for me to come forward. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xxiii. The lady in the SWELL carriage, the mother of the young SWELL with the flower in his buttonhole.

*c.* 1864. VANCE, *Chickaleary Cove*. My tailor serves you well, from a perger to a SWELL.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. 244. It was the SWELL's russia—a russia, you know, is a pocket-book.

1888. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 38. She's a screamer, she's a real SWELL.

1890. T. R. OLIPHANT, *Eton College*. It is very hard to define exactly what is meant by a SWELL at Eton; but it usually implies a boy who, brought into notice either by athletic prowess or scholarship, or high standing in the school, by this means becomes acquainted with the leading members of the school, and is found on acquaintance to develop considerable social qualities, which make him hand and glove with all the Eton magnates.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 41. The merest fool could tell that the lady was a SWELL.

1900. BOOTHBY, *Maker of Nations*, ix. I'm no end of a SWELL at politics.

2. (Winchester).—In *pl.* = Sunday Services; Saints' days, etc.: when surplices are worn.

*Verb* (Winchester).—To bathe; 'to swill.'

**SWELL-HEAD,** *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A drunken man: *see* LUSHINGTON.

2. *See* SWELL and SWOLLEN HEAD.

**SWELL-MOBSMAN,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A well-dressed pick-pocket. Hence SWELL-MOB.

1843. *Punch*, iv. 129. Rich Charities the Chapel throng, The SWELL MOB they are there, The Bishop's sermon is not long, The fogle-hunter ware!

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 417. SWELL-MOBSMEN, and thieves, and housebreakers, and the like o' that ere.

1856. *Quarterly Rev.*, June, 182. The SWELL MOBSMAN'S eye is for ever wandering in search of his prey.

*c.* 1860. DICKENS, *Three Detective Anecdotes*, ii. Some of the SWELL MOB . . . kidded us.

1866. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. Public patterers, SWELL MOBSMEN who pretend to be Dissenting preachers, and harangue in the open air to attract a crowd for their confederates to rob.

**SWELLED-NOSE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Ill temper. 'DOES YOUR NOSE SWELL (or ITCH) at that?' = 'Are you riled?'

**SWELL-NOSE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Strong ale; STINGO (*q.v.*).

1515. *De Generibus Ebriosorum*, etc. [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 . . . raise-head . . . SWELL-NOSE.

**S'WELP,** *intj.* (common).—'So help': usually in the adjurations, 'S'WELP ME BOB,' or 'S'WELP MY TATERS' (BOB, GREENS, etc.).

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.* (*Dead Drummer*). For his jaw-work would never, I'm sure, S'ELP ME BOB, Have come for to go for to do sich a job!

*c.* 1850. *Old Rhyme.* S'ELP ME BOB, My mother's a snob, My father takes in washin'.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, iii. 144. They'll say, too, S'ELP MY GREENS! and 'Upon my word and say so.'

1880. JAS. PAYN, *Confid. Agent*, xix. 'Not another word will I say, S'HELP ME BOB.'

1888. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 86. I'll pay it back, S'ELP ME GORD.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 13 Jan. Well, S'ELP ME GREENS . . . if you ar'n't the greatest treat I ever did meet.

1891. CHEVALIER, *Mrs 'Enery 'Awkins*. SELP ME BOB, I'm crazy, Liza, you're a daisy.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. SO HELP MY BLESSED TATER if this isn't our old Jose.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 30. If I wasn't sich a lidy, S'ELP ME BOB, I'd give the bloomin' magistrate a job.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, vi. SWELP ME LUCKY, I ain't tellin yer no lie.

**SWIFT,** *subs.* (printers').—A quick-working compositor (SAVAGE, 1841, *Dict.*).

**SWIG,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A deep draught: also as *verb* = to drink heartily. (B. E. and GROSE); TO PULL hard (*q.v.*) Hence SWIGGLED = drunk: *see* SCREWED.

1623. MABBE, *Spanish Rogue*, (1630), ii. 208. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 82. Bale's swink (bibere) becomes SWIGGE.]

1627. MIDDLETON and ROWLEY, *Changeling*, iv. 2. But one SWIG more, sweet madam.

*c.* 1650. *Roxburgh Ballads* [Brit. Mus., C. 20, f. 8. 236], 'Jolly Welsh Woman.' Now while she had gotten the jugg at her snout, . . . Hur gave it a tug, till hur SWIGG'D it half out.

*c.* 1670. *Old English Ballads* [Brit. Mus., C. 22, e. 2. 43]. 'Dead and Alive.' He never left off SWIGGING, Till he had suckt all out.

*d.* 1701. CREECH, *Virgil*, 'Eclogues,' iii. The flock is drained, the lambkins SWIG the teat, But find no moisture, and then idly bleat.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 38. Not but that he can fight, and that very heartily too, after a lusty SWIG at the Brandy.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 246. When my landlord does not nick me . . . But very fairly fills it full, I just can SWIGG it at one pull.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 39. The Hero that sits there, SWIGGING blue ruin in that chair.

1835. MARRYAT, *Pacha Many Tales*, 'English Sailor.' The sailor having taken a SWIG at the bottle.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 19. Half-cocked with SWIGGING ale and beer.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Gables*, xi. The jolly toper SWIGGED lustily at his bottle.

1885. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxi. 192. Take a little lunch . . . and a SWIG of whiskey and water.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xi. I buy a ha'porth of bread, take a SWIG at a fountain, and tramp the East End parks to kill time.

**SWIGMAN**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—*See* quots. (AWDELEY, HARMAN, DEKKER, B. E., and GROSE).

1567. AWDELEY, *Frat. of Vacabondes*, 5. A SWYGMAN goeth with a pedlers pack.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SWIG-MEN, c. the 13th Rank of the Canting Crew, carrying small Habberdashery-Wares about, pretending to sell them to colour their Roguery.

**SWILL**, *verb.* (old colloquial: now vulgar).—To drink (and, occasionally, to eat) piggishly: hence as *subs.* = BOOZE (*q.v.*), the lap, or the act: in contempt. SWILL-BOWL (SWILLER, SWILL-POT, SWILL-TUB, or SWILL-BELLY) = a heavy toper (or glutton); SWILLED = drunk: *see* SCREWED (B. E. and GROSE).

1530. *Jyl of Brentford's Testament* [FURNIVALL], 7. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 466. The verb SWYLL takes a new meaning, that of bibere.]

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus's Apophth.*, 367. Lucious Cotta . . . was taken for the greatest SWIELBOLLE of wine in the woorlde.

*d.* 1563. BALE [*Works* (Parker Soc.), 193]. Their oiled SWILL-BOWLS and blind Balaamites.

1580. BARET, *Alvearie*. SWILBOLLES, *potores bibuli*.

1593. HARVEY, *Pierce's Superogation*, ii. 141. Wantonness was never such a SWILLBOWL of ribaldry.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, v. 2. 9. The . . . usurping boar . . . SWILLS your warm blood like wash.

1616. R. C., *Times Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 20. They which on this day doe drink and SWILL In such lewd fashion.

1652. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. As Tom or Tib When they at bowsing ken do SWILL.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xxxiii. What doth that part of our army in the meantime which overthrows that unworthy SWILL-POT Grangousier?

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 198. The husband, instead of my dear soul, has been called blockhead, toss-pot, SWILL-TUB, and the wife sow, fool, dirty drab.

1775. SHERIDAN, *Duenna*, iii. 5. Ye eat, and SWILL, and sleep, and gormandize, and thrive.

1808. SCOTT, *Marmion*, i. 22. Let Friar John, in safety, still . . . Roast hissing crabs, or flagons SWILL.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xi. SWILLING themselves with ale.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, xxxvi. He was SWILLING beer in the canteen as if he had never done anything else in his life.

**SWIM**, *subs.* (common).—One's particular pursuits, PITCH (*q.v.*), or fancy. Hence in a good (or bad) SWIM = lucky (or unlucky).

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.'

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 16. 1. *Lady Dashout.* 'The pity of it is that we can't always keep the SWIM to ourselves. The rich third-raters will dive in, make the waters muddy, and copy our frocks. I should like to make my own SWIM!'

IN THE SWIM, *phr.* (common). — Participant in the times. Hence (2)=in the 'inner circle' or THE KNOW (*q.v.*); (3)=associated in any undertaking; and spec. (4)=a long time out of the hands of the police (thieves'). Fr. *dans le mouvement* (or *le train*).

1869. *Macm. Mag.*, Nov., 71. 2. A man is said to be IN THE SWIM when any piece of good fortune has happened, or seems likely to happen, to him. To have rowed one's college-boat to the head of the river, to have received a legacy, to have made a good book on the Derby, are any of them sufficient to have put one IN THE SWIM. The metaphor is piscatorial, 'SWIM' being the term applied by Thames fishermen to those sections of the river which are especially frequented by fish. The angler who casts his bait into these may depend upon sport, whereas his neighbour at a little distance may not have a nibble, being OUT OF THE SWIM.

1874. *Siliad*, 30. 'He's IN THE SWIM,' another Swift replies: 'Hot wather, thin, he loiks,' Obroian cries.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii. 313. His neighbourhood is getting INTO THE SWIM of the real-estate movement.

1897. OUIDA, *Massarenes*, 24. Never remind me of anything I said. I can't endure it: I believe you want to get IN THE SWIM.

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 16. 1. *Hon. Mrs. Worldley.* 'Sounds distinctly appetising. Well, wherever *I* go, I want to be IN THE SWIM.'

TO SWIM IN GOLDEN GREASE (OIL, LARD, etc.), *verb. phr.* (old).—To 'roll' in bribes: *see* GREASE.

1605. JONSON, *Fox*, i. 1. When you do come to SWIM IN GOLDEN LARD.

TO MAKE A MAN SWIM FOR IT, *verb. phr.* (thieves').—To cheat a pal out of his share of booty.

HOW WE APPLES SWIM, QUOTH THE HORSE-TURD (RAY). *See* APPLES.

**SWIMMER**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. 'A Counterfeit (old) Coyn' (B. E. and GROSE).

2. (old).—*See* quot. (also TO HAVE A SWIMMER).

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWIMMER, a guard-ship, or tender; a thief who escapes prosecution, when before a magistrate, on condition of being sent on board the receiving-ship, to serve His Majesty, is said by his palls to be SWIMMERED.

**SWIMMING**, *adj.* (common). — Generic for plenty: thus a SWIMMING (= a full or brisk) MARKET: *cf.* SICK; a SWIMMING (=an overfull) DISH; a SWIMMING (= an extremely pleasant) TIME, etc. Hence SWIMMINGLY =successfully, prosperously.

1622. FLETCHER, *Prophetess*, i. 3. *Max.* Can such a rascal as thou hope for honour? . . . *Geta.* Yes; and bear it too, And bear it SWIMMINGLY.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 180. Thus SWIMMINGLY the knave went on, And killed two birds with every stone.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 233. And now, for a time, affairs went on SWIMMINGLY.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 441. Your business is going SWIMMINGLY.

**SWINDLE**, *subs.* (common). — 1. Originally (and properly) a fraud or imposition (in which sense *see* SWINDLER). Also 2 (loosely *and* frequently), any speculation or matter of chance: *e.g.*, a lottery, a toss for drinks, a sweepstakes, a race, etc.; also (more loosely still) any transaction in which money passes: *e.g.* 'What's the SWINDLE'='What's to pay (or the damage)?'

'Why don't you pay the girl her SWINDLE?' = 'Why don't you give the girl her price?' SWINDLER (*q.v.*) is quite another matter, and all quots. for it, for *subs.* 1, and the *verbal* sense are there given for the sake of distinction.

1870. *Legal Reports*, 'Decision of PIGOTT, J.' As to the second plea that SWINDLE had not a libellous meaning, this was in a great measure carried out by the plaintiff himself, who had advertised that he was getting up a SWINDLE. In sporting circles they certainly did deal with an extraordinary vocabulary, and apparently did not use this word SWINDLE in Dr. Johnson's sense. *Ibid.* 'Evidence in Davey *v.* Walmsley.' Mr. Hawkins—'Is the word SWINDLE commonly applied to things like "specs."?' Witness (Mr. Paul Walmsley, Editor, *Racing Investigator*)—'Certainly! I never heard them called by any other name. It is a regular byword with us as a racing phrase. Lotteries are announced and commonly known as SWINDLES.'

**SWINDLER**, *subs.* (old).—A cheat; a rogue: spec. one who employs petty or mean artifices, legal or illegal, for defrauding others. Hence SWINDLE, *subs.* = a fraud, a deception, an imposition; and SWINDLE, *verb* = to cheat, to defraud. Whence, also, derivatives such as SWINDLEABLE, SWINDLERY, SWINDLING, etc. [Orig. used of German Jews who settled in London, *circa* 1762. Also by soldiers in the Seven Years' War.]—GROSE and BEE.

1776. FOOTE, *Capuchin*, ii. After that you turned SWINDLER, and got out of gaol by an act for the relief of insolvent debtors.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. SWINDLER . . . used to signify Cheats of every kind.

1785-6. VARENNE, [CARLYLE, *Diamond Necklace*, xvi., quoted in note 9]. 'Lamotte . . . under pretext of finding a treasure . . . had SWINDLED one of them out of 300 livres.'

1837. CARLYLE, *French Revol.*, II. vi. SWINDLERY and blackguardism.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, ii. Bedloe, a noted SWINDLER, followed.

1866. HOWELLS, *Venetian Life*, i. Let us take, for example, that pathetic SWINDLE, the Bridge of Sighs.

*d.* 1876. M. COLLINS, *Thoughts in my Garden*, i. 283. I look easily SWINDLEABLE.

1882. WEDGWOOD, *Eng. Etym.*, s.v. Swindle. In a figurative sense the German *schwindel* is applied to dealings in which the parties seem to have lost their head, as we say, to have become dizzy over unfounded or unreasonable prospects of gain. The word may be translated madness, delusion. Then, in a factitive sense, schwindeler, one who induces delusions in others. '*Einem etwas abschwindeln*,' to get something out of another by inducing delusions; to SWINDLE him out of something.

**SWINE**, *subs.* (common).—A term of the utmost contempt. Hence SWINISH (B. E.) = 'greedy, gluttonous, covetous.'

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, v. 2. 10. This foul SWINE Lies . . . Near to the town of Leicester. [The boar was Richard's cognisance.]

1889. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 4 Jan. 'Aint that the SWINE of a snob that rushed me at Battersea?

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, ix. 'Git out, yer silly SWINE,' is the maiden's reply.

1903. KENNEDY, *Sailor Tramp*, II. iii. Sailor, it looks as if we were done for . . . That SWINE'll surely make us get off.

PHRASES and PROVERBIAL SAYINGS. 'Like a SWINE, never good until he come to the knife' (of a covetous person); TO SING LIKE A BIRD CALLED A SWINE = to grunt (RAY); TO CAST PEARLS BEFORE SWINE (of unappreciated action or effort).

**SWINE-DRUNK**, *adj. phr.* (old).—Beastly drunk: *see* SCREWED.

1592. NASHE, *Works* [GROSART, ii. 82]. Ape drunke . . . Lion drunke . . . SWINE DRUNKE . . . Sheepe drunke. . . .

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, iv. 3. 286. Drunkenness is his best virtue, for he will be SWINE-DRUNK.

**SWING**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Bent; a free 'hand' or course: *e.g.* TO HAVE (or TAKE) ONE'S SWING (or FULL SWING)=to do as one likes. Also TO SWING (a matter) OVER ONE'S HEAD, SHOULDERS, etc.=to manage easily; TO SWING A BUSINESS (MARKET, PRICES, etc.)=to control; to manage.

1530. TYNDALE, *Works* [Parker Soc.], i. 530. The sect [of heretics] goeth now in her FULL SWING. *Ibid.*, ii. 219. The devil hath a great SWING among us.

1542. HALL, *Henry VIII.*, f. 5. And there for a certayne space loytred and lurked with Sir Thomas Broughton knyght, whiche in those quarters bare great SWYNGE, and was there in great aucthoritie.

1592. HARVEY, *Four Letters*. Let them have their SWING that affect to be terribly singular.

1610. SACKVILLE, *Ind. Mirr. Mag.*, 260. That whilom here bare SWINGE AMONG the best.

1620. FLETCHER, *Little Fr. Lawyer*, ii. 3. Take your whole SWING of anger; I'll bear all with content.

1622. DENT, *Pathway*, 58. If they will needs follow their lustes, their pleasures, and their owne SWINGE, yet in the end, he will bring them to judgement.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, ii. 3. The fellow will have his SWING though he hang for't.

1805. GODWIN, *Fleetwood*, vii. To thrust the world aside and take his SWING of indulgence.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 267. It was my full determination . . . to take my SWING about town, and look at men and manners a little.

1837. LYTTON, *Maltravers*, IV. ix. Your time is up . . . you have had your SWING.

1877–85. DIXON, *Hist. Ch. of England*, ii. Sacrilege was in full SWING.

1881. J. C. SHAIRP, *Aspects of Poetry*, 132. In the great chorus of song with which England greeted the dawn of this century individuality had FULL SWING.

*Verb.* (common). — 1. To hang; *see* LADDER. Hence, THE SWING=the gallows: *see* NUBBING CHEAT (GROSE).

1542. UDALL, *Erasmus* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 486.] 'Among the verbs are to gossip . . . SWING in a halter, take his heels,' etc.

1801. *Poetry of Anti-Jacobin* (4th ed.), 7. For this act Did Brownrigg SWING. Harsh laws! But time shall come When France shall reign, and laws be all repeal'd.

1836. DICKENS, *Boz*. 'Drunkard's Death.' If I'm caught, I shall SWING; that's certain.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, i. 229. And now they tried the deed to hide; For a little bird whispered, 'Perchance, you may SWING.' *Ibid.* 'The Execution.' But to see a man SWING At the end of a string, With his neck in a noose, will be quite a new thing.

1887. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, iv. And is he thundering well corpsed? . . . Then, damme, I don't mind SWINGING.

TO SWING THE MONKEY, *verb. phr.* (nautical).—*See* quot.

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sailor's Language*, s.v. SWING THE MONKEY . . . striking with knotted handkerchiefs a man who swings to a rope made fast aloft. The person the 'monkey' strikes whilst swinging takes his place.

**SWINGE**, *verb.* (old literary).—1. To beat; to thrash; to chastise; to punish (B. E. and GROSE). Hence (Charterhouse) SWINGER (*q.v.*) = a box on the ears. SWINGEING = a thrashing; SWINGE-BUCKLER (*see* SWASH).

*c.* 1280. *Havelok the Dane* [SKEAT, E.E.T.S. (1868), 214]. An ofte dede him sore SWINGE, And wit hondes smerte dinge; So that the blood ran of his fleys, That tendre was, and swithe neys.

1579. *Mariage of Witt and Wisdome*. O, the passion of God! so I shalbe SWINGED; So, my bones shalbe bang'd! The poredge pot is stolne: what, Lob, I say, Come away, and be hanged!

1590. SPENSER, *Fairy Queene*, I. xi. 26. The scorching flame sore SWINGED all his face.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*, ii. 1. 87. I was in love with my bed: I thank you, you SWINGED me for my love. *Ibid.* (1596), *King John*, ii. 1. 288. Saint George that SWINGED the dragon. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Hen. IV.*, v. 4. I will have you . . . soundly SWINGED for this . . . if you be not SWINGED I'll forswear half kirtles.

1599. GREENE, *George a Greene*. Once he SWING'D me till my bones did ake.

1607. *Devil's Charter* [STEEVENS]. When I was a scholar in Padua, faith, then I could have SWINGED A SWORD AND BUCKLER.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Dober*. To beat, SWINGE, lamme, bethwacke.

1614. FLETCHER, *Wit Without Money*, iv. 5. Be not too bold; for, if you be, I'll SWINGE you, I'll SWINGE you monstrously, without all pity.

1621. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas* [NARES]. Then often SWINDGING, with his sinnewy train, Somtimes his sides, somtimes the dusty plain.

1637. DAVENANT, *Brit. Triumphans*, [*Dram. Rest.*, DAVENANT, ii. 282]. In Gaul he SWINGED the valiant Sir Amadis.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*. Whether it be direct infrynging An oath if I should waive this SWINGING.

1709. SWIFT, *Stella*, xxxix. Walpole, late secretary of war, is to be SWINGED for bribery.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, i. I would . . . SWINGE and leather my lambkin.

**2. (venery).**—To copulate: *see* RIDE. Hence SWINGER = a PERFORMER (*q.v.*).

153[?]. LYNDSAY, *Descriptioun* [LAING, I. 156, 17]. Ane SWYNGEOUR coffe amangis the wyvis.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, iii. 1. Give her cold jelly To take up her belly, And once a day SWINGE her again.

1668. DRYDEN, *Enemy's Love*, v. And that baggage, Beatrix, how I would SWINGE her if I had her here.

**SWINGED OFF**, *adv. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SWINGING. . . . He is SWING'D OFF, damnably Clapt.

**SWINGING (SWINDGING or SWINGEING)**, *adj.* (old).—Huge, astonishing: generic for size: anything that beats all else: *see* SWINGE, *verb*. Hence SWINGER = anything of size; a WHOPPER (*q.v.*). Spec. an unblushing falsehood.

1623. MABBE, *Spanish Rogue* (1630), ii. 144. A SWINGING pastie.

1624. FLETCHER, *Rule a Wife*, iv. 3. A SWINGING storm will sing you such a lullaby.

1648. HERRICK, *Twelfe Night*. Thus ye must doe To make the wassaile a SWINGER.

1672. DRYDEN, *Assignation*, iii. 8. Yours were but little vanities; but I have sinn'd SWINGINGLY against my vow.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xviii. A SWINGEING ass's touch-tripe fastened to his waist.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. SWINGING. Clap, Lye, Fellow, a very great one. I SWING'D HIM OFF, I lay'd on and beat him well-favoredly. He is SWING'D OFF, damnably Clapt.

1703. FARQUHAR, *Inconstant*, i. 1. We have rid a SWINGING pace from Nemours since two this morning.

1720. ECHARD, *Obs. Cont. Clergy*, 159. How will he rap out presently half a dozen SWINGERS, to get off cleverly.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, I. 271. Did I not tell you a SWINGEING Lie, then?

1730. NORTH, *Lives of Norths*. [A certain monstrous proposition is called] a SWINGER.

1734. CAREY, *Chronon.*, 3. Now, . . . for a SWINGEING lye.

1742. FIELDING, *Joseph Andrews*, ii. 5. If your jury were Christians, they must give SWINGEING damages, that's all.

1859. SALA, *Twice Round Clock*, 4 A.M. 17. Retailing the fish at a SWINGEING profit.

1872. C. D. WARNER, *Blacklog Studies*, 264. A placid, calm, SWINGEING cold night.

1884. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 7 July. A good SWINGEING agitation against the House of Lords.

**SWING-TAIL,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A hog (GROSE).

**SWINNY,** *adj.* (common).—Drunk: *see* SCREWED. Also SWINNIED.

**SWIPE,** *subs.* (old: now colloquial).—1. A blow delivered with the full length of the arm. As *verb* = to DRIVE (*q.v.*); to bang. Hence SWIPER = a hard hitter, a SLOGGER (*q.v.*), a KNOCKER-OUT (*q.v.*). At Harrow = to birch.

*c.* 1200. *Life St. Katherine* [E.E.T.S.], 2452. SWIPTE hire of that heaned.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, II. viii. Jack Raggles, the long-stop, toughest and burliest of boys, commonly called SWIPER Jack . . . The first ball of the over, Jack steps out and meets, SWIPING with all his force.

1886. *Field*, 4 Sep. In driving for Tel-el-Kebir, Kirk had a long SWIPE off the tee.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Mar., 558, 2. I am indebted to Mr. Gilbert Jessop, the well-known bowler and SWIPER (I hope the word has not gone out), for the excellent and temperate article which he contributes to another part of this number.

1903. *Punch's Almanack*, 11. Dicky Sinclair . . . hit a tremendous SWIPE, and ran eight before they had the sense to call 'Lost Ball.'

2. (common).—In *pl.* = thin, washy beer; small beer: also (schools) any poor tipple. As *verb* = to drink. Hence SWIPEY (or SWIPED) = drunk; and SWIPES = a potman (GROSE). Also *see* PURSER'S SWIPES.

1824. SCOTT, *Redgauntlet*, xiii. Small SWIPES—more of malt than hop—with your leave I'll try your black bottle.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 32. I have nought to drink but SWIPES.

1843. DICKENS, *Chuzzlewit*, xxviii. He's only a little SWIPEY, you know.

*Verb.* (American).—To steal: *see* PRIG.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 43. Some one suggested a clever plan by which even a can of preserves could be 'SWIPED' as they called it.

1903. KENNEDY, *Sailor Tramp*, I. iv. That is rotten hard work. It's a job I'd SWIPE from no man.

**SWISH,** *verb.* (common).—To flog. Hence SWISHING = a thrashing.

1855–7. THACKERAY, *Misc.*, ii. 470. I pity that young nobleman's or gentleman's case: Dr. Wordsworth and assistants would SWISH that error out of him in a way that need not here be mentioned.

*d.* 1876. M. COLLINS, *Thoughts in my Garden*, ii. 22. He has been known to argue with the head-master as to whether he ought to be SWISHED.

1884. YATES, *Auto.*, I. ii. To smoke a penny cigar with constant anticipation of being caught and SWISHED.

1891. *Harry Fludyer*, 47. He complained of us and Tipkins, and I got SWISHED the other day.

**SWISHED,** *adj.* (old).—Married (GROSE).

**SWISH-SWASH,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Any weak beverage; SLOPS (*q.v.*).

1577. HARRISON, *Descr. Eng.* [HOLINSHED], 170. There is a kind of SWISH-SWASH made also in Essex, and diverse other places, with honicombs and water, which the homelie countrie wives, putting some pepper and a little other spice among, call mead, verie good in mine opinion for such as love to be loose-bodied at large, or a little eased of the cough; otherwise it differeth so much from the true metheglin as chalke from cheese.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, iv. 55. The small sour SWISH-SWASH of the poorer vintages of France.

**SWISH-TAIL,** *subs. phr.* (old poachers').—1. A pheasant (GROSE). Also (2) a horse with undocked tail; and (3) a schoolmaster, a BUMBRUSHER (*q.v.*).

**SWISS ADMIRAL,** *subs. phr.* (naval). —A pretender to naval rank : *cf.* Fr. *amiral suisse*=a naval officer solely employed on shore, or who has never been to sea.

**SWITCH,** *verb.* (venery).—To copulate : *see* RIDE and *cf.* SWINGE.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 297. If Paris had not got enough Of trimming her bewitching buff, But longs to SWITCH the gypsy still.

TO SWITCH IN, *verb. phr.* (American).—To be expeditious in movement.

**SWIVE,** *verb.* (venery). — To copulate : *see* RIDE (GROSE). Hence SWIVER=a performer (*q.v.*), a WENCHER (*q.v.*); QUEEN OF SWIVELAND=Venus.

. . . . *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. ii. 38, f. 136. A! seyde the pye, by Godys wylle, How thou art SWYVED y schalle telle.

. . . . *MS. Lincoln*, A. i. 17, f. 149. And now ere sary SWYWERS brokyne owte of bande, Thay fille alle fulle this Ynglande, and many other lande. In everilk a toune ther es many one, And everilk wyfe wenys hir selfe thar scho hafes one.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Miller's Tale, 666 [SKEAT (1895), i. v., 111]. Thus SWYVED was the carpenteres wyf, For al his keping and his Ialousye; and Absolon hath kist hir nether ye. *Ibid.*, l. 4178. Yon wench wol I SWIVE, etc.

*c.* 1508 [?], *Colyn Blowbols Testament*, [*MS. Rawl.*, C. 86, fol. 106, verso]. Alle tho that ben very good drynkers, And eke also alle feoble SWYVERS, And they also that can lyft a bole.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Fottere*. To iape, to sard, to fucke, to SWIVE, to occupy. [Also *see*=*Fottarie*, *Fottetrice*, *Fottitire*, and *Fottitura*.]

1612. COTGRAVE, *Dict.* s.v. *Chevaucherie*. A riding, a SWIVING.

*c.* 1620. *Percy Folio MS.*, 455. Of all the ffishes in the Sea Give me a woman's SWIVING.

1656. FLETCHER, *Martiall*, xi. 98. I can SWIVE four times in a night ; but thee Once in four years I cannot occupie. *Ibid.*, *Poems*, 101. Nor will I SWIVE thee though it bee Our very first nights jollitie. Nor shall my couch or pallat lye In common both to thee and I.

1659. *Legend Capt. Jones* [HALLIWELL.]. Knights, squires, fools, In every town rejoice at his arrival, The townsmen where he comes their wives do SWIVE all.

*d.* 1680. ROCHESTER, *Ramble* (*Works*, 1718). And so may that false woman thrive That dares prophane the c—t I SWIVE.

1686. DORSET, *Faithful Catalogue* [*Works* (1718), ii. 33]. And from St James's to the land of Thule, There's not a Whore who SWIVES so like a Mule.

1741. *Voyage to Lethe*, 7. The Charming Sally, built by the celebrated Herman SWIVEITT, on the River Medway.

**SWIVEL-EYED,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Squinting (GROSE). Hence SWIVEL-EYE=a squint-eye ; a BOSS-EYE (*q.v.*).

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, ii. 12. She found herself possessed of what is colloquially termed a SWIVEL-EYE.

**SWIVELLY,** *adj.* (common). — Drunk : *see* SCREWED.

**SWIZZLE** (or **SWIZZY**), *subs.* (common). — 1. Generic for drink ; also (2) various compounded drinks—rum and water, ale and beer mixed, and (West Indies) what is known in America as a cock-tail. As *verb*=to tope, to SWILL (*q.v.*); and SWIZZLED = drunk ; also *see* SCREWED.

1850. HANNAY, *Singleton Fontenoy*. 'It serves me right for deserting rum, my proper tipple. Boy, the amber fluid!' Here Mr. Snigg mixed himself some SWIZZLE and consoled himself.

**SWOBBER.** *See* SWABBER.

**SWODDY.** *See* SWAD.

**SWOLLENHEAD.** TO HAVE A SWOLLEN HEAD, *verb. phr.* (common). —1. To put on airs ; to be filled with a violent sense of one's own importance. Also (2) to be drunk : *see* SCREWED. Also SWELLED-HEAD.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, vi. You have got a SWOLLEN HEAD this morning. . . . Had too much to drink last night.

1900. NISBET, *In Sheep's Clothing*, iv. iii. The candid friend is like a black draught ; wholesome, perhaps, during periods of plethora and SWOLLEN HEAD, but decidedly debilitating if too long continued.

**SWOP.** *See* SWAP.

**SWORD-RACKET,** *subs. phr.* (old). —Enlisting in different regiments, and deserting after taking the bounty.

**SWOT.** *See* SWEAT.

IN A SWOT, *phr.* (Shrewsbury). —In a rage.

**SYDNEY-SIDER (or BIRD),** *subs. phr.* (Australian). — A convict. [Sydney was originally a convict settlement.]

**SYEBUCK,** *subs.* (old).—Sixpence (GROSE).

**SYNTAX,** *subs.* (old).—A schoolmaster (GROSE).

**TO A T,** *phr.* (colloquial).—Exactly; to a nicety; as true as an angle drawn with a T-square.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, iv. 3. He answered the description the page gave TO A T, sir.

1700. *Labour in Vain* [Harl. Misc., vi. 387]. Having cajoled my inquirer, and fitted his humour TO A T.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, ii. 5. We could manage this matter TO A T.

1899. MARSH, *Crime and Criminal*, xxii. Levett turned out a regular trump, and they hit it off together TO A T.

TO BE MARKED WITH A T, *verb. phr.* (old).—Known as a thief. [Formerly convicted thieves were branded with a 'T' in the hand.]

T. T., *phr.* (American).—'Too thin' or 'too transparent': *e.g.* 'The story is T. T.'

**TAB,** *subs.* (American). — 1. A check; an account. TO KEEP TAB = to keep watch.

1884. *Century*, xxxviii. 882. There are fellows in the office quietly keeping TAB on them.

2. (tailors').—In *pl.* = the ears.

TO DRIVE TAB, *verb. phr.* (old).—'To go out on a party of pleasure with a wife and family' (GROSE).

THE TAB, *subs. phr.* (London).—The Metropolitan Tabernacle in Newington Causeway.

**TABARDER,** *subs.* (Univ.). — A scholar on the foundation of Queen's College, Oxford.—WOOD, *Athen. Oxon.* (1692).

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. TABARD. The name of TABARDER is still preserved in Queen's College, Oxford, for scholars, whose original dress was a tabard. They are part of the foundation, which consists of, a provost, 16 fellows, 2 chaplains, 8 tabarders, 12 probationary scholars, and 2 clerks.—*Oxf. Univ. Cal.*

**TABBY,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. An old maid; hence (2) a spiteful tattler: *cf.* CAT (GROSE). TABBY-PARTY = a gathering of women.

1761. G. COLMAN, *Jealous Wife*, ii. 3. I am not sorry for the coming in of these old TABBIES, and am much obliged to her ladyship for leaving us to such an agreeable tête-à-tête.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 246. This made th' old TABBIES swear they'd never Fall out, but live good friends for ever.

*d.* 1855. ROGERS [TREVELYAN, *Macaulay*, i. 241]. When he can get into a circle of old TABBIES, he is just in his element.

**TABERNACLE,** *subs.* (religious).—*See* quot.

1872. HALL, *False Philology*, 24, Note. The shed in Moorfields which Whitefield used as a temporary chapel was called 'The Tabernacle'; and, in the scornful dialect of certain Church-of-England men, Methodist and such-like places of worship have, since then, been known as TABERNACLES.

*See* TIN TABERNACLE and TAB.

**TABLE.** TO TURN THE TABLES, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To reverse matters (B. E.).

1692. LESTRANGE, *Fables.* They that are honest would be arrant knaves, if the TABLES WERE TURNED.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double Dealer*, iv. 13. I have an after-game to play that shall TURN THE TABLES.

*d.* 1701. DRYDEN [*Century Dict.*]. If it be thus the TABLES would BE TURNED upon me; but I should only fail in my vain attempt.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 217. The gang upon whom we TURNED THE TABLES were people of very bad character.

1885. *D. News*, 28 Sept. The west countrymen being victorious, but THE TABLES WERE TURNED in three following years.

**TABLE-CLOTH (THE),** *subs. phr.* (colonial).—A white cloud covering the top of Table Mountain.

**TACE.** TACE IS LATIN FOR A CANDLE, *phr.* (old). — A cant phrase in the 18th century suggesting the expediency of silence. [Latin, *tacēre.* GROSE.]

1710. SWIFT, *Polite Cond.*, ii. Brande is Latin for a goose, and TACE IS LATIN FOR A CANDLE.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, I. x. TACE, Madam, answered Murphy, IS LATIN FOR A CANDLE; I commend your prudence.

**TACH,** *subs.* (back slang).—A hat: *see* GOLGOTHA.

**TACHS,** *subs.* (Tonbridge School). —A fad; a mental eccentricity. [*Cf.* quots.]

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. TADE or TATCH. A blot, spot, stain, or vice.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words*, s.v. TACHE . . . A quality or disposition; a trick; enterprise.

**TACK,** *subs.* (common).—Generic for food: specifically (1)='bad food' or 'bad malt liquor' (HALLIWELL). Hence (2), in combination: *e.g.* HARD-TACK = coarse fare or (army and navy) biscuit as distinguished from bread; SOFT-TACK=(*a*) good fare, and (*b*) bread. Also TACKLE. At Sherborne School TACK=a feast in one's study.

18[?]. *Fish. of U. States*, v. ii. 228. For supper in the cabin: salt beef and pork, warm SOFT TACK, butter, sugar, tea, etc.

TO TACK TOGETHER, *verb. phr.* (common).— To marry: *cf.* HITCH, SPLICE, NOOSE, etc.

1754. FOOTE, *Knights*, ii. She falls in love with . . . her father's chaplain; . . . I slips on Dominie's robes . . . passed myself on her for him, and we were TACKED TOGETHER.

**TACKER,** *subs.* (provincial).— A great falsehood (HALLIWELL).

**TACKET,** *subs.* (provincial).— The *penis*: *see* PRICK.

**TACKLE,** *subs.* (old).—1. A mistress: *see* TART (B. E. and GROSE).

2. (old).—'Good clothes' (B. E. and GROSE).

3. (venery).—The *penis* and *testes*: *see* CODS and PRICK.

4. (thieves').—A watch chain: a RED TACKLE=a gold chain.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* One day I went to Croydon and touched for a red toy and RED TACKLE, with a large locket.

1888. SIMS, *Plank Bed Ballad* [*Referee*, 12 Feb.]. A toy and a TACKLE —both red-'uns.

*Verb.* (colloquial). — To do with energy; to set to work; to cope with; to attack: generic. Thus TO TACKLE (=to attempt the solution of) A PROBLEM; TO TACKLE (=to attempt) A WOMAN: TO TACKLE (=to close with) A BURGLAR, etc.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 53. It tuck a feller mighty wide between the eyes to TACKLE that tree, for it was a whopper.—*Ibid.*, *Travels* [BARTLETT]. I shook the two fellows off my trunks monstrous quick, and was going to TACKLE the chaps what had my carpet-bag.

1858. *New York Times*, 9 Aug. The people are no ways backward about discussing the subject of Mormonism. . . . One of the gentry TACKLED Governor Powell the other day, determined to make a convert.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xxi. TACKLE the lady, and speak your mind to her as best you can.

*d.*1868. S. LOVER [*Imp. Dict.*]. The old woman . . . TACKLED TO for a fight in right earnest.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 168. They was resolute, strong, hard-workin' women. They could all TACKLE a hoss, or load and fire a gun.

1885. *Field*, 4 April. A paid collector would be infinitely more successful than any number of printed appeals signed by gentlemen who could not TACKLE people personally.

1887. *Punch*, 10 Sep. 111. If a feller would TACKLE A feminine fair . . . he 'as got to be dabs at the cackle.

**TAD**, *subs.* (American).—"Perhaps an abbreviation of 'tadpole.' A very small boy, especially a small street-boy" (*Century*); "little TADS, small boys; old TADS, gray-beards, old men" (BARTLETT).

2. (provincial). — Excrement (HALLIWELL).

3. (American).—A wencher; a MUTTON-MONGER (*q.v.*).

**TAF**, *adj.* (back slang).—Fat; *e.g.*, TAF ENO=a fat man or woman (lit.=fat one).

**TAFF**, *subs.* (Christ's Hospital).—A potato.

**TAFFY**, *subs.* (old).—1. A Welshman. Hence TAFFY'S DAY=St. David's Day, the 1st March (B.E. and GROSE). [A Welsh pronunciation of 'Davy.']

1577. HARRISON, *Descr. Eng.* 206. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 595. A Welshman is called a David (TAFFY)].

1661. *Merry Drollery* [EBSWORTH]. TAFFIE [a Welshman].

. . . *Old Rhyme.* TAFFY was a Welsham; TAFFY was a thief.

2. (American). — Flattery; BLARNEY (*q.v.*), SOFT-SOAP (*q.v.*). As *verb* = to flatter. [Taffy=toffee.]

1879. *New York Tribune*, 16 Sep. There will be a reaction, and the whole party will unite in an offering of TAFFY.

**TAG**, *subs.* (Winchester football).—An off-side kick: also as *verb.*

*c.*1840. MANSFIELD, *School Life* (1866), 237. TAG . . . When a player has kicked the ball well forward, and has followed it, if it was then kicked back again behind him by the other side, he was then obliged to return to his original position with his own side. If the ball had, in the meantime, been again kicked in front of him, before he regained his position, and he was to kick it, it would be considered unfair, and he would be said TO TAG.

TAG, RAG, AND BOBTAIL *See* RAG, senses 1, 2, 3, and add the following quots.

*d.*1599. SPENSER, *State of Irelana.* They all came in both TAGGE AND RAGGE.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, i. 5. Gallants, men and women, and All sorts, TAG-RAG.

1637. HEYWOOD, *Royal King* [PEARSON, *Works* (1894), vi. 14]. Stood I but in the midst of my followers, I might say I had nothing about me but TAGGE AND RAGGE.

183[?]. GREVILLE, *Memoirs*, 19 Jan. He [William IV.] lives a strange life at Brighton, with TAGRAG AND BOBTAIL about him, and always open house.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.* II. 109. TAG, RAG, AND BOBTAIL are capering there.

**TAG-END**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—The fag-end; the concluding portion.

1891. E. L. BYNNER, *Begum's Daughter*, xix. She heard the TAG-END of the conversation.

**TAGLIONI**, *subs.* [obsolete]. An overcoat: named after the dancer.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'S. Romwold.' I've bought to protect myself well, a Good stout Taglioni and gingham umbrella.

**TAGRHYME**, *subs.* (old).—A rhymester.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle* ii. 3. I long to see Mr. Tagrhyme . . . these poets must have something extraordinary in their faces.

**TAGSTER**, *subs.* (provincial).—A scold, a virago (HALLIWELL).

**TAGTAIL**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A parasite; a hanger-on.

**TAIL**, *subs.* (vulgar).—1. The lower or latter end; the BEHIND (*q.v.*): *see* ARSE. Hence, KISS MY TAIL=Kiss my arse: a contemptuous retort; TO TURN TAIL =(1) to turn one's back on; (2) to run away, to shirk; TOP OVER TAIL=arse over head; THE TAIL END=the FAG-END (*q.v.*).

. . . *Chester Plays*, ii. 176. Thou take hym by the toppe and I by the TAYLE, A sorrowfull songe in faith he shall singe.

. . . *MS. Harl.*, 1701, f. 59. Wyth here kercheves the devylys sayle, Elles shul they go to helle bothe TOP AND TAYLE.

[?]. *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. ii. 38. f. 76. Soche a strokk he gaf hym then, that the dewke bothe hors and man turned TOPPE OVYR TAYLE.

14[?]. *Turnament of Totenhasn* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 97]. Thei did but ran ersward, And ilke a man went bakward TOPPE OUER TAYLE.

1460. *Frere and Boye* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 79]. Lowde coude she blowe. Some laughed without fayle, Some sayd: dame, tempre thy TAYLE.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Bouge of Court.* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ii. 253]. What reuell route quod he, and gan to rayle How ofte he hit Ienet on the TAYLE . . . How ofte he knocked at her klycket gate. [Possibly sense 2.]

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iii. 216]. Thou wert as good kiss my TAIL.

1562. *Jack Juggler* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 130]. *Jack Jugg.* . . . thy wits do thee fail. *Care.* Yea, marry, sir, you have beaten them down into my TAIL.

*d.* 1586. SIR P. SIDNEY (LATHAM). Would she TURN TAIL . . . and fly quite out another way.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gent.* ii. 3. *Pan.* Where should I lose my tongue? *Launce.* In thy tale, Pan, In thy TAIL!

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Culo.* The arse, TAIL, fundament, or bum.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, I. i. 11. Nor can I crouch and writhe my fawning TAYLE. *Ibid.*, IV. ii. And seven more plod at a patron's TAYLE.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Cul.* An arse, bumme, TAYLE, nockandroe, fundament.

1621. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas.* 'The Furies.' Our Sire . . . TURN'D TAIL to God, and to the Fiend his face.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, v. 4. Would thou had'st a dose of pills . . . to make thee TURN TAIL t'other way. *Ibid.* (1633), *Tale of a Tub*, iii. 3. *Pup.* Let me take this rump out of your mouth. *Dame T.* What mean you by that, sir? *Pup.* Rump and TAILE's all one . . . I would not say sur-reverence, the tale Out of your mouth, but rather take the rump.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. 117. Barytonising with his TAIL.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. iii. Yet shame and honour might prevail To keep thee thus from TURNING TAIL.

1673. COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque* (1770), 260. And every Goddess lay her TAIL As bare and naked as my Nail.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, i. (1770), 9. He was, in fine, the loud'st of Farters, Yet could . . . Correct his TAIL, and only blow If there Occasion were, or so.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, i. 1. Without a whole tatter to her TAIL.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 164. Several TAILS turned up at Paul's School, Merchant Taylors, etc., for their Repetitions.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, ii. 28. Let your Servants do their Business without your Watching at their TAILS.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* (1900), 105-9. An't you ashamed, fellow, to ride postillion without a shirt to cover your backside from the view of the ladies? . . . Try if you cans't make peace with my sister. Thou hast given her much offence by showing her thy naked TAIL.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 53. Upstarts the king, and with his nail Scratch'd both his head, and ears, and TAIL.

1872. BLACK, *Phaeton*, xxii. The TAIL-END of a shower caught us.

1874. *Siliad*, 15. A general Hubbub all the force misled, And one, a Highland Chief, TURNED TAIL and fled.

**2.** (venery). —(*a*) The *penis*: *see* PRICK; (*b*) the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; (*c*) a harlot: *see* TART (GROSE). Also (*penis* or *pudendum*) TAIL-GAP, TAIL-GATE, TAIL-HOLE, TAIL-PIKE, TAIL-PIN, TAIL-PIPE, TAIL-TRIMMER, TAIL-TREE or TAIL-TACKLE (*penis* and *testes*). Hence TAIL-FEATHERS = the pubic hair: *see* FLEECE; TAIL-FLOWERS = the menses; TAIL-FRUIT = children; TAIL-FENCE = the hymen; TAIL-JUICE = (*a*) the semen and (*b*) urine: also TAIL-WATER; TAIL-WORK (or TAIL-WAGGING) = copulation; TO TAIL ('to make a SETTLEMENT IN TAIL,' 'to go TAIL-TICKLING' or TWITCHING, 'to play at UP-TAILS ALL,' 'to TURN UP ONE'S TAIL,' or to 'GET SHOT IN THE TAIL') = to copulate; TAIL-TRADING = prostitution; A TENANT-IN-TAIL = (1) a whore (a WAG-TAIL), (2) a KEEPER (*q.v.*) and (3) the *penis*; LIGHT (HOT, or WARM) IN THE TAIL = wanton; HOT-TAILED (or WITH TAIL ON FIRE) = infected. *See* SQUIRREL.

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, 1619. For she is tikel of hire TAIL . . . As commune as a cartway.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 6047-8. For al so siker as cold engendreth hayl, A likerous mouth most han a likerous TAYL.

*c.* 1400. *Coventry Myst.*, 134. Of hire TAYLE oftetyme be lyght, And rygh tekyl undyr the too.

[?]. *Commune Secretary and Jalowsye* [HALLIWELL]. She that is fayre, lusty, and yonge . . . Thynke ye her TAYLE is not lyght of the seare.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Bouge of Court* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ii. 253]. I lete her to hyre that men may on her ryde . . . She hath got me more money with her TAYLE Than hath some shyppe that into bordews sayle.

15[?]. *MS. Poem* [Dr. BLISS], quoted by HALLIWELL. Alyed was countess would be, For she would still be TENAUNT IN TAILE To any one she could be.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, iv. iv. The maidens mocke, and call him withered leeke, That with a greene TAYLE hath an hoary head.

1647-80. ROCHESTER, *Poems*. Then pulling out the rector of the females, Nine times he bath'd him in their piping TAILS.

16[?]. *Old Song*, 'John Anderson, my Jo.' John Anderson, my Jo, John, When that ye first began, Ye hae as guid a TAIL-TREE As ony ither man.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxi. They were pulling and hauling the man like mad, telling him that it is the most grievous . . . thing in nature for the TAIL to be on fire. *Ibid.* xxx. I saw some . . . more diligent in TAILWAGGING than any water-wagtail. *Ibid.* (1694), *Pant. Prog.* Hedgewhores, WAGTAILS, cockatrices.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Prov. Wife*, iv. 6. You slut you—you wear an impudent lewd face; a damned designing heart; and a TAIL—a TAIL full of—— (*Falls fast asleep*).

*c.* 1704. WARD, *Merry Observations*, 88. TAIL-TRADING tenants will have so little to do that they won't be able to earn a Week's Rent in ready Money in a month. *Ibid.* (*c.* 1709), *Terræfilius*, iii. 39. Destroys the Worm call'd *Friskin*, very troublesome to the TAILS of most young Women.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 170. Women . . . busy with their Heads in the Day-time, and TAILS in the evening. *Ibid.* ii. 104. Your lover, fair lady, is so fast link'd to his old Duegna's TAIL [Madame Maintenon] that he thinks no more of you. *Ibid.* 187. 'Tis enough to put musick into the TAIL of an old woman of fourscore. *Ibid.* ii. 262. After a good week's work send her home with foul linen . . . no money, and perhaps a hot TAIL into the bargain.

*d.* 1742. SOMERVILE, *Incurious Bencher* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, xi. 238]. If you will burn your TAIL to tinder, Pray what have I to do to hinder?

*d.* 1744. POPE [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, xii. 281]. 'To Mr. John Moore.' The nymph whose TAIL is all on flame, Is aptly termed a glow-worm.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 103. We all are mortal men and frail, And oft are guided by the TAIL.

1782. STEVENS, *Songs Comic and Satirycall*, 'The Sentiment Song.' The nick makes the TAIL stand, the farrier's wife's mark!

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. CAB . . . Mother, how many TAILS have you in your cab? how many girls have you in your nanny house?

3. (colloquial).—A woman's dress: espec. when trailing on the ground.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 264. Brimstones with their sweeping TAILS.

1883. *Century*, XXXVI. 128. He crossed the room, stepping over the TAILS of gowns, and stood before his old friend.

4. (common).—The reverse of a coin: spec. the side opposite to that bearing a HEAD (*q.v.*): chiefly in phrase 'heads or tails' in tossing. Hence NEITHER HEAD NOR TAIL = neither one nor the other; quite different.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 115. 'Tis heads for Greece, and TAILS for Troy . . . Two farthings out of three were TAILS.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. HARP . . . is also the Irish expression for 'woman' or 'TAIL' used in tossing up in Ireland.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 212. The horse was laden besides with a large bundle of stuffs, of which we could make neither HEAD NOR TAIL. . . . He had rather toss up heads or TAILS with them than oblige a plain citizen in an honest way.

1821. EGAN, *Life in Lond.* 279. Note. If the party . . . calls heads or TAILS, and all three coins are as he calls them, he wins.

5. (common).—In *pl.* = a tail-coat, as distinguished from a jacket. CHARITY-TAILS (Harrow) = a tail-coat worn by a boy in the Lower School who is considered by the Headmaster to be tall enough to require them.

1888. *St. Nicholas*, xiv. 406. Once a boy has reached the modern remove [Harrow], he puts on his TAILS or tail-coat.

6. (common).—A girl's hair, curled, plaited, etc., and allowed to hang down the back in a single strand.

1887. *Congregationalist*, 4 Aug. I noticed half a dozen groups of slender damsels with short frocks and long TAILS.

7. (colloquial.—A line of persons waiting in rank; a queue: as outside a theatre, booking-office, etc.

8. (old colloquial).—*See* quots.

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* (C), iii. 196. Ich haue no tome to telle the TAIL that hem folweth.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, ii. 1. Why should her worship lack Her TAIL of maids, more than you do of men?

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, xvi. 'Ah! . . . if you . . . saw but the Chief with his TAIL on!' 'With his TAIL on?' echoed Edward. . . . 'Yes—that is, with all his usual followers, when he visits those of the same rank.'

*d.* 1845. HOOD, *Tale of a Trumpet*. Ay, now's the nick for her friend Old Harry To come with his TAIL like the bold Glengarry.

9. (Old Cant).—A sword (B. E. and GROSE); TAIL-DRAWER = 'a sword stealer' (B. E.).

10 (cricket).—The last two or three men in a batting eleven to go to the wickets.

*Verb.* (Australian).—To tend sheep; to herd cattle.

1844. *Port Phillip Patriot*, 5 Aug. 3, 6. I know many boys, from the age of nine to sixteen years, TAILING cattle.

1855. MUNDY, *Our Antipodes*, 153. The stockman, as he who tends cattle and horses is called, despises the shepherd as a grovelling, inferior creature, and considers 'TAILING sheep' as an employment too tardigrade for a man of action and spirit.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Colonial Reformer*, xix. 239. The cattle, no longer 'TAILED,' or followed daily, as a shepherd does sheep.

PHRASES AND COMBINATIONS. TAIL OF THE EYE = the outer corner of the eye; COW'S-TAIL (nautical) = a frayed rope's-end, one not properly knotted: hence HANGING IN COW'S TAILS (said of a badly kept ship); TAIL-END = the latter part, the wind-up; WITH ONE'S TAIL BETWEEN ONE'S LEGS = cowed, humiliated, conscious of defeat: also WITH TAIL DOWN; WITH TAIL UP = in good form or spirits; WITH TAIL OUT = angry; WITH TAIL IN THE WATER = thriving; TO FLEE THE TAIL = to near the end; TO TWIST THE LION'S TAIL = to gird at England (or the English people); TO CAST (LAY or THROW) SALT ON THE TAIL (*see* SALT, and *add* special quots. *infra*—GROSE).

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [Bohn], 427. It is a foolish bird that stayeth the LAVING SALT UPON HER TAIL.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 66. Or catching birds, which never fails, If you PUT SALT UPON THEIR TAILS.

1859. READE, *Love Me Little*, xiv. Miss Lucy noticed this out of the TAIL OF HER EYE.

1894. BAKER, *New Timothy*, 264. Tzed and Toad come, and very much as if with their TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS.

1899. WHITEING, *John Street*, vii. Covey stands at the street corner with his hands in his pockets, and observes out of the TAIL OF HIS EYE.

Also PROVERBS AND PROVERBIAL SAYINGS: 'The devil wipes his TAIL with the poor man's pride' (RAY); 'BETWEENE two stools my TAILE goes to the ground' (HEYWOOD); 'To make a rod for one's own TAIL' (HEYWOOD); 'Like lambs, you do nothing but suck and wag your TAILS'; 'She goes as if she cracked nuts with her TAIL'; 'To look like a dog that has lost its TAIL'; 'She's like a cat, she'll play with her own TAIL'; 'Make not thy TAIL broader than thy wings' (= Keep not too many attendants); 'His TAIL will catch the chin-cough' (said of one sitting on the ground); 'As hasty as a sheep, as soon as the TAIL is up the turd is out'; 'As free as an ape is of his TAIL'; 'He that aught the cow gangs nearest her TAIL'; 'He holds the serpent by the TAIL'

(of anything absurd or foolish); 'To grow like a cow's TAIL' (*i.e.* downwards); 'Lay the head of the sow to the TAIL of the grice'; 'To have a slippery eel by the TAIL' (of anything uncertain); 'It melts like butter in a sow's TAIL'; 'To swallow an ox, and be choked with the TAIL'; 'The higher the ape goes, the more he shows his TAIL'; 'There is as much hold of his word as of a wet eel by the TAIL'; 'He hath eaten a horse and the TAIL hangs out of his mouth.'

**TAIL-BLOCK**, *subs. phr.* (nautical). —A watch.

**TAIL-BOARD**, *subs. phr.* (nursery). —The back flap of a little girl's breeches.

**TAIL-BUZZER**, *subs. phr* (thieves'). —A pickpocket.

**TAILER** (or **TAYLOR**), *intj.* (old).—A fall on the breech; a PRAT-FALL (*q.v.*); and (2) an exclamation on falling, or unexpectedly sitting down on one's TAIL (*q.v.*). [*Cf.* CRUPPER (or CROPPER), HEADER, etc.].

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, ii. 1. Sometime for three-foot stool [she] mistaketh me, Then slip I from her bum, down topples she, And, TAILER, cries!

**TAILOR.** NINE (TEN, or THREE) TAILORS MAKE A MAN, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quots.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 2. 60. *Kent.* A tailor made thee. *Corn.* Thou art a strange fellow: A TAILOR MAKE A MAN?

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 1. They say THREE TAILORS GO TO the making up of A MAN, but I am sure I had FOUR TAILORS AND A HALF WENT TO THE MAKING OF ME thus.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, iii. 73. Some foolish knave (I thinke) at first began The slander that THREE TAYLERS ARE ONE MAN.

1635. GLAPTHORNE, *The Lady Mother*, i. 1. He was by trade a taylor, sir, and is the TENTH PART of the bumbast that goes to the setting forth OF A MAN.

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, iv. 15. The nine sad knells of a passing bell.

*d.* 1643. NABBES [quoted by NARES]. I would take the wall of THREE TIMES THREE TAILORS, though in a morning, and at a baker's stall.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. ii. The foe, for dread Of YOUR NINE-WORTHINESS, is fled.

*d.* 1665. T. ADAMS, *Soul's Sickness* [*Works*, i. 487]. God made him a man, he hath made himself a beast; and now THE TAILOR (scarce a man himself) MUST MAKE HIM A MAN again.

1671. BUCKINGHAM, *Rehearsal*, iii. 1. Why . . . marry? If NINE TAYLORS MAKE but ONE MAN; and one woman cannot be satisfi'd with nine men: what work art thou cutting out for thy self?

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, v. 31–33. An old Wealthy Limb-trimmer . . . the very NINTH PART OF A MAN that put the jest upon a Shoe-maker.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii. A journeyman tailor . . . who is but THE NINTH PART OF A MAN.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [Bohn], 135. NINE TAILORS MAKE but ONE MAN.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Tailor. . . . A London tailor rated to furnish HALF A MAN to the trained bands, asking how that could possibly be done, was answered, by sending FOUR JOURNEYMEN AND AN APPRENTICE.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. Tailor, How old the sarcasm of NINE TAILORS MAKING A MAN may be, does not appear; but it is very old.

1833–4. CARLYLE, *Sartor Resartus*, III. xi. An idea has gone abroad . . . that Tailors are . . . not Men, but fractional Parts of a Man. . . . [Did not] Queen Elizabeth, receiving a deputation of Eighteen Tailors, address them with a 'Good morning, gentlemen both'? Did not the same virago boast . . . a Cavalry Regiment, whereof neither horse nor man could be injured; her Regiment, . . . of Tailors on Mares?

1838. DESMOND, *Stage Struck*, i. Instead of gallivanting a goddess to our shores I had . . . to usher from the boat THE NINTH PART OF A MAN.

1868. BLACKLEY, *Word Gossip*, 76. NINE TAILLERS (itself corrupted from tellers) MAKE it A MAN [*i.e.* nine counting strokes at the end of a knell proclaim the death of a male adult].

1877. JEWITT, *Half-Hours Eng. Antiq.* 176. At Woodborough the Passing bell consists of THREE TOLLS THRICE repeated FOR A MAN, and two tolls thrice repeated for a woman.

1882. *Spectator*, 26 Aug., 1111. 'How many TELLERS MAKE A MAN?' asked a clergyman of a working man, as they listened to the tolling of a death-bell. 'NINE,' replied he promptly.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.* vii. A wrangling discussion . . . between '48 and a tailor . . . who . . . it appears is the NINTH OF A Conservative working MAN.

THE FAG-END of A TAILOR, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1600. *Weakest to Wall*, i. 3. Zounds! twit me with my trade? I am THE FAG END OF A TAILOR, in plain English, a botcher.

PHRASES. 'A TAILOR'S shreds are worth the cutting'; 'Like the TAILOR who sewed for nothing, and found the thread himself'; 'Thieving and TAILOR go together'; 'Put a TAILOR, a miller, and a weaver into a sack, shake them well, and the first that puts out his head is certainly a thief' (GROSE).

16[?]. *Pasquil's Nightcap* [Rept.], 1. Theeving is now an occupation made, Though men the name of TAILOR do it give.

**TAILORING.** TO DO A BIT OF TAILORING, *verb. phr.* (venery). —To get with child; TO SEW UP (*q.v.*).

**TAIL-PIPE,** *verb* (colloquial).—1. To fasten anything to the tail of a cat or dog; hence (2) to annoy.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, ii. Even the boys . . . TAIL-PIPED not his dog.

1876. BLACKMORE, *Cripps the Carrier*, xxix. He might have been TAIL-PIPED for seven leagues, without troubling his head about it.

**TAIL-PULLING,** *subs. phr.* (publishers'). The publication of books of little or no merit, the whole cost of which is paid by the author: *cf.* BARRABAS.

**TAKE,** *verb* (colloquial). — To please; to succeed. Hence TAKING (or TAKY)=attractive, captivating. Also TO TAKE TO (or WITH) or TO HAVE A TAKE.

1340. HAMPOLE, *Works* [E. E. T. S.], 2. With whas lufe it es TAKYN.

1607. BEAUMONT, *Woman Hater*, iv. 2. So I shall discourse in some sort TAKINGLY.

1609. JONSON, *Epicœne*, i. 1. Such sweet neglect more TAKETH me Than all the adulteries of art.

1614. ANON., *Faithful Friends*, iii 3. There's something in thee TAKES MY FANCIES so I would not have thee perish for a world.

1625–30. *Court and Times Charles I.*, 1. 101. A young man . . . tenderly and firmly affectionate where he TAKES.

*d.* 1667. JER. TAYLOR, *Artif. Hand.* 41 [LATHAM]. All outward adornings . . . have something in them of a complaisance and TAKINGNESS.

1677. COTTON [WALTON, *Angler*, ii. 237]. To say the truth it is not very TAKING at first sight.

1680. AUBREY, *Lives*, 'Samuel Butler.' He printed a witty poem called Hudibras; the first part . . . TOOKE extremely. *Ibid.* 372. A TAKING doctrine.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TAKE-TIME . . . VERY TAKING, acceptable, agreeable or becoming. IT TAKES WELL, or, the Town TAKES it, the Play pleas'd, or was acted with Applause, or the Book sells well. No doubt but it will TAKE, no question but it will sell.

*d.* 1732. ATTERBURY, *Sermons*, I. iii. He knew what would TAKE and be liked; and he knew how to express it after a TAKING manner.

1821. LAMB, *Mrs. Battle on Whist.* She . . . was never greatly TAKEN with cribbage.

1854. COLLINS, *Hide and Seek*, i. 9. Putting in TAKY touches, and putting in bits of effect.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, vii. The style TAKES; the style pays; and what more would you have?

1869. STOWE, *Old Town Folks*, 32. Somehow or other, she TOOK to Ruth, and Ruth TOOK to her.

1872. HOLMES, *Poet at Break. Table*, iii. Why do . . . your digestive contrivances TAKE kindly to bread rather than toadstools?

1889. OLIPHANT, *Poor Gentleman*, xxxiv. She's dreadful TAKING . . . When she gets talking, you could just stop there forever.

2. (old colloquial).—To blight; to injure: by infection, disease, grief, etc. As *subs.* = a witch's charm. Hence TAKING = infections (still colloquial or provincial).

*c.* 1332. *Joseph of Arimathie* [E. E. T. S.], 47. John Popes wyfe of comtone Had a yong chylde, that was TAKEN sodenly.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iv. 4. 32. He blasts the tree and TAKES the Cattle. *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, i. 1. No fairy TAKES. *Ibid.* (1605), *Lear*, ii. 4. 166. Strike her young bones, You TAKING airs, with lameness.

1619. FLETCHER, *False One*, iv. 3. Come not near me, For I am yet too TAKING for your company.

*d.* 1649. WINTHROP, *Hist. New England* [SAVAGE], I. 201. Two shallops . . . were TAKEN in the night with an easterly storm.

1678. *Quack's Acad.* [Harl. Misc. ii. 34.] He hath a TAKE upon him, or is planetstruck.

1768. GOLDSMITH, *Good Natured Man*, i. A plague TAKE their balderdash.

3. (old colloquial).—To deliver a blow; to strike.

*c.* 1430. *Destr. Troy* [E. E. T. S.], 6394. Ector . . . TOKE his horse with his helis.

1619. FLETCHER, *Humourous Lieut.* ii. 2. A rascal TAKES him o'er the face, and fells him.

1625–30. *Court and Times Charles I.* I. 156. Mr. William Vaux TOOK Mr. Knightly a blow on the face.

4. (conventional.)—To admit to sexual intercourse (of women): also TO TAKE UP ONE'S PETTICOATS TO = to receive a man: *see* RIDE and GREENS for numerous combinations. *See* CARROTS.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 'Proverbial Sentences.' A maid that TAKETH yieldeth. *Ibid.* A maid that laughs is half TAKEN. *Ibid.* Do as the maids do, say no, and TAKE IT.

5. (conventional).—To be got with child: *see* HOLD.

PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS.—TAKE has been, and still is, much in colloquial use. Thus, TO TAKE BACK = to retract; TO TAKE A BREATH = to consider, to seek advice; TO TAKE AFTER = to resemble; TO TAKE ABOUT THE NECK = to embrace; TO TAKE ANYONE FORTH = to teach, to give a start; TO BE TAKEN BY THE FACE = to be put to the blush; TO TAKE BEEF = to run away; TO TAKE DOWN = (1) to humiliate (*see* PEG); (2) to best (Australian); TO TAKE UP = to reprove (also TO TAKE TO DO, TO TASK, and A TALKING TO); TO TAKE HEART = to pluck up courage; TO TAKE TO HEART = to grieve; TO TAKE IT OUT = (1) to get value, to extort or compel satisfaction or reparation; and (2) = to exhaust; TO TAKE ONE (or IT) = to understand; TO TAKE IN = (1)

to deceive, to swindle (whence a TAKE-IN (BEE) = fraud, humbug); (2) = to believe; (3) = to capture, subdue, seize (B. E); TO TAKE OFF = (1) to kill (TAKING-OFF = death); (2) = to ridicule, to mimic (TAKE-OFF = a caricature); TO TAKE OUT = to copy; TO TAKE ON (or BY) = (1) to grieve, to show emotion (hence TAKING = a to-do); and (2) = to simulate; TO TAKE ONE (or A MATTER) ON = (1) to engage, to accept as an opponent, (2) to undertake; TO TAKE TO (or UP) = generic for doing (*e.g.*, to take to gambling, early rising, women, etc.); TO TAKE TO ONE'S LEGS (A SHUTE, WATER, etc.) = to fly: *see* HEELS, adding quots. *infra*; TO TAKE UP (old = TO TAKE) = (1) to arrest; (2) to stop; (3) to reform; (4) to clear up (prov. of the weather); (5) to protect, to defend; (6) to borrow; (7) to rally, to snub; and (8) to understand; TO TAKE UPON = to suspect; TO TAKE UPON ONESELF = to arrogate authority, dignity, etc.; TO TAKE WITH = to side with; TO TAKE UP WITH = (1) to consort with; (2) to court; (3) to endure; and (4) to adopt; TO TAKE THE GLOSS OFF = to detract in value; TO TAKE THE FIELD = to bet against the favourite; TO TAKE UP ONE'S CONNECTIONS (Amer. Univ.) = to leave college; TO TAKE AN OATH = to take a drink; TO TAKE ONE ALONG (or WITH ONE) = to make understand; TO TAKE ONE'S TEETH TO ANYTHING = to set to heartily; TO TAKE A STICK TO = to beat; TO TAKE (or SIT AT) ONE'S EASE IN ONE'S INN = to enjoy oneself: as if one were at home (hence, TAKING IT EASY = drunk); TAKE IT AS YOU LIKE = be angry or not—as you please (BEE). Also (proverbial) 'To TAKE from one's right side to give to one's left'; 'To TAKE ONE UP before he is down' 'To TAKE the bird by the feet'; 'TAKE all, and pay the baker'; 'To TAKE a Burford bait' (= to get drunk); 'To TAKE a dagger and drown oneself'; 'To TAKE a HAIR (*q.v.*) of the same dog'; 'To TAKE a thing in SNUFF' (*q.v.*); 'To TAKE a WRONG SOU (*q.v.*) by the ear'; 'To TAKE counsel of one's pillow'; 'To TAKE heart of grace'; 'To TAKE Hector's cloak' (= to deceive a friend); 'To TAKE one a PEG (*q.v.*) lower'; 'To TAKE physic before one is sick'; 'Who TAKES an eel by the tail and a woman by her word, may say, that he holds nothing.' *See* HUFF; PEPPER; TEA.

*c.* 1440. *Merlin* [E. E. T. S.], i. 13. As soone as the Iuges knowe ther-of, they well make yow TO BE TAKE FOR couetyse of your londes and herytage, and do Iustice vpon yow.

1470. *Rev. Monk Evesham* [ARBER], 72. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 322. TAKE stands for *intelligere*, as in our 'I TAKE IT.']

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse*, etc. [HALLIWELL, s.v. Sterracles]. I TAKE ONNE, as one dothe that playeth his sterakels, je tempeste. *Ibid.* TAKE him UP (= reprove).

1569-70. *Wit and Science* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 350]. Marry, sir, indeed she talks and TAKES ON her, Like a dame, nay like a duchess or a queen.

. . . *Political Poems* [E. E. T. S.], 73. Of verry righte he may be called trewe, and soo muste he be TAKE in every place.

. . . BACON, *Holy War* [*Century*]. You TAKE me right, Eupolis.

1591. GREENE, *Farw. to Folly* [STEEVENS]. The beggar Irus that haunted the palace of Penelope, would TAKE HIS EASE IN HIS INNE, as well as the peers of Ithaca.

1593. PEELE, *Edward I.*, p. 395. I'll TAKE YOU DOWN a button-hole.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *2 Hen. VI.* ii. 5. How will my mother, for a father's death, TAKE ON with me, and ne'er be satisfied? *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, i. 1. This I TAKE IT Is the main motive of our preparations. *Ibid.* (1596), *Merry Wives*, iii. 3. What a TAKING was he in when your husband asked who was in the basket. *Ibid.* (1598), *All's Well*, ii. 3. Yet art thou good for nothing but TAKING UP; and that thou'rt scarce worth. *Ibid.* (1598), *2 Hen. IV.* i. 2. And if a man is thorough with them, in honest TAKING UP, then they must stand upon security. *Ibid.* (1598), *1 Hen. IV.* iii. 3. Shall I not TAKE MINE EASE IN MINE INN, but I shall have my pocket picked? *Ibid.* (1600), *As You Like It*, v. 4. *I.* And how was that TAKEN UP? *C.* Faith, we met and found the quarrel was upon the seventh cause. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, iii. 4. Sweet Bianca, TAKE me this work OUT . . . ere it be demanded . . . I'd have it copied. *Ibid.* (1605), *Lear*, v. 1. 65. Let her who would be rid of him devise His speedy TAKING OFF.

*d.* 1599. SPENSER, *State of Ireland.* Doe you thinke . . . it is soe harde to TAKE HIM DOUNE as some suppose?

1599. JONSON, *Every Man out of Humour*, i. 1. I will TAKE UP, and bring myself in credit, sure. *Ibid.* (1605), *Volpone*, v. 1. I will have thee put on a gowne And TAKE UPON THEE as thou wert mine heir. (1609), *Epicæne*, i. 4. And now I can TAKE UP, at my pleasure. Can you TAKE UP ladies, sir? No, sir, excuse me, I meant money. *Ibid.* (1630), *New Inn.* i. 3. If I have got A seat to sit AT EASE HERE I' MINE INN, To see the comedy.

1601. HOLLAND, *Pliny* [STEEVENS]. Nicophanes gave his mind wholly to antique pictures, partly to exemplify and TAKE OUT their patterns.

*c.* 1603. HEYWOOD, *Woman Killed* [PEARSON (1876), II. 94]. In a good time that man both wins and wooes That TAKES his wife DOWNE in her wedding shooes. *Ibid.* (1607), *Fair Maid* (PEARSON, *Works* (1894), II. 280]. Because of the old proverbe, What they want in meate, let them TAKE OUT in drinke.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 1. My father could TAKE UP, upon the bareness of his word, five hundred pound, and five too. *Ibid.* They will TAKE UP, I warrant you, where they may be trusted.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.* s.v. TANSER, to chide, rebuke, checke, taunt, reprove, TAKE UP.

1616. *Times' Whistle*, [E.E.T.S.], 24. And TAKES UPON HIM in each company As if he held some petty monarchy.

1628. EARLE, *Micro-cosmog.* 2. He TAKES ON against the Pope without mercy, and ha's a iest still in lauender for Bellarmine.

*d.* 1631. DONNE, *Letters*, xlvii. Sir, it is time to TAKE UP.

1632. MASSINGER, *Emp. of East*, i. 1. If he owe them money . . . never Appoint a day of payment; so they may hope still. But if he be to TAKE UP more, his page May attend them at the gate. *Ibid.* (1636), *Gt. Duke*, etc., i. 2. *Coz.* Be not rapt so. *Cont.* Your Excellence would be so had you seen her. *Coz.* TAKE UP, TAKE UP! *Ibid.* (1637), *Guardian*, i. 1. When two heirs quarrel, The swordsmen of the city, shortly after Appear in plush, for their grave consultations In TAKING UP the difference.

. . . *Apologie for Ajax*, D. D. 1 b. At last, to TAKE UP the quarrel, M. A. and M. R. S. set downe their order that he should not be called any more captaine Ajax.

. . . *New Acad. Compliments* [NARES] All their beds were TAKEN UP; and he had ne'er a room to spare neither, but one.

1641. BAKER, *Chronicles*, 163. A Maid called La Pucelle, TAKING UPON HER to be sent from God for the Good of France.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Royall Slave. Arc.* Sirrah gaoler, see you send mistris Turnkey your wife to TAKE US UP whores enough.

*d.* 1657. BRADFORD, *Plym. Plan*, 10. Some were TAKEN and clapt up in prison.

1657. MIDDLETON, *Wom. Bew. Women.* She intends To TAKE OUT other works, in a new sampler.

1669. EARL OF WORCESTER, *Apoth.* God was fain to deal with wicked men as men do with frisking jades in a pasture, that cannot TAKE THEM UP till they get them to a gate; so wicked men will not be taken up till the hour of death.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood. Ded.* Madam, TAKE IT from me, no Man . . . is more dreadful than a Poet.

1703. FARQUHAR, *Inconstant*, iv. 3. Tis my turn now to be upon the sublime; I'll TAKE HER OFF, I warrant her.

1704. STEELE, *Lying Lover*, ii. 1. My dear friend, you don't TAKE ME—Your friendship outruns my explanation.

1731. SWIFT, *Death of Dr. Swift.* He TAKES UP WITH younger folks, Who for his wine will bear his jokes. *Ibid.* (1710), *To Archbishop King.* We must TAKE UP WITH what can be got.

1743. POCOCKE, *Descr. East*, I. 165. An officer . . . TAKES UP all persons he finds committing any disorders, or that cannot give an account of themselves.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), I. iii. Everyone BETAKING himself TO HIS HEELS for safety.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, i. 39. TAKEN IN, as he calls it, rather by the eyes than by the understanding.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii. Don't all the world cry, . . . 'Miss Molly Jollop to be married to Sneak; to TAKE UP at last WITH such a noodle as he'?

1766. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, i. 370. He . . . perfectly counterfeited or TOOK OFF, as they call it, the real Christian.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, iii. 1. The great point, as I TAKE IT, is to be exorbitant enough in your demands. *Ibid.* (1778), *Rivals*, iii. 1. An obstinate, passionate, self-willed boy!—Who can he TAKE AFTER? *Ibid.* (1779), *Critic*, i. 1. A band of critics, who TAKE UPON them to decide for the whole town.

1782. BURNEY, *Cecilia*, v. 55. You TAKE me? [on propounding a pun]. *Ibid.*, A TAKE-IN.

*d.* 1797. WALPOLE, *Letters*, II. 28. She has lived so rakish a life that she is forced to go and TAKE UP.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 13. Why do you TAKE ON SO? . . . You ought rather to bless your stars for your good luck. *Ibid.* 15. Leonarda and Domingo were completely TAKEN IN.

1812. COOMBE, *Syntax*, i. 4. *Hostess.* I took you in last night, I say. *Syntax.* 'Tis true; and if this bill I pay You'll TAKE ME IN again to-day.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, v. I know so many who have married . . . who have found themselves entirely deceived. . . . What is this but a TAKE IN? . . . But I would not have him TAKEN IN: I would not have him duped.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xv. I dinna believe he speaks gude Latin neither; at least he disna TAKE ME UP when I tell him the learned names of the plants. *Ibid.* (1828), SCOTT, *Aunt Margaret's Mirror*, i. Her sister hurt her own cause by TAKING ON, as the maid-servants call it, too vehemently.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xlii. Mr Mivvins, who was no smoker . . . remained in bed, and, in his own words, 'TOOK IT OUT in sleep.'

1843. MACAULAY, *Mirabeau* [*Edin. Rev.*]. They TOOK UP WITH theories because they had no experience of good government.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life.* 'Why, Polly, what's the matter, gal?' inquired he; 'what in thunder makes you TAKE ON SO?'

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* I. 31. If . . . I catch him, I TAKE IT OUT OF him on the spot. I give him a jolly good hiding. *Ibid.* I. 326. Anybody that looks on the board looks on us as cheats and humbugs, and thinks that our catalogues are all TAKES-IN.

1852. *Bee* (Boston), 29 July. The 'Life Boat,' a weekly sheet in this city, TAKES the 'Bee' TO DO for its course in relation to the Liquor Law.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. vii. They tried back slowly . . . beginning to feel how the run had TAKEN IT OUT OF them.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iv. 13. Mr. and Mrs. Boffin . . . TOOK IT OUT OF [the baby] in a shower of caresses.

1867. MACLEOD, *Starling*, v. 'I do not TAKE YOU UP, sir,' replied the Sergeant.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. xxii. There's Missis walking about the drawing-room, TAKING ON awful.

1873. CARLETON, *Farm Ballads*, 19. And all of them was flustered, and fairly TAKEN DOWN, And I for a time was counted the luckiest man in town.

1878–80. M'CARTHY, *Hist. Own Times*, xli. Some critics declared that Mr. Cobden had been simply TAKEN IN; that the French Emperor had 'bubbled' him.

1883. *Gentleman's Mag.*, June, 569. It is curious that so able a man could have believed that he could in this way TAKE IN the British public.

*d.* 1884. C. READE, *Art*, 174. She was always mimicking. She TOOK OFF the exciseman, and the farmers, and her grandmother, and the very parson—how she used to make us laugh!

1885. HOWELLS, *Silas Lapham*, xv. I've disgusted you—I see that; but I didn't mean to. I—I TAKE IT BACK.

1887. A. JESSOPP, *Arcady*, ii. He TOOK UP £500 of Lawyer X . . . and then somehow he war bankrupt.

18[?]. W. S. GILBERT, *Phrenology*. Policeman, TAKE ME UP—No doubt I am some criminal.

1895. *Argus* [Melbourne], 5 Dec., 5. 2. [The defendant] accused him of having TAKEN HIM DOWN, stigmatised him as a thief and a robber.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 107. He was 'dicky,' She was tricky—TOOK HIM IN, and cleared him out.

*See* ABACK; BACK-SEAT; BEARD; BEEF; BIT; BOOK; BOSOM; BULL; BUSH; BUTTONHOLE; CAKE; EARTH BATH; EASE; FRENCH LEAVE; GRINDER; GROUND SWEAT; HEELS; HOOK; MEASURE; NAPPING; PEG; PEPPER; POT-LUCK; RAG; RISE; ROAD; RUNNING; SHILLING; SHINE; SIGHT; SILK; SNUFF; STARCH; SUN; TOLL; TURN; VAIN; WIND.

**TAKE-A-FRIGHT**, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Night.

**TAKER**, *subs.* (sporting).—One who accepts a bet; a BOOKIE (*q.v.*).

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, v. The offer was not accepted, or the TAKER would have lost his money.

**TAKING**, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* = receipts.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* II. 528. [Crossing sweepers] at one period have considered fifteen shillings a bad week's work. But now the TAKINGS have very much reduced.

1889. *Sci. American* [*Century*]. The average TAKINGS are $1250 a week.

**TALE**, *subs.* (colloquial).—An incredible story; a marvellous narration: also OLD WIFE'S (or OLD MAN'S) TALE: *see* BULL and TUB. Whence TALE-TELLER (B. E. and GROSE) = 'Persons said to have been hired to tell wonderful stories of giants and fairies, to lull hearers to sleep.' Also TO TELL TALES OUT OF SCHOOL = (1) to romance, and (2) to play the informer: TELL-TALE (or TELL-TALE-TIT) = an informer; to TELL A TALE = to turn a matter to profit; 'HIS TALE IS TOLD' = 'It is all over with him'; TO BE IN A TALE = to agree: also TO JUMP IN ONE TALE; THEREBY HANGS A TALE, or TELL THAT FOR A TALE (the retort suggestive) = 'That's another story'; TO PITCH A TALE = to spin a yarn: hence TALE-PITCHER = a romancing talker or chattering malcontent.

1469. *Cov. Myst.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 316. We see the phrases: take it or ellys lef . . . TELLE NO TALYS].

*d.* 1536. TYNDALE [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 429]. TO TELL TALES OUT OF SCHOOL.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*. TO TELL TALES OUT OF SCHOOLE.

1590. PEELE, OLD WIVES' TALE [BULLEN], 99. I am content to drive away the time with AN OLD WIVES' winters' TALE.

1592. NASHE, *Piers Pennilesse*, 66. Not two of them IUMPE IN ONE TALE.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iv. 1. *Quick*. Have not your worship a wart above your eye? *Fent*. . . . What of that? *Quick*. Well, THEREBY HANGS A TALE . . . we had an hour's talk of that wart. *Ibid.* (1600). *Much Ado*, iv. 2. 33. 'Fore God, they ARE both IN A TALE. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, ii. 1. Mine eyes will TELL TALES of me. *Ibid.*, *Winter's Tale*.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. II. ii. 4. Whether this be a true story or a TALE, I will not much contend.

1625-30. *Court and Times Charles I.* II. 65. We have some news . . . I must not TELL TALES FORTH OF SCHOOL.

1633. FORD, *'Tis Pity*, i. 3. I find all these but dreams, and OLD MEN'S TALES, To fright unsteady youth.

1729. SWIFT, *Adv. to Ser.* 'Gen. Direct.' The only remedy is to bribe them with goody goodies, that they may not TELL TALES to papa and mamma.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 378. If ever I find that you TELL TALES OUT OF SCHOOL I will give you such a basting as you never had in your life.

**TALESMAN,** *subs.* (old).—'The author of a story or report: I'll tell you my TALE and my TALESMAN' (B. E. and GROSE).

**TALENT (THE),** *subs.* (racing).—In sing. = a BACKER (*q.v.*): as opposed to a layer or bookmaker.

1885. *Field*, 3 Oct. All the TALENT were discomfited, though; as they often are in nurseries.

**TALK,** *verb.* (stable).—To ROAR (*q.v.*): of horses. Hence TALKER = a ROARER.

COLLOQUIAL PHRASES, etc.—TO TALK ONE DOWN = to silence; TO TALK ONE OUT OF = to dissuade; TO TALK OVER = (1) to persuade: also TO TALK INTO; and (2) to review; TO TALK ROUND = to review a subject; TO TALK UP = (1) to speak plainly (or defiantly); and (2) = to discuss with a view to promotion; TO TALK ONE UP = to urge; TO TALK OUT = to exhaust patience, time, etc.; TO TALK TO = to chide: hence TALKING-TO = a reprimand; TO TALK AT = to gird or chide covertly: talking of a person who is present to another; TO TALK THE HIND LEG OFF A JACKASS (COW, HORSE, etc.) = to seduce, to wheedle, to charm: also TO TALK ONE MAD, TO DEATH, INTO A THING, FEVER, etc.; TO TALK GREEK, DUTCH (or DOUBLE DUTCH) = to talk nonsense; TO TALK THROUGH ONE'S NECK (American) = to talk foolishly; TO TALK TURKEY = to say pleasant things. Also 'TALK of the Angels (or the Devil) and you'll hear the rustling of their wings (or see his horns). *See* BIG; DUTCH-UNCLE; SHOP; TALL-TALK.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Much Ado*, ii. 1. 369. If they were but a week married they would TALK THEMSELVES MAD.

1693. VANBRUGH, *Old Bachelor* TALK of the Devil see where he comes. *Ibid.* (1706), *Mistake.* [We will] TALK HIM INTO [it].

1699. BROWN, *Works*, i. 206. I was within an ace of being TALKED TO DEATH.

1704. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, 'Author's Pref.' He may ring the Changes as far as it will go, and vary his phrase till he has TALKED ROUND.

1717. PRIOR [MANLEY, *Lucius*, Epil.]. We'll . . . TALK YOU all TO DEATH.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, iv. 3. And now . . . we will TALK OVER the situation of your affairs with Maria.

1816. AUSTEN, *Emma*, xxii. She had talked her into love; but, alas! she was not so easily to be TALKED OUT OF IT.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 84. Prithee, good woman, leave your mag off; By George, you'd TALK A DOG'S HIND LEG OFF.

1847. TENNYSON, *Princess*, v. Her that TALK'D DOWN the fifty wisest men.

1859. BARTLETT, *Americanisms*, s.v. TALK . . . The story is an old one,—that an Indian and a white man, after a day's hunting, had only a *turkey* and a *partridge* to show for game. The white man proposed to divide them, and said to the Indian, "Take your choice. You can have the partridge, and I'll take the turkey; or *I'll* take the turkey, and *you* may have the partridge." "Ugh!" said the Indian, "you DON'T TALK TURKEY TO ME any."

1864. *New Haven Register* [BARTLETT]. They are not the only ones who TALK TURKEY, and rob the soldiers of what is contributed for their benefit.

18[?]. MCCLINTOCK, *Beedle's Marriage.* Polly Bean was not the first girl I run against, by a long shot; and I was plaguy apt to TALK TURKEY always when I got sociable, if it was only out of politeness.

**TALKEE-TALKEE**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. A corrupt dialect; jargon. Whence (2) chatter; verbiage. Also TALKY-TALKY.

1810 SOUTHEY, *To John May*, 5 Dec. The TALKEE TALKEE of the slaves in the sugar islands.

*c.* 1812. EDGEWORTH, *Vivian*, x. There's a woman, now, who thinks of nothing living but herself! All TALKEE TALKEE! I begin to be weary of her.

1854. PHILLIPS, *Essays*, ii. 280. A style of language for which the inflated bulletins of Napoleon, the TALKEE-TALKEE of a North American Indian, and the song of Deborah might each have stood as a model.

1883. *Sat. Rev.*, 10 Feb., 189. These Essays . . . are very TALKY-TALKY.

**TALKER**, *subs.* (Harrow).—1. *See* quot.

1898. HOWSON AND WARNER, *Harrow School*, 208. Then followed solos from those who could sing, and those who could not—it made no difference. The latter class were called TALKERS, and every boy was encouraged to stand up and TALK IT OUT.

2. *See* TALK, *verb.*

**TALKING-IRON**, *subs. phr.* (American).—A gun or rifle: also SHOOTING-IRON (*q.v.*).

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, ii. I hops out of bed, feels for my trunk, and outs with my TALKIN'-IRON, that was all ready loaded.

**TALL**, *adj.* (old colloquial).—1. Generic for worth. Thus TALL (=seemly) PRAYERS; A TALL (=valiant) MAN; TALL (=fine) ENGLISH; a TALL (=courageous) SPIRIT; A TALL (=celebrated) PHILOSOPHER; TO STAND TALL =to rely boldly; TALLY (=becomingly or finely) ATTIRED; a TALL (=great) COMPLIMENT, etc. [*Century*: 'the word TALL (= high, lofty) as applied to a man has been confused with TALL, fine, brave, excellent': *cf.*, however, sense 2]. Whence TALL FOR HIS INCHES=plucky for size.

*c.* 1430. *Destr. Troy* [E. E. T. S.], 3098. Ho tentit not in Tempull to no TALL prayers.

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E. E. T. S.], 1706. Sche went forthe stille . . . and TALLICHE hire a-tyred ti3lli thereinne.

1364. CHAUCER, *Compl. Mars*, 38. She made him at her lust so humble and TALLE.

1440. *Prompt. Parv.* 486. TAL, or semely. Decens, elegans.

1448-60. *Paston Letters*, 224. One of the TALLEST (=fine) young men.

1595. SHAKSPEARE *Rom. and Juliet*, ii. 4. The pox of such antic, lisping, affecting fantasticoes; . . . By Jesu, a very good blade! a very TALL man. . . . *Ibid.* (1599), *Henry V.*, ii. 1. 72. Thy spirits are most TALL. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, i. 3. 20. He's as TALL a man as any's in Illyria . . . he has three thousand ducats a year. *Ibid.* (1600), *As You Like It*, iii. 5. 118. He is not very TALL, yet for his years he's TALL.

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, iv. 6. A TALL man is never his own man till he be angry.

*d.* 1597. PEELE, *David and Bathsheba*, xiii. Well done, TALL soldiers!

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, iii. 2. 162. He is mine honest friend and a TALL keeper.

1613. FLETCHER, *Captain*, ii. 2. And you, Lodovic, That stand so TALLY on your reputation. *Ibid.* (1619), *Hum. Lieut.*, i. 4. We fought like honest and TALL men.

*d.* 1665. ADAMS, *Works*, II. 443. We are grown to think him that can tipple soundly a TALL man.

1699. BENTLEY, *Dis. Ep. Phalaris* (1817), 398. A TALL compliment.

1755. BOLINGBROKE, *Frag. Essays*, 65. Sounding imaginary fords, that are real gulfs, and wherein many of the TALLEST philosophers have been drowned.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 175. Young Pedro was what we call a TALL FELLOW FOR HIS INCHES.

1886. OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 46. We still hear people talk of TALL (fine) English.

**2.** (modern colloquial).—Anything out of the common: *e.g.* a TALL (=severe) FIGHT; TALL (=extravagant) TALK: whence TO TALK TALL=to GAS (*q.v.*); a TALL (= a great) PACE, etc. Hence as *adv.*, very, exceedingly. Also, TO WALK TALL=to carry one's head high; to put on SIDE (*q.v.*).

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 134. I for my part was to write BILLS as TALL as the monument, and charge them with the most costly medicines.

1844. KENDALL, *Santa Fé Exped.*, i. 398. Stump straightened up, and started at a pace that would have staggered . . . the greatest pedestrian mentioned in the annals of 'TALL WALKING.'

1846. THORPE, *Backwoods*, 131. I will walk TALL into varmint and Indian: it's a way I've got. *Ibid.*, *Big Bear of Arkansaw* [BARTLETT]. The live sucker from Illinois had the daring to say that our Arkansaw friend's STORIES smelt rather TALL.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life* [BARTLETT]. I seed Jess warn't pleased; but I didn't estimate him very TALL, so I kept on dancin' with Sally, and ended by kissin' her good-by, and making him jealous as a pet pinter.

1855. HAMMOND, *Wild Northern Scenes*, 211. It had a mighty big pile of the TALLEST kind of land layin' around waitin' to be opened up to the sunlight.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 72. I'm 'mazing proud on't. I tell you I WALK TALL—ask 'em if I don't, round to the store.

1891. *New York Times*, 26 Jan. A TALL YARN about the Jews wanting to buy the Vatican copy of the Hebrew Bible.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 118. Her cheek was fairly 'TALL.'

1900. KERNAHAN, *Scoundrels*, xv. Public men who TALK TALL about the sacredness of labour.

1901. *Free Lance*, 16 Mar., 582. 1. The 'boundary' has absolutely nothing to do with TALL SCORING.

1903. *D. Tel.*, 7 Ap., 9. 1. There is even TALL TALK about extending the strike to other countries, if negotiations fail.

**TALL-BOY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A wine-glass: large, high-stemmed, and showy; spec. (B. E.) A Pottle or two Quart-pot full of Wine.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xliii. She then ordered some cups, goblets, and TALLBOYS, of golde, silver and crystal to be brought, and invited us to drink.

**2.** (common). — A very tall chimney-pot.

1884. *D. Tel.*, Jan. This was but one of many scores of pots, TALLBOYS, cowls . . . swept from the chimney-stacks of the Metropolis on Saturday night.

**TALL-MEN**, *subs. phr.* (old gaming). —HIGHMEN (*q.v.*).

**TALLOW**, *subs.* (old).—A term of contempt. Thus TALLOW-KEECH (TALLOW-FACE or TALLOW-BREECH) = a very fat person: whence TALLOW-FACED=sickly, pale, undermade; TALLOW-GUTTED=pot-bellied; TALLOW-BREECHED=fat-arsed.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, iii. 5. 158. Out, you baggage! You TALLOW-FACE! *Ibid.* (1598), 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. Thou whore-son, obscene, greasy, TALLOW-KEECH.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Mel.*, 519. Every lover admires his mistress, though she be wrinkled, pimpled . . . TALLOW-FACED.

TO PISS ONE'S TALLOW, *verb. phr.* (old).—To leacher oneself lean: like a stag after rutting time.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, v. 5. I am here a Windsor stag; and the fattest, I think, i' the forest. Send me a cool rut-time, Jove, or who can blame me to PISS MY TALLOW.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxviii. He is nothing but skin and bones, he has PISSED HIS TALLOW.

**TALLY** (or **TO LIVE TALLY**), *verb.* (provincial). — To live in concubinage; TO DAB IT UP (*q.v.*): chiefly in mining districts. Also to make a tally-bargain.

1890. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. x. 297. They're LIVING TALLY is the way neighbours speak of them to enquiring visitors. . . . TO LIVE TALLY is quite a common expression amongst the working classes in all parts of Lancashire, as is also TALLY-WOMAN.

**TALLY-MEN**, *subs.* (old: now recognised). — 'Brokers that let out Cloths at moderate Rates to wear per Week, Month, or Year' (B. E.); 'that let out clothes to the women of the town' (GROSE).

**TALLYWAG**, *subs.* (venery). — The *penis*: *see* PRICK.

**TAME.** TO RUN TAME, *verb, phr.* (old).—'To live familiarly in the family with which one is upon a visit' (GROSE). *Cf.* TAME CAT.

**TAME-ARMY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The London Trained Bands (GROSE). [*Cf.* Foote's description (*Mayor of Garratt*) of the 'London Regiments' as 'holiday soldiers,' 'never wet to the skin in their lives' except 'as a matter of accident.']

**TAME-CAT**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A woman's fetch-and-carry; a hearthrug saint.

**TAME-GOOSE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A foolish fellow: a simpleton; also TAME-FELLOW (B. E.) = 'tractable, easy, manageable.'

*c.*1598. JONSON, *Case is Altered* (1605). I say cast away; yea, utterly cast away upon a noddy, a ninny-hammer, a TAME-GOOSE.

**TAMPER**, *verb.* (B. E.). — 'To practise upon anyone.'

**TAN**, *subs.* (old).—To flog; to thrash. Hence TANNING = a beating. Also TO TAN ONE'S HIDE.

. . . *Robin Hood and Tanner* [CHILD, *Ballads*, v. 229]. *Tan.* If he be so stout, we will have a bout, And he shall TAN MY HIDE too.

1731. COFFEY, *Devil to Pay*, 5. Come, and spin, you drab, or I'll TAN YOUR HIDE for you.

1862. WOOD, *The Channings.* The master couldn't TAN him for not doing it.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn*, v. 32. If I catch you about that school I'll TAN you good.

TO SMELL OF THE TAN, *verb. phr.* (literary).—To smack of the ring; to be circussy: *cf.* LAMP.

**TANDEM**, *subs.* (orig. Univ.: now recognised).—1. *See* quot. 1785 and 1890. Hence (2) a carriage so drawn; and (3) a bicycle for two riders.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TANDEM. A two-wheeled chaise, buggy, or noddy, drawn by two horses, one before the other; that is, *at length.*

1831. DISRAELI, *Young Duke*, i. 2. The Duke of St James . . . found sufficient time for his boat, his TANDEM, and his toilette.

1885. PENNELL, *Cant. Pilgr.* Two rode a TANDEM; the third a bicycle.

1890. *Century Dict.*, s.v. TANDEM. A humorous application, prob. first in university use, L. tandem, at length, with reference to time, taken in the E. use with reference to space, 'at length, stretched out in a single file . . . one behind the other . . . as TO DRIVE TANDEM' (that is, with two or more horses harnessed singly, one before the other instead of abreast).

**TANGIERENES (THE)**, *subs.* (military).—1. The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), late the 2nd Foot: 2. The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), late the 4th Foot. [Tangiers formed

part of the dowry of Catherine of Braganza, the Queen of Charles II.: the regiments were raised for the defence of that possession.]

**TANGLE,** *subs.* (Scots). A tall, lanky person.

**TANGLEFOOT** (or **TANGLELEG**), *subs.* (American).—Any intoxicating liquor. TANGLEFOOTED = drunk: *see* SCREWED.

1862. *Punch*, 26 July. Eye-brightener And LEG-TANGLER, And scores of other compounds known To each 'cute bar-room dangler.

1871. *Hartford Courant*, 17 Mar. He proceeded leisurely toward a neighboring saloon in quest of TANGLE-FOOT.

**TANK,** *verb.* (King Edward's School, Birm.).—To cane; TO COSH (*q.v.*). [Prov. TANK = a blow.]

**TANKARD.** TEARS OF THE TANKARD, *subs. phr.* (old).—Drippings of liquor on the waistcoat (RAY, B. E. and GROSE).

**TANNER,** *subs.* (old).—Sixpence: 6d.: *e.g.* 'The Kiddy tipt the rattling-cove a TANNER for luck' = 'The lad gave the coachman sixpence for drink' (GROSE): *see* RHINO. Hence TANNERGRAM = a telegram: when the minimum cost was reduced from 1s. to 6d.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxxvii. The Man in the Monument replied a TANNER. It seemed a low expression compared with the Monument.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. 239. A 'shise' half-bull, and a 'duffing' TANNER.

1896. *Oamuru* (N.Z.) *Mail*, 13 June. TANNERGRAMS is the somewhat apt designation which the new sixpenny telegrams have been christened in commercial vernacular.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 31. This worn-out TANNER 'Arry gave me once, To show his love was true, and not no bunce.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxviii. 'There's a whole TANNER's worth for nix . . .' as she makes me a giant button-hole from the wild growths.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 20. On this trip Billy had pinched a TANNER dropped in the gutter.

**TANNIKIN,** *subs.* (old).—A Dutch placket; maid, wife, whore, or widow.

1605. MARSTON, *Dutch Courtezan*, i. 1. A pretty nimble-eyd Dutch TANAKIN.

1608. ARMIN, *Nest of Ninnies.* Out she would, tucks up her trinkets, like a Dutch TANNIKIN sliding to market on the ise, and away she flings.

**TANQUAM,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—*See* quot. 1681.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies* [1840], II. 359. Thomas Dove, D.D., was . . . bred a TANQUAM in Pembroke Hall in Cambridge.

1681. BLOUNT, *Gloss.* TANQUAM is a Fellow's fellow in our Universities.

**TANTADLIN.** *See* TANTOBLIN.

**TANTARABOBS,** *subs.* (provincial).—The Devil (HALLIWELL).

**TANTIVY,** *subs., adj., verb* and *intj.* (old).—Primarily a hunting call: a note on the horn. As *subs.* = (1) full chase; (2) = violent movement; (3) a fox-hunting parson; and (4) *temp.* Charles II., a High Tory: also TANTIVY-BOY. As *adj.* = swift. As *verb* = to racket, to gallop, to rush.

*c.* 1602. [*Scotland Charact.* (1701), Harl. Misc., vii. 380]. In the time of King James I., soon after his coming into England, one of his own country thus accosted him: Sir (says he), I am sorry to see your majesty so dealt with by your prelatical TANTIVIES.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, iv. 1. He is the merriest man alive, Up at five a' Clock in the morning . . . and TANTIVY all the country over.

*d.* 1658. CLEVELAND, *Works*, xxi. Sir, I expected to hear from you in the language of the lost groat, and the prodigal son, and not in such a TANTIVY of language.

1690. *Pagan Prince* [NARES]. How the palatine was restor'd to his palatinate in Albion, and how he RODE TANTIVY to Palpimania.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. 'Pant. Prognos.' Braggadocios, tory-rory rakes and TANTIVY BOYS; peppered, clapped, and poxed dabblers.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TANTIVY-BOIES, high-Flyers, or High-flown Church-men, in opposition to the moderate Church-men; or Latitudinarians, a lower sort of Flyers, like Batts, between Church-men and Dissenters.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Æsop*, ii. 1. *Æsop.* To boot and saddle again they sound. *Rog.* Ta ra! tan tan ta ra! . . . TANTIVE! TANTIVE! TANTIVE!

172[?]. SWIFT, *Stella*, xxxii. An ambitious TANTIVY, missing of his towering hopes of preferment in Ireland is come over to vent his spleen on the late ministry.

*d.* 1735. ARBUTHNOT [MASON, *Johnson*, 'Suppt.']. This sort . . . is not in esteem with the HIGH TANTIVEE scaramouches.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, I. ii. 130. About half a dozen of the TANTIVIES were mounted on the Church of England, booted and spurred, RIDING it, like an old hack, TANTIVY to Rome. This . . . led to a common use of slighting and opprobrious words, such as Yorkist. . . . Then they came to TANTIVY, which implied RIDING post to Rome.

1796. DARBLAY, *Camilla*, III. viii. Pray, where are they gone TANTIVYING?

1843. MACAULAY, *Essays*, 'Comic Dramatists of the Restoration.' Collier . . . was a Tory of the highest sort, such as in the cant of his age was called a TANTIVY.

1854. THOREAU, *Walden*, 125. The TANTIVY of wild pigeons, flying by twos and threes athwart my view.

1876. ELIOT, *Daniel Deronda*, xxxi. Being Lady Certainly—and Lady Perhaps—and grand here—and TANTIVY there.

1893. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 33. Oh, scissors! jest didn't we give 'em TANTIVY.

**TANTOBLIN**, *subs.* (old).—Excrement; SHIT (*q.v.*). Also (GROSE) TANTADLIN and TANTADLIN TART.

1768. GAYTON, *Festivious Notes*, 73. I'll stick, my dear, to thee, and cling withall, As fast as e'er TANTOBLIN to a wall.

**TANTONY** (or **TANTONY PIG**) *subs. phr.* (old).—1. The smallest pig in a litter: hence a favorite. TO FOLLOW LIKE A TANTONY PIG = to follow closely. Hence TANTONY (2) = a servile follower; a petted retainer; TANTONY-POUCH (*see* quot. 1892).

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, ii. 1. At the dudgen dagger, by which hangs his TANTONIE POUCH.

1598. STOWE, *Surv. London* (1633), 190. The Officers . . . of the Markets [London] . . . did take from the Market people Pigs starved, or otherwise unwholesome for Man's sustenance. One of the Proctors for St Anthonies tyed a Bell about the neck, and let it feed on the Dunghills; no man would hurt or take it up; but if anyone gave to them bread, or other feeding, such would they know, watch for and daily follow. . . . Whereupon was raised a Proverbe, Such an one will FOLLOW such an one, and whine AS IT WERE AN ANTHONIE PIG.

1659. GAUDEN, *Tears of the Church*, 595. Some are such COSSETS and TANTANIES that they congratulate their oppressors and flatter their destroyers.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of World*, iv. xi. I'll follow thee, my Anthony, my TANTONY. Sirrah, thou shalt be my TANTONY, and I'll be thy PIG.

1710. SWIFT, *Polite Conv.*, i. Lord! she made me follow her last week through all the shops LIKE A TANTONY PIG.

1753. *Chambers' Cyclo.*, Suppt., s.v. ANTHONY. In several places, they [Romanists] keep at common charges a hog denominated ST ANTHONY'S HOG.

1867. *Standard*, 24 May. 'What is an ANTHONY?' 'The littlest pig, your honour. The little pig is always "ANTHONY."'

1892. FAIRHOLT [LILLY, *Works*, ii. 272. Note]. TANTONY-POUCH—I imagine the allusion is to a pouch or purse . . . having a cross . . . on the reverse . . . known as St Anthony was by his cross. This familiar mode of using the saint's name is preserved in the saying, 'He follows him like a TANTONIE PIG,' the saint always being pictured with one of these animals.

2. *See* SAINT.

**TANTRUM**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. Usually in *pl.* = a PET (*q.v.*); the sullens; angry whims (GROSE).

1754. FOOTE, *Knights*, ii. I am glad here's a husband coming that will take you down in your TANTRUMS; you are grown too headstrong and robust for me.

1796. BURNEY, *Camilla*, III. v. He was but just got out of one of his TANTARUMS.

1820. GREVILLE, *Memoirs*, 20 Nov. He threw himself into a terrible TANTRUM . . . they were obliged to let him have his own way for fear he should be ill.

1844. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, xvii. If in any of her TANTRUMS or fits of haughtiness . . . she dared, etc.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, XI. ii. He has been in strange humours and TANTRUMS all the morning.

*d.* 1876. READE, *Art*, 250. She went into her TANTRUMS and snapped at and scratched everybody else that was kind to her.

2. (venery).—The *penis*; *see* PRICK.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scofft* [*Works* (1770), 282]. Twixt some twelve and one o'clock, He tilts his TANTRUM at my nock.

**TAOC**, *subs.* (back slang).—A coat. Thus KOOL THE DELO TAOC = Look at the old coat: also in contemptuous reference to the wearer. TAOC-TISAW = a waistcoat; and TAOC-ITTEP = petticoat.

**TAP**, *subs.* (GROSE: now recognised).—1. 'A gentle blow.' Whence TO TAP (or TAP ON THE SHOULDER) = to arrest (GROSE); TAPPER = a bailiff: also SHOULDER-TAPPER.

2. (old).—In *pl.* = the ears: *see* HEARING CHEATS.

3. (Eton College).—The only place, recognised by the authorities, where a boy can get beer.

*Verb.* (colloquial).—Out of TAP = to broach, also TO TAP ONE'S CLARET = to draw blood (*see* CLARET); TO TAP THE WIRES = to intercept a telegram; TO TAP A JUDY = to deflower (GROSE); TO TAP A HOUSE = to burgle; TO TAP THE ADMIRAL (*see* ADMIRAL); TO TAP A GUINEA = to change it (GROSE).

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, xi. He was thoroughly conversant with the sporting slang of Tintinnabulums Life when he told Verdant that his CLARET had been repeatedly TAPPED.

TO BE ON ONE'S TAPS, *verb. phr.* (American).—On the alert; on one's feet, ready to move.

TO GET THE TAP, *verb. phr.* (tailors').—To get the upper hand.

ON TAP, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—Available; at hand; on view.

**TAPE**, *subs.* (old).—1. Spirits: hence RED-TAPE = brandy; WHITE (or BLUE) TAPE = gin: *cf.* RIBBON (GROSE).

1755. *Connoisseur* [*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. x. 78]. Every night cellar will furnish you with HOLLAND TAPE [gin] three yards a penny.

1823. EGAN, *Randall's Scrap Book*. With TAPE in the morning, and punch in the night. *Ibid.* The TAPE I pour into the glass.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford.* Oh! those jovial days are ne'er forgot! But the TAPE lags. *Ibid.*, 80. RED TAPE those as likes it may drain.

**TAPE-WORM,** *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange).—An official who collects the prices of stock for transmission on the TAPE.

**TAPLASH,** *subs.* (old).—1. Bad, thick beer: cask-dregs or tap-droppings. Hence, as *adj.* = poor, washy, trivial (B. E. and GROSE). Hence (2) a publican: in contempt.

. . . *Clitus's Cater Char.*, 32. Whatever he drains . . . goes in muddy TAPLASH down gutter-lane.

1630. RANDOLPH, *Artistippus* [HAZLITT, *Works* (1875), 14]. Drinking College TAP-LASH . . . will let them have no more learning than they size.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, III. 5. Fac'd with the TAP-LASH of strong ale and wine.

1640. *Witts Recr.*, C. 4b, Ep. 25. What, must we then a muddy TAPLASH swill, Neglecting sack?

*c.* 1648. *Eng. Ballads* [Brit. Mus., C. 22, e, 2.67]. 'No Money, no Friend.' Each TAP-LACH . . . Would cringe and bow, and swear to be My Servant to Eternity.

1673. PARKER, *Reproof Rehear. Transp.* iii. Did ever any man run such TAPLASH as this at first broaching? *Ibid.* [TODD], Bandied up and down by the schoolmen, in their TAPLASH disputes.

1793. O'KEEFE, *The London Hermit*, i. 1. They've rare things at home, yet come drinking our TAPLASH.

**TAP-PICKLE,** *subs. phr.* (Scots).—'The grain at the top of the stalk' (T. F. HENDERSON). By implication = a girl's maidenhead, or even favour.

1786. BURNS, *Hallowe'en*, vi. Her TAP-PICKLE maist was lost When kittlin' in the fause-house wi' him that night.

**TAPPY.** ON THE TAPPY, *phr.* (common).—Under consideration; on the *tapis.*

1690. CLARENDON, *Diary.* [They] gave no votes in the matter which was UPON THE TAPIS.

**TAP-SHACKLED,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Drunk; *see* SCREWED.

1610. HEALEY, *Disc. New World*, 82. Being truly TAPP-SHACKLED, mistook the window for the dore.

**TAP-TUB (THE),** *subs. phr.* (obsolete literary). — The *Morning Advertiser*: also *The Gin and Gospel Gazette.*

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. TAP-TUB . . . *Morning Advertiser* . . . because that print catcheth the drippings of yesterday's news, and disheth it up anew.

**TAR,** *subs.* (old).—A sailor: also TARPAULIN (of which TAR is an abbreviation), JACK TAR (B. E. and GROSE), TARBREECH (or TARRYBREEKS), and TARBARREL. Hence TAR-TERMS (B. E.) = 'proper Sea Phrases or Words.' TAR-HOOD = the navy.

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, iv. 393. Fro the shoare late a runnygat hedgebrat, A TARBREECHE quystroune dyd I take, with phrensye betrasshed.

1672. PHILLIPS, *Maronides*, 117. A young TARPAULIN Jack-a-lent.

1677. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, ii. 1. Dear TAR, thy humble servant.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 7. If I were a man—you durst not talk at this rate . . . you stinking TAR-BARREL.

[?]. *Turkish Spy*, i. The Archbishop of Bourdeaux is at present General of the French naval forces, who, though a priest, is yet permitted to turn TARPAULIN and soldier.

1701. BROWN, *Works*, i. 151. They'll provide for our TARRS, and settle the nation.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World.* 'To Reader.' The most glorious Piece of the Creation, called a TAR.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, i. 277. *Adol.* If you won't consent we'll throw you and your Cabinet into the Sea together. *Ant.* Spoken like a TARPAULIN.

1749. WALPOLE, *Letters*, 'To Mann,' ii. 285. A sea-piece . . . in which his own ship in a cloud of cannon was boarding the French Admiral. This . . . has been so ridiculed by the whole TARHOOD that the romantic part has been forced to be cancelled.

1786. BURNS, *A Dream.* Young royal TARRY BREEKS [Prince William Henry, afterwards William IV.].

1790. DIBDIN, *Sea Songs*, 'Tom Bowling.' Thus Death, who kings and TARS dispatches, In vain Tom's life has doffed.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, iii. To a landsman these TARPAULINS, as they were called, seemed a strange and half savage race. *Ibid.* xiv. His TARS passed their time in rioting among the rabble of Portsmouth.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, xxx. No old TARRY-BREEKS of a sea-dog, like thy dad!

TO TAR OUT, *verb. phr.* (old).—To punish; to serve out. TO TAR AND FEATHER = a practice of great antiquity, but rare nowadays: heated tar is poured over a person, who is then covered with feathers.

TARRED WITH THE SAME BRUSH, *phr.* (common).—Alike.

**TAR-BOX**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A shepherd: in contempt. Hence the proverbial sayings, 'TO LOSE A SHEEP (erron. SHIP) FOR A HA'PORTH OF TAR' (GROSE); and 'To caper like a fly in a TAR-BOX.'

1672. RAY, *Proverbs.* Ne'er lose a hog for a HALFPENNY-WORTH OF TAR. A man may spare in an ill time; as some who will rather die than spend ten groats in physic. Some have it, Lose not a sheep, etc. Indeed, TAR is more used about sheep than swine. Others say, Lose not a ship, etc.

**TAR-BRUSH**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Black blood: in contemptuous reference to colour; A TOUCH OF THE TAR-BRUSH = a dash of the negro.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. BLUE-SKIN . . . A person begotten on a black woman by a white man; any one having . . . a LICK OF THE TAR-BRUSH.

1899. HYNE, *Furth. Adv. Capt Kettle*, viii. Snuff-and-butter ladies . . . ignore their own lick of the TAR-BRUSH.

**TARE-AND-TRET**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'City bon-ton for—a Rowland for an Oliver, no matter the juxtaposition of the two matters. To give as good as is brought' (BEE).

**TAR-FINGERS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A petty pilferer: *see* PITCH-FINGERS. Hence TARRY = thievish.

1822. GALT, *Sir Andrew Wylie.* The gypsies hae TARRY fingers . . . ye need an e'e in your neck to watch them.

**TARGET**, *subs.* (venery). The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TARLEATHER**, *subs.* (old).—In quot. = a woman: in contempt.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle.* HAZLITT, iii. 218. Thou'se pay for all, thou old TARLETHER.

**TARDY**, *adj.* (Winchester College).—Late: *e.g.* 'I was TARDY task' = 'I was late with my work.'

1803. *Gradus ad Cantab.*, s.v. TARDY. To be noted for coming late into Chapel.

**TARHEEL**, *subs. phr.* (American).—An inhabitant of S. Carolina. [Tar is one of the chief products of the State.]

**TARNATION** (and **TARNAL**), *adj.* and *adv.* (American). 'Damnation'; 'eternal'; mild oaths. As *adj.* = great, very, etc.: *e.g.* TARNATION strange, a TARNAL time, etc.

1839. HOOD, *Sailor's Apology.* And her TARNATION hull a-growing rounder!

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'Bagman's Dog.' Extremely annoyed by the 'TARNATION whop.'

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 1 S. ii. I darsn't skeer the TARNAL thing.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, v. 8. A TARNATION long word.

1901. *Free Lance*, 30 Nov., 220. 2. This TARNATION old country.

**TARPAULIN.** *See* TAR.

**TARRADIDDLE,** *subs.* (old).—A fib; a yarn. As *verb* = to hoax (GROSE).

**TARRIWAG,** *subs.* (old).—In *pl.* = the *testes*: the BALLS (*q.v.*).

1622. TAYLOR, *Laugh and Be Fat* (1724), 5. I would not lose my TARRIWAGS for the best . . . in Christendom.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 82. By gum, my arse is bare! I wish I had a clout, or rags, Just to wrap up my TARRIWAGS.

**TARSE,** *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*; the TAIL (*q.v.*): *see* PRICK. Hence TO STRIP ONE'S TARSE IN = *subagitare*: *see* GREENS and RIDE; and TARSANDER = a STALLION (*q.v.*).

14[?]. *Porkington MS.*, 10. Now 3e speke of a TARSE, In alle the warld is not a warse Thane hathe my hosbond.

1686. DORSET, *Faithful Catalogue* [ROCHESTER, *Works* (1718), II. 32]. Her rapacious arse Is fitter for thy sceptre than thy TARSE. *Idem*, 35. How often praised thy dear curvetting TARSE.

1682. *Juvenalis Redivivus*, 7. Let's draw our pens and quit TARSANDER'S praise. [See also Note 7, page 31.]

**TART,** *subs.* (common).—Primarily a girl, chaste or not; now (unless loosely used) a wanton, mistress, 'GOOD-ONE' (*q.v.*). Hence TARTLET (a diminutive).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. [*Note*: The distinction between Woman, Wife, Concubine, Mistress, Harlot, and Bawd is very loosely observed in literary and popular usage, both in English and French.] Abandoned woman (or, generic, abandoned habits, *q.v.*); abbess; academician; ammunition wife (or whore); anonyma; aphrodisian dame; artichoke; article; Aspasia; Athanasian wench; aunt (SHAKSPEARE); autem-mort.

Baby; badger; baggage; bangster; Bankside lady; barber's chair; barrack-hack; bat; bawd; bawdy-basket; bed-fagot; bed-fellow; bed-maker; bed-thrall (W. MORRIS); beef; best girl; bird (SHAKSPEARE); bird-of-the-game; bit; bit of stuff (mutton, fish, muslin, calico, etc.); bitch; bite; bloss; blouzalinda; blouzabella; blowze; blow; blowen (or blowing); bobtail; bona; bona-roba (SHAKSPEARE, FLETCHER, etc.); brevet-wife; brim; brimstone; brown Bess; bulker; bum- (or bottom-) worker; bunter; burerk (or burick); buss-beggar; buttered-bun; buttock; buttock-broker; buttock-and-file (whore and pickpocket); buttock-and-twang (or -sham file = whore and no pickpocket).

Cab-moll; canary; canary-bird; carrion; carry-knave; case-vrow; cast-off; cat; chauvering donna (or moll); chopper; cleaver; cockatrice; cock-chafer; cocktail; coleman hedge (HALLIWELL); Columbine; commodity (DEKKER); common Jack; common sewer; concubine; convenient; cooler; cotton-top; Covent-garden nun (vestal, or abbess); cow; crack; cracked

pitcher; croshabell (GREENE); cruiser; cunt; curbstone sailor; cut; cyprian.

Dart (SKELTON); dasher; dalilah; daughter-of-Eve; dell; demi-mondaine; demi-rep; dickey-bird; disorderly; dolly; dolly-mop; dona; donny (HALLIWELL); dopey; doorkeeper (DEKKER); double-barrelled gun; dove; dowsabel; dowse; doxy; drab; drap; dragon (FLETCHER); dress-lodger; dromaky; drury-lane vestal; dulcibel; dulcinea; dutch; dutch widow.

Easy virgin; easy virtue (or woman); evening-star; everlasting daughter-of-Eve.

Fad-cattle (generic); fagot; fancy-fagot; family of love (generic); fancy-piece; fancy-woman; feather-bed and pillows; fen; file (LANGLAND); filth (SHAKSPEARE); fire-ship (= a rotten whore); flag-about; flagger; flapper; flash-mollisher; flash-tail; Fleet-street houri (or dove); flesh-broker; fling-dust; flip-flap; flirt-gill (SHAKSPEARE, SCOTT); flirt-gillian; Flirtina Cop-all; florence; fly-by-night; fly-girl (-donna, or -dame); foreskin-hunter; frigate; free-lance; froe; fuckstress; Fulham virgin.

Gal; gallimaufry (SHAKSPEARE); game (generic); game-hen (-pullet, or woman); gamester (SHAKSPEARE, JONSON); garrison-hack; gay-girl (-bit, piece or woman: CHAUCER); gear (SHAKSPEARE: generic); gig (CHAUCER); giggler; giglet (UDAL, SHAKSPEARE, MASSINGER); gill (FLORIO); gill-flirt (FLORIO, COTGRAVE); girl; gixie (FLORIO, COTGRAVE); goat-milker; gobble-prick (GROSE); go-between; good-girl (or good-one: COTGRAVE); gook; graduate; grass-widow; GREEN-GOODS (*q.v.*); green-goose (SHAKSPEARE, FLETCHER); guinea-hen; guttersnipe.

Hackney (or HACKSTER: SHAKSPEARE, NASH); hair (generic); harlotry (generic and individual: SKELTON, WYCHERLEY, CONGREVE); harridan (GROSE); Haymarket-ware; hedge-creeper (BIRD, -whore, etc.: FLORIO); hen; hen-of-the-game; high-flyer; high-roller; highty-tighty; high-priestess of Paphos; hiren (SHAKSPEARE, POOLE, ADAMS, SYLVESTER); hiver; hobby-horse (CHAUCER, SHAKSPEARE); hogoninny; holer (CHAUCER); hooker; hop-picker; hopping wife; horse-breaker; hot-'un; houri; house-bit (-dove, or -piece); house-keeper; housewife; hunt-about; hurry-whore (TAYLOR); hussy.

Impure; incognita.

Jack's delight; jack-whore; jade; jam; jamtart; jay (SHAKSPEARE); jerker; jezebel; jill; jomer; jude; judy; jug (ROWLEY, CENTLIVRE); junt (MIDDLETON).

Kate (Scots); keep; kept-woman (or wench); kiddley-wink; KIDLEATHER (*q.v.*); kindhearted wench; kittie (DUNBAR, LYNDSAY); kittock (DUNBAR); knock-em-down.

Laced mutton (SHAKSPEARE, *cum suis*); lady of accommodating morals (of easy virtue, of the lake, of pleasure, of more complaisance than virtue, etc.; DAVENANT, BUTLER); lady-bird; Lais; laker-lady (=a player's harlot: JONSON,

BROME); land-carrack (DAVENANT); laundress (BRERETON, BURTON, DAVENANT); left-handed wife (KILLIGREW); leman; lift-skirts; ligby; light-frigate; light-heels; light-o'-love (NASH, FLETCHER); light skirts; lindabrides (KILLIGREW, SCOTT); lioness (DAVIES); little girl; lone duck (or dove); loose woman; loose-bodied gown (DEKKER); loose kirtle; loteby (CHAUCER).

Mab; MACKEREL (*q.v.*); madam (RANDOLPH, DURFEY); Madam Van (or Ran); magdalen (CONGREVE); maggie; magpie; maid marian (SHAKSPEARE); maid-of-all-work; mare; MARK (*q.v.*); market-dame (WARD); maux (or mawkes); mean bit (MEAN, *q.v.*); mermaid (MIDDLETON); merry-bit; merry-arsed Christian (GROSE: also of a wencher); merry-legs; Messalina; minx (FLORIO, SHAKSPEARE); miss (EVELYN, BUTLER, DRYDEN); mistress; miss-woman (or missliver: TYNDALE); mob; moll (GROSE); molly (DURFEY); mollisher; moonlighter; mopsy; morsel (DUNBAR, SHAKSPEARE, MARMION); mort (DEKKER, MIDDLETON, JONSON, FLETCHER, etc.); mort wap-apace; moth; mother (or mother of the maids); mount; Mrs Lukey Props (a tramp's bawd); MUTTON (generic: GREENE, SHAKSPEARE, *cum suis*); mutton-broker.

Nag (MARSTON, SHAKSPEARE); nanny; natural (SHADWELL); naughty dickey-bird; naughty-pack (ADDLINGTON, ROWLEY, SWIFT, etc.); necessary; needlewoman (CARLYLE); nestcock; nescock; nestlecock (FULLER); niece; niggler; night-bird; night-cap; night-gear; night-hawk; night-hunter; nightingale; night-piece; night-poacher; night-shade (FLETCHER); night-snap; night-trader (MASSINGER); night-walker (DURFEY); nit; nockstress; nocturne; noffgur; nug; nun (FOOTE); nurse; nymph of darkness (or of the pavement).

Occupant (MARSTON); omnibus; one of my cousins (of us, of them); one and thirty; open-arse (SHAKSPEARE); out; owl.

Pack; pagan (SHAKSPEARE, MASSINGER); palliasse; panel; paphian; parnel (or pernel: LANGLAND); particular; partridge; peculiar (HERRICK); perfect lady; petticoat (DEKKER, PRIOR, SMOLLETT); pheasant; Phryne; pick-up; piece (SHAKSPEARE, JONSON, SMOLLETT); pillow-mate; pinch-prick; pinnace (DEKKER, CONGREVE); pintle-bit (fancier, maid, or ranger); piper's wife; pirate; placket (SHAKSPEARE); placket-lady; play-fellow (SHAKSPEARE); plaything (SMOLLETT); pleasure-lady (or merchant); plover (JONSON); poke; poker; poker-breaker; pole-climber; pole-cat (SHAKSPEARE); poll; polly; princess; presbyteress (BALE); presenterer; prancer; pretty dear (SMOLLETT); pretty horsebreaker; prick-climber; priest's niece; prim; pross; prugge; public ledger; pug (MARSTON, COTGRAVE, DRYDEN); punk (SHAKSPEARE, *cum suis*); pure; purest pure; pure one; Puritan; purse-finder; pusher; put; puttock; puzzle.

Quædam; quail; quean; queen's (or king's) woman; quiet mouse; quicumque vult.

Rabbit-pie; ragtime girl; rainbow; ramp (CHAUCER, STILL, SHAKSPEARE); ram-skyt; randy-dandy (or ranty-tanty); rannel (HARVEY); rantipole; real lady; receiver-general; rep (or rip); ribaude (ribald, ribold or ribaud); rig (or rigol); rigmutton; rigsby; road (SHAKSPEARE); rover; rump.

Sad cattle (generic); St. John's Wood vestal; sample of sin; Saturday-to-Monday; scolopendra; Scotch warming-pan (=a chambermaid); screw; scrudge; sempstress; shake; shakester; she-familiar; she-napper; schickster (or schiksa); shoful-pullet; Shoreditch fury (HALL); short-heels (CHAPMAN); silk-petticoat (WARD); single-woman (PALSGRAVE); sinner (JONSON); sister (DEKKER); sister of charity; skainsmate (SHAKSPEARE); smock-servant (agent, piece, toy, etc.); soiled dove; sparrow; special; spigot-sucker; spinster (FLETCHER, FULLER); spital-whore (or sinner); skit; split-arse mechanic; spoffkins; sporting-piece; sportswoman; squirrel; stammel (or strammel); STAND (*q.v.*); star-gazer; stew; stingtail; strawfagot; street walker; strum (or strumpet: SHAKSPEARE, FLORIO, COTGRAVE); suburban; summer-cabbage; Sunday-girl; swallow-cock; sweetheart; sweetmeat.

Tackle; tail; tailist; tail-trader; tail-worker; tally-woman; tart (or tartlet); tenant-in-tail; tender parnell; termer (or term-trotter); Thais; thing; thorough good-natured wench; threepenny uprighter (GROSE); tib; tickletail; tiffity-taffity; tit (or titter); trat (back slang); traviata; treble-cleft; treddle; trigmate (provincial); trillbye (old: trill = the *anus*: *cf.* DOUBLE-BARRELLED); trollop; truck; trug; trull; trumpery; twang; tweak; twigger; twofer.

Under bed-blanket; underwear; unfortunate.

Vestal; vestal of Pickthatch; virgin-pullet; vroe (or vrow).

Wagtail; waistcoateer; walking mort; wallop; wanton; warm-'un; week-end girl (or mistress); wench; wench of the game; Whetstone-park deer; whipster; white-apron (POPE); willing tit; wife in water-colours; woman; woman-of-all-work; woman of pleasure; woman of the town; wren; wriggler; wrong-'un.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. [R. = Rabelais.] *Accrocheuse* (R); *agenouillée; Agnès; aimeuse; alicaire* (R.: Lat. *alicaria*); *almanach de trente-dix mille adresses; ambubage* (R.: Lat. *ambubaia*); *andre; Arthurine; asticot* (also = *penis*); *ancelle* (Lat. *ancilla*); *autel de besoin.*

*Bachelière* (a student's mistress); *badine; bagasse* (R.: also *baiasse* and *bajasse*); *bague; baladeuse; balance de boucher* (*qui pèse toutes sortes de viandes* —R.); *balayeuse; baleine; belle; belle de nuit; belle enfant; belle petite; bezoche* (R. and ROQUEFORT: *besogner* + argot termination *-oche:* also *besoche* and *besochée*); *la bicherie* (generic: *la haute bicherie* = fashionable whoredom; [*la basse*] *bicherie* = slum harlotry); *blanc; blanchisseuse de tuyaux de pipe* (R.); *blanchisseuse en chemise; boîte* (also *boîte à jouissance*, and *boîte*

*à vérole ; bonne amie ; bonne foutée ; bonne jouissance ; bonsoir* (R.) ; *bordelière* (=cab-moll) ; *boulevardière* (=suburban) ; *boule rouge ; boulonnaise ; boutonnière en pantalon ; bourre de soie ; bourbeteuse ; bourdon ; braydonne* (R.) ; *brimballeuse ; bringue-naudée* (COTGRAVE) ; *bru* (Old Fr.).

*Cabaque ; cagne ; caignardière* (R.) ; *caille* (QUAIL, *q.v.*) ; *calège* (VIDOCQ) ; *calicote ; cambrouse* (R.) ; *camélia ; le monde camelotte* (generic) ; *canicule* (R.) ; *cantonnière* (R.) ; *carabine* (=a sawbones' mistress) ; *carcan à crinoline ; carne ; carogne ; cascadeuse ; casserole ; catin* (also *catan* and *cathos*=KITTY) ; *chahuteuse ; chameau ; chamègue ; champisse* (R.) ; *chausson ; [femme de] chemin* (R.) ; *cité d'amour ; citrière* (R.) ; *cloistrière* (R.) ; *cocatrix* (R.) ; *cocotte* (*cocotterie*=generic) ; *coignée* (R.) ; *colombe ; connaissance ; consœur ; coquine* (BALZAC) ; *coureuse* (also *courieuse ;* RABELAIS, SCARRON, MOLIÈRE) ; *cousine de vendange* (=hop-picking wife) ; *crampeuse ; crevette ; croupière* (=buttock) ; *cul crotté ; cul terreux.*

*Dame de joie* (=lady of pleasure) ; *dame aux camélias* DUMAS *fils) ; dame à quatre sous ; déhanchée ; dehoussée* (R.) ; *demi-castor ; demi-mondaine ; demoiselle du bitume ; demoiselle du Marais* (R.) ; *demoiselle du Pont-Neuf ; dessalée ; donde ; donzelle ; dossière ; drogue ; drôlesse ; drouine* (R.) ; *droule ; drue* (R.) ; *duchesse* (BERANGER).

*Ecremeuse ; ensoignante* (R.) ; *éponge ; espèce ; étudiante* (a student's whore).

*Farceuse ; femme facile ; femme galante ; femme inconséquente* (BALZAC) ; *femme comme il en faut ; femme de cavoisi ; femme de mal récapte ; femme de péché ; femme de vie (i.e. vit) ; femme de terrain ; fenêtrière ; feuille ; fesse* (=buttock) ; *feuilletée ; fillasse ; fille ; fille de Cypris ; fille de joie* (VOLTAIRE) ; *fille de métier ; fille du tiers-ordre ; fille d'amour ; fille publique ; fille de feu ; fille de jubilation ; fille à parties ; fille en carte ; fille en brème ; fille de barrière ; fille de trottoir ; fille de tourneur ; fille de maison ; fille de numéro ; fillette de pis* (R.) ; *fleur de macadam ; folieuse* (R.) ; *fripesauce* (Old Fr.) : *friquenelle* (R. and BALZAC).

*Galante ; galoise* (R., COTGRAVE) ; *galupe ; galvaudeuse ; gamelle ; garce* (R. = wench) ; *garçonnière ; gaultière* (Old Fr.) ; *gaupe* (R.) ; *gaure ; génisse ; gibier de bordel ; gibier de maquerelle ; gibier de Saint-Lazare ; gigolette ; goipeuse ; gonzesse ; gothon ; gouapeuse ; goudine ; gouine ; goudinette* (R.) ; *gouge* (R.) ; *gouine* (Old Fr.) ; *gourgandine* (R. : also *gourgande*) ; *gouvernante* (= housekeeper) ; *goyne* (R.) ; *grenier à coups de sabre ; grenouille ; gripette ; grisette ; grue* (R.) ; *guenille* (R.) ; *guenippe* (R.) ; *guenon ; guenuche ; gueule ; gueuse : guimpe ; guinche.*

*Harrebane* (R.) ; *hirondelle de goguenot ; hollière* (R. : O. Fr. *holler* = to run) ; *hore* (R. : =whore) ; *horizantale ; hourière* (R. : also *hourieuse*).

*Impure.*

*Jacqueline ; Jeannette ; Jeanneton* (R., BÉRANGER, HUGO) ; *joueuse de flûte ; jouisseuse ; journalière.*

*Lame ; lampe de couvent ; lanterne ; laqueuse ; lard ; larguèpe ; largue ; latine* (=a harlot living in the Quartier Latin) ; *laisée ; latrine ; lésébombe ; lescheresse* (R.) ; *lévrier d'amour* (R. :=a bawd) ; *levrière* (R. : also *levrette*) ; *lice* (R. : also *lyce*, O. Fr.) ; *linge ; linotte coiffée ; lipète ; lolo ; lorette ; loudière* (R.) ; *Louis ; louille ; louve ; loupeuse* (R.) ; *lutainpem.*

*Maca* (also *maquerelle*=a bawd) ; *Madame* (=a bawd : generic) ; *Madame Diogène ('qui plante des hommes') ; Madame de rébut ; magnée ; magnuce ; magneuse ; mal peignée ; mangeuse de blanc* (or *de viande cru*) ; *manuelle ; maquillée ; Marane* (R.) ; *marcheuse ; Margot* (also *Margotin :* generic ; *la margot*=whoredom) ; *marmite ; marneuse ; marquise ; martingale* (R.) ; *matelassière ; matelas ambulant ; maxima* (R.) ; *membre de la caravane ; menesse ; meschine ; mignonne ; mimi ; moché* (R.) ; *moclonneuse ; mome ; momentanée ; morceau* (=PIECE, *q.v.*) ; *morue ; mouquette ; musardine* (old : an habituée of the Concerts-Musard) ; *musequine* (R.).

*Ningle ; nymphe.*

*Offre à tous (s') ; omnibus ; ordure* (R.) ; *ouvrière.*

*Paillarde* (VILLON, R.) ; *paillasse ; paillasse à troufion ; paillasse de corps de garde ; pailletée ; pannanesse* (R.) ; *pantame ; panturme ; papillonne ; particulière ; pas grand'chose ; pantonnière* (R.) ; *peau ; peau de chien ; péché à quinze sous* (DUMAS *fils*) ; [*femme de*] *péchié* (R.) ; *pélérine de Venus* (R.) ; *pélican ; pellice* (R.) ; *persilleuse, pétasse ; petite dame ; pieuvre* (BALZAC) ; *pigeon voyageur ; pinerie* (=prickery, *i.e.* =harlotry) ; *pierreuse ; piqueuse de trains ; planche à boudin ; polissonne* (BÉRANGER) ; *polisseuse de tuyaux de pipe ; polisseuse de mâts de cocagne en chambre ; ponifle ; Pont-Neuf ; postiqueuse* (R.) ; *pompe funèbre ; pontonnière ; pont d'Avignon ; portion ; poufiasse ; poule ; poulette ; poupée ; poupoule ; poupine ; poupinette ; prat ; présentière ; prêtresse de Venus* (RABELAIS, LA FONTAINE) ; *princesse* (or *princesse de l'asphalte*) ; *pucelle de Marolles* (or *de Belleville*) ; *punaise ; putain* (VILLON = whore : also *pute ; putanisme, puterie*, or *putage*=lechery).

*Raccrocheuse ; racoleuse ; rafaitière* (R.) ; *ragasie* (R.) ; *rameneuse ; redresseuse* (R.) ; *religieuse ; rempardeuse ; retapeuse ; reveleuse* (R.) ; *ribaude* (R.) ; *ricalde* (R.) ; *rigobette* (R. : also *rigobète*) ; *rivette ; robe ; roufle ; roti ; rouche ; roulette ; rouleuse ; rouloure ; rousse-caigne* (R.) ; *roustisseuse* (=buttock-and-file) ; *rutière.*

*Safrette* (R.) ; *salope ; saucisse ; sauterelle ; scaldrine* (R.) ; *serraine ; servante-maîtresse ; [fille du] siècle* (R.) ; *sirène ; siroteuse ; sœur ; sommier de caserne ; sougnant* (R.) ; *souillon ; soupeuse ; sourditte* (R.) ; *sucrée ; suivante de Vénus* (R.).

*Tapeuse de tal ; taupe ; terrière ; terreuse ; terrinière ; tireuse de vinaigre* (R.) ; *tonton* (GAVARNI, LA FONTAINE) ; *torchon ; torpille d'occasion ; toupie* (R.) ; *tourterelle ; touse* (R.) ; *traînée ; traîneuse ; travailleuse ; tripière ; trottière ; truande ; trumeau ; trusseresse ; trychine.*

*Usagère* (R.).

*Vache; vache à lait; vadrouille; veau; vendangeuse d'amour; vendeuse de tendresse; véroleuse; verticale* (=uprighter); *vesse* (=bladder); *vessie; vésuvienne; vestal; vézon; viagère* (R.); *viande;* [*femme de*] *vie* (*i.e. vit* — R.); *vielle garde; villotière* (COTGRAVE); *voirie; volaille* (=pullet); *voyagère* (R.: also *voyageuse*).

*Wagon; wauve.*

*Zona.*

18[?]. *Bird o' Freedom* [quoted in *S. J. & C.*]. Wrong 'uns at the Wateries, Noffgurs at the Troc, Coryphyées by Kettner, TARTLETS anywhere.

1896. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 48. His years were in number some threescore and three, And Flossie ye TARTE of his bosom was she.

*Adj.* (B. E. and GROSE: now recognised).—'TART DAME [*sic*], sharp, quick' (B. E.); 'TART, sour, sharp, quick, pert' (GROSE).

**TARTAR**, *subs.* (old).—1. A bad or awkward tempered person: male or female. TO CATCH A TARTAR =(1) to be caught in one's own trap; and (2) to get more than one bargained for, or the worst of an encounter (B. E. and GROSE). [*Ency. Dict.*: Properly *Tatar*. 'The *r* was inserted in mediæval times to suggest that the Asiatic hordes who occasioned such anxiety to Europe came from hell (Tartarus), and were the locusts of Revelation ix.'] Hence (2) an adept: *e.g.*, 'He is quite a TARTAR at cricket or billiards' (GROSE).

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. iii. Now thou hast got me for a TARTAR, To make m' against my will take quarter.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, XXX. The captain . . . looking at me with a contemptuous sneer, exclaimed, 'Ah! ah! have you CAUGHT A TARTAR?'

1772. FOOTE, *Nabob* [OLIPHANT]. [One man may] CATCH A TARTAR [in another].

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 171. He turn'd him back and stole the cart, And strait despatch'd it to his quarters For fear of Justice Fielding's TARTARS.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xiv. A TARTAR that fellow was, and no mistake.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. i. This disconsolate sailor, whose first wife had been what is popularly called a TARTAR.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Mar., 558. 1. Occasionally, of course, Barabbas CATCHES A TARTAR who threatens legal proceedings and demands to inspect the publisher's books. Needless to say, the books were 'cooked' from the first in view of such an eventuality.

3. *See* TARTARIAN.

**TARTARIAN** (or **TARTAR**), *subs.* (Old Cant).—A thief: spec. a strolling vagabond; 'a sharper' (B. E.).

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. v. 18. Here's a Bohemian TARTAR.

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton* (*Temple*), i. 1. 10. There's not a TARTARIAN, Nor a carrier, shall breathe upon your geldings.

1640. *Wandering Jew*, 3. And if any thieving TARTARIAN shall break in upon you, I will, with both hands, nimbly lend a cast of my office to him.

**TARTUFFE**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A hypocrite; a pretender. [From the character in Molière's comedy.] Hence TARTUFFISH=hypocritically precise; and TARTUFFISM=hypocrisy.

*d.* 1768. STERNE [*Ency. Dict.*]. She has some mother-in-law, or TARTUFISH aunt, or nonsensical old woman, to consult upon the occasion as well as myself.

**TASSY**, *subs.* (Australian).—Tasmania.

1894. *Argus*, 26 Jan., 3, 5. To-day TASSY—as most Victorian cricketers and footballers familiarly term our neighbour over the straits—will send a team into the field.

**TASTE**, *verb.* (venery).—To know carnally; TO ENJOY (*q.v.*). Hence TASTY-BIT (or MORSEL)=a JUICY wench (*q.v.*).

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, iii. 3. 345. I had been happy, if the general camp . . . had TASTED her sweet body, So I had nothing known. *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, ii. 4. 57. If you can make't apparent That you have TASTED her in bed, my hand And ring is yours.

1628. EARLE, *Micro-cosmog.*, 1. A Childe is a Man in a small Letter, yet the best Copie of Adam before hee TASTED of Eve, or the Apple.

1638. CAREW, *Counsel to a Young Maid*, No. 2 [EBSWORTH, 22]. So shalt thou be despis'd, fair maid, When by the sated lover TASTED.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 74. Then having let us see, pray let us TASTE Those dear conceal'd Delights below the Waste.

TASTE OF THE CREATURE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A dram; a drink; esp. of whiskey. *See* CRATER, and *add* quots., *infra*.

*c.* 1570. *Pride and Lowliness.* The CREATURE [wine] of the proper kind Was good, though use offenden therewithal.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, ii. 3. 313. Come, come, good wine is a good familiar CREATURE, if it be well us'd.

1638. PENKETHMAN, *Artach.*, Kiij. The moderate use of the CREATURE, and sparing Dyet, which is very little practised.

1690. DRYDEN, *Amphit.*, iii. 1. My master took too much of the CREATURE last night.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxxvi. This was the place where we were to have a TASTE OF THE CREATURE.

1758. SMOLLETT, *Fathom*, xiii. The German . . . never went to bed without a full dose of the CREATURE.

1827. HONE, *Ev. Day Book*, II. 286. His followers . . . take a little CRATHUR.

1888. *Standard*, 14 Aug., 2. Says he, 'Maggie,' have a drop of the CRATUR.

A NASTY TASTE IN ONE'S MOUTH, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—An unpleasant feeling.: regret, loathing, anxiety, etc.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxv. Never before have I heard such a speech . . . 'Sort o' gives a NASTY TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH,' says Low Covey.

**TASTER**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A small quantity; a taste: in quot. a small glass of ice-cream.

1901. *D. Tel.*, 21 May, 10. The irate signor . . . produced—not a half-penny TASTER for the policeman, but a tattered copy of a work called 'Law without Lawyers.'

**TASTY**, *adj.* (common).—1. FULL-FLAVOURED (*q.v.*); NUTTY (*q.v.*); SPICY (*q.v.*); THICK (*q. v.*). Hence (2) of the best; RIPPING (*q.v.*).

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 31. He's fond of something TASTY . . . me and him was spliced last Monday week.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, vii. Nice and TASTEY, observes my friend . . . as he points to a leg that seems to fear nothing on earth . . . not even Lord Campbell's Act.

**TAT**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. In *pl.* =dice. Whence TAT BOX=a dice box; TAT-MONGER (or TATOGEY)=a sharper or cheat using loaded dice; TAT'S-MAN=a dicing gambler; TAT-SHOP=a gambling den (B. E. and GROSE): *see* IVORIES.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tip.* Rattle the TATS, or mark the spot.

2. (Old Cant).—A rag: MILKY TATS=white linen. Also as *verb* =to collect rags; and TATTER=a rag-gatherer.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 417. He goes TATTING and billy-hunting in the country. *Ibid.*, 424. I'll tell you about the TAT-GATHERERS, buying rags they call it, but I call it bouncing people.

3. (colloquial).—An abbreviation of 'tattoo.'

TIT FOR TAT. *See* TIT.

**TA-TA**, *intj.* (common).—A salutation; 'Good-bye'!

18 [?]. STEVENSON, *Treas. of Franchard.* And so, TA-TA! I might as well have stayed away for any good I have done.

**TATARWAGGES.** *See* TATTERS.

**TATER** (or **TATUR**), *subs.* (vulgar).—A POTATO (*q.v.*). Whence TATER-TRAP = the mouth; TATER-AND-POINT = a meal of potatoes: *see* POINT. Also as noteworthy, one or two phrases: *e.g.*, TO SETTLE ONE'S TATERS = to settle one's hash; TO STRAIN ONE'S TATERS = TO PISS (*q.v.*); S'WELP MY TATERS (*see* SWELP).

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 57. Taste this . . . 'Twill to your TATER-TRAP prove nice.

1856. MAYHEW, *World of London*, 6, note. On this principle . . . the mouth has come to be styled the TATER-TRAP.

1869. *Echo*, 9 Sept. 'Life of London Boys.' They . . . would climb anywhere—where they would nick the TATERS, or apples, or onions, or anything else.

1891. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. xi. 29. Uncommon fine TATERS them, sir.

**TATOL**, *subs.* (Winchester).—A tutor in Commoners.

**TATTERDEMALION**, *subs.* (old).—A ragged wretch: a general term of contempt: also TATTER, and RAGS-AND-TATTERS: *see* quot. 1696. TATARWAGGS and TATTERWALLOPS = ragged clothes (GROSE). *See* TAT, 2. As *adj.* = ragged.

1360. CHAUCER, *Romaunt of the Rose.* [TYRWHITT, (ROUTLEDGE), 7259.] And with graie clothis nat full clene, But frettid full of TATARWAGGES.

1608. SMITH, *True Travels*, I. 40. Those TATTERTIMALLIONS will have two or three horses . . . as well for service as for to eat.

1617. BRATHWAITE, *Smoaking Age*, 47. Whole families shall maintaine their TATTERDEMALLIONS, with hanging thee out in a string.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, iii. Why . . . should thou and I onely be miserable TATTERDEMALIONS, rag-a-muffins, and lowsy desperates?

1626. SMITH, *Eng. Sea Terms*, 864. TATTERTIMALLION [appears amongst new substantives].

1633. HEYWOOD, *Royal King* [PEARSON, *Works*, 1874, vi. 31]. A TATTERDEMALEAN that stayes to sit at the Ordinary to-day.

1638. RANDOLPH, *Hey for Honesty*, iii. 1. Well spoke, my noble English TATLER.

1677. *Poor Robin's Visions*, 73. I have carried a great many in my wherry, males and females, from the silken whore to the pitifull poor TATTERDEMALION.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 10. There are a few TATTER-DE-MALLIONS, That (with a Pox) would be Italians.

1687. BROWN, *Saints in an Uproar* [*Works*, i. 82]. The women . . . exclaim against Lobsters and TATTERDEMALLIONS. *Ibid.*, ii. 181. A couple of TATTERDEMALION hobgobblings.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxix. I wonder . . . what pleasure you can find in talking thus with this lousy TATTERDEMALLION of a monk.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew.* s.v. TATTER-DE-MALLION, a ragged tatter'd Begger, sometimes half Naked, with design to move Charity, having better Cloths at Home. *In Tatters*, in Raggs. *Tatter'd and Torn*, rent and torn.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, iii. 5. I'll reduce him to frippery and rags, a TATTERDEMALION! I hope to see him hung with TATTERS, like a . . . gibbet thief.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* (1900), i. 106. Mrs. Bramble . . . said she had never seen such a filthy TATTERDEMALION, and bid him begone.

1887. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie.* Crime's rabble, hell's TATTERDEMALION.

TO TATTER A KIP, *verb. phr.* (old).—To wreck a brothel.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar*, xx. My business was . . . to assist at TATTERING A KIP, as the phrase was, when he had a mind for a frolic.

**TATTLE-BOX,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A chatterbox: also TATTLER=a gossip: *see* TITTLE-TATTLE.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, I. iv. 36. She is an invidious TATTLE-BOX that rattles people out of their Senses.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iv. vi. Oliver Whiddles—the TATLER old! Telling what best had been left untold.

**TATTLE-DE-MOY,** *subs. phr.* (? nonce-word).—*See* quot.

1676. [SOUTHEY, *Doctor* (1834) xciv.]. A TATTLE-DE-MOY . . . was a new-fashioned thing in . . . 1676, 'much like a saraband, only it had in it more of conceit and of humour. . . .' Thomas Mace invented it . . . and he called it a TATTLE-DE-MOY 'because it tattles and seems to speak those very words or syllables.'

**TATTLER,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A watch (GROSE); spec. 'an Alarm, or Striking Watch or (indeed) any' (B. E.). Hence TO FLASH A TATTLER=to wear a watch; TO SPEAK TO A TATTLER=to steal a watch: Also TATTLE.

1781. MESSINK, *Choice of Harlequin*, 'Frisky Moll's Song' A famble, a TATTLE, and two pops Had my bowman when he was ta'en.

1823. EGAN, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. TATTLER . . . Doughey drew a gold TATTLER, and got two p'nd ten of the fence for it; so my regulars is ten bob.

1878. HINDLEY, *Catnach*. . . . Speak to the TATTLER, bag the swag, And finely hunt the dummy.

**TATTLING FELLOW** (or **WOMAN**), *subs. phr.* (old: B. E.).—'Prating, impertinent.'

**TATTOO.** *See* DEVIL'S TATTOO, *adding* GROSE (1785) and quot. *infra* as authorities.

1841. LYTTON, *Night and Morning*. Mr. Gawtrey remained by the fire beating the DEVIL'S TATTOO upon the chimney-piece, and ever and anon turned his glance towards Lilburne, who seemed to have forgotten his existence.

**TAUNTON-TURKEY,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A herring: *cf.* BILLINGSGATE-PHEASANT, GLASGOW-MAGISTRATE, etc.

1850. ALLIN [MRS. A. A. CURTIS], *Home Ballads*. Our fisheries o'er the world are famed, The mackerel, shad, and cod! And TAUNTON TURKEYS are so thick, We sell them by the rod!

**TAUT,** *adj.* (nautical).—Severe. Hence TAUT HAND=a disciplinarian (CLARK RUSSELL).

**TAVERN (THE),** *subs.* (Oxford Univ.).—New Inn Hall. [A punning allusion: also because the buttery is open all day long.]

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, III. xi. Little Mr. Bouncer had abandoned his intention of obtaining a *licet migrare* to THE TAVERN, and had decided . . . to remain at Brazenface.

TO HUNT A TAVERN FOX (or TO SWALLOW A TAVERN TOKEN), *verb. phr.* (old).—To get drunk. Hence 'the TAVERN BITCH has bit him in the head' (or TAVERNED)=drunk: *see* SCREWED. Also TAVERNER=a tippler.

1340. *Ayenbite of Inwyt*, 51. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 30. We light upon the TAVERNYER or TAVERN-HAUNTER; this has given rise to an English surname.]

1596. JONSON, *Every Man in Humour*, i. 3. Drunk, sir! you hear not me say so; perhaps hes SWALLOWED A TAVERN TOKEN, or some such device.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore*, i. 4. s.v.

1630. TAYLOR, *Old Parr* [Harl. Misc., vii. 76]. Else he had little leisure time to waste, Or at the ale-house huff-cap ale to taste; Nor did he ever HUNT A TAVERN FOX.

**TAVISTOCK (or TAWSTOCK) GRACE,** *subs. phr.* (HALLIWELL). — 'Finis.'

**TAW,** *subs.* (old). — *See* quots. TAWLINGS (or TAW)=the line from which the marble is shot: hence (American), TO COME TO TAW=to come to SCRATCH (*q.v.*), to be called to account; TO BE ON ONE'S TAW='a species of threat' (GROSE).

1764. CHURCHILL, *Candidate.* To whip a top, to knuckle down at TAW.

1784. COWPER, *Tirocinium*, i. 307. To kneel and draw The chalky ring, and knuckle down at TAW.

1801. STRUTT, *Sports and Pastimes*, 491. TAW, wherein a number of boys put each of them one or two marbles in a ring and shoot at them alternately with other marbles, and he who obtains most of them by beating them out of the ring is the conqueror.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 193. ONE UPON YOUR TAW, a person who takes offence at the conduct of another, or conceives himself injured by the latter, will say, never mind, I'll be ONE UPON YOUR TAW; or, I'll be a MARBLE ON YOUR TAW; meaning I'll be even with you some time.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxiv. He [inquired] whether he had won any alley TORS or commoneys lately.

1842. TENNYSON, *Will Waterproof.* A . . . pottle-bodied boy That knuckled at the TAW.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 3. His small private box was full of peg-tops, white marbles (called 'alley TAWS' in the Vale).

1883. *Century Mag.*, xxxvi. 78. Their cries of 'rounses,' 'TAW,' 'dubs,' . . . might be heard there before and after school hours.

*Verb.* (old).—1. To beat; to scourge (GROSE); and (2) to torment. [A.S. *tawian*=to beat.] Also TAWS (or TAWSE)=a leather strap, slit or fringed at one end, used by schoolmasters (SCOTS).

1549. CHALONER, *Moriæ Enc.*, G 2. They are not TAWED, nor pluckt asunder.

1607. MARSTON, *What You Will*, E 2. For Ile make greatness quake, Ile TAWE the hide Of thick-skin'd Hugenes.

1609. *Ammianus Marcellinus* [NARES]. When he had been well TAWED with rods, and compelled to confesse.

1613. FLETCHER, *Captain.* He's to be made more tractable . . . if they TAW him as they do whit-leather.

1656. *Men Miracles*, 45. They TAW'D it faith, their gunnes would hit, As sure as they had studied it.

**TAWDRY,** *adj.* (old colloquial: now recognised in its debased sense).—1. Orig. fine, elegant, trim; whence (2) cheaply showy, ignorantly fine; *see* quots. 1696 and 1822. Also derivatives such as TAWDERED, TAWDRILY, TAWDRINESS, etc. TAWDRY-LACE (or TAWDRY)=a rustic necklace or girdle; TAWDRUMS = fal-lals. Hence, by implication = bawdy (*see* quot. 1759–62): *see* TOL-TAWDRY.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse.* SEYNT AUDRIES LACE ['whence (OLIPHANT) came TAWDRY in later times'].

1548. PATTEN [ARBER, *Garner*, iii. 71]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 519. We read of TAUTHRIE LACES in a list of superstitious trumpery; these were sold at St Audrey's fair at Ely.]

1579. SPENSER, *Shepheard's Calendar*, Ap., 133. Gird your waste, For more fineness, with a TAWDRIE lace.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 3. Come, you promised me a TAWDRY LACE, and a pair of sweet gloves.

1605. MARSTON, *Dutch Courtezan*, v. No matter for lace and TAWDRUMS.

1610. FLETCHER, *Faithful Shepherd*, iv. 1. The primrose chaplet, TAWDRY LACE, and ring.

1612. DRAYTON, *Polyolb.*, ii. 686. Of which the Naiads and the blue Nereids make Them TAUDRIES for their necks. *Ibid.*, iv. 727. They curl their ivory fronts; and not the smallest beck But with white pebbles makes her TAUDRIES for her neck.

1670. *Moral State of England*, 161. A kind of TAWDRINESS in their habits.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TAUDRY, garish, gawdy, with Lace or mismatched and flaring Colours: A Term borrow'd from those times when they Trickt and Bedeckt the Shrines and Altars of the Saints, as being at vye with each other upon that occasion. The Votaries of St *Audrey* (an Isle of *Ely* Saint) exceeding all the rest in the Dress and Equipage of her Altar, it grew into a Nay-word, upon anything very gawdy, that it was all Taudry, as much as to say all ST AUDREY.

1716. MONTAGUE, *Letters*, 22 Aug. Dirty people of quality TAWDERED OUT.

1736. PULTENEY, *To Swift*, 21 Dec. A rabble of people, seeing her very oddly and TAWDRILY dressed, took her for a foreigner.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, v. 59. There is nothing in this world I abominate worse than to be interrupted in a story, and I was that moment telling Eugenius a most TAWDRY one.

1762. CHURCHILL, *Prophecy of Famine*. All that artificial TAWDRY glare, Which Virtue scorns, and none but strumpets wear.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. TAWDRY. A vulgar corruption of saint Audrey, or Auldrey, meaning saint Ethelreda, [implying] that things so called had been bought at the fair of saint Audrey, where gay toys of all sorts were sold. This fair was held in the Isle of Ely . . . on the . . . 17th of October. . . . An old historian makes saint Audrey die of a swelling in her throat, which she considered as a particular judgment, for having been in her youth much addicted to wearing fine necklaces. NICH. HARPSFIELD (1622), *Hist. Eccl. Anglicana*.

**TAWNY-COAT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—An ecclesiastical officer. [From the livery.]

. . . [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* [REED], vi. 99]. Husband, lay hold on yonder TAWNY COAT.

*c.* 1577. HARRINGTON, *Catal. Bishop* (PARK), ii. 22. It happened one day, bishop Elmer [? Aylmer] of London, meeting this bishop [Whitgift, then bishop of Worcester] with such an orderly troope of TAWNY COATS, demaunded of him, 'How he could keepe so many men?' he answeared, 'It was by reason he kept so few women.'

1592. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Hen. VI.*, iii. 1. 174. Down with the TAWNY-COATS!

**TAWNYMOOR**, *subs.* (old). — A mulatto.

1717. *Centlivre, Bold Stroke for a Wife*, i. 1. There's a black, a TAWNYMOOR, and a Frenchman.

**TAX-COLLECTOR**, *subs. phr.* (old). —A highwayman.

**T-BEARD**, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial). —A fashion in trimming the beard; a beard cut T-wise.

1618. FLETCHER, *Queen of Corinth*, iv. 1. Your T-BEARD is in fashion.

**TEA**, *subs.* (old). — Urine: *see* COLD-TEA, LONG-TEA, and TEA-VOIDER.

1712. GAY, *Trivia*, ii. 297. Who 'gainst the sentry's box discharge their TEA.

*Verb.* (colloquial).—1. To take tea: *cf.* 'dine,' 'lunch,' 'sup,' etc. (all recognised).

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.*, III. 255. Unless . . . you'd TEA with your wife.

1839. DICKENS, *Nicholas Nickleby*, ix. Father don't TEA with us.

2. (common). — To engage with, encounter, go in against.

1896. KIPLING, *Seven Seas*, 'The Lost Legion.' And some share our tucker with tigers, And some with the gentle Masai (Dear boys!), TAKE TEA WITH the giddy Masai.

**TEACH.** *See* GRANDMOTHER and SUCK.

TO TEACH IRON TO SWIM, *verb. phr.* (common).—To achieve the impossible.

**TEACH-GUY**, *subs. phr.* (back slang). —Eight shillings.

**TEACUP.** STORM (or TEMPEST) IN A TEACUP (or teapot), *subs. phr.* (common).—Much ado about nothing: *cf.* 'a tide and flood though it be but in a basin of water' (BENTLEY, *Phalaris*, 1699, 399).

1885. *D. Tel.*, 30 Sep. The 'échauffourée' in 'Southern Bulgaria' will prove a mere STORM IN A TEACUP.

**TEA-FIGHT**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A tea party: *cf.* MUFFIN-WORRY; TOFFEE-SCRAMBLE, etc.

1885. *North Am. Rev.*, cxli. 242. Gossip prevails at TEA FIGHTS in a back country village.

1899. WHITEING, *John Street*, vi. 'Kind of a TEA-FIGHT,' he returns. . . . I looked to Tilda . . . 'Come to tea next Sunday,' says the girl.

**TEA PARTY.** *See* BOSTON TEA-PARTY and NICE.

**TEAGUE**, *subs.* (old).—An Irishman: in contempt. Hence TEAGUELAND = Ireland (B. E. and GROSE).

1661. *Merry Drollery* [EBSWORTH], 335. TEG [stands for an Irishman].

1671. *Bagf. Ballads.* With Shinkin ap Morgan, with blew Cap or TEAGUE.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs.* Like TEAGUE's cocks, that fought one another, though all were of the same kind.

*c.* 1686–8. *Old Song*, 'Lilibulero.' Ho, brother TEAGUE.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iv. 275. Excuse me from TEAGUELAND and slaughter.

*d.* 1706. DORSET, *Antiquated Coquet.* To TEAGULAND we this beauty owe, TEAGUELAND her earliest charms did know . . . The TEAGUES in shoals before her fell.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 70. He shall gulph ye down the rankest Stinkibus with as good a gusto as a TEAGUE does Usquebaugh.

1733. SWIFT, *To Grant* [SCOTT, *Swift*, xviii. 203]. I was a year old before I was sent to England; and thus I am a TEAGUE, or an Irishman.

**TEAICH-GIR**, *adj.* and *adv.* (back slang).—'Right': pronounced 'tadger.' Hence TADGING = TIP-TOP (*q.v.*).

**TEAM**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Two or more persons associated for some purpose: *e.g.*, a football side, a cricket eleven, a coach's pupils, etc. [Properly of animals harnessed together.] Hence TEAM-WORK = work in company.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, iv. Hear me, my little TEAM of villains, hear me.

1852. BRISTED, *Eng. Univ.*, 191. A mathematical tutor can drive a much larger TEAM than a classical.

1885. *Echo*, 7 Sep. The football season in the North and Midlands is in full swing, and it is therefore little matter for wonder that the country TEAMS bear away the laurels every year from the metropolis.

**TEAR**, *subs.* (common).—A boisterous jollification; a SPREE (*q.v.*). As *verb.* (colloquial) = to move, speak, or act violently; to rant; to fume. Hence TEARER or TEAR CAT or TIMOTHY TEARCAT = (1) a blusterer; a bully; a ROARER (*q.v.*); and (2) anything violent. TEARING = violent, raving, etc.; TEAR-MOUTH (or TEAR-THROAT) = a ranting actor: and a *adj.* = vociferous; TO TEAR CHRIST'S BODY (old colloquial) = to blaspheme. TO TEAR ONE'S BEARD (or HAIR) = a simile of violent emotion.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 13,889. His oathes been so great and so dampnable, That it is grisly for to hiere him swere Our blisful LORDE'S BODY thay TO TERE.

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments*, viii. 641. [He speaks of swearers as] TEARERS OF GOD.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, i. 2. I could play *Ercles* rarely, or a part TO TEAR A CAT IN. *Ibid.* (1610), *Antony and Cleop.*, iv. 12. In the midst a TEARING groan.

1601. JONSON, *Poetaster*, iii. 1. You grow rich, you do, and purchase, you TWOPENNY TEAR-MOUTH.

1606. DAY, *Isle of Guls*, Induction. I had rather heare two good jests, than a whole play of such TEAR-CAT thunder-claps.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl*. TEAR-CAT, a ruffian (Dram. Pers.).

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. The majesticall king of fishes . . . keepes his court in all this hurly-burly, not like a tyrannical TEAR-THROAT in open arms, but like wise Diogenes in a barrell.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood* [ROUTLEDGE], 17, 41. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 107-8. We have seen a TEARING groan about 1610; we read of TEARING (boisterous) wits, and of TEARING ladies; hence come our TEARING spirits.]

1672. C. COTTON, *Scarronides* (1725), I. 9. A huffing Jack, a plund'ring TEARER, A vap'ring Scab, and a great SWEARER.

1692. LESTRANGE, *Fables*. This bull that ran TEARING mad for the pinching of a mouse.

1713. ADDISON, *Cato*, ii. 5. Gods! I could TEAR MY BEARD to hear you talk.

1767. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, vii. 19. Though you do get on at a TEARING rate, yet you get on but uneasily.

1819. SCOTT [LOCKHART (1902), vi. 41], *Letter to Southey*. Such a letter as Kean wrote t'other day to a poor author, who . . . had, at least, the right to be treated as a gentleman by a copper-laced two-penny TEARMOUTH.

1843. DICKENS, *Christmas Carol*, iii. And now two smaller Cratchits, boy and girl, came TEARING IN.

1847-8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, lx. Immense dandies . . . driving in TEARING cabs.

1852. BRISTED, *Upper Ten Thousand*, 17. He TEARS along BEHIND him a sleigh.

1867. BROWN, *Capt. Smith and Poch*. [BARTLETT]. But the lofty chief's fair daughter Told her Pa he hadn't oughter; And the way she TORE AROUND induced him to behave.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 525. Aunt Lois, she's ben . . . TEARIN' ROUND 'nough to drive the house out o' the winders.

**TO TEAR ONE'S SEAT**, *verb. phr.* (tailors').—To attempt too much.

**TEAR-PUMP. TO WORK THE TEAR-PUMP**, *verb. phr.* (common).—To weep; 'to turn on the water-works.'

**TEASE. ON THE TEASE**, *phr.* (old).—Uneasy; fidgety.

1706. CENTLIVRE, *Basset-Table*, iii. There's one UPON THE TEIZE already.

*See* TEASER.

**TEASER**, *subs.* (pugilists').—1. A disturbing blow. TO TEASE (or TEAZE)=to flog (GROSE and VAUX); TO NAP THE TEAZE=to be flogged.

1840. EGAN, *Book of Sports*. The latter planted a TEASER on Sam's mouth, which produced the claret in streams.

2. (colloquial). — Anything difficult or perplexing.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. TEASER—a hit on some queer point, as on the tip of the nose. Also, 1st. A summons to little chancery. 2nd. A talking fellow who haunts another. 3rd. An old horse belonging to a breeding stud—'though devoid of *fun* himself, he is the cause of it in others.

1857. LAWRENCE, *Guy Livingstone*, ix. The third is a TEASER—an ugly black bullfinch with a ditch on the landing side.

**TEASER OF THE CATGUT.** *See* CATGUT-SCRAPER.

**TEA-VOIDER**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A chamber pot (GROSE).

**TEA-WAGGON**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete nautical).—An East Indiaman.

1836. DANA, *Two Years*, xxxiv. Like a true English TEA-WAGON; and with a run like a sugar-box.

**TEAZLE**, *subs.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TEC**, *subs.* (common). — A deTECtive : *see* NARK.

1886. *Echo*, 4 Dec. I went to Dartford, in Kent, to Whistler's, so that we should not get picked up by the TECS.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*. I went to the bank with the paper cash, And they said they'd send for a 'TEC.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, v. 'TECS down, one day, from Scotland Yard to look for dynamit'. *Ibid.*, viii. The depleted brood resist but rarely, for to them the TEC is fate.

1901. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 11 May, 2. 3. This sham 'TEC is in refreshing contrast, considered as an artist, to the sham aristocrat with a preposterous title unknown to Debrett.

**TEDDY.** TEDDY MY GODSON, *phr.* (Irish).—'An address to a simple fellow or ninny' (GROSE).

**TEDDY HALL** (Oxford Univ.).—St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford.

**TE DEUM.** *See* BACKWARDS.

**TEEJAY**, *subs.* (Winchester College).—A new boy ; a *pro*TEGÉ : placed for a time under the care of older scholars. *Cf.* SHADOW and SUBSTANCE.

**TEEK** (or **TIQUE**), *subs.* (Harrow school).—Mathematics.

**TEENY** (or **TEENY-WEENY**), *adj.* (colloquial).—Tiny.

**TEETH**, *subs.* (various colloquial).—PHRASES. IN SPITE OF ONE'S TEETH = in defiance of; IN THE TEETH = to one's face; FROM THE TEETH = apparently, not seriously; TO CAST IN THE TEETH = to taunt, to reproach; TOOTH AND NAIL = whole-hearted, desperate, thorough; TO SHOW ONE'S TEETH = to get angry; TO HAVE THE TEETH WELL AFLOAT (or UNDER) = to be drunk; TO THE HARD TEETH = very severely; 'He ought to have his TEETH drawn' = 'He should be deprived of the power of doing mischief;' TO GO TO GRASS WITH TEETH UPWARDS = to be buried; TO DRAW TEETH = to wrench off knockers (old : medical students'). *See* TURD.

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 355. Cicero mocked her TO THE HARD TEETH.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Comedy of Errors*, ii. 2. Dost thou jeer, and flout me IN THE TEETH? *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, iv. 7. It warms the very sickness in my heart, That I shall live and tell him TO HIS TEETH, Thus didest thou. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Henry IV.*, v. 3. 96. PUFF IN THY TEETH, most recreant coward base! *Ibid.* (1608), *Antony and Cleop.*, iii. 4. 8. When the best hint was given him, he not took't, Or did it FROM HIS TEETH.

1603. *Court and Times James I.* [Among the verbs is] SHOW OUR TEETH.

1663. DRYDEN, *Wild Gallant* [LITTLEDALE, *Dyce's Glossary*]. I am confident she is only angry FROM THE TEETH outwards.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 6 Nov. A desperate TOOTH-AND-NAIL encounter raged for some moments before the tomb.

**TEETHWARD**, *adv.* (old). — *See* quot.

1593. HOLLYBAND, *Dict.* He is clarke to the TEETHWARD, he hath eaten his service book ; spoken in mockage by such as maketh shew of learning and be not learned.

**TEETOTAL**, *adj.* (old).—*See* quots. [as applied to total abstinence, now recognised.]

1827. [REV. JOEL JEWELL, *Letter to Cent. Dict.*] In 1818 a temperance society at Hector, New York, pledged themselves to abstain from distilled spirits only, but in Jan. 1827 another pledge bound all syners to total abstinence. The two classes were distinguished by the initials O.P. (Old Pledge) and T. (Total): T = total became a familiar allocution.

1829. SPENCE, *Tour in Ireland* [EDWARDS, *Words, Facts and Phrases*, 561. He speaks of the word] 'TEETOTALLY' . . . in every-day use by the working classes.

1830–5. [WALSH, *Lit. Curios*, 1049.] It is said that Richard Turner, an English temperance orator, who had an impediment in his speech, would invariably speak of T-T-TOTAL abstinence.

1843. CARLTON, *New Purchase*, II. 245. Stranger, I'm powerful sorry, but we're TEETOTALLY out: he took every bit of food with him.

1843–4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, xii. The meetin' houses on one side of the water, how TEETOTALLY different they be!

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, 1. I wouldn't have you think that I am TEETOTALLY opposed to dancing in every shape, for the reason that I used to heel and toe it a trifle myself, when young.

*d.* 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Dinner*, etc. Dinner was an ugly little parenthesis between two still uglier clauses of a TEETOTALLY ugly sentence.

1861. THACKERAY [in *Cornhill Mag.*, iv. 758]. This giant had quite a small appetite . . . and was also a TEA-TOTALLER.

1882. SMYTH-PALMER, *Folk Etymology*, 385. TEA-TOTALERS, an occasional misprint of TEE-TOTALERS, as if it meant those who were TOTALLY FOR TEA. It is more likely to be an intensive reduplication . . . as in tip-top for first-rate. *Ibid.*, 655. It may be noted that TEE-TOTAL is the reduplication of a reduplication.

**TEETOTAL HOTEL (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (thieves').—A prison.

**TEIGNTON-SQUASH**, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—Perry.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, Interchapter, xvi. Cokaghee or foxwhelp, a beverage as much better than champagne as it is honester, wholesomer, and cheaper. Or PERRY, the TEIGNTON-SQUASH. These are right old English liquors, and I like them all.

**TEIZE.** *See* TEASE.

**TEJUS**, *adv.* (vulgar).—Tedious; extremely; wearyingly, tiresomely: *e.g.*, TEJUS good, bad, quick, slow, etc.

**TELEGRAPH.** *See* MILK and UNDERGROUND.

**TELESCOPE**, *verb.* (Australian).—To silence.

**TELL**, *subs.* (American).—A story; a *bon mot;* spec. one worth telling. Also, ACCORDING TO THEIR TELL='Upon their making out.'

1743. WALPOLE, *To Mann*, 4 Ap. There, I am at the end of my TELL! If I write on, it must be to ask questions.

18[?]. *Betsy Bobbet*, 101. I told Josiah that, ACCORDIN' TO THEIR TELL, I had got every disease under the sun, unless it was the horse-distemper.

18[?]. HUMPHREVS, *Yankee in England.* In his dealings with the other sex, he is a little twistical, ACCORDING TO THEIR TELL.

1882. EGGLESTON [*Century*, XXXV. 44]. Little Barb'ry's the very flower of the flock, ACCORDIN' TO MY TELL.

*See* MARINES; NOSES; TALES.

**TELL-CLOCK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—An idler.

*d.* 1639. WARD, *Sermons*, 131. Is there no mean between busy-bodies and TELL-CLOCKS, between factotums and faineants?

**TELLER**, *subs.* (pugilists').—A well-delivered blow; anything that scores; hence TELLING (colloquial)=effective, to the point.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood.* Ven luckily for Jem a TELLER Vos planted right upon his smeller.

1832. EMERSON, *Burns.* Not Latimer, not Luther, struck more TELLING blows against false theology than did this brave singer.

1888. *Academy*, 1 Dec. 345. Put TELLINGLY and persuasively.

2. *See* TAILOR.

**TELL-TALE**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—An inverted compass fixed in a cabin. Also (general) any recording device: usually automatic: *e.g.*, a turnstile, an organ bellows-indicator, etc.

**TELLING.** THAT'S TELLINGS, *phr.* (common).—Said in reply to a question that one ought not, or that one does not wish, to answer.

**TELL-TRUTH,** *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—A plain speaker; one who does not mince matters.

1650. FULLER, *Pisgah Sight*, II. iv. 3. Caleb and Joshua, the only two TELL-TROTHS, endeavoured to undeceive and encourage the people.

*d.* 1667. TAYLOR, *Works* (1835), II. 99. The rudeness of a Macedonian TELL-TRUTH is no apparent calamity.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 20. A great many bold TELL-TRUTHS are gone before you.

**TEMPEST,** *subs.* (old).—*See* quot.

1746. SMOLLETT, *Advice*, Note to line 30. Drum: This is a riotous assembly of fashionable people, of both sexes, at a private house, consisting of some hundreds; not unaptly styled a drum, from the noise and emptiness of the entertainment. There are also drum-major, rout, TEMPEST, and hurricane, differing only in degrees of multitude and uproar.

*See* TEA CUP.

**TEMPLE,** *subs.* (Winchester College).—1. *See* quot.

1881. PASCOE, *Ev. Day Life.* On the last night of term there is a bonfire in Ball Court, and all the TEMPLES or miniature architectural excavations in 'Mead's' wall are lighted up with candle-ends.

**TEMPLE OF BACCHUS,** *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TEMPLE OF BACCHUS. Merry-making after getting a liceat. *Oxf. Univ. Cant.*

**TEMPLE OF VENUS,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; and (2) a brothel.

**TEMPLE-PICKLING,** *subs. phr.* (B. E.).—'The Pumping of Bailives, Bumms, Setters, Pick-pockets, etc.'

**TENANT AT WILL,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'One whose wife usually fetches him from the ale-house' (GROSE).

**TENANT FOR LIFE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'A married man; *i.e.*, possessed of a woman for life' (GROSE).

**TENANT-IN-TAIL.** *See* TAIL.

**TEN BONES** (or **COMMANDMENTS**), *subs. phr.* (old).—The ten fingers: spec. of a woman. Also BY THESE TEN BONES! (once a common oath: in punning reference to the Mosaic Decalogue).

*c.* 1485. *Digby Myst.* (1882), 4, note. By thes BONYS TEN thei be to you vntrue.

*c.* 1540. HEYWOOD, *Four P's.* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), i. 92]. Now ten tymes I beseche hym that hye syttes, Thy wives TEN COMMANDEMENTS may serch thy five wyttes.

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 27. [Socrates is advised to use his TENNE COMMAUNDEMENTES in a brawl.]

1562. *Jacke Juggeler* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 125]. I am a servant of this house, BY THESE TEN BONES.

*c.* 1575. *Ane Ballat of Matrymonie* [LAING, *Early Pop. Poet. Scotland*, ii. 76]. She . . . pylled the barke even of hys face With her COMMAUNDEMENTS TEN.

1589. *Pappe with Hatchet*, Ciiij. b. Martin swears BY HIS TEN BONES.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry VI.*, i. 3. Could I come near your beauty with my nails, I'd set my TEN COMMANDMENTS in your face. *Ibid.*, i. 4. BY THESE TEN BONES, my lord [*holding up his hands*], he did speak to me in the garret one night.

1595. *Locrine* [SHAKS., *Suppt.*, ii. 242]. I trembled, fearing she would set her TEN COMMANDMENTS in my face.

1597. LYLY, *Woman in Moon*, v. Now he swears BY HIS TEN BONES.

1607. DEKKER, *Westw. Hoe*, v. 3. Your harpy that set his TEN COMMANDMENTS upon my back.

1609. FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas*, iv. 2. BY THESE TEN BONES, sir, if these eyes and ears Can hear and see. *Ibid.* (*c.* 1613), *Woman's Prize*, i. 3. I'll devil em, BY THESE TEN BONES, I will.

1621. JONSON, *Masque of Gipsies*, vi. 84. I swear BY THESE TEN You shall have it again.

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides* [HAZLITT, i. 209]. Skurffe by his NINE-BONES swears, and well he may, All know a fellon eate the TENTH away.

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, xxx. I'll set my TEN COMMANDMENTS in the face of the first loon that lays a finger on him.

1830. MARRYAT, *King's Own*, xl. I'll write the TEN COMMANDMENTS on your face.

1842. LONGFELLOW, *Sp. Student*, iii. 3. In with you, and be busy with the TEN COMMANDMENTS, under the sly.

1903. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 6 Ap. 2. 3. The mother attacked the unfortunate master, and began the time-honoured but painful ceremony of setting her TEN COMMANDMENTS in his face, while her hopeful offspring got the school cane and belaboured his instructor.

**TENCH**, *subs.* (old).—1. A prison; a 'peni(TENTI)ary.' At one time applied to the Clerkenwell House of Detention, now the Central Depôt of the Parcels Post.

1859. *Broad Arrow*, ii. 32. Prisoners' barracks, sir—us calls it TENCH [the Hobart Town Penitentiary].

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* I fell at Isleworth for being found in a conservatory adjoining a parlour, and got remanded at the TENCH.

2. (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TENDER.** TENDER PARNEL, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A mistress; also PARNEL, PERNEL; *see* TART. Hence (2) 'a very nicely Educated creature, apt to catch Cold upon the least blast of wind' (B. E.), 'AS TENDER as PARNELL, who broke her finger in a posset drink' (GROSE). Also 'as TENDER AS A CHICKEN,' and 'AS TENDER AS A PARSON'S LEMAN. (RAY.)

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plow.*, 2790. Dame PERNELE a priestes fyle . . . she hadde Child in Chirie-tyme.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, 45. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 505. The morals of the clergy are glanced at where a woman is said to be 'TENDER AS A PARSON'S lemman.'

1560. BECON, *Prayers* [*Works* (Parker Soc.), 267]. Pretty PARNEL [speaking of] a priest's whore.

*d.* 1575. PILKINGTON, *Works*, 56. But these TENDER PERNELS must have one gown for the day, another for the night.

**TENDERFOOT**, *subs.* (American and Colonial).—A new comer: as *adj.* = raw, inexperienced.

1875. L. SWINBURNE [*Scribner's Monthly*, II. 508]. Pilgrim and TENDERFOOT were formerly applied almost exclusively to newly-imported cattle, but by a natural transference they are usually used to designate all new-comers, tourists, and business men.

1885. STAVELEY-HILL, *Home to Home.* I put my naked foot on a cactus . . . and I realised in a substantial form the nickname that is given to the new-comer out West of TENDER-FOOT or pilgrim.

1885. PHILLIPS-WOLLEY, *Trottings of a Tenderfoot.* How an American ever expects to digest his food is a problem to a TENDERFOOT as they call us new-comers.

1885. ROOSEVELT, *Hunting Trips*, 32. Hunters . . . who bedizen themselves in all the traditional finery of the craft, in the hope of getting a job at guiding some TENDERFOOT.

1886. *D. Tel.* 25 Jan. Before long the TENDERFOOT'S too fleet pony brings him abreast of the flying cow.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 86. The TENDERFOOT had announced his determination of relieving a few of the miners of what spare change they happened to have about them.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 59. 'Well, you keep your eyes open for a TENDERFOOT, an' that's a fact,' said Wallaby Dick.

**TEN-FORTY,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A five per cent. bond issued in 1864 by the U.S. Government, redeemable at any time after ten years and payable in forty years (*Century*).

**TEN-IN-THE-HUNDRED,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A usurer; a SIXTY-PER-CENT. (*q.v.*). [NARES: from their commonly exacting such interest for their money, before the legal limitation to five] (GROSE).

1594. *Death of Usury*, sig. B 4. He that puts forth money dare not exceede the rate of 10 IN THE 100, but he that uttereth ware doth make his rate to his owne contentment.

*d.* 16[?]. [BRATHWAITE [?], *Epitaph on John-a-Combe.* TEN IN THE HUNDRED lies here in-grav'd, 'Tis a hundred to ten that his soul is not sav'd.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, ii. 1. Although your grace be fallen off TWO IN THE HUNDRED, In vulgar estimation; yet am I Your grace's servant still. [In 1624 the legal rate was reduced from ten to eight per cent.]

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides* [HAZLITT, ii. 37]. Snare TEN I' TH' HUNDRED calls his wife, and why? She brings in much by carnal usury.

**TENNER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A ten pound note; £10: *cf.* FIVER.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xix. 'No money?' 'Not much: perhaps a TENNER.'

1871. BRADDON, *Rupert Godwin*, i. 221. And you don't like me well enough to borrow a few TENNERS just to carry on the war with?

2. (thieves').—Ten years' imprisonment.

**TENPENCE.** ONLY TENPENCE IN THE SHILLING, *phr.* (common).—A description of weak intellect. Also TENPENNY=in contempt.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, iv. 2. If all the great Turk's concubines were but like thee, the TENPENNY infidel should never need keep so many geldings to neigh over 'em.

**TENT,** *subs.* (old).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK.

**TENTERBELLY,** *subs.* (old).—A glutton; one who distends his belly by gross feeding.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. ii. v. 1. Not with sweet wine, mutton and pottage, as many of those TENTERBELLIES do.

**TENTERHOOKS.** ON TENTER-HOOKS (or TENTERS), *adv. phr.* (old).—In suspense; anxious; on the rack (or stretch).

1607. HEYWOOD, *Fair Maid* [PEARSON, *Works*, II. 25]. How, upon the TENTERS? indeed, if the whole peece were so stretcht, and very well beaten with a yard of reformation, no doubt it would grow to a goodly breadth.

*d.* 1774. GOLDSMITH, *Sequel to Poetical Scale* . . . . It was gallantry that suited her own maiden loftiness, ever stretched upon the TENTERS of punctillio.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 102. I was too much ON THE TENTERHOOKS about the result to mind his orders. *Ibid.*, 236. One must sit on the TENTERHOOKS of self-denial.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. xxviii. I know Dolly's ON TENTER-HOOKS now.

**TENTOES.** *See* BAYARD.

**TENUC,** *subs.* (back-slang).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TERCEL-GENTLE,** *subs. phr.* (old colloquial). — 'A Knight or Gentleman of a good estate; also any rich Man' (B. E.). Also TASSEL-GENTLE [*Tercel* (COTGRAVE and RANDLE HOLMES)= the male of the peregrine falcon.] Hence FALCON 'GAINST TERCEL (or AS TERCEL)='One's as good as t'other.'

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 2. 160. *Jul.* Hist! Romeo. hist! O! for a falconer's voice, To lure this TASSEL-GENTLE back again. *Ibid.* (1602), *Troilus*, iii. 2. 56. The FALCON AS THE TERCEL for all the ducks i' the river.

1820. SCOTT, *Abbot*, iv. I marvel what blood thou art—neither Englander nor Scot—fish nor flesh. Marry, out upon thee, foul kite, that would fain be a TERCEL-GENTLE!

**TERMER**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—A visitor to London at term time; specifically one whose object was intrigue, knavery, or sport. [The law terms marked the fashionable seasons.] Also TERM-TROTTER.

1608. DEKKER, *Belman of London*, H3. Some of these boothalers are called TERMERS, and they ply Westminster hall; Michaelmas term is their harvest, and they sweat in it harder than reapers or hay-makers doe at their works in the heat of summer.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl*, Preface. Single plots, etc.—those are fit for the times and the TERMERS.

1616. JONSON, *Epigrams*, 3. Nor have my title leaf on posts or walls, Or in cleft sticks advanced to make calls For TERMERS, or some clerk-like serving man.

1628. EARLE, *Micro-cosmog.*, 18. A gallant . . . obserues London trulier than the TERMERS.

1636. SUCKLING, *Goblins*, iii. Court ladies, eight; of which two great ones. Country ladies, twelve; TERMERS ALL.

1639. BANCROFT, *Epigrams*, i. 176. On Old Trudge, the TERMER. Thy practice hath small reason to expect Good termes, that doth faire honesty neglect.

**TERRÆ FILIUS**, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—1. A person of mean or obscure birth.

2. (university). — A scholar whose special duty was to make satirical speeches at the *Encænia*: full advantage being ever taken of his license to satirize, and generally rip up, authority.

1669 EVELYN, *Diary*, 10 July. The TERRÆ FILIUS (the Universitie Buffoone) entertain'd the auditorie with a tedious abusive, sarcastical rhapsodie, most unbecoming the gravity of the universitie.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræ filius* [Title].

**TERRA FIRMA**, *subs. phr.* (B. E. and GROSE).—An estate in land.

**TERRIBLE BOY.** *See* ROARING BOY, adding quot. *infra.*

1609. JONSON, *Silent Woman*, i. 1. The doubtfulness of your phrase would breed you a quarrel once an hour with the TERRIBLE BOYS.

**TERTIAN**, *subs.* (Aberdeen Univ.).—A student of the third year.

**TESTER** (or **TESTON**), *subs.* (old).—1. A silver coin: orig. (*a*) the silver currency of Louis XII. of France (bearing the head of that prince, and worth (COTGRAVE) 18d. sterling); (*b*) the brass silvered shilling of Henry VIII. (worth, *temp.* Ed. VI., 9d.); and (*c*) the Elizabeth sixpence. Hence (2) a sixpence (GROSE): *see* TIZZY. As *verb* = to fee.

1577. HOLINSHED, *England*, 218. [Elizabeth] restored sundrie coines of fine silver, as peeces of halfepenie farding, of a penie, of three halfe pence, peeces of two pence, of three pence, of foure pence (called the groat), of sixpence, usuallie named the TESTONE.

1594. WILSON, *Cobler's Prophecy*. Tales, at some tables, are as good as TESTERNS.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*, i. 1. 153. You have TESTERNED me; in requital, whereof, henceforth carry your letters yourself. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Henry IV.*, iii. 2. Hold, there's a TESTER for thee.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, II. i. Lo, what it is that makes white rags so deare, That men must give a TESTON for a queare.

1599. JONSON, *Ev. Man Out of Humour*. 'Characters.' Takes up single TESTONS upon oaths till dooms-day, falls under executions of three shillings, and enters into five-groat bonds.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore.* Ipocras, there then, here's a TESTON for you, you snake.

1605. CHAPMAN, *Eastward Ho*, i. 1. Wipe thy bum with TESTONES, and make ducks and drakes with shillings.

1608. DAY, *Law Trickes*, iii. Win, prethee give the Fidler a TESTAR and send him packing.

1611. TARLETON, *Jests.* Tarlton, seeing himself so over-reacht, greatly commended the beggers wit, and withall, in recompence thereof, gave him a TEASTER.

1613. FLETCHER, *Honest Man's Fort.*, iii. 3. There's a TESTER . . . now I am a wooer, I must be bounteful.

1633. HEYWOOD, *Eng. Traveller*, iv. 5, 226 (Mermaid). Let not a TESTER scape To be consumed in rot-gut.

1636. DAVENANT, *Wits*, i. 1. Together with his wife's bracelet of mill-TESTERS.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, i. Who throws away a TESTER and a mistress loses sixpence.

1709. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, i. They say he that has lost his wife and sixpence has lost a TESTER.

1822. LAMB, *Chimney Sweepers.* If it be starving weather . . . thy humanity will surely rise to a TESTER.

1822. SCOTT, *Fort. Nigel*, xxvii. Dr R. who buckles beggars for a TESTER.

**TETBURY PORTION,** *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot., and *cf.* WHITECHAPEL TIPPERARY, and ROCHESTER PORTION, etc.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TETBURY PORTION. A . . . and a clap.

**TEVISS,** *subs.* (coster).—A shilling: *see* RHINO.

**TEXAS,** *subs.* (American).—The upper (or third) deck of a Mississippi steamboat. Hence TEXAS-TENDER = a waiter serving on the TEXAS.

1875. CLEMENS [*Atlantic Monthly*, Jan. and Feb.]. The boiler deck, the hurricane deck, and the TEXAS DECK are fenced and ornamented with white railings.

*Ibid.* We had a tidy, white-aproned, black TEXAS-TENDER to bring up tarts and ices and coffee during mid-watch day and night.

1877. HALE, *Adv. Pullman*, 45. His companion joined him, pausing a minute on the step-ladder which leads to the pilot-house from the roof of the TEXAS.

**THAMES. SETTING THE THAMES ON FIRE,** *phr.* (old).—A simile for the impossible: *see* quots.

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman.* C. vii. 335. Wickede dedes Fareth as a fonk of fuyr that ful a-myde TEMESE. [Wicked deeds fare as a spark of fire that falleth into the Thames.]

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs.* 'As well cast water in TEMS as give him alms.'

1672. RAY, *Proverbs.* 'Joculatory Proverbs.' I care no more for it than a goose-turd for the THAMES.

1777. FOOTE, *Trip to Calais.* He won't SET FIRE TO THE THAMES.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. THAMES. He will not find out a way TO SET THE THAMES ON FIRE; he will not make any wonderful discoveries, he is no conjuror.

1868. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. THAMES. An active man would ply the TEMSE so quickly as to set fire to the wooden hoop at the bottom; but a lazy fellow would never SET THE TEMSE ON FIRE. The play on the word temse has given rise to many imitations: as, He will never set the Seine on fire (the French *seine* = a drag-net).

1884. *Notes and Queries*, 6 S., ix. 14 (Correspondent). To a practical man a grain-riddle firing would sound most absurd. If you say to a Lancashire labourer, 'Tha'll ne'er SET TH' TEMS AFIRE,' a hundred to one he would understand the River Thames. *Ibid.* (Editorial). The ordinarily accepted supposition is that it is equivalent to saying that an idle fellow will not accomplish a miracle.

**THARBOROUGH.** *See* THIRDBOROUGH.

**THARY,** *verb.* (tramps').—To speak.

1891. CAREW, *Auto. Gipsy*, 412. You sonnied the bloke as THARIED you jist as the rattler was startin'. *Ibid.*, 419. I grannied some of what you were a-THARYIN' to your cousin.

**THAT,** *pron.* (euphemistic).—1. The *penis*: *see* PRICK; 2. the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; and (3) the virginity. Fr. *ça.*

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 227. 'Well, THAT'S gone!' as the girl said to the soldier in the park, when she lost her certificate from the Billericay Sunday-School.

AT THAT, *phr.* (American).—A pleonastic intensive.

1855. *Blackwood's Mag.*, Sept. 'Notes on North-Western States.' 'Liquor up, gentlemen.' We bowed. 'Let me introduce you to some of the most highly esteemed of our citizens.' We bowed again. 'Now then, Mister,' turning to the man at the bar, 'drinks round, and cobblers AT THAT.'

1859. BARTLETT, *Americanisms*, s.v. AT THAT. He's got a scolding wife, and an ugly one AT THAT.

1888. KEIGHLEY GOODCHILD, 'The Old Felt Hat.' So we'll drain the flowing bowl, 'Twill not jeopardise the soul, For it's only tea, and weak AT THAT.

**THATCH,** *subs.* (old).—Hair: spec. (*a*) the hair of the head; and (2) the pubic hair. Hence THATCHED HOUSE UNDER THE HILL=the female *pudendum*. *See* FLEECE and MONOSYLLABLE. As *verb*= to cover with (or wear) hair.

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Timon*, iv. 3. 144. THATCH your poor thin roofs With burdens of the dead.

1630. DRAYTON, *Muse's Elysium*, iv. Thro' the thick hair that THATCH'D their browes Their eyes upon me stared.

1772. STEVENS, *Songs Comic and Satyrical. The Thatched House Under the Hill* [Title].

**THATCHED-HEAD,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An Irishman: in contempt. [NARES: 'one wearing the hair matted together, as the native Irish in times past.']

1612. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Coxcomb*, ii. Ere ye go, sirrah THATCH'D-HEAD, would'st not thou Be whipp'd, and think it justice.

**THATCH-GALLOWS,** *subs. phr.* (old). — A worthless fellow (GROSE).

**THEG (or TEAICH) GEN,** *subs. phr.* (back slang).—Eight shillings; THEG (or TEAITCH) YANNEPS= eightpence.

**THERE,** *adv.* (common).—Colloquial for SMART (*q.v.*): *e.g.*, ALL THERE = (1) alert, first-rate, up to the mark, nothing wanting. Also TO GET THERE = (1) to achieve; and (2) TO MAKE ONE'S JACK (*q.v.*): also TO GET THERE WITH BOTH FEET.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. i. The slavey and her master—the surgeon and the resurrection-man— . . . they are ALL THERE.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. 220. He stayed . . . doing the grand and sucking the flats till the folks began to smoke him as not ALL THERE.

1880. *Punch*, 7 Aug., 59. ALL THERE! *Clerk* (*who has called to see the gas-meter*). 'Is yours a *wet*, or a *dry* meter, madam?' *Young Wife* (*who does not like to show ignorance*). 'Well, it *is* rather *damp*, I'm afraid!'

1883. PAYN, *Thicker than Water*, xx. It was his excusable boast . . . that when anything was wanted he was ALL THERE.

1887. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Mocassin*. He said as he'd been gambling, and was two hundred dollars ahead of the town. He GOT THERE WITH BOTH FEET at starting.

1888. *New York Herald*, 29 July. Although not a delegate he GOT THERE all the same.

1901. *Free Lance*, 27 Ap., 79. 1. She was ALL THERE, and when she found that robbery was meant she made a stout resistance.

**THETA.** TO MARK WITH THETA, *verb. phr.* (old).—To condemn to death. [The first letter ('the unlucky letter') of Gr. *θάνατος*= death.]

**THICK,** *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. Generic for obtuseness: *e.g.*, as *subs.*=stupid fellow; a block-

head: also THICK-HEAD, THICK-SKULL, THICK-PATE, THICK SCONCE, THICK-SKIN, THICK-WITS, etc. The corresponding adjectival forms = dull, stupid, hidebound.

1582. STANYHURST, *Ded.* [ARBER], 9. What thinck you of thee THICK SKYN that made this . . .

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, iii. 2. 13. The shallowest THICK-SKIN of that barren sort. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. 262. He a good wit? hang him, baboon! his wit's as THICK as Tewkesbury mustard.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, i. 8. THICK-SKIN ears, and undiscerning eyne.

1603. HAYWARD, *Answer to Doleman*, iv. I omit your THICK errour in putting no difference between a magistrate and a king.

*c.* 1616. DRAYTON, *Sacrifice to Apollo.* The THICK-BRAIN'D audience lively to awake.

1668. DRYDEN, *All for Love*, iii. 1. This THICK-SKULLED hero. (1679), *Persius*, i. 166. Pleas'd to hear their THICK-SKULLED judges cry, Well movd!

*d.* 1718. PENN, *Liberty of Conscience*, v. What if you think our reasons THICK, and our ground of separation mistaken.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. vii. I told you how it would be. What a THICK I was to come!

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 75. She was THICK . . . fairly sosselled on beer.

2. (common).—Porter: ironically said to be 'a decoction of brewers' aprons.'

3. (streets').—Cocoa.

*Adj.* (colloquial).—1. Intimate or (Scots) 'chief': *e.g.*, 'As THICK AS THIEVES,' 'as THICK AS INKLE-WEAVERS,' *q.v.* (GROSE).

1525–37. ELLIS, *Letters* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 475. We see the expression] the THICKEST OF THE THEVES.

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, 68. I told the second mate, with whom I had been pretty THICK when he was before the mast, that I would do it.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, i. 270. He . . . was thought to be THICK with the Man in the Moon.

1854–5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxiv. Newcome and I are not very THICK together.

1860. ELIOT, *Mill on the Floss*, ii. 6. Don't you be getting too THICK with him—he's got his father's blood in him too.

*Adv.* (colloquial).—Out of the common; extraordinary; a general intensive (in quot. 1563 = solid). Hence TO LAY IT ON THICK = to exaggerate; to surfeit with praise: also TO LAY IT ON WITH A TROWEL: *cf.* WIDE; GOT 'EM THICK = very drunk: *see* SCREWED; A BIT THICK = rather indecent.

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* [CATTLEY], 260. [Something cost] a hundred pounds THICK.

1655. FULLER, *Ch. Hist.* III., iv. 24. His reign was not onely long for continuance, fifty-six years, but also THICK for remarkable mutations happening therein.

1874. *Siliad*, 204. He complains I LAY IT ON TOO THICK.

1885. *New York Herald*, 22 June. The Know-Nothings were . . . LAYING IT ON THICK that 'Americans shall rule America.'

1888. WARD, *Elsmere*, xviii. He had been giving the squire a full and particular account . . . Henslowe LAYS IT ON THICK—paints with a will.

1893. EMERSON, *Lippo*, xvi. She knew all the cant, and used to palaver THICK to the slaveys.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 63. The exercise required of him was THICK. *Ibid.*, 76. The fun . . . was the THICKEST I've met. *Ibid.*, 95. I've got 'em THICK he said . . . And . . . went upstairs to bed.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN, *phr.* (colloquial).—Thoroughly; steadily; at all costs. Hence THICK-AND-THIN (*adj.*) = sincere, OUT-AND-OUT (*q.v.*). [Orig. over rough or smooth places; *i.e.*, through coppice or sparse land.]

1359. GAYTRIGG, *Relig. Pieces* [E.E.T.S.], 99. [Fiends will not cease] FOR THIN NE THIK.

1380. *Kyng and Hermyt* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, i. 15. And chasyd hym ryght fast, Both THOROW THYKE AND THINE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Reeves Tale,' 146. Forth with 'We hee,' THURGH THIKKE AND THURGH THENNE.

1590. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, III. iv. 46. THROUGH THICK AND THIN . . . Those two great champions did attonce pursew The fearefull damzell.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. II. iii. 1. If once enamoured . . . THROUGH THICK AND THIN he will go to her.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 5. THRO' THICK AND THIN; Half-roasted now, now wet to th' Skin.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 7. THROUGH THICK AND THIN he swore he'd dash on.

*c.* 1780. CAPTAIN MORRIS, *The Plenipo.* THROUGH THICK AND THROUGH THIN he bored his way in.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 237. One of those spoiled actors who are applauded THROUGH THICK AND THIN.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 10. Yet swear THROUGH THICK AND THIN they hate thee.

1860–5. MOTLEY, *Hist. Netherlands*, II. 311. To lie daily, THROUGH THICK AND THIN . . . was the simple rule prescribed by his sovereign.

1887. *St James's Gazette*, 26 May. We again see that he is one of the most THICK-AND-THIN adherents of the neo-French technique.

**THICKER**, *subs.* (Harrow).—Thucydides: the translation of which is set in the Upper School.

**THICKLIPS**, *subs.* (old).—A negro (in quot. = a Moor). Whence THICK-LIPPED.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Tit. Andron.*, iv. 3. 175. Come on, you THICK-LIPP'D slave. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, i. 1. 66. What a full fortune does the THICK LIPS owe, If he can carry't thus.

**THICK-'UN**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A sovereign; 20s.: also a crown piece; 5s. Hence TO SMASH (=change) or BLUE A THICK-'UN.

1863. *Cornhill Mag.*, vi. 648. If you like . . . I will send a few THICKUNS.

1871. AITKEN, *House Scraps.* Have you sufficient confidence in me to lend me a sovereign? Oh! yes, I've the confidence, but I haven't the THICK 'UN'.

1886. P. CLARKE, *New Chum in Australia*, 143. If . . . he has a drought within him, and a friend or a THICK 'UN to stand by him, he is a poor weak . . . fool to refuse.

1888. PAYN, *Eavesdropper*, II. ii. 'Can you smash a THICK-'UN for me?' inquired one, handing his friend a sovereign.

1896. FARJEON, *Betrayal of John Fordham*, III. 277. With three peas and a thimble I've earnt many a THICK 'UN.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 26. He wanted his THICK 'UN to canter home with forty or fifty more.

**THIEF**, *subs.* (old).—A term of reproach: not necessarily a robber. Thus (GROSE): 'You are a murderer and a THIEF, you have killed a baboon and stolen his face; vulgar abuse.'

1440. *Sir Perceval* [Camden Soc.], 923. Fiftene 3eres es it gane Syne me my brodire hade slane, Now hadde the THEEFE undirtane, To sla us alle thenne.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.*, v. 1. 40. Angelo is an adulterous THIEF.

2. (old).—A mushroom growth on a burning wick which makes the candle gutter; a waster: *see* BISHOP (GROSE)

[1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Fungo*, that firy round in a burning candle called a BISHOP.]

1622. MAY, *Virgil*, 'Georgic,' i. Their burning lamps the storm ensuing show, Th' oil sparkles, THIEVES about the snuff do grow.

*d.* 1635. GIBBES, *Works*, iv. 355. Many break themselves by intemperate courses, as candles that have THIEVES in them.

1636. WARD, *Coal from the Altar* [*Sermons*]. The least known evil unrepented of is as a THIEF IN THE CANDLE.

1642. HOWELL, *Forraine Travell* [ARBER], 77. If there bee a THEEFE IN THE CANDLE . . . there is a way to pull it out; and not to put out the candle.

1644. QUARLES, *Judgment and Mercy* (1807), 132. If a THIEF be IN HIS CANDLE blow it not out.

1669. BROOKS, *Cabinet of Choice Jewels* (*Works*, iii. 295). A CANDLE will never burn clear while there is a THIEF in it.

*d.* 1797. WALPOLE, *Letters* (CUNNINGHAM), ii. 200. Un voleur! un voleur! cried Mrs Nugent at an assembly. It turned out to be a THIEF IN THE CANDLE.

2. (provincial).—A bramble: *cf.* BRAMBLE = country lawyer, keeping in mind the A.S. *thefe-thorn* = bramble.

3. SYNONYMS FOR THIEF [= a person guilty of larceny, robbery, swindling, or crookedness of any kind: the following list runs up and down the whole gamut of roguery].

Aaron; abacter; abaddon; abandanad; abraham-cove; ack-man; ack-pirate; acquisitive cove; Adam; Adam Filer; adept; affidavit-man; afflicke; alsatian; ambidexter; amuser; anabaptist; angler; angling-cove; arch-cove; arch-dell; arch-doxy (GROSE); arch-gonnof; arch-rogue; area-sneak; ark-pirate; ark-ruff; artful-dodger; autem-diver; avoirdupois-man.

Babe; back-jumper; back-stall; badger; baggage-smasher; baldover; bank-sneak; barabbas; barnacle; baster; beak; beaker-hauler; beaker-hunter; bearer-up; beau-trap (GROSE); bene-feaker; bene-gybe; bester; bilk (SHERIDAN); bilker; Billy Buzman; billy-fencer; birdlime; bite; bit-faker; bit-make; black-leg; blasted-fellow; bleating-cull; blowed-in-the-glass-stiff (American tramps'); bludger; bludget; blue-pigeon flyer; bluey-hunter; bob; bobby-twister; bonnet; boodler; bookkeeper; bouncer; boung-nipper; bow-man; bridle-cull; brief-snatcher; broad cove; broadsman; bubber; bubble; bubbler; budge; buffer; buffer-napper; bugger; bug-hunter; bulk; bulk-and-file; bull-trap; bully-buck; bully-cock; bunco-steerer; bunco-man; bung; bung-napper; bunter; burner; buster; buttock-and-file; button; buttoner; buz-bloke; buz-cove; buz-faker; buzman; buzzer; buzzlock.

Canter (CANTING CREW = generic for thieves, rogues, and beggars); Captain Sharp; carrier: cat-and-kitten nipper; chariot-buzzer; charley-pitcher; chaunting-cove; chive or (chiff) thief; chouse; chouser; christener; circling-boy; clank-napper; clicker; clink-rigger; cloak-twitcher; clouter; cloy; cloyer; cly-filcher; cogger; collector; colt; cork; convey-ancer; conveyor; coney-catcher; counterfeit-crank; cover; coverer; crack; cracks-man; crony; crook; cross-bite; cross-biter; cross-famker; crib-cracker; cross; cross-cove; crossman; cross-mollisher; crow; cruiser; cunning-man; curtall; cut-purse; cutter.

Damber (GROSE); damned soul; dancer; darkman's budge; dead-nap; deeker; deep-one; diddler; dimber-damber (GROSE); ding-boy; dinger; dip; dipper; dipping-bloke; dive; diver; dog-buffer; dragsman; drag-sneak; draw-latch; drop-cove; dropper; dromedary; drummer; drunken tinker; dubber; dudder; duffer; dummerer; dummy-hunter; dunaker.

Eriff; eves-dropper (GROSE).

Facer; fagger; family (generic); father; fawney-rigger; fence; fencing-cully; ferret; fiddle; fidlam-bens; figger; filcher; filching-cove; filching-mort; file; finder; finger-smith; fire-prigger; fish-hook; flash-cove; flashman (GROSE); flash-gentry (generic); flat-catcher; fleecer; flimper; flying-cove; fobber; fogle-hunter; foist; foot-pad; fore-beggar; fork; forker; frater; free-booker; free-booter; freshwater-warmer; frisker; funker.

Gagger; gallows-bird; gambler (GROSE); garreteer; garrotter; geach; gentleman of the road; gentleman's master; gentry (generic); gilt; gin-spinner; glasier; gleaner; glimmerer; gold-dropper; gonnof; goodfellow; grafter; Greek; groaner; gun; gutter-prowler.

Hawk; heaver; hedge-creeper; highpad; high-tober (or toby); hoist; hoister (or hoyster); hook; hooker; hoveller; Hugh Prowler.

Ingler; innocent; int; Irish toyle (B. E.).

Jack-in-a-box; Janus-mug; jarkman; jerry-sneak; Jew; jilter; jingler; jockey; jumper.

Ken-cracker; ken-miller; kiddy (GROSE); kiddy-nipper; kidsman; kinchin-cove; kite; kirk-buzzer; kitchener; klep; knap; knight; knight of the road; knight of St Nicholas; knowing one; knuck; knuckler.

Ladrone; lag; landloper; landlubber; landpirate; land-shark; lark; latch-drawer; leatherhead; leg; legger; lift; lifter; little-sneaksman; lob-crawler; lob-sneak; lully-prigger; lumberer; lumper.

Mace-cove; magsman (MAYHEW, MATSELL, HENLEY); maker; mill-ben; money-dropper; mounter; mocher.

Nabber; nabbler; nailer; napper; nasty-man; natty-lad; needle; needle-point; Newgate-bird (or nightingale); Newmarket-heath Commissioner; nibbler; nibbling-cull; nicker; nick-pot; nickum; night-bird (cap, hawk, hunter, poacher, snap, trader or walker); nigler (=a sweater); nimmer; nip; nipping Christian; nobbler; nob-pitcher; nose (GROSE).

Office-sneak; old bird (or hand); olli compolli; ostler; out-and-outer; outrider.

Pad; pad-borrower; padder; paddist; palmer; panel dodger; panel-thief; pannyman; parlour-jumper; pea-rigger; pea-man; peter (=a safe thief); peter-biter; peter-claimer; peter-hunter; peterman; picaro; picaroon; picker; picker-up; pickereer; pick-penny; pick-pocket; pie-man; pigeon; pinch-gloak; pitch-fingers; poacher; pocket-book dropper; poulterer; practitioner; prig; prigger; prig-man; Prince Prig; prinado; prowler (or Hugh Prowler); propnailer; pudding-snammer; puller-up; purple dromedary; puffer; puggard; push (generic); pushing tout.

Quarrel picker; queer bail (or bird); queer-bit-maker; queer bluffer; queer cole fencer; queer cole maker; queer plunger; queer-prancer; queer shover.

Ramper (ramp, or rampsman); ranger; rank-rider; rapparee; rascal (GROSE); reader-hunter; reader-merchant; repeater and revolver (American tramps'); resurrectionist; ring-dropper; ring-faller; river-rat; road-agent; roberd's-man (or knave); rob-thief; rogue; rook; rover; royal scamp; royal foot-scamp; rumbler; runner; running glasier; running-snavel.

Saint Peter's son; St Nicholas's clerk; St Nicholas's clergyman; salter; satyr (=cattle thief); sawny-hunter; scamp; scamps-man; screwsman; scuffle-hunter; setter; shark; sharp; sharper; shaver; sheep-biter; sheep-napper; sheep-shearer; she-napper; shifter; shoful-pitcher; shop-bouncer; shop-lift; shop-lifter; shoulderer; shoulder-sham; shover; shark; shutter-racket worker; shyce; shyster; silk-snatcher; silver cooper; skylarker; slink; smasher; smugger; snabbler; snaffle; snaffler; snaggler; snakesman; snammer; snap; snapper; snapper-up; snatch-cly; snatcher; sneak; sneak-thief; sneaking-budge; sneaksman; sneck-drawer; sneeze-lurker; snick-fudger; snide-pitcher; snow-dropper; snow-gatherer; snudge; soaper; sourplanter; son of St Peter; spice-gloak; stall (or stale); stallsman; stander-up; standing-budge; stook-hauler; sutler; swags-man; sweetener; swigman; swim-mer; swindler.

Tail-buzzer; thimble-rigger; thimble-twister; till-sneak; tinny-hunter; toby-gill; toby-man; tool; tooler; top-sawyer; tosher; toy-getter; tradesman; traveller; tripper-up; Tyburn-blossom.

Uncorn; unregenerate; up-right-man.

Vamper; village bustler; voucher.

Walking poulterer; watch-maker; waterpad; water-sneak; water-sneaksman; welcher; wheedle; whipster; whispering dudder; whyo; wild rogue; wipe-drawer; workman; wrong 'un.

Ziff.

**THIEF-TAKERS,** *subs.* (old).—'Fellows who associate with all kinds of villains, in order to betray them, when they have committed any of those crimes which entitle the persons taking them to a handsome reward, called blood money. It is the business of these thief-takers to furnish subjects for a handsome execution at the end of every sessions' (GROSE). Also (B. E.), 'who make a Trade of helping People (for a gratuity) to their lost Goods, and sometimes for Interest or Envy snapping the Rogues themselves; being usually in fee with them and acquainted with their Haunts.'

**THIEVES.** THIEVES' LATIN, *subs. phr.* (old).—The cant terms and slang used by thieves; ST GILES' GREEK; PEDDLAR'S FRENCH (*q.v.*) etc.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho.* '"Go away," I heard her say, . . . And then something about a "queer cuffin," that's a justice in these carters' THIEVES' LATIN.'

THE MURDERING THIEVES, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Military Train; the title from 1857 to 1860 of The Army Service Corps.

Other nicknames (also derived from the initials) are The London Thieving Corps (1855–7); The Moke Train (1857–60), etc.

SAFE AS A THIEF IN A MILL, *phr.* (old).—Very secure.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, iii. 9. There she may lodge, and trade too if she will, As sure and SAFE AS THEEVES ARE IN A MILL.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. iv. Your gaol birds . . . are as SAFE AS THIEVES IN A MILL within this sanctuary.

**THIEVING-IRONS,** *subs. thr.* (old).—Scissors.

**THIMBLE,** *subs.* (old).—A watch; a YACK (*q.v.*): hence THIMBLE-TWISTER=a watch thief; THIMBLE AND SLANG=watch and chain (GROSE, VAUX).

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, III. v. With my THIMBLE [watch] of ridge.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 138. Obtained in the form of silver money and a watch and chain, or, in thieves' language, 'white lot' and THIMBLE AND SLANG.

KNIGHT OF THE THIMBLE, *subs. phr.* (common).—A tailor: *see* TRADES.

1838. GRANT, *Sketches in London*, III. 119. You'll do what, sir? observed the Man with the Mackintosh, eyeing the KNIGHT OF THE THIMBLE steadily.

**THIMBLED,** *adj.* (old).—Arrested; laid by the heels (BEE).

THIMBLE AND BODKIN ARMY, *subs. phr.* (old).—The Parliamentary Army: in contempt.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, II. 3. The nobles [were] profuse in their contributions of plate for the service of the king at Oxford, while on the parliamentary side the subscriptions of silver offerings included even such little personal articles as those that suggested the term THE THIMBLE AND BODKIN ARMY.

**THIMBLEFUL,** *subs.* (old).—A small quantity; as much as may be contained in a thimble: spec. a dram of spirits.

1690. DRYDEN, *Amphityron*, iv. 1. Yes, and measure for measure . . . a THIMBLEFULL of gold for a THIMBLEFULL of love.

1709. WARD, *Clubs* (1756), 16. Refusing all Healths, each taking off his THIMBLEFULL . . . paying . . . what himself calls for.

1886. *D. Tel.*, 11 Sep. Had the credit of suggesting the addition of a THIMBLEFUL of Veuve Cliquot.

**THIMBLE-PIE,** *subs. phr.* (women's).—Rapping the head with a thimbled finger.

**THIMBLE-RIG,** *subs.* (common).—A sharping trick: a pea placed on a table is quickly covered, in irregular succession, by three small cups, the operator betting against the discovery of the pea; as this is easily 'palmed,' a successful guess is at the option of the sharper and only allowed for the due 'landing' of the victim. Hence such derivatives as THIMBLE-RIG (or -MAN), THIMBLE-RIGGING, and as *verb.*

1835. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*, vii. I will appear to know no more of you than one of the cads of the THIMBLE-RIG knows of the pea-holder.

1841. *Blackwood's Mag.*, l. 202. Buttoners are those accomplices of THIMBLE-RIGGERS . . . whose duty it is to act as flat-catchers or decoys, by personating flats.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxxvii. Tom's evil genius did not . . . mark him out as the prey of ring-droppers, pea and THIMBLE RIGGERS, . . . or any of those bloodless sharpers, who are . . . better known to the police.

1851–61. H. MAYHEW, *London Lab. and Lon. Poor*, III. 121. Then the THIMBLE-RIGGER turns to the crowd, and pretends to be pushing them back, and one of the confederates, who is called a 'button,' lifts up one of the THIMBLES with a PEA under it, and laughs to those around, as much as to say, 'We've found it out.' Abridged.]

1864. *Glasgow Daily Mail*, 9 May. All kinds of cheats, and THIMBLE-RIGGERS, and prigs.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. iv. A merry blue-eyed boy, fresh from Eton, who could do THIMBLE-RIG, prick the garter, bones with his face blacked, and various other accomplishments.

1877. GREENWOOD, *Dick Temple*. The poor trumpery beggars — converted clowns, and dog-stealers, and tramps, and THIMBLE-RIGGERS—a poor out-at-elbows crew.

1883. J. BURROUGHS [*Century Mag.*, xxvii. 926]. The explanation of these experts is usually only clever THIMBLE-RIGGING.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 15 Mar. THIMBLE-RIGGERS abounded, and their tables were surrounded by 'bonnets.'

**THIN**, *adj.* (colloquial).—One or two modern usages of THIN verge on the colloquial: *e.g.*, a THIN (=poor) EXCUSE; a THIN (=gutless) PLAY; a THIN (=trashy) NOVEL; TOO THIN (or T. T.)= frivolous, inadequate, insufficient to deceive, etc. Also (proverbial), 'As THIN as a lath'; 'As THIN as the last run of shad.'

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, v. 3. 125. You were ever good at sudden commendations . . . now . . . they are TOO THIN and bare to hide offences.

1734. POPE, *Satires*, 93. Throned in the centre of his THIN designs.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, xxvi. This pretext was TOO THIN to impose upon her lover.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, i. *Sneak.* You see . . . I am almost as THIN AS A LATH. *Bruin.* An absolute skeleton.

1889. *Mod. Soc.*, 13 July, 852. 'Christopher's Honeymoon,' by M. Malcolm Watson, produced at the Strand, on Wednesday, is not wholly bad, but it is TOO THIN.

**THIN RED LINE (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders): of the 2nd battalion, late The 93rd Foot.

1901. FARMER, *Regimental Records of the British Army*, 207. Who amongst us does not remember, or who has not heard of that 'THIN RED LINE' drawn up by Colin Campbell to resist the onslaught of the Russian horse at Balaclava? how the 93rd stood their ground, successfully stemming, and finally repulsing that memorable charge? how it alone of all regiments of foot enjoys the proud distinction of 'Balaclava' on its colours?

**THING**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. In familiar usage (admiration, pity, scorn, or endearment)=a living creature, male or female: *e.g.*, SWEET THING (an old endearment); a POOR THING (a pitiful object); 'YOU THING!'; a THING OF A MAN (contemptuously: also A THING TO THANK GOD ON (SHAKSPEARE); a MERE THING in one's hands=a puppet, a nonentity; ALL THAT SORT OF THING=hardly worth notice, NO CLASS (*q.v.*), etc., etc.

*c.* 1440. *Eglamour* [Camden Soc.], 616. Seyde Organata that SWETE THYNGE, Y schalle geve the a gode golde rynge, Wyth a fulle ryche stone.

, . . *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. ii. 38. f. 176. Gye starte to that maydyn 3ynge, And seyde, Make no dole, my SWETE THYNGE.

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* [E. E. T. S], 262. [A beggar is called] 'a POURE THING.'

*d.* 1536. TYNDALE, *Works*, ii. 120. [Tyndale speaks of Christ as] 'a THING soft and gentle.'

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 270. Augustus beyng yet a YOUNG THING vnder mannes state.

1565. ASCHAM, *Schoolmaster* (1711), i. 42. If he be bashful, and will soon blush, they call him a babish and ill brought up THING.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, iii. 3. 129. For womanhood Maid Marian may be the deputy's wife of the ward to thee; go, YOU THING, go.

1633. FORD, *Broken Heart*, ii. 3. THING of talk, begone! Begone without reply.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. v. 24. You little Thingum of a THING.

2. (venery).—(*a*) The *penis*: *see* PRICK; (*b*) the *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Hence (GROSE) 'Mr Thingstable, a ludicrous affectation for Mr CONSTABLE.' Fr. *chose.*

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, v. 1. Sure he ha' got some bawdy pictures . . .; or the new motion Of the knight's courser covering the parson's mare; The boy of six years old with the great THING.

*d.* 1631. DONNE, *Satires*, vi. [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, v. 160. 2]. I found him thoroughly taught In curing burns. His THING had had more scars Than T . . . himself.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. Madam, do you cut little children's THINGS? Were his cut off, he would be then Monsieur Sans-queue.

1700. FARQUHAR, *Constant Couple*, iv. 3. *Lady L.* And what shall I give you for such a fine thing [a ring]? *Sir H.* You'll give me another, you'll give me another fine THING.

17[?]. POPE, *Sober Advice from Horace* (WARTON, vi.). Did I demand in my most vigorous hour A THING descended from the Conqueror ('*Magno prognatum deposco connile cunnum*')?

1707. WARD, *Terræfilius*, i. v. 7. Pray Mr Whorehound of a THINGSTABLE. . . .

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 62. [She] hated Paris in her heart, Because he'd seen her shady spring, And did not think it was ***THE*** THING . . . no matter whether They'd singly shew'd or both together.

3. (colloquial).—In *pl.* = (*a*) belongings; STICKS (*q.v.*); TRAPS (*q.v.*); and (*b*) clothes: as in the phrase 'Put on your THINGS.'

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Second Nun's Tale,' 540. And hem she yaf hire mebles and hire THING.

*c.* 1400. *Towneley Myst.* [Camden Soc.], 47. [OLIPHANT, *New. Eng.*, i. 200. Property appears as] our THYNGES.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, iv. 3. Ruffs and cuffs and farthingales and THINGS.

1775. SHERIDAN, *Duenna*, i. 3. I suppose you don't mean to detain my apparel—I may have my THINGS, I presume?

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, iv. By this time the heroine of the adventure has gathered up her 'THINGS.'

THE THING, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. What is right, proper, becoming, fashionable, etc.

1759–62. GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*, lxxvii. It is at once rich, tasty, and quite THE THING.

1781. JOHNSON [BOSWELL, *Life*, viii. 64]. A bishop's calling company together in this week is, to use the vulgar phrase, not THE THING.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 136. Young men of fashion are THE THING for me.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, xii. It is quite delightful, ma'am, to see young people so properly happy, so well suited, and so much THE THING.

1823. *Song* [quoted by BEE in *Dict. Turf*]. I know I'm THE THING, And I wish I may swing, If I arn't now a nice natty crop.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iii. 5. Just twig his swell kicksies and pipes; if they ain't THE THING, I'm done.

1863. DORAN, *Their Majesties' Servants*, i. 182. It was THE THING to look upon the company unless some irresistible attraction drew attention to the stage.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, i. v. Tangible advantage was THE THING after all.

1873. ARNOLD, *Literature and Dogma*, Pref. [A state church] is in itself . . . unimportant. THE THING is to re-cast religion.

1882. *Punch*, lxxxii. 193. They had low foreheads, and had big buttonholes . . . it was 'THE THING' to wear.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Feb., 470. 2. By the time the boom was at its height it had become THE THING for ladies . . . to gamble in 'Chartereds,' and 'Goldfields,' and 'Simmers.'

2. (thieves').—In *pl.* = base coin.

*See* KNOW; SOFT; HANDSOME (adding quot. *infra*), and GOOD THING.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, i. 5. You see I'm doing THE HANDSOME THING by you, because my father knows yours.

**THINGUMBOB**, *subs.* (common).—1. Used for the proper name of a person or thing, (*a*) when forgotten; or (*b*) when it is not desired to specifically name. Variants are numerous: *e.g.*, THINGUMAJIG, THINGUM, THINGUMMY, THINGAMY, THINGUMBEE, THING-A-MERRY, THINGUMMITE, THINGOMIGHTUM, etc. (GROSE and BEE). *See* JIGGUMBOB and WHAT'S-ITS-NAME.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Pickle*, ii. In a laced doublet and THINGUMBOBS at the wrists.

1831. LYTTON, *Eug. Aram*, i. ii. You will then see in the middle of a broad plain a lonely grey house, with a THINGUMBOB at the top: a 'servatory they call it.

1861. THACKERAY, *Philip*, i. 101. What a bloated aristocrat THINGAMY has become since he got his place.

1883. *Century Mag.*, xxxvii. 913. He got ther critter propped up an' ther THINGERMAJIG stropped on ter 'im.

1890. JAMES, *Prin. of Psychology*, i. 463. A polyp would be a conceptual thinker if a feeling of 'Hollo! THINGUMBOB again!' ever flitted through its mind.

2. (venery).—Euphemistic for (*a*) the *penis*: *see* PRICK; and (*b*) the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Also (3) in *pl.* = the *testes*: *see* CODS.

**THIN-GUTS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A starveling.

1631. MASSINGER, *Believe as You List*, iii. 2. Thou THIN-GUT!

**THINK.** *See* PENNY; SMALL BEER.

**THIN-'UN**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A half sovereign; 10s.; *cf.* THICK-'UN.

**THIRDING**, *subs.* (University).—A custom practised at the Universities, where two-thirds of the original price is allowed by the upholsterers to the students for household goods returned to them within the year (*Gradus ad Cantab*, 1803).

**THIRTEEN** (or **THIRTEENER**), *subs.* (old).—An Irish shilling = 13d.: also THIRTEEN.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Coronation.' For the Earl of Surrey, all in his hurry, Throwing the THIRTEENS, hit him in his eye.

1847. THACKERAY, *George de Barnwell* [*Punch*, Ap. 3 to 17]. By Wood's THIRTEENERS, and the devil go wid 'em.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 484. It was a shillin' he gave me . . . I niver heard it called a THIRTEENER before, but mother has.

1886. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. i. 77. Colloquially it [the Irish shilling current prior to 1825–6] continued to be called a THIRTEEN . . . so late as 1835 to my knowledge.

**THIRTEEN CLEAN SHIRTS**, *subs. phr.* (prison).—Three months' imprisonment.

**THIRTEEN-PENCE HALFPENNY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Hangman's wages (GROSE).

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore*, ii. [*Works* (1873), ii. 171]. Why should I eate hempe-seed at the hangman's THIRTEEN-PENCE-HALFE-PENNY ordinary?

1608. DAY, *Humour out of Breath*, F 3. If I shold, he could not hang me for't; 'tis not worth THIRTEEN PENCE HALFPENNY.

1633. ROWLEY, *Match at Midnight* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), vii. 357]. 'Sfoot, what a witty rogue was this to leave this fair THIRTEEN PENCE HALFPENNY, and this old halter, intimating aptly, Had the hangman met us there, by these presages, Here had been his work, and here his wages.

1659. *Hangman's last Will* [*Notes and Queries*, 2 S xi. 316]. For half THIRTEEN PENCE HALFPENNY wages I would have cleared out all the town cages.

**THIRTY-POUND KNIGHT** *subs. phr.* (old).—A creation of James I. [NARES: 'He created the order of baronet, which he disposed of for a sum of money; and it seems that he sold common knighthood as low as THIRTY POUNDS, or at least it was so reported.'

1605. CHAPMAN, *Eastward Ho* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iv. 261. Farewell, farewell; we will not know you for shaming of you. I ken the man well; he is one of my THIRTY-POUND KNIGHTS.

**THOKE**, *subs.* (Winchester College and prov.).—Rest: spec. lying in bed. Hence as *verb*=to lie in bed late. THOKESTER=an idler; THOKY (or THOKISH)=idle. Also TO THOKE UPON=to anticipate with pleasure: *e.g.*, 'I'm THOKING on next week; what a THOKE it will be, with a Leave-out day, a Hatch-THOKE, and a half remedy' (WRENCH).

1899. *Public School Mag.*, Dec., 465. He attributed his success—or, at any rate, his long survival—to the art of THOKING: . . . which he had laboriously acquired during his first years of office.

**THOMAS.** MAN (or JOHN-) THOMAS, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK (URQUHART).

1619. FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas.* My MAN THOMAS did me promise He would visit me to-night.

**THOMAS COURTEOUS**, *subs. phr.* (old). — A churl [TYNDALE, *Works*, ii. 182].

**THORNBACK**, *subs.* (old). — 'An old Maid; also a well-known Fish, said to be exceedingly Provocative' (B. E. and GROSE). [*Cf.* Scots, *maiden-skate* = the thornback, *Raia clavata.*]

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 186. You were always very careful of your lord's health, and never brought anything to his embraces but unpenetrated maids, or very sound THORNBACKS.

**THORNS.** TO BE (or SIT) UPON THORNS, *verb. phr.* (old). — To be uneasy, anxious, impatient (GROSE).

1555. CAVENDISH, *Cardinal Wolseley* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 533. There are the phrases] SIT ON THORNS . . . broken English . . . etc.

**THOROUGH CHURCHMAN**, *subs. phr.* (GROSE).—'A person who goes in at one door of a church, and out at the other, without stopping.

**THOROUGH-COUGH**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'Coughing and breaking wind backwards at the same time' (B. E. and GROSE).

**THOROUGH-GO-NIMBLE**, *subs.* (old). — An attack of the SQUITTERS (*q.v.*); a BACK-DOOR TROT (*q.v.*). Also JERRY-GO-NIMBLE (*q.v.*) (GROSE and HALLIWELL).

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, 'Pant. Prog.,' iii. Those who are troubled with the THOROUGH-GO-NIMBLE, or wild-squirt, will often prostitute their blind-cheeks to the bog-house.

**THOROUGH-PASSAGE**, *subs. phr.* (B. E.).—'In at one ear, and out at t'other.'

**THOROUGH-STITCH.** *See* THROUGH-STITCH.

**THOUSAND.** ANOTHER THOUSAND A YEAR! *phr.* (common). — A pledge in drinking: also ANOTHER TEN THOUSAND A YEAR — any sum indeed.

*See* BRICKS and UPPER TEN.

**THRAPPLE**, *subs.* (old). — The throat: also THROPPLE. *See* GUTTER-ALLEY.

**THREAD.** TO SPIN A GOOD THREAD, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). —To succeed.

TO THREAD THE NEEDLE, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To possess a woman: *see* RIDE.

**THREAD-AND-THRUM,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Everything; all: even to the fringe of threads left on the loom when the web has been removed.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, v. 1. 291. O Fates, come, come; Cut THREAD AND THRUM.

**THREADNEEDLE ST.** *See* OLD LADY.

**THREAD-PAPER.** *See* HOP-POLE.

**THREE.** ONE (or TWO'S) COMPANY —THREE'S NONE! *phr.* (colloquial).—A suggestion to a second or third party that 'their room is preferred before their company.'

1430. *Babees Book* [E. E. T. S.], 307. Be not THE THRYD FELAW for wele ne wo; Thre oxen in plowgh may never wel drawe.

CUBE OF THREE, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1705-6. HEARNE, Jan. 30 [*Reliquiæ*, i. 93]. The great health now is, The CUBE OF THREE, which is the number 27, *i.e.*, the number of the protesting lords.

THREE TIMES THREE! *phr.* (colloquial). — Three cheers, thrice repeated.

1850. TENNYSON, *In Memoriam*, Concl. Again the feast, the speech, the glee. . . . The crowning cup, the THREE TIMES THREE.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 6. I must give you a toast to be drunk with THREE TIMES THREE and all the honours.

TO PLAY THREE TO ONE, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE. Also TO PLAY THREE TO ONE AND SURE TO LOSE (GROSE).

[?]. *Old Song.* 'As I cam o'er the Cairney Mount' [BURNS, *Merry Muses* (*c.* 1800), 45]. A famous battle then began, Wi' equal courage and desire, Altho' he struck me THREE TO ONE.

*See* SHEET.

**THREE BALLS.** THE SIGN OF THE THREE BALLS (BRASS, GOLDEN or BLUE BALLS), *phr.* (old).—A pawnbroker's: *see* UNCLE.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*, xvi. He at length unbuckled his hanger, and, showing me the SIGN OF THE THREE BLUE BALLS, desired me to carry it thither and pawn it for two guineas.

*c.* 1845. HOOD, *Pawning Watch*, ix. I've gone to a dance for my supper; And now must go to THREE BALLS!

1861. SALA, *Twice Round Clock*, 180. The brethren of the THREE GOLDEN BALLS.

1880. SIMS, *Three Brass Balls* [Title].

**THREE-BY-NINE SMILE,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A broad laugh (? a pun on 'benign').

**THREE-CORNERED SCRAPER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A cocked hat.

**THREE-DECKER,** *subs.* (orig. nautical: now general).—1. A man-of-war carrying guns on three decks: whence (2) a piece of furniture, pulpit, etc., in three tiers (in a pulpit the *clerk's* place was at the bottom, the reading-desk on the second stage, and the pulpit highest of all); (3) a three-volume novel, or three-act play; and (4) a coat having three capes round the shoulders.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, xli. Before the gentlemen . . . could . . . settle the number of THREE-DECKERS now in commission, their companions were ready to proceed.

1855. TENNYSON, *Maud*, II. ii. 4. Cataract seas that snap The THREE-DECKER'S open spine.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 20 Oct. The modest pulpit of an English church is as yet a rarity, for the complicated and extensive 'THREE-DECKER' is still in use all over the country.

1888. W.S. OGDEN, *Antique Furniture*, 32. A THREE-DECKER sideboard, about 1700.

1896. KIPLING, *Seven Seas*, 'The Three-Decker' [Title *et passim*].

**THREE-DRAWS-AND-A-SPIT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A cigarette.

**THREE F'S (THE),** *subs. phr.* (political).—1. The demands of the Irish Land League: Free Sale, Fixity of Tenure, and Fair Rent: practically conceded by Mr Gladstone's Land Act (1881).

2. (vulgar).—'Fuck, Fun, and a Footrace.'

**THREE-LEGGED STOOL.** TO COMB ONE'S HEAD WITH A THREE-LEGGED STOOL (or JOINT-STOOL), *verb. phr.* (old).—A humorous threat of punishment. For quots. *see* COMB ONE'S HAIR.

**THREE TREES (THE),** *subs. phr.* (old).—The gallows (B. E. and GROSE). Also THREE-LEGGED STOOL; THREE-CORNERED TREE; THREE-LEGGED MARE (also TWO-LEGGED MARE, and MARE WITH THREE LEGS), THE TYBURN TREE, and TRIPLE TREE: *see* NUBBING-CHEAT. [Executions at Tyburn were abandoned in 1783, and thenceforward (in London) till 1868 took place in front of Newgate: *see* quot. 1785.]

1582. BRETON, *Toyes of an Idle Head*, 28. For commonly such knaues as these Doe end their lyves vpon THREE TREES.

1654. *Witts Recreations* [NARES]. And from the fruit of the THREE CORNER'D TREE, Vertue and goodness still deliver me.

1685. BROWN, *Works*, iv. 243. If your sadness does proceed from fear Of being mounted on a THREE-LEGG'D MARE.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. iv. Gaol birds . . . made to ride the TWO or THREE-LEGGED MARE that groans for them.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. THREE-LEGGED MARE. . . . This clumsy machine has given place to an elegant contrivance called the *new drop*, by which the use of that vulgar vehicle, a cart, or mechanical instrument a ladder, is also avoided; the patients being left suspended by the dropping down of that part of the floor on which they stand. This invention was first made use of for a peer.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, 'The Game of High Toby.' For the MARE WITH THREE LEGS, boys, I care not a rap.

189[?]. HENLEY, *Carmen Patibulare*. TREE, old TREE OF THE TRIPLE CROOK, And the Rope of the Black Election.

**THREE-OUT.** *See* OUT.

**THREE-PENNY (or THREE-HALFPENNY),** *adj. phr.* (old).—Common, vulgar; in little esteem; of little worth: *cf.* 'three-inch fool' (SHAKSPEARE, *Tam. Shrew*, iv 1). Hence THREE-PENNY PLANET=an unpropitious augury; THREE-HALFPENNY-HORSE-LOAF (in contempt of an undersized person).

*d.* 1555. LATIMER, *Remains* [PARKER], 29. [A curate's wages, nine or ten pounds may be earned by some] THREE-HALFPENNY priest.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Some men (being borne under a THREE-PENNY PLANET) can neither by paines, watching, labour, or any industry, be worth a groat.

**THREEPENNY UPRIGHT (or BIT)** (venery).—An act of coition taken standing with a threepenny whore: *cf.* PERPENDICULAR and KNEE-TREMBLER (GROSE).

**THREE-PLY,** *subs.* (American).—A Mormon having three wives.

**THREE-QUARTERS OF A PECK,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming). — The neck: amongst experts THREE QUARTERS and written '¾.'

**THREE STRIDE BUSINESS,** *subs. phr.* (hurdle-racers'). — Three strides between each hurdle: the crack style.

**THREE R'S (THE).** *subs. phr.* (common). — Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic; a jesting toast proposed by Sir William Curtis, Lord Mayor of London in 1795, at a dinner given by the Board of Education.

**THREE TENS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military). — The 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment, late The 30th Foot. Also The Triple X's.

**THREE SHEETS.** *See* SHEETS.

**THREESWINS,** *subs.* (old).—Three-pence.

**THREE-THREADS (or THIRDS),** *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—*See* quots.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. THREE-THREADS, half common Ale, and the rest Stout or Double Beer.

1698. SORBIÈRE, *Journey to London* [*Notes and Queries*, 6 S. xii. 167]. He answered me that he had a thousand such sorts of liquors, as . . . THREE THREADS, Four Threads, old Pharaoh . . .

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 286. Ezekiel Driver . . . with too plentiful a morning's draught of THREE-THREADS and old Pharaoh, had the misfortune to have his cart run over him.

1874. *Chambers' Encyclop.*, s.v. PORTER . . . THREE THREADS is a corruption of three thirds, and denoted a draught, once popular, made up of a third each of ale, beer, and 'two-penny,' in contradistinction to 'half-and-half.' This beverage was superseded in 1722 by the very similar porter or 'entire.'

1881. DAVIES, *Supplemental Glossary*, s.v. THREE-THREADS. Half common ale mixed with stale and double beer. [So also *Ency. Dict.*]

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. THREE . . . THREE THREADS, a mixture of three malt liquors, formerly in demand, as equal parts of ale, beer, and twopenny.

**THREE-UP,** *subs. phr.* (streets').—A gambling game. Three halfpennies are 'skied' to a call: if they do not 'fall' alike, the cry is void, and the operation is repeated. When the three coins 'come off' (*i.e.*, fall alike), bets are decided. If two play, it is 'up for up,' *i.e.*, they toss and cry alternately: if three or more join in, it is a school, and one, a 'pieman,' cries to the halfpence of the others until he loses, when the winner of the toss becomes 'pieman' in turn: *see* SCHOOL and SCHOOLING.

**THREE X'S (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment, late The 30th Foot.

**THREP (THRIP or THRUPS),** *subs.* (old).—Three-pence (B. E. and GROSE).

1888. J. C. HARRIS [*Harper's Mag.*, lxxvi. 703]. He was not above any transaction, however small, that promised to bring him a dime, where he had invested a THRIP.

**THRESHER.** CAPTAIN THRESHER, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—In 1806 an Irish Catholic organization was formed to resist the payment of tithes: threats and warnings were sent out signed 'CAPTAIN THRESHER.'

**THROAT.** THROAT occurs in a few colloquialisms: *e.g.*, TO LIE IN ONE'S THROAT = to lie flatly: an expression of extreme indignation; TO CUT ONE ANOTHER'S

THROATS = to engage in CUT-THROAT (*q.v.*) competition or conduct ruinous to either; TO CUT ONE'S OWN THROAT (or TO CUT THE THROAT OF) = to ruin oneself, to shipwreck chances or interests; TO HAVE ONE'S THROAT LINED = to be void of taste; to wish for A THROAT A MILE LONG AND A PALATE AT EVERY INCH OF IT (= a modern echo of Rabelais: *see* quot. 1694). *See* BONE; STICK.

1637. HUMPHREY, *St Ambrose*, Pref. This CUTS THE THROAT of that misconceived opinion.

1648. TAYLOR, *Travels . . . to Isle of Wight*, 14. And therefore, reader, understand and note, Whoever sayes I lye, he LIES IN'S THROAT.

1692. SIMON PATRICK (Bp. of Ely), *Answ. Touchstone*, 10. This, which CUTS THE THROAT of the Roman cause.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xlii. Tell me, noble strangers, are your THROATS LINED, paved, or enamelled . . . that you can have missed the taste, relish, and flavour of this divine liquor? *Ibid* Oh! that to keep the taste longer, we gentleman topers had but NECKS SOME THREE CUBITS LONG or so.

1824. STANHOPE, *Greece*, 12. Generals . . . who CUT THEIR OWN THROATS by word of command.

1867. FROUDE, *Short Studies* (2nd ed.), 114. They . . . believed that Elizabeth was CUTTING HER OWN THROAT.

1886. *St James's Gaz.*, 12 Ap. Gentlemen who supply, or try to supply, the public with cheap literature seem specially fond of that curious amusement known as CUTTING ONE ANOTHER'S THROATS.

**THROTTLE** (or **THROPPLE**), *verb.* (colloquial). — To strangle (GROSE).

**THROUGH.** Colloquialisms range themselves under THROUGH as follows: TO BE THROUGH = (1) to have finished: as of a meal, 'Are you THROUGH?'; (2) to be acquitted (old thieves': GROSE); (3) to complete a bargain; TO HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE MILL = to have learned by experience. Also *see* ALPHABET, THICK, WATER, and other nouns.

TO GO THROUGH A WOMAN, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To possess carnally.

**THROUGHSHOT,** *adj.* (colloquial). — Spendthrift: *e.g.*, A THROUGH SHOT sort of fellow.

**THROUGH-STITCH,** *adj. phr.* (old). Thorough; complete; 'over Shoes, over Boots' (B. E.); 'to stick at nothing' (GROSE): 'a tailor's expression' (BEE). Hence TO GO THROUGH STITCH (*see* quot. 1611).

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict. Achever.* To atchieve; to end, finish, conclude (fully); to dispatch, effect, performe (throughly); to perfect, consummat, accomplish, GO THROUGH-STITCH WITH.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. The taylers hell, who indeed are accounted the best bread men in the ship, and such as GOE THROUGH STITCH with what they take in hand.

1631. CHETTLE, *Hoffman. O. Stilt.* Mas he saies true son; but what's the remedy? *Stilt.* None at all father, now wee are in, wee must GOE THROUGH STITCH.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, ii. 3. He that threads his needle with the sharp eyes of industry shall in time GO THROUGH-STITCH with the new suit of preferment.

1662. *Rump Songs.* If any taylor have the itch, Your black-smith's water, as black as pitch, Will make his fingers go THOROUGH-STITCH. Which nobody can deny.

1690. *Pagan Prince* [NARES]. For when a man has once undertaken a business, let him GO THOROW STITCH with it.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, iii. 30. His book may properly be considered, not only as a model, but as a THOROUGH-STITCHED Digest and regular institute of noses.

**THROW.** Among SLANG and COLLOQUIAL USAGES may be enumerated: TO THROW A LEVANT = to make off: *see* BUNK; TO THROW A SOP TO CERBERUS (*see* SOP); TO THROW COLD WATER = to discourage, 'to damp'; TO THROW DUST (or PEPPER) IN THE EYES = to mislead, to dupe; TO THROW OFF = (1) to do or talk offhandedly: spec. to convey unpleasant allusions under a mask of pleasantry (GROSE); (2) 'to brag of past booty' (thieves': GROSE); (3) to discard; and (4) to start the pack (fox-hunters'); TO THROW ONESELF INTO = to do zealously; TO THROW OUT = to expel with violence; TO THROW OVER = to desert; TO THROW OVERBOARD = to abandon; TO THROW TOGETHER = (1) to do hastily, and (2) to bring together frequently: as 'their marriage came about through being THROWN much TOGETHER'; TO THROW UP = to resign; to desist; to CHUCK UP (*q.v.*); TO THROW UP THE SPONGE (*see* SPONGE); TO THROW ABOUT = to seek an opportunity, to try expedients; TO THROW BACK = to revert; TO THROW IN FOR = to enter: as for a race; TO THROW TO THE DOGS = to put aside as valueless; TO THROW OFF THE BELT = to stop; TO HAVE A THROW AT = to attack; TO THROW SNOT ABOUT = to weep; TO THROW (or THROW DOWN) A PAPER (LESSON, EXAMINATION, etc.) = TO FLOOR (*q.v.*).

1591. SPENSER, *Mother Hubbard's Tale*, 80. Now unto despaire I 'gin to growe, And meane for better winde ABOUT TO THROWE.

1698. COLLIER, *Short View*, 101. The Old Bachelour has a THROW at the Dissenting Ministers.

1712. ADDISON, *Spectator*, 105. I could not forbear THROWING TOGETHER such reflections as occurred to me on that subject.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. THROW. . . . To talk flash of robberies past, or in contemplation, when in company with family people, is also termed THROWING OFF; meaning to banish all reserve, none but friends being present; also, to sing when called on by the company present.

1808. *Trial Gen. Whitelocke* (MOTTLEY), II. 442. He had stated that I was THROWING COLD WATER ON everything he did.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 168. THROWING TO THE DOGS all the mental physic they poured in; they would have none of it.

1842–3. THACKERAY, *Fitz-Boodle's Confession*. I at once THREW UP my hopes of military distinction, and retired into civil life.

1844. DISRAELI, *Coningsby*. They say the Rads are going to THROW us OVER.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. xi. A vast number of engagements, any of which . . . he was ready to THROW OVER at a moment's notice.

1870. *English Gilds* (E.E.T.S.), Int. It would be well to THROW his notes and materials INTO some SHAPE.

1883. MRS BISHOP [*Leis. Hour*, 86. 2]. Who THREW COLD WATER on the idea.

1886. DOBSON, *Steele*, Int. xxx. Often Addison's most brilliant efforts are built upon a chance hint THROWN OFF at random by Steele's hurrying pen.

1891. *Harry Fludyer*, 98. These blessed exams. are getting awfully close now; but I think I shall floor mine, and Dick's sure TO THROW his examiners DOWN.

THROW THE FEET, *verb. phr.* (American tramps'). *See* quot.

1900. JOSIAH FLYNT, *Tramping with Tramps*, 397. To beg, 'hustle,' or do anything that involves much action.

**THROW-BACK,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A set-back; a reversion; also TO THROW BACK = to revert to type.

1890. *Athenæum*, 3229, 351. She is personally a THROW-BACK to an angel.

**THRUM**, *verb.* (GROSE).—1. 'To play on any instrument stringed with wire'; to strum. Hence THRUMMER.

1550. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, ii. 1. Anon to our gittern, *thrumpledum, thrumpledum*, THRUM.

2. (venery). To possess a woman (HALLIWELL): *see* STRUM and RIDE.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 22. Expect . . . to keep you safe to THRUM my harlot: Not I, by Jove. *Ibid.*, 95. Paris, says he, we know you can The wenches THRUM.

*Subs.* (old).—In *pl.* = threepence; THREPS (*q.v.*): *see* RHINO (B. E. and GROSE). Also THRUMBUSKINS and THRUMMOP.

THREAD AND THRUM. *See* THREAD.

**THRUM-CAP**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Rough headgear. [Properly a rugged rocky headland swept by the sea.]

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. Pant. Prog. Scourers of greasy THRUM CAPS, stuffers, and bumbasters of pack saddles.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 10. Smite my THRUM-CAP, and noddle too.

**THUG**, *subs.* (American political).—1. A nickname for a member of the native American party; (2) a cut-throat ruffian.

1883. *Century Mag.*, June, 230. Affrays were still common; the Know-Nothing movement came on, and a few THUGS terrorized the city with campaign broils, beating, stabbing, and shooting. *Ibid.* (249). During our civil war, the regiments which were composed of plug-uglies, THUGS, and midnight rounders, with noses laid over to one side as evidence of their prowess in bar-room mills and paving-stone riots, were generally cringing cowards in battle.

**THUMB**, *verb.* (old).—1. To drain a glass upon the thumb-nail: the glass must be emptied so that there remains only a drop that will not run off the nail. *See* SUPERNACULUM.

2. (common).—(*a*) To paw, to MESS ABOUT, TO GROPE A WOMAN; and (*b*) to possess one carnally: hence a WELL-THUMBED GIRL = a foundered whore. Also THUMBLE.

1606. *Wily Beguiled* [HAWKINS, *Eng. Drama*, iii. 317. Well, I'll not stay with her: stay, quotha? To be yauld and jaul'd at, and tumbled and *thumbled*, and tost and turn'd as I am by an old hag.

Among COLLOQUIAL PHRASES are: A THUMB UNDER THE GIRDLE = an indication of gravity or sadness; RULE OF THUMB (*q.v.*), adding quot. *infra*; ALL HIS FINGERS ARE THUMBS (of a clumsy person: also THUMBLESS); TO BITE THE THUMB (*see* BITE); UNDER ONE'S THUMB = under complete control, subservient; FINGER AND THUMB = inseparable, with tied navels. (It. '*Hanno legato il bellico insieme.*') Further, a WELL-THUMBED book = a rough-handled book; one 'thumbed' out of respectability; THUMB-MARKED = bearing unmistakable traces of an individual artist, reader, performer, etc. Also PROVERBIAL (and other) SAYINGS: 'When you come to this place of ease, Place your elbows on your knees, Behind your ears stick both your THUMBS, Give a heave, and out it comes.' 'If you BITE YOUR THUMB there's hell to pay.' (*See* BITE).

1534. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, i. 3. Ah, ECHE FINGER IS A THOMBE to-day me thinke.

1614. OVERBURY, *Characters*. They call the THUMB UNDER THE GIRDLE gravity, and because they can hardly smell at all, their posy's are under their girdles.

1639. *Optick Glasse of Humours*. Of all men wee count a melancholicke man the very sponge of all sad humours, the aqua-fortis of merry company, A THUMBE UNDER THE GIRDLE, the contemplative slumberer, that sleepes waking, etc.

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 333. When to a house I come and see The genius wastefull more than free; The servants THUMBLESSE, yet to eat With lawlesse tooth the floure of wheat.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, v. 56. She remembers her delinquency, so she is obliged to be silent: I have her UNDER MY THUMB.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 277. The tenants were all UNDER MY THUMB. *Ibid.*, 378. He is an old hunks who wants to keep me UNDER HIS THUMB.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geof. Hamlyn*, ix. He is UNDER THE THUMB of that doctor.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xxi. We never learnt anything in the navy when I was a youngster, except a little RULE-OF-THUMB mathematics.

**THUMBER,** *subs.* (common).—(1) A sandwich; and (2) a slice of bread and meat carved and eaten between finger and thumb.

**THUMBING,** *subs.* (provincial).—A Nottingham phrase, used to describe that species of intimidation practised by masters on their servants: when the latter are compelled to vote as their employers please, under pain of losing their situations (HALLIWELL).

**THUMB-OF-LOVE,** *subs. phr.* (venery). — The *penis*: *cf.* WHITMAN (*Children of Adam*) and SHAKSPEARE (POTATO-FINGER, *q.v.*).

**THUMP,** *subs.* (old: now recognised). — A heavy blow with club, fist, or anything that resounds: also as *verb* (GROSE). [*Century*: Not found in Middle English; apparently a variant of *dump*.] Hence THUMPER. Also 'This is better than a THUMP on the back with a stone' (GROSE: said on giving a drink of good liquor on a cold morning); 'Thatch, thistle, thunder, and THUMP' (GROSE: 'words to the Irish, like the Shibboleth of the Hebrews').

1596. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, VI. ii. 10. He with his speare . . . Would THUMPE her forward and inforce to goe.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Ho*, iv. 1. As though my heart-strings had been cracked I wept and sighed, and THUMPED and THUMPED, and raved and randed and railed.

*c.* 1618. FLETCHER, *Mad Lover*, v. O let me ring the fore bell, and here are THUMPERS.

1628. FORD, *Lover's Melancholy*, i. 1. When blustering Boreas . . . THUMPS a thunder-bounce.

*d.* 1771. GRAY, *Letters*, I. 71. With these masqueraders that vast church is filled, who are seen THUMPING their breasts, and kissing the pavement with extreme devotion.

*Verb.* (obscene).—To possess a woman.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4. 195. Delicate burthens of dildos and fadings, 'jump her and THUMP her.'

**THUMPER (THUMPING, ETC.),** *subs.* (common).—1. Anything impressive: *cf.* WHOPPER; THUMPING = unusually large, heavy, etc. (GROSE).

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, ii. 5. Here comes a THUMPING Brother of . . . the Law.

1710–13. SWIFT, *Journ. to Stella* [OLIPHANT, *New English*, ii. 150. The word THUMPER stands for *mendacium*].

*d.* 1763. BYROM, *Critical Remarks* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, xv. 236. 1]. Small as you will, if 'twas a bumper, Centum for one would be a THUMPER.

1774. GOLDSMITH, *Retaliation*. One fault he had and that one was a THUMPER.

1798. O'KEEFE, *Fontainebleau*, iii. 1. You've run up a THUMPING bill.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 358. Antonia has not a THUMPING fortune to bring with her.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 24 Jan., i. 3. A THUMPING majority.

2. (showmens').—In *pl.* = dominoes.

**THUMPKIN**, *subs.* (thieves').—A barn filled with hay.

**THUNDER!** *intj.* (common).—A mild oath: also THUNDERATION! THUNDER-AND-LIGHTNING! and THUNDER-AND-TURF! BY THUNDER = By God, and the Devil, and what comes between.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'The Ingoldsby Penance.' Now THUNDER AND TURF, Pope Gregory said.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*. WHAT IN THUNDER makes you take on so?

18[?]. BRET HARTE, *Chiquita*. An' twelve hundred dollars of hog's-flesh afloat, and a drifting to THUNDER.

1887. HENLEY, *Hospital Outlines*. It looked like fighting, And they meant it too, BY THUNDER.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 95. THE THUNDER, you say . . . some of you must remind the Sheriff to shoot him on sight.

TO COLLAR (or STEAL) ONE'S THUNDER, *verb. phr.* (common).—*See* quot.

*c.* 1709. DENNIS [WALSH, *Lit. Curios*, 1052. John Dennis, critic and dramatist . . . was the inventor of a new species of stage thunder which was used for the first time in a play of his own . . . coldly received and speedily withdrawn. Shortly afterwards (so Spence tells us), he heard his own thunder made use of. 'Damn them!' he cried, 'they will not let my play run, but they STEAL MY THUNDER! So also POPE: see *Dunciad*, ii. 223, Note].

**THUNDERBOMB (H.M.S.)**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—An imaginary ship of enormous dimensions.

18[?]. BUCKSTONE, *Billy Taylor*. Straightway made her first lieutenant Of the gallant THUNDERBOMB.

**THUNDERER (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (journalists').—*The Times* newspaper.

1874. *Siliad*, 201. If a small cloud doth in the East appear, Then speaks THE THUNDERER, and all men hear.

**THUNDERING**, *adj.* (common).—A strong intensive: great, large, tremendous, etc.

1597. HALL, *Satires*, i. Graced with huff-cap terms and THUNDERING threats. [Possibly a connecting link between the two senses.]

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, II. 420. He goes a THUNDERING pace that you would not think it possible to overtake him.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, (1770), 59. And in they brought a THUNDERING Meal.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 249. I was drawing a THUNDERING fish out of the water.

*d.* 1743. HERVEY, *Memoirs Court of George II.* [Mention is made of Queen Caroline's indignation at the infliction of] a THUNDERING long sermon.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 36. No sooner he the priest did spy, But up he brought a THUNDERING lie.

1840. CROCKETT, *Tour down East*, 61. I was told that Faneuil Hall was called the 'cradle of liberty.' I reckon old King George thought they were THUNDERING fine children that were rocked in it.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 82. If a chap only comes from the North, and has got a crop of hair and whiskers, and a coat different from everybody else, and a THUNDERIN' great big gold chain . . . he's the poplerest man among the ladies.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, I. i. Haint they cut a THUNDERIN' swarth?

1883. GREENWOOD, *Tag, Rag, and Co.* He took me into his confidence, with the professed object, as he himself declared, of proving to me 'what a THUNDERING fool he had been.'

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, iii. 24. If I had had my way, I'd have burned down the THUNDERING old place long ago.

**THUNDER-MUG,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A chamber-pot; *see* IT.

**THUSNESS.** WHY THIS THUSNESS? *phr.* (common).—A pleonastic 'Why'?

**THWACK,** *subs.* and *verb.* (B. E. and GROSE).—'To Beat with a Stick or Cudgel '(B. E.); 'a great blow with a stick across the shoulders' (GROSE); THICK-THWACK = blow after blow.

1574. *Appius and Virginia* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 123]. With THWICK THWACK, with thump thump.

*d.* 1618. STANYHURST, *Conceites* [ARBER], 138. With peale meale ramping, with THWICK THWACK sturdelye thundring.

**THWACKER,** *subs.* (colloquial).—Anything very much out of the common; THWACKING = tremendous, great: *see* WHOPPER.

1620. MIDDLETON, *Chaste Maid*, v. 3. *Sec. Ser.* A bonfire, sir? *Sir Ol.* A THWACKING one, I charge you.

**TIB,** *subs.* (old).—1. A woman: generic (*cf.* TOM = man), a usage that long lingered (B. E. and GROSE); hence (2) a term of endearment (HALLIWELL): also a calf; and (3) contemptuously, a wanton. *Cf.* TIB OF THE BUTTERY = goose (sometimes = an endearment).

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneid* [ARBER], 102. A coy TYB . . . That the plat of Carthage from mee by coosinage hooked . . . Hath scorned my wedlock.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, ii. 2. 22. As fit as your French crown for your taffeta punk, as TIB's rush for Tom's forefinger. *Ibid.* (1609), *Pericles*, iv. 6. 176. Every coistrel That comes inquiring for his TIB.

1652. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. As Tom or TIB When they at bowsing ken do swill.

1677. COLES, *Lat.-Eng. Dict.* A TIB, *mulier sordida.*

1693. *Cambridge Dict.*, TIB. TIB, a poor sorry woman; *mulier-cula impura.*

4. (provincial).—The *anus*: *see* BUM.

5. (back slang).—A bit: hence TIB FO OCCABOT = a bit of tobacco.

TO TIB OUT, *verb. phr.* (Charterhouse).—To go beyond bounds.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xli. When I was a boy I used what they call to TIB OUT, and run down to a public-house in Cistercian Lane, the Red Cow, sir.

**TIB-OF-THE-BUTTERY** (or **TIB**), *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A goose; *cf.* TIB (HARMAN, B. E. and GROSE).

1622. FLETCHER *Beggar's Bust*, v. 1. Margery praters, Rogers, and TIBS o' TH' BUTTERY.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. Here's grunter and bleater with TIB OF THE BUTT'RY, And Margery Prater, all dress'd without slutt'ry.

1725. *Song* [*New Canting Dict.*]. On red shanks and TIBS thou shalt every day dine.

**TIBB'S-EVE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An indefinite date (GROSE: 'Irish' . . . 'ST TIBB'S EVENING, the evening of the last day or day of judgment; as He will pay you on ST TIBB'S EVE'). *See* QUEEN DICK.

**TIBBY,** *subs.* (B. E. and GROSE).—1. A cat.

2. (common).—The head; TO DROP ON ONE'S TIBBY=to take unawares.

*c.* 1866. VANCE, *Chickaleary Cove.* For to get me on the hop, or on my TIBBY drop, You must wake up very early in the mornin'.

**TICHBORNE'S OWN,** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabineers): *c.* 1871–4, at the time of the Tichborne trial, Sir Roger Tichborne having (1849) served in the regiment.

**TICK** (or **TICKET**), *subs.* (old).—A word regarded as slang to-day (or verging thereon) that can boast of considerable (and, indeed, honourable) antiquity: an abbreviation of TICKET=a tradesman's bill, formerly written on slips of paper or cards. Hence TICK (or TICKET)=credit, a debt; as *verb*=to buy or take on trust, to run a score; TO TICK UP (or TO HAVE THE RUN OF THE TICKET)=to put to account, to run in debt (Fr. *avoir l'ardoise*=to slate); WHAT'S THE TICKET?=What's the price (Fr. *quelle est le marché du bœuf gras?*)—(B. E. and GROSE).

1609. DEKKER, *Gul's Hornbook*, vi. 145. No matter whether in landing you have money or no; you may swim in twentie of their boates over the river UPON TICKET.

1615. SHIRLEY, *Works*, iii. 56 [STEPHENS, *Characters*, 239]. [He] plaies UPON TICKET.

1633. MARMION, *Fine Companion*, v. 2. Yon courtier is mad to take up silks and velvets ON TICKET for his mistresse, and your citizen Is mad to trust him.

1638. RANDOLPH, *Hey for Honesty*, ii. 6. I am resolved to build no more sconces, but to pay my old TICKETS.

1648. FULLER, *Holy State*, 114. Though much indebted to his own back and belly, and unable to pay them, yet he hath credit himself, and confidently runs ON TICKET with himself.

1661. PRIDEAUX [Dean of Norwich], *Letter*, May. The Mermaid Tavern is lately broke, and our Christ Church men bear the blame of it, our TICKS, as the noise of the town will have, amounting to 1500*l.*

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. iii. I'll . . . once more, for that carcass vile, Fight UPON TICK.

1668. SEDLEY, *Mulberry Garden.* I confess my TICK is not good, and I never desire to game for more than I have about me.

1668. DRYDEN, *Evening's Love*, iii. Play on TICK, and lose the Indies, I'll discharge it all to-morrow.

1683. OLDHAM, *Poems*, 174. Reduc'd to want, he in due time fell sick, Was fain to die, and be interr'd ON TICK.

*c.* 1700. *Diary of Ab. de la Pryme* [Surtees], 110. Every one runs UPON TICK and thou that had no credit a year ago has credit enough now.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 266. Some pretty nymphs . . . but are sometimes forced TO TICK half a sice a-piece for their watering.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *John Bull*, iii. 8. Paying ready money that the maids might not run TICK at the market. *Ibid.* The money went to the lawyers; counsel won't TICK.

*d.* 1729. STEELE, *Correspondence*, ii. 477. I shall contrive to have a quarter before-hand, and never let family TICK more for victuals, cloaths, or rent.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. RIVER TICK. Standing debts, which only discharge themselves at the end of three years by leaving the Lake of Credit, and meandering through the haunts of 100 creditors. *Oxf. Univ. Cant.*

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 169. Scarcely a day passed but he sinned ON TICK, and suffered by attorney.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xxxviii. Then the bills came down upon me. I tell you there are some of my college TICKS ain't paid now.

1880. *Punch's Almanack*, 3. Quarter-day, too, no more chance of TICK.

1899. WHITEING, *John Street*, xviii They're extremely nice people, and give one no end of TICK.

1901. *Sporting Times*, 17 Aug., i. 5. During my late Oxford days, I got put up to at least twenty different ways of getting TICK.

**TO TICK AND TOY**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To dally, to wanton.

1550. LATIMER, *Serm. before Ed. VI.* Stand not TICKING AND TOYING at the branches . . . but strike at the root.

1579. GOSSON, *School of Abuse* [HALLIWELL]. SUCH TICKING, SUCH TOYING, such smiling, such winking, and such manning them home when the sports are ended.

1614. *England's Helicon* [NARES]. Unto her repaire . . . Sit and TICK AND TOY till set be the sunne.

**TICKER**, *subs.* (common).—1. A watch (GROSE): also TICK. Fr. *tocante*.

1789. PARKER, *Varieg. Charac.* You know you'll buy a dozen or two of wipes, dobbin cants, or a farm, or a TICK with any rascal.

1829. MAGINN, *Vidocq's Slang Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 107]. When his TICKER I set a-going, With his onions, chain, and key.

1830. EGAN, *Finish Life*, 217. I have lost my TICKER; and all my toggery has been boned.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xviii. 'And always put this in your pipe, Nolly,' said the Dodger. 'If you don't take fogles and TICKERS . . . some other cove will.'

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iv. 270. He listened to the tempter, 'filched the TICKER,' and was nailed almost immediately.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tip*. It's up the spout and Charley-wag, With wipes and TICKERS and what not.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 71. He fished the TICKER out From her giddy little satchel right away.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 268. He'd . . . pledged the Government to all sorts of action. 'Pledged the States' TICKER, eh?' said M'Turk, with a nod to me.

2. (Stock Exchange and Post Office).—An automatic tape-machine.

3. (American University).—An ignoramus who talks for talking's sake.

4. (veterinary).—A crib-biting horse (LAWRENCE, *Horses* [1802], 218).

**TICKET**, *subs.* (old).—1. An account; a score: now TICK (*q.v.*).

2. (old).—A pass; a license: also TICKRUM (B. E. and GROSE): *cf.* approximation to Fr. *étiquette*. Hence (3) a visiting card: whence (from 2 and 3) THE TICKET = the correct thing; THAT'S THE TICKET = that's the thing, that's all right: also 'that's THE TICKET FOR SOUP' = 'You've got it—be off!'

[1611. CORYAT, *Crudities*, i. 57. The porter . . . gave me a little TICKET under his hand as a kind of warrant for mine entertainement in mine Inne.]

1782. BURNEY, *Cecilia*, i. iii. A TICKET is only a visiting card with a name upon it; but we call them TICKETS now.

1783–5. COWPER, *Task*, iii. Well dressed, well bred, Well equipaged, is TICKET good enough To pass us readily through every door.

1854–5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, vii. She's very handsome and she's very finely dressed, only somehow she's not—she's not THE TICKET, you see. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xiii. Poor dear Mrs Jones . . . still calls on the ladies of your family, and slips her husband's TICKET upon the hall table.

1862. TROLLOPE, *Orley Farm*, lxvii. That's about THE TICKET in this country.

1862. BRADLEY, *Tales of College Life*, 19. That's THE TICKET; that will just land me in time for gates.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn.* ''Deed, that ain't THE TICKET, Miss Mary Jane,' I says, 'by no manner of means.'

4. (American political).—(*a*) A printed list of candidates in an election; (*b*) the candidates; and (*c*) a policy; A PLATFORM (*q.v.*). Whence STRAIGHT TICKET

=the party nominations, representing the official programme; SPLIT TICKET=a divided policy, a TICKET containing the names of candidates representing several differing interests or divisions; SCRATCHED-TICKET = a list of candidates from which names have been erased; MIXED TICKET =a list in which the nominations of different interests or parties have been blended. TO RUN AHEAD OF THE (or ONE'S TICKET), *see* quot. 1899.

1883. *Nation*, 6 Sep., 200. If he can elect such a TICKET even in Virginia alone, he will take the field after election as a striker.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 17 Oct. To vote solidly the Parnell TICKET.

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. TICKET. TO RUN AHEAD OF THE TICKET, in U.S. politics, to receive a larger vote than the average vote polled by one's associates on the same electoral ticket. Similarly TO RUN BEHIND THE TICKET is to receive less than such an average vote.

A HARD TICKET, *subs. phr.* (American). — An unscrupulous man; a 'hard nut to crack.'

TO WORK THE TICKET, *verb. phr.* (military).—To procure discharge by being pronounced medically unfit.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, xxxiii. There is still a good deal of malingering in the Service . . . it is a comparatively easy matter for a discontented man TO WORK HIS TICKET.

**TICKLE**, *adj. and adv.* (old and venery).—1. Wanton. Also as *verb*=(*a*) to grope; to FIRKY-TOODLE (*q.v.*); (*b*) to FRIG (*q.v.*); and (*c*) to copulate. Hence TICKLE-TAIL = (*a*) a wanton and (*b*) the *penis*: also TICKLER, TICKLE-THOMAS (= female privity), TICKLE-PIECE, TICKLE-GIZZARD, TICKLE-FAGGOT and TICKLE-TOBY; TAIL-TICKLING = (1) copulation; (2) masturbation; TICKLE O' THE SERE = fond of bawdy laughter (HALLIWELL.)

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, 1619. For she is TIKEL of hire tail . . . As commune as a cartway.

[?]. *Coventry Myst.*, 134. Of hire tayle oftetyme be lyght, And rygh TEKYL.

1593. GREENE, *Gwydonius* [HALLIWELL]. Yet if she were so TICKLE, as ye would take no stand, so ramage as she would be reclaimed with no lure.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*. *Fricciare* . . . to frig, to wriggle, to TICKLE.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, ii. 2. 336. The clown shall make those laugh whose lungs are TICKLE OF THE SERE. *Ibid.* (1602), *Troilus and Cressida*, v. 2. 57. How the devil Luxury, with his fat rump and potato-finger, TICKLES these together! Fry, lechery, fry!

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, v. 2. *Sub.* My bird o' the night! we'll TICKLE it at the Pigeons, When we have all . . . [*They kiss*].

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, ii. 2. *Tha.* Hast thou been admitted? *Ars.* . . . ay, into her heart . . . I have set her heart upon as TICKLE a pin . . . that will never . . . rest till it be in the right position.

1620. HOWARD, *Defensative* [DRUCE, ii. 238]. Moods and humours of the vulgar sort . . . loose and TICKLE OF THE SEARE.

1652. SHIRLEY, *Brothers*, ii. 1. But these wives, sir, are such TICKLE Things, not one hardly staid amongst a thousand.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. He had already begun to exercise the tools . . . One . . . would call it her pillicock, her fiddle-diddle, her staff-of-love, her TICKLE-GIZZARD.

1656. FLETCHER, *Martiall*, xi. 30. Thus Phillis rub me up, thus TICKLE me.

1672. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, 60. To Puss and to good company: And he that will not . . . name the words as I do barely, I do pronounce him to be no man, And may he never TICKLE woman.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xlv. For, now I hope To see some brawny, juicy rump Well TICKLED with my carnal stump.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, ii. 11. A TICKLE TAIL Match between a Vigorous Whore-Master and a Desirous Young Damsel.

1730. *Broadside Song*, 'Gee ho, Dobbin' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), ii. 203]. I rumpl'd her feathers, and TICKL'D her scutt.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 113. I know how to TICKLE a girl in a stiff gown, or an actress.

2. *See* TICKLISH.

*Verb.* (colloquial). — To chastise: frequently (as in TO TICKLE ONE'S TAIL) a humorous threat of punishment. Hence TICKLE-TAIL (TICKLETOBY, or TICKLER) =(*a*) a schoolmaster's rod; (*b*) a schoolmaster; (*c*) a whip or strap; (*d*) a small weapon carried on the person: a knife or pistol.

1598. SHAKSPEARE 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 1. Away, you scullion! you rampallian! you fustilarian! I'll TICKLE YOUR CATASTROPHE. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. 196. If he had not been in drink, he would have TICKLED you othergates than he did.

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edm.*, ii. 1. A plague of this wind; O, it TICKLES OUR CATASTROPHE. *Ibid.*, v. 2. I'll TICKLE HIS CATASTROPHE for this.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 3. If we find 'em to be malefactors, we'll TICKLE 'em.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'The Ingoldsby Penance.' Come falchion in hand, I'll TICKLE the best Of all the Soldan's Chivalrie.

1861. DICKENS, *Great Expectations*, i. TICKLER was a wax-ended piece of cane, worn smooth by collision with my TICKLED frame.

2. (common).—To bribe; to fee: also TO TICKLE ONE'S PALM (or HAND).

1874. *Siliad*, 110. Brought by the din . . . to run him in; But, TICKLED by a shilling in his palm, Walked on discreetly blind, and sternly calm.

**TICKLE-BRAIN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. Strong drink; hence (2) a taverner: also TICKLE-PITCHER =a tosspot (B. E. and GROSE).

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. 438. Peace, good pint-pot: peace, good TICKLE-BRAIN.

**TICKLER**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A puzzler; anything difficult or perplexing: also (HALLIWELL) a shrewd cunning person.

2. (American). — A small pocket-ledger; also a banker's register: of bills (of exchange) payable and receivable, and daily cash balances.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxx. 464. The TICKLERS, showing in detail debts receivable in the future, those past due, and also the overdrafts, require explanation by the president.

3. (common).—A dram. Also (American)=a half pint flask of spirits.

1840. *Southern Sketches*, 33. Then he took out a TICKLER of whiskey; and, arter he'd took three or four swallows out'n it, says he, 'Oblige me by taking a horn.'

1888. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxix., 388. Whiskey was sold and drunk without screens or scruples. It was not usually bought by the drink but by the TICKLER.

1886. *Fort. Rev.*, N.S., xxxix. 77. It is too cold to work, but it is not too cold to sit on a fence chewing, with a TICKLER of whiskey handy.

4. (common). —A small poker: used to save a better one: *cf.* CURATE.

5. (American).—A bowie knife.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit.* One of which, for he was a man of pleasant humour, he was accustomed to call his ripper, the other his TICKLER.

6. *See* TICKLE, *verb.*

**TICKLE-PITCHER.** *See* TICKLE-BRAIN.

**TICKLE-TEXT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A parson: *see* BIBLE-POUNDER.

**TICK-TACK,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—Copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

*c.* 1550. WEAVER, *Lusty Juventus*, D i. verso. What a hurly burly is here! Smicke smacke, and all thys gere! You will to TYCKE-TACKE, I fere Yf thou had time.

**TIDDIPOL,** *subs.* (provincial).—'An overdressed fat young woman in humble life' (HALLIWELL).

**TIDDLE,** *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To advance by slow degrees, or small motions: *e.g.*, TO TIDDLE a ball, a marble, a wheelbarrow, etc. Also TO TIDDLE A GIRL=to master her inchmeal. Whence TIDDLING=getting on bit by bit. Also (=) to potter; to fidget.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, I. 322. To leave the family pictures from his sons to you, because you could TIDDLE about them, and though you now neglect their examples, could wipe and clean them with your dainty hands.

**TIDDLIES.** TO RUN TIDDLIES, *verb. phr.* (provincial).—To run over unsafe ice.

**TIDDLYWINK,** *subs.* (common).—An unlicensed house: a pawnbroker's (also LEAVING-SHOP, *q.v.*), a beershop, a brothel, etc.

*Verb.* (Australian).—To spend more than prudence or custom will sanction.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, vii. He's going too fast, that new boss . . . I wonder what old Morgan would say to all this here TIDDLEY-WINKIN', with steam engine, and wire fences. . . .

**TIDY,** *subs.* (common).—An antimacassar.

*Adj.* (colloquial).—Considerable; pretty large, fine, healthy, comfortable, important, etc.

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E.E.T.S.], 5384. Al that touched ther to a TIDI erldome, To the kowherd and his wif the king 3af that time. *Ibid.*, 1338. For the TIDY tidinges that ti3tly were seide.

1557. TUSSER, *Husbandrie*, August, 22. If weather be fair, and TIDY thy grain, Make speedily carriage, for fear of a rain.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 408. May be after a TIDY day's work, I shall come home with 1s. in my pocket.

1887. *Field*, 23 July. There will probably be a TIDY little fleet, representatives of the Mersey Canoe Club.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, ix. Was you knocked about much when you was a young 'un? Pretty TIDY, only I alwiz stepped it when it got too 'ot.

*Verb.* (colloquial).—To put (or place) in order; to make neat: usually TO TIDY UP: TIDY, *adj.*=neat (GROSE) has long been recognised.

1853. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xxx. I have TIDIED over and over again, but it's useless.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, xliii. She found the widow with her house-place TIDIED UP after the mid-day meal.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii. 258. The small villages . . . have not the TIDINESS of the New England small villages.

**TIE,** *verb.* (old colloquial).—To marry; TO HITCH (*q.v.*); TO SPLICE (*q.v.*). Hence A KNOT TIED WITH THE TONGUE THAT CANNOT BE UNTIED WITH THE TEETH=matrimony.

1619. FLETCHER, *Wildgoose Chase*, iv. 1. I heartily desire this courtesy . . . This day, to see you TIED, then no more trouble you.

1668. ETHERIDGE, *She Would*, etc., i. 1. *Sir Oliv.* Well, a pox of this TYING men and women together, for better or worse.

Also PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS: *e.g.*, TO TIE ONE'S HAIR (or WOOL)=to puzzle (tailors'); TO TIE UP=(1) to forswear: *e.g.*, TO TIE UP PRIGGING =to lead an honest life (thieves'); and (2)=to knock out (pugilists'); TIED-UP=(1) finished, settled; (2)=costive.

*See* APRON-STRINGS; RIDE; SAINT.

**TIE-UP**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—An obstruction; a blockade; a closure: *e.g.*, a strike, a blocked bill, etc.

**TIFF**, *subs.* (old).—(1) Small beer; SWIPES (*q.v.*). Hence (2) a moderate draught: A TIFF OF PUNCH = (GROSE) a small bowl of punch. As *verb* = to drink: TIFFING = 'eating and drinking out of meal time' (GROSE). Also TIFFIN (Anglo-Indian) = a meal between breakfast and dinner.

1654. *Witts Recreations.* As the conduits ran With claret, at the coronation, So let your channels flow with single TIFF.

1661. BROME, *Songs*, 165. That too shall quickly follow, if It can be rais'd from strong or TIFFE.

1703. PHILIPS, *Splendid Shilling*, 15. With scanty offals, and small acid TIFF.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, VIII. x. What say you to a glass of white wine, or a TIFF OF PUNCH by way of whet?

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, XI. xiv. Dr Slash . . . was smoaking his pipe over a TIFF OF PUNCH.

1812. COOMBE, *Syntax*, I. v. He TIFF'D his punch, and went to rest.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, i. III. Sipping his TIFF of brandy punch with great solemnity.

1847-8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair.* iv. Let's have it for TIFFIN; very cool and nice this hot weather.

1884. BRASSEY, *Voy. Sunbeam*, II. xxi. After a pleasant chat we proceeded to the Hongkong hotel for TIFFIN.

2. (colloquial). — A slight quarrel. Also as *verb* = (*a*) to have words, and (*b*) to go peevishly; whilst TIFFY (or TIFFISH) = petulant; EASILY RILED (*q.v.*); TIFFING (GROSE) = disputing or falling out.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, ii. 4. Poor Mincing TIFT and TIFT all the morning.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, iv. 29. My lord and I have had another little —TIFF, shall I call it? it came not up to a quarrel.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, i. 2. We TIFTED a little going to church, and fairly quarrelled before the bells had done ringing.

18[?]. LANDOR, *New Style.* She TIFF'D at Tim, she ran from Ralph.

1840. THACKERAY, *Shabby Genteel Story*, i. There had been numerous TIFFS and quarrels between mother and daughter.

1858. *Nat. Review*, vii. 395. In comparison with such words or gestures, George IV.'s quarrel with Brummel was an ordinary TIFF.

3. (venery).—To copulate; *see* RIDE (B. E. and GROSE): *cf.* TIFFITY-TAFFETY GIRLS.

**TIFFITY - TAFFETTY GIRL** (or **TAFFETA PUNK**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A courtesan. [TIFFANY = Epiphany: whence TIFFANY silk = a silk for holiday wear: a gauze-like material. TAFFETA also = a transparent silk. Hence TIFFITY-TAFFETY GIRL = one who discloses almost as much as she dissembles: *cf.* LOOSE-BODIED GOWN; TIFF, *verb* = to deck, to array; and TAWDRY.] Hence TIFFANY (or TAFFETY) = wanton, soft, yielding.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, ii. 2. 22. As fit as ten groats is for the hand of an attorney, as your French crown for your TAFFETA PUNK.

1601. P. HOLLAND, *Plinie*, XI. xxii. The invention of that fine silke, TIFFANIE, sarcenet, and cypres, which instead of apparell to cover and hide, shew women naked through them.

1647-8. HERRICK, *Nuptiall Song.* Say . . . doe we not descrie Some Goddesse, in a cloud of TIFFANIE . . . the Emergent Venus from the Sea?

1769-78. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, I. i. 5. Her desire of TIFFING out her mistress in a killing attire.

**TIGER**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A raff. TIGRISH = dissolute.

1849–50. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, xix. A man may have a very good coat of arms, and be a TIGER, my boy . . that man is a TIGER, mark my word—a low man. *Ibid.* (1854), *Character Sketches*, 'The Artiste. 'In France, where TIGERISM used to be the fashion among the painters, I make no doubt Carmine would have let his beard and wig grow, and looked the fiercest of the fierce.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, VI. xx. Nothing could be more vagrant, devil-me-carish, and, to use the slang word, TIGRISH, than his whole air.

3. (common). — A smart-liveried boy-groom; 'a show' servant. [*Cf.* TIGER = generic for ornament: *e.g.*, TIGER-bittern, TIGER-cowry, TIGER-frog, TIGER-grass, etc.] Whence (loosely) a man's out-door servant in contra-distinction to a page = a ladies' attendant.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, xlv. I sent my cab-boy (*vulgo* TIGER) to enquire . . . whether the horse was to be sold.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'The Execution.' TIGER Tim was clean of limb, His boots were polished, his jacket was trim. With a very smart tie in his smart cravat, And a little cockade on the top of his hat, Tallest of boys or shortest of men, He stood in his stockings just four feet ten.

4. (American).—An intensive form of applause; an addition (*cf.* sense 3) thought to embellish the traditional 'three cheers': whence THREE CHEERS AND A TIGER = three cheers wound up by a growl, screech, or howl. [C. J. LELAND: new in 1842].

5. (navvies').—Streaky bacon.

TO FIGHT THE TIGER, *verb. phr.* (American). — To gamble with professionals; also (loosely) to play cards. Hence TIGER-HUNTER = a gambler.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 87. The game proceeded, but it was plainly evident that the unsophisticated young TIGER HUNTER had something on his mind.

*See* BENGAL TIGERS.

**TIGERKIN**, *subs.* (? nonce-word).—A cat.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, XIV. ii. Our domesticated TIGERKIN.

**TIGHT**, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* = closely fitting garments: *e.g.* (1) SMALL CLOTHES (*q.v.*); and (2) a garment fitting skin-tight to the legs or the whole body, either to display the form or for freedom of movement (chiefly theatrical).

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, i. His elevated position revealing those TIGHTS and gaiters, which, had they clothed an ordinary man, might have passed without observation.

1869. BLACK, *In Silk Attire*, xxxvi And I shall be in TIGHTS and dance a breakdown.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 15 Mar. Frozen in their TIGHTS or chilled to the bone in the midst of their carnivalesque revelry.

*Adj.* (old colloquial). — 1. Generic for merit. Thus A TIGHT (= strong or active) LAD; A TIGHT (= lively or pretty) WENCH; A TIGHT (= an adroit) QUESTION; A TIGHT (= well-built) SHIP; A TIGHT (= skilful) WORKMAN; A TIGHT (= pleasant) ISLAND, etc. Again, ALL TIGHT = in good health (or form); NEAT AND TIGHT = in good trim.

*c.* 1280. *Havelok the Dane* [E. E. T. S.], 1841. The laddes were kaske and TEVTE.

1553. DOUGLAS, *Bukes of Eneados*, xiii., Prol. Litill lammes. Full TAIT and trig.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, ii. 1. 381. Three great argosies . . . two galliases, And twelve TIGHT gallies. *Ibid.* (1608), *Antony and Cleop.*, iv. 4. 15. My queen's . . . more TIGHT at this than thou.

*d.* 1656. HALL, *Naomi and Ruth*. Some TIGHT vessel that holds out against wind and water.

1681. DAMPIER, *Voyages*. While they are among the English they wear good cloaths, and take delight to go neat and TIGHT.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux Stratagem*, i. 1. But you look so bright, And are dress'd so TIGHT.

1714. GAY, *What d'ye call it*, i. 1. I'll make a loving wife . . . day and night . . . and keep our children TIGHT. *Ibid.* (1714), *Shepherd's Week*, vi. Here the TIGHT lass, knives, combs, and scissors spies, And looks on thimbles with desiring eyes.

1748. THOMSON, *Castle of Indolence*, lxix. He had a roguish twinkle in his eye . . . If a TIGHT damsel chaunced to trippen by.

*d.* 1758. RAMSAY, *Auld Man's Best Argument*. Gie me the lad that's young and TIGHT. *Ibid.*, *Bessy Bell and Mary Gray*. Blythe as a kid, wi' wit at will, She blooming, TIGHT, and tall is.

*c.* 1796. DIBDIN, *The Snug Little Island*. O, 'tis a snug little island! A right little, TIGHT little island. *Ibid.* 'Poor Jack.' A TIGHT little boat and good sea room give me, And 'taint for a little I'll strike.

1822. SCOTT, *Fort. Nigel*, xxxi. Look at them—they are a' right and TIGHT, sound and round, not a doublet crept in amongst them.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Gables*, xiii. It will take a TIGHTER workman than I am to keep the spirits out of the seven gables.

1852. STOWE, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, viii. A TIGHT, likely wench she was, too.

**2.** (colloquial).—Close; stingy; dear; hard-up. Hence A TIGHT (=straightened) MARKET; TIGHT (=scarce) MONEY; A TIGHT (=hard) BARGAIN; A TIGHT (=stingy) MAN: *cf.* EASY. Hence TO TIGHTEN=to become dear (of money).

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers*, 30. The Deacon was as TIGHT as the skin on his back; begrudged folks their victuals when they came to his house.

*c.* 1859. *N. Y. Tribune* [BARTLETT]. The money market, except on the best stocks, is getting TIGHT, and there is a general calling in of loans upon the 'fancies.'

1867. TROLLOPE, *Last Chron. of Barset*, xlii. I never knew money to be so TIGHT as it is at this moment.

1868. LEVER, *Bramleighs of Bishop's Folly*, I. xxi. A few curt sentences . . . told how matters stood in the City; money was TIGHT.

1883. *D. Teleg.*, 24 Nov. Lenders avoiding this class of paper from a belief that the market will, as usual, 'TIGHTEN up' towards the end of the year.

1891. *Harry Fludyer*, 49. Money is particularly valuable up here now—what the Pater calls 'TIGHT' when he speaks of the bank rate.

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 16. I cannot quite remember how Low brought Lady Elverton's name into the conversation, but I think it was in association with money being TIGHT.

**3.** (colloquial).—Severe; hard; difficult: *e.g.*, A TIGHT (=a straining) PULL; A TIGHT (=barely possible) SQUEEZE; A TIGHT (=awkward) POSITION (CORNER PLACE, etc.); a TIGHT=(hacking) COUGH.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 217. It's a TIGHT SQUEEZE sometimes to scrouge between a lie and the truth in business.

**4.** (common).—Drunk; full of liquor: *see* SCREWED.

*d.* 1867. BROWNE, *Artemus Ward in London* (1899). Took to gin-and-seltzer, gettin' TIGHT every day afore dinner with the most disgustin' reg'larity.

186[?]. C. H. ROSS, *The Husband's Boat*. And now when he did get TIGHT, He used to go it proper right, Did grandfather!

1868. LEVER, *Bramleighs of Bishop's Folly*, II. iii. 'No, sir, not a bit tipsy,' said Harding, interpreting his glance; 'not even what Mr Cutbill calls TIGHT!'

1871. W. CARLETON, *Johnny Rich*. When you staggered by next night, Twice as dirty as a serpent and a hundred times as TIGHT.

1876. HABBERTON, *Barton Experiment*, 126. It's kinder discouragin' to lend a fellow that gets TIGHT a good deal . . . it's hard enough to get paid by folks that always keep straight.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn.* In about half-an-hour they were as thick as thieves again, and the TIGHTER they got, the lovinger they got.

1889. *Echo*, 15 Feb. If rich, you may fuddle with Bacchus all night, And be borne to your chamber remarkably TIGHT.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 29. But although he was full, he denied he was TIGHT.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 17. It's Heffelinga that 'as the evil mind,' Shouldn't wonder if he thought we got TIGHT.

5. (Winchester College).—*See* quot.

1891. WRENCH, *Winchester Word-Book*, s.v. TIGHT, fast, hard. A TIGHT bowler, etc. As superlative adverb now only used in TIGHT-junior. TIGHT-snob, TIGHT-rot, and other such uses are obsolete.

TIGHT-ARSED, *adj. phr.* (venery). — Chaste; CLOSE-LEGGED (*q.v.*).

BLOW ME TIGHT! *See* BLOW.

**TIGHT-CRAVAT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The hangman's noose: *see* HORSE-COLLAR.

**TIGHTENER**, *subs.* (common).—A hearty meal: *cf.* KAFFIR'S TIGHTENER. TO DO A TIGHTENER = to eat heartily.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 70. For 2d. what is elegantly termed a TIGHTENER—that is to say a most plenteous repast—may be obtained.

1857. J. E. RITCHIE, *Night Side of London*, 193. Nommus (be off), I am going TO DO THE TIGHTENER.

**TIGHT-FIT**, *subs. phr.* (Vermont Univ.).—A good joke: the teller is said to be 'hard up.'

**TIKE** (or **TYKE**), *subs.* (old).—1. A dog: spec. a cur (a dog with a docked tail: *see* CURTAIL); a mongrel. Hence (2) = a clod-hopper, a churl, a mean snarling rascal: spec. a YORKSHIREMAN (*q.v.*).—(GROSE).

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, 13,026. The Jewes that were gentilmen . . . Now are thei lowe cherles . . . under tribut and taillage, As TIKES and cherles.

1440. *MS. Morte Arthure*, f. 91. 3one heythene TYKES.

1548. PATTEN, *Somerset's March into Scotland* [ARBER, *Eng. Garner*, iii. 114]. [Loon and] TYKE [are favourite words of abuse].

. . . *Gyre-Carling* [LAING, *Early Pop. Poet. Scotland*, ii. 20]. Wt all the TYKIS of Tervey come to thame that tyd.

1586-1606. WARNER, *Albion's England*, II. x. Battus, Medea-like, Did worke no lesse a cuer vpon This vaine vnwieldie TYKE.

1593. PEELE, *Edward I.* Sacrifice this TYKE in her sight . . . dip his foul shirt in his blood.

1599. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry V.*, ii. 1. Base TIKE, calls thou me host? *Ibid.* (1605), *Lear*, iii. 6. Bob-tail TIKE or trundle-tail.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, v. 2. You are a dissembling TYKE, To your hole again.

1676. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 81. TYKES too they had of all sorts, bandogs, Curs, spaniels, water-dogs, and land-dogs.

*d.* 1697. AUBREY, *MS. Royal Soc.*, II. The indigenes of Yorkshire are strong, tall, and long legg'd; them call'em opprobriously long-legd TYKES.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 2. At first approach he made a bow, Such as your Yorkshire TIKES make now. *Ibid.*, 151. A queer old TIKE, and full of jaw.

1795. BURNS, *Dumfries Volunteers.* Oh, let us not, like snarling TYKES, In wrangling be divided.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, I. ii. Hundreds of individuals . . . feel as much interest in matching their TYKES at Jem Rolfe's amphitheatre for a QUID or two.

1823. *Song* [BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. HEN]. A TYKE and fighting cock, A saucy tip-slang moon-eyed hen.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* When I opened a door there was a great TYKE lying in front of the door, so I pulled out a piece of pudding and threw it to him, but he did not move.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 60. And yet you seem out on the mike. . . . For a wonder you're minus your TYKE.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 113. An just tip a bait to the blooming TYKES.

**TILBURY**, *subs.* (old).—Sixpence; 6d.; *see* RHINO (GROSE, VAUX, HALLIWELL).

**TILE**, *subs.* (common).—A hat: spec. a tall silk-hat, or CHIMNEY-POT (*q.v.*): *see* GOLGOTHA. TILE-FRISKING = stealing hats from halls and lobbies (GROSE).

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xii. Afore the brim went it was a wery handsome TILE.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'Auto-da-Fé.' A feat which his Majesty deigning to smile on, Allowed him thenceforward to stand with his TILE on.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxv. My uncle the bishop had his shovels there; and they used for a considerable period to cover this humble roof with TILES.

1891. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. xii. 48. Short for 'chimney-pot hat,' less reverently known as a 'TILE.'

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 70. He was moist about the blinkers, and was bald upon the roof, Which was covered by a curate's giddy TILE.

A TILE LOOSE, *phr.* (common).—Silly; crazy.

ON THE TILES, *phr.* (common).—On the loose; caterwauling.

**TILL**, *subs.* (venery). The female *pudendum*: *cf.* MONEY-BOX: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TILL-SNEAK**, *subs. phr.* (thieves').—A thief whose speciality is robbing shop-tills.

**TILLY.** EASY AS TILLY, *phr.* (old).—Very easy.

**TILLY-VALLY**, *phr.* (old).—Pish! nonsense! Bosh!

*d.* 1529 SKELTON, *Works* [DYCE], 35. Avent, avent, [avaunt] my popinjay, What will you do? nothing but play? TULLY VALLY, straw.

1551. MORE, *Utopia*, Int. xv. She used to say . . . TILLIE VALLIE, TILLIE VALLIE . . . will you sit and make goslings in the ashes?

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 5. TILLY-FALLY, Sir John! never tell me; your ancient swaggerer comes not in my doors. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, ii. 3. Am I not consanguinous? am I not of her blood? TILLY VALLEY, lady.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, vi. TILLEY-VALLEY, Mr Lovel . . . a truce to your politeness.

**TILTER**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A sword: also TO TILT, *verb* = to fight with rapiers (B. E. and GROSE).

**TIMBER**, *subs.* (? nonce-word).—1. The stocks.

1838. D. JERROLD, *Men of Character*, 'Christopher Snub,' i. The squire gives me over to the beadle, who claps me here in the TIMBER.

2. (common).—In *pl.* = the legs. 'SHIVER (or DASH) MY TIMBERS! (a mock oath)' = Plague take my wooden legs: *see* DASH. Also TIMBER TOES = (1) a wooden-legged man; (2) a person wearing clogs (East End).

3. (American tramps'). *See* quot.

1900. JOSIAH FLYNT, *Tramping with Tramps*, 398. A clubbing at the hands of the toughs of a town unfriendly to tramps.

**TAIL-TIMBER**, *subs. phr.* (old).—BUM-FODDER (*q.v.*).

1678. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo's Visions*, 256. Into Lucifer's house of office where there was . . . many Tun of Sir Reverence, and Bales of flattering Paneygyricks . . . I could not but smile at this provision of TAIL-TIMBER.

**TIMBER-MARE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1755. JOHNSON, *Dict.* s.v. HORSE. A wooden machine which soldiers ride by way of punishment. It is sometimes called a TIMBER-MARE.

**TIMBER-MERCHANT,** *subs. phr.* (common) — A street match-seller; a SPUNK-FENCER.

**TIMBERED.** WELL (or CLEAN) TIMBERED, *adj. phr.* (old).—(*a*) Well made; and (*b*) WELL-HUNG (*q.v.*): TIMBER = strength, might. Also, HOW'S HE TIMBERED? = how's he built? NOT TIMBERED UP TO MY WEIGHT = not my style.

14[?]. *Torrent of Portugal*, 99. Sith thy dwelling shalle be here, That thou woldist my son lere, Hys TYMBER ffor to asay.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Labour Lost*, v. 2. I think Hector was not so CLEAN TIMBERED.

1605. JONSON, *Volpone*, iv. 2. That fine WELL-TIMBERED gallant.

1637. DRAYTON, *Poems*, 299. Alanson, a fine TIMB'RED man, and tall, Yet wants the shape thou art adorn'd withall: Vandome good carriage, and a pleasing eie, Yet hath not Suffolk's princely majestie.

**TIMBER-TASTER,** *subs. phr.* (trade). —A dockyard official who examines timber and decides on quality and fitness.

**TIMBER-TUNED,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Heavy-fingered; wooden.

**TIMBER-YARD,** *subs. phr.* (cricketers').—The wicket.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, I. xi. Verdant found that before he could get his hand in, the ball was got into his wicket . . . and . . . there was a row in his TIMBER-YARD.

**TIMBRELL,** *subs.* (old).—The pillory (HOLLYBAND, 1593).

**TIMDOODLE,** *subs.* (provincial).—A silly fellow (HALLIWELL).

**TIME,** *subs.* (cabmen's).—*See* quot.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. . . . To express 9s. 9d. they say that 'it is a quarter to ten'; if 3s. 6d., half-past three; if 11s. 9d., a quarter to twelve. Cab-drivers can hardly have originated a system which has been in existence as long as the adage, 'Time is money.' They have, however, the full use of the arrangement, which is perhaps the simplest on record.

THE TIME OF DAY, *subs. phr.* (common). — 1. The immediate trick; the latest dodge; the absolute aspect of affairs. Thus, TO PUT UP TO THE TIME OF DAY = to initiate; TO KNOW THE TIME OF DAY = to be fully informed, ON THE SPOT (*q.v.*); TO KNOW WHAT'S O'CLOCK (*q.v.*); THAT'S THE TIME OF DAY = 'That's how we DOES it!'

1687. BROWN, *Works*, i. 85. Your Dragons and flying Monsters won't go down at this TIME OF DAY.

1827. MAGINN, *Vidocq's Song*. Who should I meet but a jolly blowen Who was FLY TO THE TIME OF DAY.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, 'Nix my Dolly.' They PUT ME UP TO THE TIME OF DAY.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*. Pop that shawl away in my castor, Dodger, so that I may know where to find it when I cut; THAT'S THE TIME OF DAY!

2. (pugilists').—A knock-out blow.

3. (old).—*See* quot.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf.*, s.v. TIME OF DAY . . . In the island (Wight) every good joke is 'THE TIME O' DAY.'

4. (old colloquial).—A salutation; a greeting; 'Good morning.' etc.

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Pericles*, iv. 3. 35. Not worth THE TIME OF DAY.

1851–6. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 489. The police . . . are very friendly. They'll pass THE TIME OF DAY with me.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, v. 'And the woman?' 'Back kitchen. Pass THE TIME O' DAY with 'er sometimes. No bizness o' mine.'

1900. SIMS, *London's Heart*, 4. I thought it was only right to pass THE TIME O' DAY to an old pal.

# SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES

## PAST AND PRESENT

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

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

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MCMIII.

TO DO (or SERVE) TIME, *verb. phr.* (thieves').—To go to prison. Hence TIMER=a convict: *e.g.*, FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD TIMER =a prisoner serving for a first, second, or third stretch.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, vi. If it had not been for me you would have been DOING TIME before this.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 242. I . . . endorse the . . . opinion of one who had DONE TIME regarding this . . punishment.

TO KNOCK OUT OF TIME, *verb. phr.* (pugilists').—To hit out; so to punish an opponent that he cannot come up to the call of time.

ON TIME, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—(1) Punctual; and (2) abreast of things.

IN GOOD TIME, *adv. phr.* (old colloquial).—Just so! Well and good! Fr. *à la bonne heure.*

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Measure for Measure*, v. 1. 182. *Duke.* Leave me awhile with the maid . . . no loss shall touch her with my company. *Prov.* IN GOOD TIME. [See also v. 1. 284-7.]

1650. FULLER, *Pisgah Sight*, II. vi. 27. There, saith he, even at this day are shewed the ruines of those three tabernacles built according to Peter's desire. IN VERY GOOD TIME, no doubt!

*d.* 1663. SANDERSON, *Works* [Parker Soc.], i. 67. IN GOOD TIME! But I pray you then first to argue the cause a little . . . whether he deserve such honour?

*See* GOOD TIME; HIGH OLD TIME.

**TIMOTHY**, *subs.* (provincial).—The *penis*: of children (HALLIWELL).

**TIMOTHY TEARCAT.** *See* TEAR.

**TIM-WHISKY (TIMMY-WHISKEY or WHISKEY)**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A light one-horse chaise without a hood (GROSE).

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 481. In spite of him these youths so frisky, Went out and hir'd a TIMMY-WHISKY.

1774. FOOTE, *Cozeners*, i. A journey to Tyburn in a TIM-WHISKY and two would have concluded your travels.

*d.* 1832. CRABBE, *Works*, II. 174. WHISKEYS and gigs and curricles.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, Interch. xiv. It is not like the difference between . . . a WHISKEY and a TIM-WHISKEY, that is to say, no difference at all.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, III. 227. The increased taxation of the curricle had the effect of bringing into existence the less expensive gig, a development or an imitation of a two-wheeled carriage known in the country as a WHISKEY.

**TIN**, *subs.* (common.)—Money: generic: *see* RHINO. Hence TO TIN OUT=to pay.

1836. SMITH, *The Individual*, 'The Thieves' Chaunt,' 5. But because she lately nimm'd some TIN, They have sent her to lodge at the King's Head Inn.

1848. DURIVAGE, *Stray Subjects*, 57. Depositing the 'TIN' in his shot-bag.

1854. MARTIN and AYTOUN, *Bon Gualtier Ballads*. 'The Knyghte and the Taylzeour's Daughter.' Once for all, my rum 'un, I expect you'll post the TIN.

1855. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, ii. 2. Divilish aisy to say 'buy,' but where's the TIN to come from?

1857. WHITTY, *Bohemia*, I. 166. No girls get married without TIN, little or great.

1872. BLACKIE, *Highlands and Islands*, 30. And is this all! And I have seen the whole, . . . 'Tis scantly worth the TIN, upon my soul.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 199. He started with a lot of TIN but had not sufficient brass or *physique* to stand the wear-and-tear.

1886. KENNARD, *Girl in Brown Habit*, i. How the dickens is he to get them, if he has no means of his own, except by marrying a woman with plenty of TIN?

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 76. Nothing mean about uncle—he squandered the TIN.

1901. *West. Gaz.*, 5 Mar., 8. 1. It is calculated to be nearly double that the traveller has to TIN OUT.

**TIN-BELLIES,** *subs. phr.* (military). —The 1st and 2nd Life Guards: from the cuirass.

**TINCLAD,** *subs.* (American). — A gunboat: spec. a musket-proof gunboat such as were used during the civil war on the western rivers: the armour plating of these was very light. Also (general) = any ironclad; a TIN-POT (*q.v.*).

**TINGE,** *subs.* (drapers').—A commission on the sale of out-of-date stock: *cf.* SPIFFINGS.

**TINGER,** *subs.* (provincial). — A great lie (HALLIWELL).

**TINGLE-TANGLE,** *subs. phr.* (old). —*See* quot.

1640. RANDOLPH, *Amyntas.* Now hang the hallowed bell about his neck, We call it a mellisonant TINGLE-TANGLE.

**TIN-GLOVES,** *subs. phr.* (Winchester).—*See* quot.

*c.* 1840. MANSFIELD, *School Life* (1866), 54. Other ordeals . . . were not quite so harmless . . . a pair of TIN GLOVES which Bully would furnish in the following manner. Taking a half-consumed stick from the fire, he would draw the 'red-hot end' down the back of Green's hand between each of the knuckles to the wrist, and having produced three lines of blisters, would make two or three transverse lines across. A scientifically fitted pair of gloves of this description was generally, if not pleasant wear, of great durability.

**TINKARD,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A begging tinker.

1575. AWDELEY, *Frat. Vacabondes.* A TINKARD leaveth his bag a-sweating at the ale-house, which they terme their bowsing inne, and in the meane season goeth abrode a begging.

**TINKER,** *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. An unskilful workman; a botcher. Also (2) a makeshift; a botch; a bungle. As *verb* = to make barely or rudely serviceable: *e.g.*, TO TINKER UP A PATIENT = to keep Death at arm's length; TO TINKER A FENCE = to stop a gap here and there; TO TINKER A BILL = to make it temporarily workable.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 1. They must speak their mind about it . . . and spend their time and money in having a TINKER at it.

1885. *Standard*, 11 Nov. I should oppose any mere TINKERING of its constitution which would retain the hereditary principles as its chief feature.

1890. DILKE, *Problems of Greater Britain*, vi. 6. The Victorian Act has been already TINKERED several times, and is not likely to last long in its present form.

TO SWILL LIKE A TINKER, *verb. phr.* (old).—To tipple without stint.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. v. Eat and drink bravely . . . SWILL LIKE TINKERS.

*See* LAZY, quot. 1811.

**TINKER'S-BUDGET** (or **-NEWS**), *subs. phr.* (old).—Stale news; PIPER'S NEWS (*q.v.*).

**TINKER'S DAMN,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A small standard of value: usually, in phrase, 'Not worth a TINKER'S DAMN' (or CURSE).

**TINKLER,** *subs.* (old).—1. A vagrant; whence (2) a runaway.

[?] *Sheriff-Muir* [CHILD, *Ballads*, vii. 161]. For Huntly and Sinclair, they both play'd the TINKLER.'

*d.* 1796. BURNS [*Merry Muses* (*c.* 1800), 122]. An' was nae Wattie a blinker? He maw'd frae the queen to the TINKLER.

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, xviii. 'Is there a fire in the library?' 'Yes, ma'am, but she looks such a TINKLER.'

2. (common).—A bell.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xv. 'Jerk the TINKLER.' These words in plain English conveyed an injunction to ring the bell.

**TINNY**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A fire; TINNY-HUNTER=a thief working at a conflagration (GROSE and VAUX).

**TINPOT**, *subs.* (naval).—An iron-clad: *cf.* TIN-CLAD.

*Adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Generic for shoddy. Thus A TIN-POT (=poor or pretentious) GAME; TIN-POT (=shabby) LOT; TIN-POT (=mean) COMPANY; IN A TIN-POT WAY=in poor or worthless fashion. Also (American) TIN-HORN.

1876. BESANT and RICE, *Golden Butterfly*. I shall have information of every dodge goin', from an emperor's ambition to a TIN-POT company bubble.

1887. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Mocassin*. They're A TIN-HORN LOT . . . on'y fit to take their pleasure in a one-horse hearse.

**TIN-TAB**, *subs. phr.* (Dulwich College).—The carpenter's shop.

**TIN TABERNACLE**, *subs. phr.* (common). — An iron-built church.

1898. LE QUEUX, *Scribes and Pharisees*, v. 54.

**TIP**, *subs.* (common).—1. Special information; private knowledge. Specifically an advice concerning betting or a Stock-Exchange speculation intended to benefit the recipient: THE STRAIGHT TIP =an absolute CERT (*q.v.*); in racing=direct advice from owner or trainer. Also (2) a horse, a stock, etc., specially recommended as a sound investment. As *verb*=to impart exclusive information. Hence TIPSTER (*see* quot. 1874): also TIPPER. 'THAT'S THE TIP'='That's the right thing'; TO MISS ONE'S TIP =to fail.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* [E. E. T. S.], 20. [Harman speaks of having coaxed his friends the beggars, and thus] attained to the TYP.

1842. *Quarterly Review*, clxiii. 175. It should be the first duty of consuls to keep the Foreign Office promptly supplied with every commercial TIP that can be of use to British trade.

1869. BYRON, *Not Such a Fool*, etc. [FRENCH], 8. Mr Topham Sawyer MISSED HIS own TIP as well as his victim's, and came down a cropper on a convenient doorstep.

1874. HENRY SAMPSON [*Slang Dict.* (HOTTEN), s.v. TIPSTER]. A 'turf' agent who collects early and generally special information of the condition and racing capabilities of horses in the training districts, and posts the same to his subscribers to guide their betting. There are, whatever non-racing men may think, many 'touts' whose information is valuable to even the 'best-informed' writers.

1881. A. C. GRANT, *Bush Life*, II. 33. He was a real good fellow, and would give them THE STRAIGHT TIP.

1885. *Field*, 3 Oct. Storm Light was a great TIP for the Snailwell Stakes.

1885. *Ev. Standard*, 3 Oct. The late Mr Segrott, who carried on the business of TIPSTER and sausage making, was the last year's winner of this plate.

1890. *Nineteenth Century*, xxvi. 846. The crowd of touts and TIPSTERS whose advertisements fill up the columns of the sporting press.

1891. GOULD, *Double Event*, 173. That's the rummiest TIP I ever got.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, iv. Tucka-Tucka's the place to breed good horses, take my TIP for it.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 30. So, take my TIP and close your features now. *Ibid.*, 41. For the landlord had the pip, and required a first-rate TIP. *Ibid.*, 65. I rumbled the TIP as a matter of course.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, v. You kin take my TIP; there's some very respectable people in this place.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxiii. I guess Drexel will know whether it's a TIP or not.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Feb., 470. 2. [They] were pursued by their lady friends for TIPS as to what to buy or sell.

**2.** (colloquial).—A gratuity; a vail: spec. money in acknowledgment of service rendered or expected. Also (loosely), any gift of money. Likewise TIPPERY = payment. As *verb* TIP = (1) to give TIPS; and (2) to earn money (*see* quots. **1610** and **1772**).

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all* (H. Club's Rept. 1874), 3. And TIP lowr with thy prat.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux' Stratagem*, ii. 3. Then I, sir, TIPS me the verger with half-a-crown.

1727. GAY, *Beggar's Opera*, iii. 1. Did he TIP handsomely? How much did he come down with?

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 139. This job will TIP you one pound one.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*. Mrs Tester . . . was dabbing her curtseys in thankfulness for the large amount with which our hero had TIPPED her.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xvi. Remember how happy such benefactors made you . . . and go off on the very first fine day and TIP your nephew at school. *Ibid.* What money is better bestowed than that of a schoolboy's TIP?

1857. DUCANGE ANGLICUS, *Vulg. Tongue*, 39. Lawyer Bob draws fakements up; he's TIPPED a peg for each.

1874. *Siliad*, 99. Gasmen assume respect, which costs them dear, 'Tis bought with TIPS to pay for quarts of beer.

1877. *Scribner's Mag.*, July, 400. This whole matter of TIPPING waiters, and of waiters expecting to be TIPPED, is a very marked manifestation of the poison of pauperism.

1884. GREENWOOD, *Little Ragamuffins*. 'Come on . . . TIP UP, Smiffield.' 'TIP UP!' I repeated, in amazement.' . . . 'Fork out,' said the boy.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 16 Jan. Others declare that those only who display beforehand the alluring TIP catch the porter's eye.

1891. *Harry Fludyer*, 49. You get your pocket-money regularly, and I know the Pater TIPPED you at Christmas, and the Mater told me she gave you two pounds when you went back.

1898. GISSING, *Town Traveller*, xxiv. No doubt he was jolly frightened when you spotted him, and you know how he met you once or twice and TIPPED you.

**3.** (Felsted School).—(*a*) A false report; (*b*) a foolish blunder in translating.

1890. *Felstedian*, Feb. 3. Some one ventured to suggest that it was all a beastly TIP.

**4.** (old).—A draught of liquor; an abbreviation (B. E.) of TIPPLE (*q.v.*). TO TIP OFF = to drink (B. E. and GROSE).

*Verb.* (common).—Generic for doing: a verb of general application (HARMAN, B. E., GROSE, VAUX, HOTTEN). Thus TO TIP THE LOUR (COLE, BRASS, RHINO, etc.) = to pay, give, get or lend money (see *subs.* sense 2); TO TIP A SOCK = to land a blow; TO TIP A SETTLER = to knock-out; TO TIP TO ADAM TILER = to hand the swag to a confederate; TO TIP A MISH = to put on a shirt; TO TIP OFF = (1) to drink: *see* TIPPLE; (2) to die; TO TIP THE LION = to flatten one's nose with the thumb and extend the mouth with the fingers (GROSE); TO TIP A DADDLE (THE FIVES, or THE GRIPES IN A TANGLE) = to shake hands (GROSE); TO TIP A COPPER = to sky a coin; TO TIP A YARN = to tell a story; TO TIP THE TRAVELLER = to humbug, to romance; TO TIP THE WINK =

to wink (as a sign of caution, understanding, etc.); TO TIP THE RED RAG = to scold; TO TIP THE RAGS (or THE LEGS) A GALLOP (or THE DOUBLE) = to decamp (GROSE); TO TIP ALL NINE = to knock all the skittles down at once (GROSE); TO TIP THE VELVET = to tongue a woman (GROSE); TO TIP A STAVE = to sing; TO TIP THE LITTLE FINGER (Australian) = to drink; TO TIP THE GRAMPUS = to duck a man: a penalty for sleeping on watch (nautical); TO TIP ONE'S BOOM OFF = to hurry away (nautical); TO TIP THE LONG-'UN = to foraminate a woman; TO TIP A STAVE = to sing a song; TO TIP A NOD = to recognise; TO TIP A MORAL = to give the straight; TO TIP A RISE = to befool, etc.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*, 37. Cheates, which word is vsed generally for things, as TIP me that Cheate, Give me that thing.

1676. *Warning for Housekeepers*, 'Life and Death of the Darkman Budge.' For when that he hath nubbed us, And our friends TIP him NO COLE, He takes his chive and cuts us down, And TIPS us into the hole.

1692. DRYDEN, *Juvenal*, vi. She writes love letters to the youth in grace; Nay, TIPS THE WINK before the cuckold's face.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. vi. The quarrel being hushed, Panurge TIPPED THE WINK upon Epistemon and Friar John . . . taking them aside.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TIP. TIP your Lour, or Cole or I'll Mill ye, c. give me your Money or I'll kill ye. TIP the Culls a Sock, for they are sawcy, c. Knock down the Men for resisting. TIP the Cole to Adam Tiler, c. give your Pick-pocket Money presently to your running Comrade. TIP the Mish, c. give me the Shirt. TIP me a Hog, c. lend me a Shilling.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 251. I now TIPP'D THE WINK, at her, and she as kindly returned it.

1709. ADDISON, *Tatler*, No. 86. The pert jackanapes, Nick Doubt TIPPED me THE WINK, and put out his tongue at his grandfather.

1731–5. POPE, *Moral Essays*, ii. 33. Sudden, she storms! she raves! You TIP THE WINK; But spare your censure: Silia does not drink.

174[?]. CIBBER, *Flora*, ii. 2. She TIPT THE WINK upon me, with as much as to say, desire him not to go till he hears from me.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xii. I began to smell his character, and, TIPPING Strap THE WINK, told the company, etc. *Ibid.* (1760–2), *Sir L. Greaves*, vi. Then, my lad, there would be some picking; aha! dost thou TIP ME THE TRAVELLER, my boy?

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 288. Nestor their meaning understood, And TIPT 'em all THE WINK it should.

1778. BURNEY, *Evelina*, lxxviii. 'Egad,' said Mr Coverley, 'the baronet has a mind to TIP us a touch of THE HEROICS this morning.'

*c.* 1780. *Ireland Sixty Years Ago*, 86. 'The Kilmainham Minit.' When to see Luke's last jig we agreed, We TIPPED him OUR GRIPES in a tangle. *Ibid.*, 87. We'd TIP him THE FIVES fore his det.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 309. Prowling about in masquerade, and TIPPING THE WINK to every blackguard who parades the street.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 15. He TIPP'D HIM a settler.

1821. EGAN, *Anec. of Turf*, 183. She TIPPED THE party such a dish of RED RAG as almost to create a riot in the street.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 3. Hand us over three browns out of that 'ere tizzy; and TIP us THE HEAVY. (*Landlord receives money and delivers porter.*)

1824. *Sonnets for the Fancy* [*Boxiana*, iii. 622]. The knowing bench had TIPPED her buzzer QUEER.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxxiii. TIP him THE DEGAN, Fib, fake him through and through. *Ibid.*, xlix. I shall give you a cooling in the watchhouse if you TIPS us any of YOUR JAW.

1832. WILSON, *Noctes Ambrosianæ*, Sept. TIP THE captain one of your BROADSIDES.

1837. DISRAELI, *Venetia*, i. xiv. TIP me THE CLANK like a dimber mort.

1838. WRIGHT, *Mornings at Bow Street*. In plain words he fairly TIPP'D 'EM THE DOUBLE, he was vanished.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* [1889], 13. If he don't TIP THE COLE without more ado, give him a taste of the pump, that's all.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* . . . Just by sweetening them, and then they don't mind TIPPING THE LOAVER.

1862. *Artemus Ward, His Book* (1899), 158. 'TIP US YER BUNCH OF FIVES, old faker!' said Artemus Junior.

1881. STEVENSON, *Treasure Island*. TIP US A STAVE.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn*. If I could TIP her THE WINK, she'd light out and save me.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 45. Our jockey pal TIPPED us THE WINK To denote that he'd done in the physic.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxi. So Bill TIPS me THE WINK not to tumble to their lingo.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, v. The Frenchman, however, TIPPED Ross A WINK, which . . . was the beginning of a secret alliance.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 20. I TIPPED 'im ONE ON THE SMELLER, as soon as 'e said it. *Ibid.*, 21. I'll TIP my push THE WINK when you come up.

ON THE TIP OF THE TONGUE, *phr.* (colloquial).—On the point of speech; about to be said.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxix. It was ON THE TIP OF THE BOY'S TONGUE to relate what had followed; but . . . he checked himself.

**TIPPER**, *subs.* (old).—1. A special brew of ale: named after Mr Thomas Tipper: also BRIGHTON TIPPER.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxv. If they draws the BRIGHTON TIPPER here, I takes that ale at night.

*d.* 1876. LOWER [*Century Dict.*]. The peculiarity of [TIPPER] arises from its being brewed from brackish water, which is obtainable from one well only; and all attempts to imitate the flavour have hitherto failed.

2. *See* TIP, *subs.* 1 and 2.

**TIPPERARY FORTUNE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'Two town lands, Stream's Town (= CUNT, *q.v.*) and Ballinocack (= ARSE-HOLE, *q.v.*); said of Irish women without fortune' (GROSE): *cf.* TETBURY PORTION.

**TIPPERARY-LAWYER**, *subs. phr.* (Irish).—A cudgel: *cf.* PLYMOUTH-CLOAK.

**TIPPET**, *subs.* (old).—A hangman's rope: also HEMPEN (ST JOHNSTONE'S or TYBURN) TIPPET. *See* HEMP (with all derivatives) and HORSE-COLLAR.

1586. MARLOWE, *Jew of Malta*, iv. 4. When the hangman had put on his HEMPEN TIPPET, he made such haste to his prayers as if he had had another cure to serue.

1816. SCOTT, *Old Mortality*, vii. Then it will be my lot . . . to be sent to Heaven wi' a ST JOHNSTONE'S TIPPET about my hause.

1899. *Century Dict.*, s.v. TIPPET. ST JOHNSTONE'S TIPPET . . . said to be named from the wearing of halters about their necks by Protestant insurgents of Perth (formerly also called St John's Town, St Johnston) in the beginning of the Reformation, in token of their willingness to be hanged if they flinched.

TO TURN TIPPET, *verb. phr.* (old).—To change right-about: *cf.* TURNCOAT and TURN CAT-IN-THE-PAN.

1562. HEYWOOD, *Epigrams* [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 561. Amongst the romance words are] TURN HIS TIPPET.

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton* [TEMPLE], iii. 2. 137. Well, to be brief, the nun will soon at night TURN TIPPET; if I can but devise to quit her cleanly of the nunnery, she is my own.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iii. A saint, Another Bridget, one that for a face Would put down Vesta; . . . You TO TURN TIPPET!

1609. FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas*, ii. 2. Ye stand now As if y' had worried sheep. You must TURN TIPPET, And suddenly, and truly, and discreetly, Put on the shape of order and humanity.

**TIPPING**, *adj.* (schools').—First-rate; jolly.

**TIPPLE** (or **TIP**), *subs.* (old).—1. Drink; (2) a drinking bout (B. E. and GROSE): also TIPLAGE and as *verb.* Whence not a few colloquial usages: *e.g.*, ON THE TIPPLE = on the BOOZE (*q.v.*); TO SPOIL A TIP = to interrupt while drinking; TIPPLER = (1) a toper; a fuddlecap, 'sots who are continually sipping' (B. E. and GROSE); and (2) a publican (the original meaning); TIPSY = fuddled, drunk, BOOSY (*q.v.*): also TIPPLED or TIPT (B. E.: 'a'most Drunk'). Also derivatives such as TIPPLING, TIPPLING-HOUSE, TIPSIFY, TIPSINESS, TIPSY-CAKE, etc.

1450. *Chester Myst.* [Shakspeare Soc.]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 288. The Scandinavian words are *filly* and the verb TIPPLE.] [*Ency.* and *Century*: Norw. *tipla*, 'to drink little and often.']

*c.* 1520. *Wyf of Auchtermuchty*, 32. An husband, as I hard it tawld Quha weill cowld TIPPILL owt a can.

*d.* 1555. LATIMER, *Works* (1854–5), i. 133. They were but TIPPLERS, such as keep ale-houses.

1583. GRINDAL, *Remains* (1843), 138. No inn-keeper, ale-house keeper, victualler, or TIPLER shall admit or suffer any person or persons in his house or back-side to eat, drink, or play at cards, tables, bowls, or other games, in time of Common Prayer.

1587. HARMAR, *Beza*, 313. Gamesters, TIPPLERS, tavern-haunters . . . and other dissolute characters.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Midsummer's Night's Dream*, v. 1. 48. The riot of the TIPSY Bachanals. *Ibid.* (1608), *Antony and Cleop.*, i. 4. 19. TIPPLING with a slave; To reel the streets at noon.

1601. [CAMDEN, *Hist. Queen Eliz.*]. Such kind of men who lurked in TIPPLING-HOUSES.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Piailleur* . . . a TIPLER, bowser. *Ibid. Berlan*, a common TIPPLING HOUSE, a house of gaming, or of any other disorder.

1615. FLETCHER, *Nightwalker*, i. He's very merry, madam; . . . i' th' bottom o' the cellar; He sighs and TIPPLES.

1633. MARMION, *Antiquary*, iv. Why, they are as jovial as twenty beggars, drink their whole cups six glasses at a health, your master's almost TIPT already.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, II. i. Deific liquor which they call *piot*, or TIPLAGE.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, ii. 48. If the head be well TIPPLED [Satan] gets in and makes the eyes wanton, the tongue blasphemous and the hands ready to stab.

1672. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1700), 128. Whil'st thou ly'st TIPPLED, or TIPPLING. *Ibid.*, *Scoffer Scofft*, 193. Wait her and fill me out my TIPPLE.

1693. DRYDEN, *Persius's Satires*, iv. 73. A peel'd slic'd onion eats, and TIPPLES verjuice.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. 1. Having often renewed their TIPPLINGS, each mother's son retired on board his own ship.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. Tip. *Don't spoil his* TIP, don't baulk his Draught, *A Tub of good* TIP (for TIPPLE) a Cask of strong Drink.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræfilius*, ii. 10. This inordinate TIPPLE-PITCHER (notwithstanding his own Gluttony and Ebriety) so very busy on Sunday in persecuting all TIPPLERS. *Ibid.*, *Satyr against Wine* (*Works*, 1718, iii. 185). Both kind and TIPSIE lull'd themselves to Rest.

1710. SWIFT, *Polite Conv.*, ii. Miss (with a glass in her hand).—Hold your tongue, Mr Neverout, don't speak in my TIP.

1770. CHATTERTON, *Revenge*, ii. 4. I heard a voice within, or else I'm TIPSEY.

*d.* 1790. FRANKLIN, *Autobiog.*, 161. Walking the rounds was often neglected, and most of the nights spent in TIPPLING.

*d.* 1821. KEATS, *Lines on Mermaid Tavern*. Have ye TIPPLED drink more fine Than mine Host's Canary wine.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, i. ix. Famous wine this—beautiful TIPPLE—better than all your red fustian.

1847–8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, i. She was in such a passion of tears, that they were obliged to send for Dr Floss, and half TIPSIFY her with sal volatile.

1857. CARLYLE, *Miscell.*, iv. 95. The man was but TIPSIFIED when he went; happily when he returned, which was very late, he was drunk.

1886. *D. Teleg.*, 12 Jan. That apparently innocuous beverage which has hitherto passed itself off as the teetotaller's TIPPLE.

1888. DENTON, *Eng. in 15th Century*, 203. Still adulteration went on, and at almost every manor court the TIPPLERS . . . those who sold the ale not those who drank it . . . were fined.

**TIPPYBOBS,** *subs.* (American).—The wealthy classes (BARTLETT).

**TIP-TOP,** *subs. adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).—The best; first-rate; in the highest degree: hence TIP-TOPPER (GROSE).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. A 1; about East; about right; above par; all brandy; all there; all the way; as good as they make it; as good as wheat; at par; bang up; Bible; bobbish; boiler-plated; bona; bully; cheery; the cheese; cheesy; chic; clean potato; clean wheat; clinking; clipping; crack; creamy; crushing; a corker; a daisy; dossy; downy; down to the ground; doubled-distilled; first chop; first-rate-and-a-half; fizzing; fly; gamey; hunky; jammy; jonnick; lummy; nap; out-and-out; pink; plummy; proper; pure quill; real jam; right as ninepence; ripping; rooter; rum; screaming; scrumptious; ship-shape; slap-up; slick; splash up; splendacious; splendiferous; to the knocker; to the nines; to rights; true marmalade; tsing-tsing; up to Dick. *See* also WHOPPER.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. *Abracadabrant; aux petits oignons; aux pommes; bath* (or *bate*); *du flan; hurf; un peu ça; bath aux pommes; chenâtre; chic* (or *chicque*); *chicard; chicancardo; chicandard; chocnoso; chocnosof; chocnosogue; koscnoff; chouette; chouettard; chouettaud; épatant; épatarouflant; farineux; flambant; frais* (ironically); *grand'largue* (sailors'); *mirobolant; muche; numero un; obéliscal; ruisselant d'inouisme; rup* (or *rupin*); *schpile; sgoff; snoboye; superlifico* (or *superlificoquentieux*) = splendiferous; *tapé.*

*d.* 1720. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, iii. 1. Everything that accomplishes a fine lady is practised . . . she herself is at the very TIP TOP of it. . . . In TIP-TOP spirits.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar*, ix. What appeared amiss was ascribed to TIP-TOP quality breeding.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 361. They're of the very TIP-TOP breed.

1849. THACKERAY, *Hoggarty Diamond*, iv. He was at the West End on Thursday, asked to dine, ma'am, with the TIP-TOP nobs.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xvii. That . . . Stake it, means the TIP-TOP—and nobody can get higher than that, I think.

1866. *London Misc.*, 3 Mar., 58. 3. No little let-down for a cove that's been TIP-TOPPER in his time.

1874. *Siliad*, 92. While shop-boys, trying TIP-TOP swells to be, Have robbed the till, and call for S. and B.

1882. *Century Mag.*, xxxv. 621. 'That suits us TIP-TOP, ma'am,' said the coxswain.

1885. *Field*, 26 Dec. Several other TIP-TOPPERS being behind the pair. *Ibid.* (1886), 23 Jan. I promised to provide them with TIP-TOP shooting for one season.

1891. CAREW, *Autobiog.*, 416. As fly a bewer she were, as ever chucked a stall, a reg'lar TIP-TOP tam-tart.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, v. You should see 'em goin' out o' Saturday nights. TIPTOP. Won't speak to nobody.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxxii. I've lost my bearings; used to know all the TIP-TOP fences—see!

**TIQUE,** *subs.* (Harrow).—1. Arithmetic; and (2) mathematics. [WARNER: from a French master's peculiar English.]

**TIRE,** *verb.* (American).—To alarm.

1887. MORLEY ROBERTS, *Western Avernus.* Then getting ferocious, 'Not that I'm scared at him.' . . . Nor of you either. I've seen cow-boys, bigger men than you, and with bigger hats too—but they didn't TIRE me.'

**TIRED.** BORN TIRED, *phr.* (common).—An excuse for assumed apathy or genuine disinclination.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxi. The fact is . . . I WOS BORN TIRED, an' I don't seem ible to settle down to this 'ere ring-yer-in in the mornin', and ring-yer-out at night.

**TIRLY-WHIRLY,** *subs. phr.* (Scots).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE (BURNS).

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Court of Equity* [*MS.* in Brit. Mus.]. Ye wroucht a hurly-burly in Jeanie Mitchell's TIRLY-WURLIE.

**TIRRIT,** *subs.* (old).—Fright; terror.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. Here's a goodly tumult; I'll forswear keeping house, before I'll be in these TIRRITS and frights.

**TIRY,** *adj.* (old colloquial).—Tired.

1611. CORYAT, *Crudities*, i. 33. D. My horse began to be so TIRY that he would not stirre one foote.

**'TISER,** *subs.* (journalists'). — *The Morning Advertiser.*

1874. *Siliad*, 10. The Victualler's anger, and the 'TISER's rage.

**TISH,** *subs.* (schools and university).—A cubicle; a partition.

**TISTY-TOSTY,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Swaggering; swashing (HALLIWELL). Also as in quot.

1570. *Marriage, Wit and Science* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, ii. 376]. Now mother, I must. Chalt be a lively lad with HEY TISTY-TUST.

**TIT,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—Orig. anything small: hence (1) = a small horse; and (2) a girl; a young woman: *cf.* FILLY and TITTER.

1548. PATTEN, *Somerset's March*, 92 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, 519. There is the Scandinavian TIT (equus), it means something very small].

1577–87. STANYHURST, *Desc. Ireland*, 11. If he be broken accordinglie you shall haue a little TIT that will trauell a whole daie without anie bait.

1594. BARNEFIELD, *Helen's Rape* [ARBER], 39. But what spurres need now for an untam'd TITT to be trotting.

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, Ind. I wonder that any man is so mad, to come to see these rascally TITS play here.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, 524. A vast virago or an ugly TIT.

*d.* 1668. DENHAM, *Poems* [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, vii. 245]. Being as worthy to sit On a nambling TIT As thy predecessor Dory.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scofft* (1770), 267. The little wanton TIT . . . would both Home and Husband quit . . . To follow thee for dainty Bit.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. 'Pant. Prog.' Blowings, TITS, pure ones, concubines.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. Never trust any of your TITS into an inn of Court, for if you do they'll harass her about from chamber to chamber . . . and send her home with . . . perhaps a hot tail into the bargain. *Ibid.*, iii. 197. Not that thou art so willing a TIT neither, as to let every blockhead get up and ride for asking.

1706. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. x. 6. Mounted on Gallopers and TITS. *Ibid.* (*c.* 1709), *Works*, iii. (1718), 307. 'Spoken on the back of an Elephant.' 'Tis a strange TIT, he neither Trots nor Paces.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux' Stratagem*, i. 1. As to our hearts, I grant ye, they are as willing TITS as any within twenty degrees.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 123. I've been ten years his hackney jade, But now I'm weary of the trade; Brisk English TITS can't long bear hacking. *Ibid.*, 183. These little TITS of mine, I'm sure, Can trot eleven miles an hour.

1774. LLOYD, *The Poetry Professors.* 'Nay, should the TITS get on for once, Each rider is so grave a dunce.'

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TIT. A horse: a pretty little TIT; a smart little girl. . . . TOMMY TIT, a smart lively little fellow.

1811. *Lex. Bal.*, s.v. KEEP. . . . Mother, your TIT won't keep; your daughter will not preserve her virginity.

3. (colloquial). — A small portion; a morsel: whence TIT-BIT = a choice piece; 'a fine snack' (B. E. and GROSE); anything specially selected.

1730. SWIFT, *Directions to Servants*, s.v.

1841. *Punch*, i. 6. The sneaking Whigs were helping themselves to all the fat TIT-BITS.

4. *See* TITMOUSE.

5. (Durham: local).—A student of Durham University: in contempt. Also 'VARSITY TIT.

TIT FOR TAT, *phr.* (colloquial). —Originally TAP FOR TAP (or TIP FOR TAP) = blow for blow; 'an equivalent' (GROSE); 'tant for tant (B. E.), TIT FOR TIT, and dash for dash.' Hence, TO GIVE TIT FOR TAT = to give as good as one gets.

1577. BULLINGER, *Works*, i. 283. Let every young man be persuaded . . . that his duty is . . . not to answer TIP FOR TAP, but to suffer much and wink thereat.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, 2. 1. 205. This is the right fencing grace, my lord; TAP FOR TAP, and so part fair.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 1. *Doll.* Come TIT ME, come TAT ME, come throw a kiss at me—how is that? *Capt.* By Gad, I know not what your TIT-MEES and TAT-MEES are, but . . . I know what kisses be.

1766. COLMAN and GARRICK, *Clandestine Marriage*, v. 2. TIT FOR TAT, Betsey! You are right, my girl.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 17. The general gave him TIT FOR TAT, And answered cocking first his hat. *Ibid.*, 117. Let him with Nell play TIT FOR TAT, And trim her till I eat my hat.

*c.* 1859. PALMERSTON [M'CARTHY, *Hist. Own Times*, xxiii.]. I have had my TIT-FOR-TAT with John Russell, and I turned him out on Friday last.

*See* TALE.

**TITCH**, *subs.* (Christ's Hospital).—A flogging: also as *verb.* [It has been suggested that TITCH = tight breeches: a portmanteau word.]

**TITIVATE** (or **TITTIVATE**), *verb.* (colloquial).—To spruce up; to put finishing touches to one's toilet.

1836. DICKENS, *Boz* ('Mr John Douce'). Regular as clockwork—breakfast at nine—dress and TITTIVATE a little.

1843–4. HALIBURTON, *The Attaché*, xxiii. Well, I'll arrive in time for dinner; I'll TITIVATE myself up, and down to drawin'-room.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, i. 151. The girls are all so TITIVATED off with false beauty, that a fellow loses his heart before he knows it.

1857–9. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, xlviii. Call in your black man, and TITIVATE a bit.

**TITIVIL**, *subs.* (old).—A generic reproach: a knave; a jade. [Tom Titivil in old moralities = the Devil.]

1542. HALL, *Henry VI.*, f. 43. The devill hymself . . . did apparell certain catchepoules and parasites, commonly called TITIVILS and tale tellers, to sowe discord and dissencion.

1560. *Thersytes*, 67. Tynckers and tabberers, typplers, taverners, TYTTY-FYLLES, fryfullers, turners and trumpers.

**TITLEY**, *subs.* (common).—Intoxicating liquor (HOTTEN).

**TITMOUSE**, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Also TIT and TIT-BIT (which last in quot. 1653 = the *penis*).

[?] *Reliq. Antiq.* (1841), ii. 28 (HALLIWELL). Hir corage was to have ado with alle; She had no mynd that she shuld die, But with her prety TYTMOSE to encrece and multeply.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. 136. Another [called it] her Cyprian sceptre, her TIT-BIT.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, II. 186. I hear you kept the poor TITMOUSE under such slavish subjection, that a peer of the realm . . . could not . . . come . . . to be brother-sterling with you.

**TITTER,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A girl (GROSE): *cf.* TIT. [HOTTEN: 'a tramp's term.']

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good Night.* You flymy TITTERS full of flam.

**TITTER-TATTER,** *subs. phr.* (GROSE).—'One reeling and ready to fall at the least touch: also the childish amusement of riding upon the two ends of a plank, poised upon the prop underneath its centre; called also a see-saw.'

**TITTLE-GOOSE,** *subs.* (common).—A foolish blab.

**TITTLE-TATTLE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. Chatter; scandal; 'foolish impertinent talk' (B. E.); 'women's talk' (GROSE); and (2) a chatterbox, a gossip. As *verb.* =to gossip. Hence TITTLE-TATTLER and TITTLE-TATTLING. Also proverbial saying, 'TITTLE TATTLE, give the goose more hay.'

*d.* 1529. SKELTON [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ii. 292. 2]. I played with him [Philip Sparow] TITTEL TATTEL And fed him with my spattell.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, ii. You are full in your TITTLE-TATTLINGS of Cupid.

1592. LYLY, *Midas*, iii. 2. O, sir, you know I am a barber, and cannot TITTLE TATTLE, I am one of those whose tongues are sweld in silence.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4. You must be TITTLE TATTLING before all our guests.

1616. *Times' Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 103. Dame Polupragma, gossip TITTLE-TATTLE Suffers her tongue let loose at randome, prattle.

1633. BROME, *Antipodes*, i. 6. The men do all the TITTLE-TATTLE duties.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. 113. The parchment whereon he wrote the TITTLE-TATTLE of two young mangy whores.

1675. COTTON, *Burlesque on Burlesque* (1770), 177. Come, come, I cannot stay to prattle, Nor hear thy idle TITTLE-TATTLE.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 180. The merry subject of every tavern TITTLE-TATTLE.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. v. 9. For if bifarious TITTLE TATTLE, Could storm a Town, or win a Battel.

1709–11. ADDISON, *Tatler*, 157. Impertinent TITTLETATTLES who have no other variety in their discourse but that of talking slower or faster.

*d.* 1770. CHATTERTON, *Resignation.* The daily TITTLE-TATTLE of the court.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 4. I had been pestered with all the TITTLE-TATTLE of the town about this fellow.

1820. COOMBE, *Syntax*, ii. 31. The TITTLE-TATTLE town.

1890. *Academy*, 18 Oct., 336. Give all the facts and none of the TITTLE-TATTLE.

**TITTUP** (or **TITUP**), *subs.* (old).—1. 'A gentle hand-gallop or canter' (GROSE). Hence TITUPPING (or TITUPPY)=(1) lively, gay, frisky; and (2) shaky, ticklish.

*c.* 1704. [ASHTON, *Queen Anne*, I. 84]. Citizens in Crowds, upon Pads, Hackneys, and Hunters; all upon the TITTUP.

1818. AUSTEN, *Northanger Abbey*, ix. Did you ever see such a little TITUPPY thing in your life? There is not a sound piece of iron about it.

1825. SCOTT, *St Ronan's Well*, xiii. It would be endless to notice . . . the 'Dear mes' and 'Oh laas' of the TITUPPING misses, and the oaths of the pantalooned or buckskinn'd beaux.

1868–9. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, I. 212. Walked his managed mule, Without a TITTUP, the procession through.

2. (colloquial). — The THING (*q.v.*). Thus THAT'S THE TITTUP = that's the thing; THE CORRECT TITTUP = the correct thing.

**TITTERY,** *subs.* (old).—Gin: *see* WHITE SATIN and DRINKS.

1725. G. SMITH, *Compleate Distiller* [DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, iv. 103]. Gin . . . sold under the names of double geneva, royal geneva, celestial geneva, TITTERY . . .

1731. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. TITYRE, a nickname for the liquor called geneva, probably so called because it makes persons merry, laugh, and TITTER.

**TITTERY-TU** (or **TITYRE-TU**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A roaring boy; a street-ruffian; a MOHAWK (*q.v.*). [*Century*: In some fanciful allusion to the first line of the first Eclogue of Virgil,—*Tityre tu patulæ recubans, etc.*]

1616–25. *Court and Times James I.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 73. Young gentlemen form themselves into a club bearing the name of TITYRE TU; these rioters kept the name until the Restoration].

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Roaring boyes, and rough-hewd TITTERY-TUES.

1647–8. HERRICK, *Hesperides*. 'New Year's Gift . . . to Sir Simeon Steward.' No noise of late-spawned TITTYRIES.

*d.* 1826. GIFFORD [Note on FORD'S *Sun's Darling*, i. 1]. Some of the TITYRE-TU'S, not long after the appearance of this drama (1624), appear to have been brought before the Council.

**TIVY** (or **TIVVY**), *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

*Adv.* (hunting). — TANTIVY (*q.v.*)!

1669. DRYDEN, *Tyrannick Love*, iv. 1. In a bright moonshine while winds whistle loud, TIVV, TIVV, TIVV, we mount and we fly.

**TIZZY,** *subs.* (common).—A sixpence: *see* RHINO (GROSE). Hence TIZZY-POOLE (WINCHESTER) = a fives ball (costing 6d. and formerly sold by a head porter named Poole); TIZZY-TICK (Harrow) = an order on a tradesman to the extent of 6d. a day.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 3. Hand us over three browns out of that 'ere TIZZY.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, v. 1. There's an old 'oman . . . who will show you all that's worth seeing—the walks and the big cascade—for a TIZZY.

**TO,** *prep.* (American: vulgar).—At; in (of places): thus 'I shall be TO hum' (home); 'He lives TO Boston.'

1837. HALIBURTON, *Sam Slick* [BARTLETT]. I have forgot what little I learnt TO night-school.

1858. *Rome Sentinel*, Sept. The boiler . . . passed through the main building . . . without injuring the workmen there, although men were TO work on each side of where the boiler passed.

**TOAD,** *subs.* (old).—1. A term of contempt; and (2) a jocular address: *e.g.* 'You little TOAD': *cf.* MONKEY, ROGUE, etc. Also TOADLING.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, II. III. iii. Thou discontented wretch, thou coveteous niggard . . . thou ambitious and swelling TOAD.

1774. BRIDGES, *Barlesque Homer*, 203. Æneas swore it was not fair One man should box with such a pair Of ill-look'd TOADS.

1779. JOHNSON [D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, i. 133]. Your shyness, and slyness, and pretending to know nothing never took me in . . . I always knew you for a TOADLING.

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, iii. If she were a nice pretty child one might compassionate her forlornness, but one can not really care for such a little TOAD as that.

PHRASES. 'She sits like a TOAD on a chopping block' (of a horsewoman with a bad seat); 'As much need of it as a TOAD of a side-pocket'=no need at all; 'As full of money as a TOAD is of feathers' = penniless (GROSE); 'Like a TOAD under a harrow'= on the rack.

**TOADY**, *subs.* (old).—A servile dependant; a LICKSPITTLE (*q.v.*); a BUM-SUCKER (*q.v.*). Also (GROSE and BEE) TOAD-EATER. Hence as *verb* (or TOAD-EATING) =to do dirty or 'reptile' service, to fawn, to lay it on THICK (*q.v.*): Fr. *avaler des couleuvres*. As *adj.* (TOADYISH, HATEFUL or UGLY AS A TOAD)=repulsive, SOAPY (*q.v.*), blandiloquent; TOADYISM (or TOAD-EATING)=servile adulation or service, SNOBBERY (*q.v.*), TUFT-HUNTING (*q.v.*), FLUNKEYISM (*q.v.*). [SMYTH-PALMER: TOADY has perhaps nothing to do with TOAD-EATER . . . originally TO BE TOADY, *i.e.* obliging, officiously attentive: in prov. Eng., TOADY=quiet, tractable, friendly, a corruption of *towardly*, the opposite of one who is *froward*, stubborn, perverse: but *see* quots. 1744 and 1785.]

*d.* 1572. KNOX, *Spirit of Despotism*, 20. A corrupted court formed of miscreant TOAD-EATERS.

*c.* 1628. FELTHAM, *Resolves*, i. 13. Vice is of such a TOADY complexion that she naturally teaches the soul to hate her.

1742. WALPOLE, *Letters*, i. 186. Lord Edgcumbe's [place] . . . is destined to Harry Vane, Pulteney's TOAD-EATER. *Ibid.*, II. 52. I am retired hither like an old summer dowager; only that I have no TOAD-EATER to take the air with me . . . and to be scolded.

1744. SARAH FIELDING, *David Simple*. TOAD-EATER . . . It is a metaphor taken from a mountebank's boy eating toads, in order to show his master's skill in expelling poison; it is built on a supposition that people who are so unhappy as to be in a state of dependence are forced to do the most nauseous things that can be thought on, to please and humour their patrons.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TOAD-EATER. A poor female relation, and humble companion or reduced gentlewoman, in a great family, the standing butt, on whom all kinds of practical jokes are played off, and all ill-humours vented.

1802. COLMAN, *Poor Gentleman*, ii. 2. How these tabbies love to be TOADIED.

1843. MACAULAY [BOSWELL'S *Johnson*]. Without the officiousness, the inquisitiveness, the effrontery, the TOAD-EATING, the insensibility to all reproof, he never could have produced so excellent a book.

1848. THACKERAY, *Book of Snobs*, v. Boys are not all TOADIES in the morning of life . . . The tutors TOADIED him. The fellows in hall paid him great clumsy compliments. *Ibid.*, iii. TOADYISM, organized — base man-and-mammon worship, instituted by command of law: snobbishness, in a word.

*d.* 1884. W. PHILLIPS, *Speeches*, 135. What magic wand was it whose touch made the TOADYING servility of the land start up the real demon that it was?

2. (Scots).—A coarse peasant-woman.

**TOADSKIN**, *subs.* (American).—*See* quot.

1867. LUDLOW, *Little Brother*. 'Don't you know what a TOADSKIN is?' said Billy, drawing a dingy five-cent stamp from his pocket. 'Here's one.'

PHRASE. 'His purse is made of TOAD'S SKIN' (of a covetous person: RAY).

**TOAD-STICKER**, *subs. phr.* (American). — A sword [BARTLETT: 'almost universal during the war' (1861–5)].

**TOAST**, *subs.* (old colloquial: now recognised). — 1. Originally, a lady pledged in drinking; subsequently (2) any person, cause, or thing to which success is drunk;

(3) a call to drink, and (4) the act of drinking. Also (Scots) TOSS, and as *verb* (B. E. and GROSE). Hence TOP-TOAST = a reigning belle : *cf.* TOP (=leading) LADY ; TOASTER = the proposer of another's health.

1663-4. BUTLER, *Hudibras* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 104. One way of winning the love of ladies is said to be] swallowing TOASTS of bits of ribbon ; [TOAST was soon to stand for a lady].

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TOST, to name or begin a new Health. Who TOSTS now? Who Christens the Health? An old TOST, a pert pleasant old Fellow.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of World*, iii. 10. More censorious than a decayed beauty, or a discarded TOAST. *Ibid.*, iv. 5. To drink healths, or TOAST fellows.

1704. CIBBER, *Careless Husband*. [A lady's reputation is said to be the common TOAST of every public table.]

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux's Stratagem*, iii. 1. The gentleman has . . . TOASTED your health.

*c.* 1708. PRIOR, *Female Phaeton*. What has she better, pray, than I, What hidden charms to boast, That all mankind for her should die Whilst I am scarce a TOAST! *Ibid.*, *Chameleon*. Five deep he TOASTS the lowering lasses.

1709. *Tatler*, No. 24, 4 June. A celebrated beauty was in the Cross-Bath, and one of her admirers took a glass of the water in which the fair one stood, and drank her health in the company. A gay fellow, half fuddled, offered to jump in, and swore, though he liked not the liquor, he would have the TOAST. This whim gave foundation to the present honour which is done to the lady we mention in our liquors, who has ever since been called a TOAST. [*Abridged.*]

1710. STEELE, *Tatler*, 95. Her eldest daughter was within half-a-year of being a TOAST.

1725. YOUNG, *Love of Fame*, vi. For Hervey the first wit she cannot be, Nor, cruel Richmond, the first TOAST for thee.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, iii. 3. Let the TOAST pass—Drink to the lass, I'll warrant she'll prove an excuse for the glass.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Poems* (GLOBE), 254. My bonie sel' The TOSS of Ecclefechan.

*d.* 1797. BURKE, *Petition of Unitarians*. These insect reptiles while they go on caballing and TOASTING, only fill us with disgust.

1885. *D. Chron.*, 7 Sept. The TOAST of the Emperor, proposed by Dr. Stephan, was received with enthusiasm, all the guests standing.

2. (old).—A toper : *see* LUSHINGTON. Also TOAST AND BUTTER : in contempt.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, iv. 2. 22. None but such TOASTS-AND-BUTTER with hearts in their bellies no bigger than pins' heads.

1614. FLETCHER, *Wit without Money*, iv. 2. They love young TOASTS AND BUTTER, Bowbell suckers.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1678), 306. How often must I be put to the Blush too, when every OLD TOAST shall be calling me Old Acquaintance.

1673. COTTON, *Voyage to Ireland*, iii. When having half din'd, there comes in my host, A catholic good and a rare drunken TOAST. *Ibid.* (1677), *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, 243. A Toss-pot and a drunken TOAST.

ON TOAST, *adv. phr.* (common).—1. Cornered ; swindled ; DONE (*q.v.*).

1886. *St. James's Gazette*, 6 Nov. The judges in the High Court are always learning some new thing. Yesterday it was entered on the record that the court took judicial cognizance of a quaint and pleasing modern phrase. They discovered what it was to be HAD ON TOAST.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray. John Fordham*, III. 288. 'It's my night,' I sed. 'Didn't I tell yer? I've got 'im ON TOAST.'

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 64. Mason turned white with joy. He thought he had us all ON TOAST.

2. (American).—Nicely served : of food, etc.

**TOASTING-FORK (or -IRON)**, *subs. phr.* (military). — A sword (GROSE): also CHEESE-TOASTER (*q.v.*).

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iv. 3. Put up thy sword betime; Or I'll so maul you and your TOASTING-IRON, That you shall think the devil is come from hell.

1849-50. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, xxii. I served in Spain with the king's troops, until the death of my dear friend Zumalcarreguy, when I saw the game was over, and hung up my TOASTING-IRON.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xli. If I had given him time to get at his other pistol, or his TOASTING-FORK, it was all up.

1900. BOOTHBY, *Maker of Nations*, ix. One of the officers drew his sword . . . 'You can put up that TOASTING-FORK,' said Durrington, coolly.

**TOASTY**, *adj.* (artists'). — Warmly tinted.

**TOBACCANALIAN (TOBACCONER or TOBACCHIAN)**, *subs.* (old).— A smoker. Also TOBACCONING =smoking.

1615. SYLVESTER, *Tobacco Battered*, s.v.

1621. VENNER, *Treat. Tobacco* (1637), 411. You may observe how idle and foolish they are, that cannot travell without a tobacco pipe at their mouth; but such (I must tell you) are no base TOBACCHIANS: for this manner of taking the fume, they suppose to bee generous.

*d.* 1656. HALL, *Hard Measure* [*Century*]. Musketeers, waiting for the major's return, drinking and TOBACCONING as freely as if it [the Cathedral] had turned ale-house.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxv. We get very good cigars for a bajoccho and a half—that is, very good for us cheap TOBACCANALIANS.

*See* PIPE.

**TOBY (or TOBER)**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. The road; the highway. Whence HIGH-TOBY = a main road; THE TOBY (TOBY-LAY or TOBY-CONCERN)=highway robbery (*see* quot. 1785); TOBY-GILL (or TOBY-MAN) = a road thief; HIGHTOBYMAN = a mounted highwayman, LOW-TOBYMAN=a footpad; TO TOBY =to rob on the highway; and DONE FOR A TOBY=convicted for highway robbery. *Cf.* gypsy TOBER = road.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. THE TOBY applies exclusively to robbing on horseback; the practice of footpad robbery being properly called *the spice*, though it is common to distinguish the former by the title of HIGH-TOBY, and the latter of LOW-TOBY.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*. You are a capital fellow . . . the bravest and truest gill that ever took to THE TOBY. *Ibid.* All the most fashionable prigs, or TOBY-MEN, sought to get him into their set.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* (1884), 95. Believe me, there is not a game, my brave boys, To compare with the game of HIGH TOBY; No rapture can equal the TOBY-MAN'S joys.

2. (showmen's).—A pitch for a travelling show.

1893. *Standard*, 29 Jan., 2. We have to be out in the road early, you know, to secure our 'TOBY.'

3. (old: eighteenth century).—A drinking jug or mug: usually a grotesque figure of an old man in a three-cornered hat.

1840. DICKENS, *Barnaby Rudge*, iv. A . . . jug of well-browned clay, fashioned into the form of an old gentleman. 'Put TOBY this way, my dear.' This TOBY was the brown jug.

4. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 57. That Fame and Honour she may go by, And let Æneas firk her TOBY.

**TOBY-TROT**, *subs. phr.* (common). A simpleton (HALLIWELL).—

**TOCO (or TOKO)**, *subs.* (common). —Chastisement: hence TO GIVE TOCO = to thrash.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. TOCO. If . . . Blackee gets a whip about his back, why he has caught TOCO.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. v. The school leaders come up furious, and administer TOCO to the wretched fags.

1893. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*. When a reglar Primroser gits TOKO, one wonders wot next there will come.

**TOD**, *subs.* (American).—A drink; a 'toddy.'

1861. WINTHROP, *Cecil Dreeme*, xiv. Selleridge's was full of fire-company boys, taking their TODS after a run.

1862. *Artemus Ward: His Book* (1899), 37. Ef your peple take their TODS, say Mister Ward is as jenial a feller as we ever met. *Ibid.*, 82. He liked his TODS too well, however.

**TO-DAY.** *See* BAKER.

**TODDLE**, *subs.* (colloquial). — A walk, a saunter: also as *verb* (or TO DO A TODDLE) = (1) to be off (GROSE), and (2) to totter along: as an invalid or child. Hence TODDLES (TODDLEKINS or LITTLE TODDLER) = an endearment to a little child.

1783. JOHNSON [BOSWELL, *Life*, ætat 74]. I should like . . . to have a cottage in your park, TODDLE about, live mostly on milk and be taken care of by Mrs. Boswell.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TODDLE . . . The cove was touting, but stagging the traps he TODDLED.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*. xliv. And the bits o' weans that come TODDLING to play wi' me.

1823. EGAN, *Randall's Scrap Book*. Oft may we hear thy cheerful footsteps sound, And see us TODDLE in with heart elate. *Ibid.* (1827), *Anec. Turf*, 179. She was just about to TODDLE to the gin-spinners for the ould folks and lisp out for a quartern of Max.

1829. *Vidocq's Memoirs*, 'On the Prigging Lay' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 107. I stops a bit: then TODDLED quicker, For I'd prigged his reader, drawn his ticker.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, liii. Children who are accomplished shop-lifters and liars almost as soon as they can TODDLE and speak. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xvi. One of the children . . . was TODDLING by her side.

1856. ELIOT, *Janet's Repentance*, iii. When I was a little TODDLE Mr. and Mrs. Crewe used to let me play about in their garden.

1862. TROLLOPE, *Orley Farm*, xv. Her daily little TODDLE through the town.

1872. BLACKMORE, *Maid of Sker*, v. What did the little thing do but . . . set off in the bravest TODDLE.

1885. *Queen*, 26 Sept. A few tolerable TODDLEKINS in the intermediate cabins.

1891. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 3 July, i. 2. The 'great Trek' . . . has TODDLED out of the little end of the horn.

1901. *Referee*, 14 Ap., 9. 2. Hundreds of tiny TODDLES in their white pinnies . . . were dancing together to a piano-organ.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 113. So ter-morrer me and Joe, my mate, do a little TODDLE round arter we see the lights go out.

**TODDY**, *subs.* (GROSE and BEE).—Originally, the juice of the cocoa tree; afterwards, rum, water, sugar, and nutmeg; now generic for a hot drink of any kind of spirits, as whiskey-TODDY, rum-TODDY, gin-TODDY, etc.

**TODDY-BLOSSOM**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A GROG-BLOSSOM (*q.v.*); a RUM-BUD (*q.v.*).

**TODDY-STICK**, *subs. phr.* (common). —A muddler.

**TODGE**, *subs.* (provincial).—Stodge: as *verb* = to smash; to pulp (GROSE).

**TO-DO**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Ado; a fuss; a commotion; a set-out: *cf.* Fr. *affaire* (*à faire*).

1330. *Romance of Seven Sages* [WEBER, iii. 73]. Make moche TO DONE.

1675. EVELYN, *Diary*, 22 Mar. 'What a TO-DO is here!' would he say; 'I can lie in straw with as much satisfaction.'

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 1. What's here TO DO? O the Father! A man with her! . . . O you young harlotry.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, iv. The next day there was another visit to Doctors' Commons, and a great TO-DO with an attesting ostler.

**TOE**, *verb* (common).—1. To kick: *e.g.* 'I'll TOE your bum for you.'

2. (colloquial).—To reach (or touch) with the toes: *e.g.* TO TOE A LINE (A MARK, or THE SCRATCH)=(1) to stand at attention (or at the start); (2)=to be fully prepared for a struggle or contest; (3) to come up to one's obligations; and (4) to border on.

1835. DANA, *Before Mast*, xiv. He was a man to TOE THE MARK, and to make every one else step up to it.

1857. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. iv. The customary 'flapper-shaking' before TOEING THE SCRATCH for business.

1881. BURROUGHS, *Pepacton*, 244. Then more meadow-land . . . and then the little grey school-house itself TOEING the highway.

PHRASES. TO TURN UP THE TOES=to die: *see* HOP THE TWIG; TO TREAD ON ONE'S TOES=(1) to vex; and (2) to interfere.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth*, xxiv. Several arbalestriers TURNED THEIR TOES UP.

1868-9. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, I. 130. He could not turn about Nor take a step i' the case, and fail to TREAD ON SOME ONE'S TOES.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, vii. I only hope that he will soon TURN UP HIS TOES was the wrathful speculator's adjuration.

**TOE-FIT-TIE**, *subs. phr.* (Winchester; ~~obsolete~~).—*See* quot.

1881. *Felstedian*, Nov., 84. It was that brute A—— who 'TO-FITTI-ED' me last night . . . Let me explain . . . it is nothing more or less than the commencement of a line in the old, familiar, '*As* in præsenti perfectum format in avi' . . . 'TO FIT-TI,' in reference to verbs of the third conjugation transferred from the similarity of sound to the schoolboy's toe; it consisted in tying a running noose on a piece of string, cunningly turning up the bedclothes at the foot, putting it round the big toe of an unconscious sleeper, running the noose up tight, and pulling till the victim followed the direction of the string from the pain getting farther out of bed, and nearer the floor till released.

**TOE-RAGGER**, *subs. phr.* (Australian).—A term of contempt: *cf.* TOEY.

1896. *Truth* (Sydney), 12 Jan. The bushie's favourite term of opprobrium 'a toe-ragger' is Maori. . . . The nastiest term of contempt was *tua rika rika*, or slave. The old whalers on the Maoriland coast in their anger called each other TOE-RIGGERS, and to-day the word in the form of TOE-RAGGER has spread thoughout the whole of the South Seas.

**TOEY**, *subs.* (Australian).—A swell; a TOFF (*q.v.*): a New South Wales localism.

**TOFF**, *subs.* (common).—1. A gentleman, a fop, a SWELL (*q.v.*): *cf.* TOFT and TUFT; (2)=a superior, a man of grit. Hence TOFFER=a fashionable whore; TOFFICKY = dressy, showy, GRITTY (*q.v.*): TOFFISHNESS=SIDE (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1868. ARTHUR LLOYD, *Music Hall Song*, '*The Shoreditch* TOFF' [Title].

1868. *Temple Bar*, xxiv. 538. 9. Moll . . . a flashtail . . . who goes about the streets at night trying to pick up TOFFS.

1873. GREENWOOD, *Strange Company.* Slices . . . under an inch thick would be regarded with contempt . . . perhaps with an uncomfortable suspicion . . . of the detestable ways of gentility. He [a coster] calls it TOFFISHNESS.

1879. *Punch*, 3 May, 201. 1. If the TOFFS took a fancy for chewing a stror or a twig . . . Pall Mall would be jolly soon gay.

1883. SALA [*Illust. Lond. News*, 21 Ap., 379. 2]. Fops flourished before my time, but I can remember the dandy, who was superseded by the count, the TOFF, and other varieties of the swell.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 83. (*Loud cheers, and a voice*, '*Gladstone's an old* TOFF').

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 248. Such appellations as 'TOFF Smith' or 'Dandy Jones.'

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxviii. You're a TOFF, stone-broke—that's what you are . . . I ain't no class for you, I never can be.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 27. 'I've lived here for six weeks like a TOFF, old man,' said Jack Oswald.

1902. *D. Telegraph*, 16 Sep., 5. 4. He held out his wrists to be handcuffed, and exclaimed, 'Now I'll die like a TOFF.' *Ibid.* (1903), 10 Feb., 6. 4. Over six thousand of us, I mean genuine out-of-works. Of course, there'll be loafers . . . and supposing the TOFFS of Pall-mall come along, welcome to them.

**TOFFEE-SCRAMBLE,** *subs. phr.* (schoolboys'). — Toffee-making: *cf.* TEA-FIGHT, BUN-WORRY; MUFFIN-CIRCUS, etc.

1901. *Troddles*, 46. . . . 'Foot sugar, my boy.' 'What do you do with it—make it into a poultice?' 'Rats! . . . didn't you ever have a TOFFEE SCRAMBLE?'

**TOFT,** *subs.* (HOTTEN).—'A showy individual, a swell': *cf.* TUFT and TOFF.

**TOGGER.** *See* TORPID.

**TOG** (or **TOGS**). *See* TOGMAN.

**TOGMAN (TOGE, TOGEMANS,** or **TOG),** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A coat, a cloak, a gown (HARMAN, B. E., GROSE, BEE, HOTTEN): sometimes TOGGER, TOGGY, and (*Tufts*) LONG TOG. [Latin, *toga* = a mantle; lit. a covering.] Also TOGS (*pl.*) = clothes: *see* TOGGERY, *infra*; SUNDAY TOGS = best clothes; TOGED (or TOGGED) = cloaked, gowned, togated, or equipped; TOGGED OUT = carefully dressed; TOGGED UP TO THE NINES = dressed TO KILL (*q.v.*), full-rigged; TOGGERY = (1) clothes: *see* TOGS, *supra*; (2) harness, equipment, belongings; (3) worn-out clothes (HALLIWELL); LONG-TOGS (nautical) = shore clothes; UPPER TOG (or UPPER TOGGER) = an overcoat. As *verb* = to dress, to clothe, to equip.

1465-70. *Morte Arthure* [E.E.T.S.], 178. Alle with taghte mene and towne in TOGERS fulle ryche.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* [E.E.T.S. (1869), 85]. I toure the strummel upon thy nabchet and TOGMAN. *Ibid.*, 105. For want of their Casters and TOGEMANS.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, i. 1. 25. The TOGED consuls [in 1st quarto: other editions = *tongued*]. *Ibid.* (1610), *Coriolanus*, ii. 3. 122. Why in this woolvish TOGE should I stand here? [a modern reading; 1st Folio = *tongue*; other editions = *gown*].

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIM. Nim a TOGEMAN—to steal a cloak. *Ibid.*, s.v. TOGEMAN . . . 'Tis a RUM-TOGEMANS, 'tis a good Camlet-Cloak.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TOG. They are said to be well or queerly TOGGED, according to their appearance.

*c.* 1811. *Vidocq's Song.* Next slipt off his bottom clo'ing, And his ginger head topper gay. Then his other TOGGERY stowing . . .

1820. *London Mag.*, i. 25. He was always TOGGED OUT TO THE NINES.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, 5. This TOGGERY will never fit—you must have a new rig-out.

1823. EGAN, *Randall's Scrap Book.* And with his UPPER TOGGER gay, Prepared to toddle swift away.

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, iv. He was TOG'D gnostically enough.

1835. DANA, *Before Mast*, 131. I took no LONG TOGS with me; . . . being dressed like the rest, in white duck trousers, blue jacket, and straw hat.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'St. Romwold.' Had a gay cavalier thought fit to appear In any such TOGGERY . . . He'd have met with a highly significant sneer.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xvi. Look at his TOGS, superfine cloth and the heavy swell cut.

1844. SELBY, *London by Night*, ii. 1. My TOGS being in keeping with this nobby place.

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London.* She's a dress-woman . . . one . . . they TOG OUT that they may show off at their best, and make the most of their faces. *Ibid.* (187 ). *Night in a Workhouse.* Your suit of TOGGERY ain't a very flash 'un.

1872. BLACKMORE, *Maid of Sker*, vii. What did I do but go to church with all my topmost TOGS.

1879. *Chambers' Jo.*, 368. Scrumptious young girls you TOG OUT so finely.

1884. JAMES, *Little Tour*, 150. Two . . . were gendarmes in full TOGGERY.

1889. THOR FREDUR, *Sketches.* In London many female servants seldom remain long in one situation; just long enough to get TOGGED and fed up.

1898. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 8. I took these TOGS to pawn, But uncle only looked at me and swore. *Ibid.*, 88. He was TOGGED in his best, and so were the rest, Of his pals.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, v. Julian sported his . . . English TOGS, and Texas Dave was again a typical cowboy.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 130. Wimmens'es TOGS haint up ter the men's.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Feb., 459. 1. No 'quick-change artist' could have had a larger assortment of 'TOGS.'

**TOHENO (or TOHERENO),** *adj.* (back slang).—Very nice. [That is, 'hot one.']

**TOKE,** *subs.* (common).—Generic for food; GRUB (*q.v.*): spec. bread. Also (rare) = a piece, lump, portion.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, i. Some prisoner who . . . had forgotten to eat what in prison slang is called his TOKE or chuck.

1898. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 62. To a coffee-house he hied, And consumed some unkind Mocha, half a haddock, and some TOKE.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xx. When the show was shut, I . . . sits down to my TOKE and pipe.

*Verb* (The Leys School).—To LOAF (*q.v.*); to idle.

**TOKEN,** *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Also THE TOKEN (GROSE) = venereal disease: *e.g.* 'She tipped him THE TOKEN' (= 'She gave him a clap or pox').

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Elynour Rummyng*, 492. An old rybybe . . . At the threshold comying in, And fell so wyde open That one myght see her TOKEN . . . Said Elynour Rummyng . . . Fy, couer thy shap.

2. (old).—The plague (B. E. and GROSE): also the characteristic spots of the disease on the body.

3. (old).—A farthing: hence a small standard of value (B. E.). [Properly a tradesman's 'small change,' of the nominal values of 1d., ½d., and ¼d.] Also TOM-FOOL'S TOKEN = money (B. E.).

**TOKO.** *See* TOCO.

*See* BULLOCK'S HEART.

**TOL,** *subs.* (back slang).—Lot of stock; share.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor.* How is a man to sell fine cherries at 4d. when there's a kid alongside of him a selling his TOL at 2d. a pound?

1877. DIPROSE, *London Life.* I've been doing awful dab with my TOL, haven't made a yennep.

*See* TOLEDO.

**TOLD.** I TOLD YOU SO, *phr.* (old). —The retort provocant: in modern phrase, 'So like a woman to say, "I TOLD YOU SO!"'

1412. OCCLEVE, *De Reg. Princ.* (ROXBURGH), 26. I TOLDE HYM SO.

1609. JONSON, *Silent Woman*, iv. 2. *True.* I TOLD YOU SO, sir, and you would not believe me. *Mor.* Alas, do not rub those wounds . . . to blood again.

TO BE TOLD, *verb. phr.* (Tonbridge School).—To obtain one's colours in a school team.

**TOLEDO** (or **TOL**), *subs.* (old).—A sword-blade: manufactured at Toledo in Spain, whence in fifteenth and sixteenth centuries came the finest tempered weapons: *cf.* FOX. Hence a RUM-TOL=a silver-hilted sword; a QUEER-TOL=a very ordinary weapon (B. E. and GROSE).

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, iii. 1. A most perfect TOLEDO, I assure you, sir . . . This a TOLEDO, pish!

1612. WEBSTER, *White Devil*, v. 2. O what blade is't? A TOLEDO, or an English fox?

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood.* His TOL by his side, and his pops in his pocket.

**TOLERABLE,** *adj.* (colloquial).—In fair health; pretty well: *cf.* TOLL-OLLISH.

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, xxvi. We're TOLERABLE, sir, I thank you.

**TOLL.** TO TAKE TOLL, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To pilfer; to 'pick and steal': *cf.* custom of millers taking a portion of grain as compensation for grinding. Also to get (or take) more than a proper share.

[1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iii. 1. 154. No Italian priest shall tithe or TOLL in our dominion.]

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 42. His hand shook . . . the table-cloth and napkin TOOK TOLL [of soup].

**TOLLIBAN RIG,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'A species of cheat carried on by a woman, assuming the character of a dumb and deaf conjuror' (GROSE).

**TOL-LOLL** (or **TOL-LOLLISH**), *adj. phr.* (common). — Tolerable; pretty good; 'nothing to grumble at.'

18[?]. GILBERT [*Encyclop. Dict.*]. Lord Nelson, too, was pretty well—That is, TOL-LOL-ISH!

1901. *Free Lance*, 20 Sep., 4. 3. Oh, I feel TOL-LOLLISH enough to go through with that little bit of circus business.

**TOLLY,** *subs.* (public schools').—1. A candle: spec. a 'tallow' candle. TO TOLLY UP (Harrow) =to light candles surreptitiously after the gas has been put out. *Cf.* BROLLY, YOLLY, etc.

2. (Stonyhurst). — The flat instrument used in caning the hand: also TAPS. Hence TOLLY-SHOP=a Præfect's room where corporal punishment is administered; and TOLLY-TICKET=a good conduct card, given as a reward for specially good work, which, presented when punishment is ordered, secures immunity except for too grave an offence. [This system of accumulated merit, now almost obsolete, is precisely similar to one described by Mr. Kegan Paul in his *Memories* as existent at Eton in the forties.]

THE TOLLY (Rugby).—*See* quot. and sense 1.

1900. *Athenæum*, 16 June, 743. The chapel rather loses by its stunted head, especially as a fine tapering spire (disrespectfully known as 'THE TOLLY') appears at the back of the Close.

**TOLOBEN (TOLLIBON or TULLIBON),** *subs.* (Cant).—The tongue: hence TOLOBEN-RIG = fortune telling.

**TOLSERY,** *subs.* (provincial). — A penny. [HALLIWELL: 'A cant term.'] *See* RHINO.

**TOM,** *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A generic slight: *e.g.* TOMBOY, TOM-DOUBLE, TOM-FARTHING, TOM-FOOL, TOM-NODDY (all of which *see*): in quot. a contemptuous reference to the use of bells in the ceremonial of the mass.

1648–55. FULLER, *Church Hist.*, v. iv. 28. Item, That the singing or saying of masse, mattens, or evensong is but a a roreing, howling, whisteling, mumming, TOMRING, and jugling.

2. (old).—A deep-toned bell: *e.g.* Great (or Big) TOM of Oxford, Lincoln, Exeter: probably onomatopœia. Whence AFTER TOM = after 9. p.m.: at that hour Big TOM of Christchurch, Oxford, strikes one for every student in residence (101); when it ceases the gates are closed and late comers are fined on a sliding scale up to midnight, after which delinquents are GATED (*q.v.*).

1630. WHITE [RIMBAULT, *Rounds, Catches*, etc. 30]. Great TOM is cast; And Christ Church bells ring . . . And TOM comes last.

1635. TOM *a Lincolne*, ii. [THOMS, *Early Eng. Prose Romances*, ii. 246]. Hee sent . . . a thousand pounds . . . to be bestowed upon a great bell to be rung at his funerall, which bell he causeth to be called TOM a Lincolne after his owne name, where to this day it remaineth in the same citie.

1648. CORBET, *On Great TOM of Christchurch*. And know, when TOM rings out his knells, The best of you will be but dinner-bells.

1807. SOUTHEY, *Don Espriella's Letters*. We ascended one of the other towers afterwards to see Great TOM, the largest bell in England.

1880. *Sat. Rev.*, l. 670. No one knows why TOM should have been twice selected for great bells . . . Indeed TOM of Oxford is said to have been christened Mary, and how the metamorphosis of names and sexes was effected is a mystery.

1882. SMYTH PALMER, *Folk Etymology*, 397. TOM . . . seems . . . imitative of the booming resonance of its toll . . . TOM-TOM, a drum . . . so 'Ding-dong, bell (*Tempest*, i. 2. 403), and Dr Cooke's round, 'Bim, Bome, bell.'

1900. FARMER, *Public School Word Book*, s.v. TOM . . . The great bell of Christ Church formerly belonged to Oseney Abbey, and weighs about 17,000 lbs.

3. (provincial).—A close-stool (HALLIWELL).

**TOMAHAWK,** *verb.* (Australian).—To bungle the shears in fleecing sheep.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geoffrey Hamlyn*, 147. Shearers were very scarce, and the poor sheep got fearfully TOMAHAWKED by the new hands.

1872. EDEN, *My Wife and I in Queensland*, 96. Some men never get the better of this habit, but TOMAHAWK as badly after years of practice as when they first began.

1896. PATERSON, *Man from Snowy River*, 162. The 'ringer' that shore a hundred, as they never were shorn before, And the novice who toiling bravely Had TOMMYHAWKED half a score.

TO BURY (or DIG UP) THE TOMAHAWK, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To make peace (or go to war); to settle a difference (or to dispute): it was the custom of the North American Indians to BURY THE TOMAHAWK during time of peace: *see* HATCHET.

**TOM-AND-JERRY DAYS,** *subs. phr.* (obsolete). —The period of the Regency (1810–20): also 'when George IV. was king.' [An allusion to Pierce Egan's *Life in London*, published in 1821: in it Corinthian Tom and Jerry Hawthorn 'see life,' much of it of a 'low' or 'fast' order.

**TOM-AND-JERRY SHOP,** *subs. phr.* (old). — A low drinking-shop: *see* previous entry.

**TOM ASTONER,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A dashing fellow; a bold blade; a devil-may-care.

**TOM-A-STYLES,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Anybody; MR. THINGAMY (*q.v.*): *cf.* JOHN-A-NOAKES.

1772. STEVENS, *Songs Comic and Satyrical*, 246. From John-a-Nokes to TOM-A-STYLES, What is it all but fooling?

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. *Nokes.* John-a-Nokes and TOM-A-STYLES, two honest peaceable gentlemen, repeatedly set together by the ears by lawyers . . . two fictitious names commonly used in law proceedings.

**TOM-A-THRUMS.** *See* WISE.

**TOMATO CAN VAG,** *subs. phr.* (American tramps').—*See* quot.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramping with Tramps*, 398. The out-cast of Hoboeland; a tramp of the lowest order, who drains the dregs of an empty beer-barrel into a TOMATO-CAN, and drinks them; he generally lives on the refuse that he finds in scavengers' barrels.

**TOMBOY,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A boisterous boy: *see* TOM; (2) a romping girl, a hoyden; whence (3) a strumpet: also TOM-RIG (B. E.). As *adj.* = rough, boisterous, wanton.

1550. UDALL, *Royster Doister*, ii. 4. Is all your delite and ioy In whyskyng and ramping abroade like a TOM BOY.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Cymbeline*, i. 6. 122. A lady, So fair . . . to be partner'd With TOMBOYS hired . . . with diseased ventures That play with all infirmities for gold.

1605. VERSTEGAN, *Rest. Dec. Intelligence* (1628), 234. TUMBE. To Dance . . . hereof we yet call a wench that skippeth or leapeth like a boy, a TOMBOY.

*c.* 1617. FLETCHER, *Kn. of Malta*, ii. 1. This is thy work, woman . . . you filly, You tit, you TOMBOY.

1637. DAVENANT, *Brit. Triumph.*, 'Mock Romanza.' *Giant.* I'll teach thee play the TOM-BOY, her the Rig.

1657. HOWELL, *Londonopolis*, 399. Some at stool-ball, though that stradling kind of TOMBOY sport be not so handsome for Mayds.

*d.* 1734. DENNIS, *Pope's Rape of Lock*, 16. The author represents Belinda a fine, modest, well-bred lady, and yet in the very next canto she appears an arrant ramp and TOM-RIG.

1885. *Century Mag.*, xli. 562. Just think of me at that age—what a TOMBOY I was.

**TOM BRAY'S BILK,** *subs. phr.* (old gaming).—'Laying out ace and deuce at cribbage' (VAUX).

**TOM BROWN,** *subs. phr.* (old gaming).—'Twelve in hand, or crib' (VAUX).

**TOMBS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (American). — The New York city prison: its style of architecture is heavy Egyptian. Hence TOMB'S LAWYER = a thieves' advocate: *cf.* OLD BAILEY PRACTITIONER.

**TOMBSTONE,** *subs.* (common).—1. A projecting tooth, a SNAGGLE-TOOTH (*q.v.*): *see* GRINDERS.

2. (common).—A pawn-ticket; a MORTGAGE DEED (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1889. *Sporting Times* [*S. J. and C.*]. The collection for master amounted to 4½d., and a TOMBSTONE for ninepence on a brown Melton overcoat.

**TOMBSTONE-STYLE,** *subs. phr.* (printers').—A fashion in 'composition': spec. of 'displayed' advertisements, these resembling (or are supposed to resemble) monumental inscriptions.

**TOM CONEY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A blundering idiot; a thundering fool (B. E. and GROSE).

**TOM COX'S TRAVERSE,** *subs. phr.* (nautical). —'TOM COX'S TRAVERSE, three turns round the long boat, and a pull at the scuttle butt': said of a shirker feigning busy.

1835. DANA, *Before Mast*, xii. Every man who has been three months at sea knows how to work 'TOM COX'S TRAVERSE.' This morning everything went in his way. *Sojering* was the order of the day.

**TOM, DICK, AND HARRY** (or **TOM AND DICK**), *subs. phr.* (common). —Everybody and anybody: *cf.* 'all the world and his wife.' As *adj.* = commonplace.

[*c.* 1693. BROWN, *Works*, III. 72. Offended to hear almost every gentleman call one another JACK, TOM AND HARRY? They first dropt the distinction proper to men of quality, and scoundrels took it up and bestowed it upon themselves.]

1733. MALLET, *Verbal Criticism* [CHALMERS, II. ii. 1]. Rivalling the critic's lofty style, Mere TOM AND DICK are Stanhope and Argyll.

1886. STEVENSON, *Kidnapped*, 287. He rode from public house to public house and shouted his sorrows into the lug of TOM, DICK AND HARRY.

1901. *Free Lance*, 30 Nov., 224. i. Such a performance would be monstrous, blasphemous, and indefensible . . . exposed to the critical comments of TOM, DICK, AND HARRY.

**TOM-DOODLE,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Terræ-filius*, v. 10. That one TOM-DOODLE of a Son, who . . . if he happens to be Decoy'd . . . to fling away Two Pence in Strong Drink, he Talks of nothing but his Mother.

**TOM-DOUBLE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A double-dealer; a shuffler.

1705. *Harl. Misc.*, ii. 355. 'Character of a Sneaker.' He is for a single ministry, that he may play the TOM-DOUBLE under it.

**TOM DRUM.** *See* JACK DRUM'S ENTERTAINMENT.

**TOM-FARTHING,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A fool: *see* BUFFLE.

**TOM-FOOL,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A thundering fool: an intensive: *see* TOM and JACK-FOOL (JACK, 8). Hence TOM-FOOLERY (TOM-FOLLY, or TOM-FOOLISHNESS) = nonsense, trash, anything ridiculous or trifling; TOMFOOLISH = ridiculously absurd; TOM-FOOL'S colours = scarlet and yellow (the ancient motley—'Red and yellow, TOM-FOOL'S colour'); 'More know TOM FOOL than TOM FOOL knows' (a sarcastic retort on failing to recognise, or professing to be unacquainted with, a person saluting).

1565. CALFHILL, *Treat. on Cross* (PARKER), 226, s.v.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *Infernal Vision*, 1. St. Barth'lomew's Physicians next came up, Some bred TOM-FOOLS, and some to Dance the Rope.

1824. LANDOR, *Imag. Conv.*, 'Archd. Hare and W. Landor.' 'Foolery' was thought of old sufficiently expressive; nothing short of TOMFOOLERY will do now.

18[?]. SOUTHEY, *Nondescripts*, viii. A man he is by nature merry, Somewhat TOM-FOOLISH, and comical, very.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 63. I thought that all who saw me In such a TOM-FOOL'S dress would jaw me.

1848. THACKERAY, *Snobs*, xxxvi. The bride must have a trousseau of laces, satins, jewel-boxes and TOMFOOLERY, to make her fit to be a lieutenant's wife.

1851. BORROW, *Lavengro*, lxvii. The subjects . . . college education, priggism, church authority, TOMFOOLERY, and the like.

1882. *D. Teleg.*, 8 Nov. Guy Fawkes's Day would cease to be one of the recognised seasons for TOMFOOLERY in England.

1886. BESANT, *Children of Gibeon*, II. xiv. Many young men . . . will stoop to TOMFOOL tricks if they cannot get a show by any other way.

1888. BLACK, *In Far Lochaber*, xiv. He had resolved to treat these TOM-FOOLS with proper contempt, by paying no more heed to them.

1890. BROUGHTON, *Alas!* xxix. 'And leave you to go TOMFOOLING out there again?' asks Jim.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 228. Why the deuce don't you speak English then, without any of your dashed medical TOMFOOLERY about it?

**TOM LONG**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A prosy talker; a BORE (*q.v.*): a WINDBAG (*q.v.*). Also TO WAIT FOR TOM LONG THE CARRIER = to wait to no purpose (B. E., RAY and GROSE); 'That's COMING BY TOM LONG THE CARRIER (of anything long expected).

**TOMMY**, *subs.* (common).—1. Orig. a penny roll; hence (2) = bread, food: specifically a workman's daily allowance carried in a handkerchief; (3) = goods supplied to a workman in lieu of wages; (4) = the TRUCK-SYSTEM (*q.v.*); (5) = a shop run on truck lines: also TOMMY-SHOP (or STORE); and (6) = a baker's shop. Whence also SOFT (or WHITE) TOMMY (nautical) = (1) bread: as distinguished from biscuit or HARD-TACK (*q.v.*); and (2) soft solder (jewellers'); BROWN-TOMMY (GROSE) = ammunition bread for soldiers, or that given to convicts on the hulks; TOMMY-BAG = a workman's scran-bag (or handkerchief); and TOMMY MASTER = an employer who pays in kind or by orders on tradesmen with whom he shares profits. As *verb*, TOMMY = to enforce (or defraud by means of) the TOMMY-SYSTEM.

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil*, III. i. The fact is, we are TOMMIED to death.

*d.* 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Casuistry Roman Meals* [*Works*, iii. 254]. It is placed in antithesis to soft and new bread, what English sailors call SOFT TOMMY.

1866. HARLAND, *Lancashire Lyrics*, 292. There'll be plenty o' TOMMY an' wark for us a', When this 'Merica bother gets o'er.

1875. HINTON, *Eng. Rad. Leaders*, 145. The employers . . . supplied them [miners] with food in order that they might spend no money save in the truck-shops or TOMMY-SHOPS.

18[?]. *Macmillan's Mag.* [ANNANDALE]. Halliwell sets down the word TOMMY, meaning provisions, as belonging to various dialects. It is now current among the 'navvy' class. . . . Hence . . . the store belonging to an employer, where his workmen must take part of their earnings in kind, especially in TOMMY or food, whence the name of TOMMY-SHOP.

1884. GREENWOOD, *Little Ragamuffin*. Coffee wirrout TOMMY don't make much of a breakfast.

7. (provincial).—A simpleton: a TOM-FOOL (*q.v.*).

8. *See* TOMMY ATKINS.

9. (Dublin University). — A sham shirt-front; a DICKEY (*q.v.*). [*Cf.* Gr. τομή = a section.]

10. (common). — A tomato: usually in plural.

*c.* 1889. *Daily Telegraph* [*S. J. and C.*]. Now that 'love-apples' have become cheap, the masses may be seen continually munching them, not only because the TOMMIES are nice, but because they are red.

**TOMMY ATKINS (MR. ATKINS or TOMMY),** *subs. phr.* (common).—(1) A soldier (of privates only); and (2) among soldiers themselves = a private's pocket account-book. [On attestation forms and other documents occurs the sample name 'THOMAS ATKINS.' 'I, "THOMAS ATKINS," swear to do so-and-so.' The same bogus name appears in the Mutiny Act; it is, in fact, a tradition of a century, and was popularised by Rudyard Kipling in *Barrack-room Ballads.*] Fr. *Dumanet.*

1883. G. A. S[ALA] [in *Illustr. L. News*, 7 July, 3, 3]. In Tamil and Teluga 'Rôtie' means a loaf of bread. Long since Private TOMMY ATKINS, returning from Indian service, has acclimatised the word.

1892. KIPLING, *Barrack Room Ballads*, 'TOMMY' [Title]. *Ibid.* God bless you, TOMMY ATKINS, We're all the world to you (?).

1899. HYNE, *Furth. Adv. Captain Kettle*, iii. I am coming back again to give your . . . TOMMIES bad fits.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 303. The British soldier—I hate the term 'TOMMY ATKINS,' it is an impertinence and the expression of the shop-boy.

1901. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 28 Nov., 2. 2. A nonconformist minister of the Colonial Missionary Society paid a high and well-merited tribute to MR. ATKINS last night.

1902. *Free Lance*, 4 Jan., 346. 1. The Sisters of Nazareth . . . have done splendid work at the war, and not an officer or a TOMMY fails to bless the Sisters in black and blue.

**TOMMY-AXE,** *subs. phr.* (Australian).—A corruption of TOMAHAWK (*q.v.*): an instance of the law of HOBSON-JOBSON (*q.v.*); but *see* quot.

1759. JOHNSON, *Idler*, No. 40. An Indian dressed as he goes to war may bring company together; but if he carries the scalping-knife and TOM-AX . . . many . . . will . . . never see him but through a grate.

**TOMMY DODD,** *subs. phr.* (common).—1. The odd man: in tossing, either winner or loser of a 'call,' according to agreement; also (2) the mode of tossing. [It was the refrain of a Music Hall song, *circa* 1866—'Heads or tails are sure to win, TOMMY DODD, TOMMY DODD.']

**TOMMY O' RANN,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Scran; food.

**TOMMY-ROT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Drivelling nonsense; BOSH (*q.v.*); GAMMON (*q.v.*). As *verb* = to fool, to humbug; TOMMY-ROTICS = obscenity, erotic balderdash.

1887. *Punch*, 10 Sept., 111. Gladstone's gab about 'masses and classes' is all TOMMY ROT.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 8. I ain't dealing in TOMMY ROT. *Ibid.*, 68. Well, really, mater, you're the green 'un to believe such TOMMY ROT.

1901. CLEEVE, *As Twig is Bent*, 199.

**TOMMY TRIPE,** *verb phr.* (rhyming).—To observe; to PIPE (*q.v.*): also TOMMY. TOMMY his plates = Look at his feet.

**TOM-NODDY (or TOMMY-NODDY),** *subs. phr.* (common).—A fool: *see* NODDY and BUFFLE.

**TOM O' BEDLAM.** *See* BEDLAM BEGGAR and ABRAHAM-MAN.

**TO-MORROW COME NEVER,** *phr.* (old).—Never; at the Greek calends: *see* QUEEN DICK (GROSE).

1710. SWIFT, *Polite Conv.*, i. No, Miss, I'll send it you to-morrow. Well, well, to-morrow's a new day, but I suppose you mean TO-MORROW COME NEVER.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 34. *Ra.* He shall have it in a very little Time. *Sy.* When? TO-MORROW COME NEVER.

1797. COLMAN, *Man and Wife*, iii. *Sally.* You married . . . ! When will that be? *Marc.* Very soon, my dear! To-day or to-morrow perhaps. *Sally.* TO-MORROW COME NEVER, I believe.

**TOM-PAT,** *subs. phr.* (Cant).—1. A shoe: in Gypsy = a foot.

2. (Old Cant).—A parson; a PATRICO (*q.v.*); RUM TOM-PAT = a clerk in holy orders: patrico = (properly) a sham or hedge-priest.

**TOM PEPPER,** *subs. phr.* (nautical). —A liar (CLARK RUSSELL).

**TOMPION,** *subs.* (old).—A watch. [Thomas Tompion, a celebrated watchmaker, died in 1669.]

1727. POPE, *Treatise on the Bathos.* Lac'd in her cosins new appear'd the bride, A bubble-bow and TOMPION at her side.

**TOM-PIPER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A piper: *cf.* nursery rhyme, 'Tom, TOM, the PIPER'S son.'

1616. W. BROWNE, *Brit. Pastorals*, ii. 2. So have I seene TOM-PIPER stand upon our village greene.

**TOM-POKER,** *subs. phr.* (nursery). —A bugbear.

**TOM-RIG.** *See* TOMBOY.

**TOM TELL-TRUTH** (or **TOM TRUTH**), *subs. phr.* (old).—1. *See* TELL-TRUTH, adding quot. *infra.* Also (2) = a honest man, a trusty fellow (RAY); and (3) 'a true guesser' (HALLIWELL).

1564. UDAL, *Erasmus Apoph.*, 202 This Democharès was . . . called . . . in their language, *Parrhesiastes* (as ye would say in English), THOM TROUTH or *plain Sarisbuirie.*

**TOM THUMB,** (old).—A dwarf; a thumbling (Fr. *petit poucet*); a HOP-O'-MY-THUMB (*q.v.*).—B. E. and GROSE.

1592. NASHE, *Piers Pennilesse.* [For this and innumerable contemporary references *see* HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, ii. 167.]

1621. JOHNSON, *Tom Thumb*, Introd. Nor shall my story be made of Tom of Bethlem, Tom Lincoln, or Tom a Lin, the devil's bastard . . . but of an older Tom, a Tom of more antiquity . . . I mean little Tom of Wales, no bigger than a miller's thumb, and therefore, for his small stature, surnamed TOM THUMB.

1630. *Life and Death of TOM THUMB* [ROBERTS *Ballads*, 82]. In Arthur's court TOM THUMB did live.

*d.* 1704. BROWNE, *Works*, ii. 23. Thou pigmy in sin, thou TOM THUMB in iniquity.

1733. FIELDING, *TOM THUMB the Great* [Title].

1734. HEARNE, *Reliquiæ*, iii. 138. What makes me think TOM THUMB is founded on history is the method of those times of turning true history into little pretty stories.

**TOM TIDDLER'S GROUND,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Waste ground; unsettled acreage; a No-man's Land: properly a neutral or barren stretch of country between two kingdoms or provinces: *e.g.* the tract between Spain and the lines of Gibraltar.

**TOM-TILER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A henpecked husband.

**TOM TIT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A dwarf; an insignificant fellow: *see* HOP-O'-MY-THUMB.

**TOM TITIVIL.** *See* TITIVIL.

**TOM-TOE,** *subs. phr.* (provincial).—The great toe.

**TOM TOPPER,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A ferryman; a river hand: also TOM TUG.

**TOM TOWLY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE.

1583. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, Dedic. What TOM TOWLY is so simple that wyl not attempt to be a rithmoure?

**TOM-TROT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—'A sweetmeat: sugar, butter, and treacle melted together' (HALLIWELL).

1844. DISRAELI, *Coningsby*, i. I want toffy; I have been eating TOM TROT all day.

**TOM TUG,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—1. A fool; a MUG (*q.v.*): *see* BUFFLE.

2. *See* TOM TOPPER.

**TOM-TUMBLER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'? The name of a fiend. *See* SCOT, *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, 1584, as quoted in RITSON'S *Essay on Fairies*, p. 45' (HALLIWELL).

**TOM TURDMAN.** *See* TURD.

**TOM TYLER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A common fellow; a MR. NOBODY: *cf.* SMITH and JONES.

1583. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, 154, s.v.

**TON.** *See* **BON-TON.**

**TONE,** *indef. pron.* (old literary: now vulgar). — That one: *see* TOTHER.

**TONG,** *subs.* (American).—1. In *pl.*, *see* quot. and KICKS.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, i. The boys dressed in TONGS, a name for pantaloons or overalls that had come into use.

2. (dentists' and medical).—In *pl.* = forceps: dental or midwifery.

PAIR OF TONGS, *subs. phr.* (common).—A lanky person; a LAMP-POST (*q.v.*)!: also TONGS! (a sarcastic address).

NOT TO BE TOUCHED WITHOUT A PAIR OF TONGS, *phr.* (common). —A simile of disgust: also EXCEPT AT THE END OF A BARGE-POLE.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1678), 22. Your Beauties can never want gallants to lay their Appetites . . . Whereas NO-BODY WILL TOUCH the ill-favoured WITHOUT A PAIR OF TONGS.

HAMMER AND TONGS. *See ante*, s.v. HAMMER.

**TONGUE,** *subs.* (colloquial).—Generic for speech: esp. (1) gabble; (2) abuse, or (3) impudence. As *verb* (TO TONGUE IT, or TO FLASH THE TONGUE)=(1) to talk down; (2) to talk at, to chide; (3) TO MOUTH (*q.v.*); and (4) TO SAUCE (*q.v.*). Whence numerous DERIVATIVES AND COMBINATIONS: thus, TO TONGUE-BANG = to scold roundly, to rate: TONGUE-BANGER = a scold; TONGUE-BATTERY = a torrent of words, a flood of talk; TONGUE-BITER = an indistinct speaker: also TO BITE THE TONGUE = to keep silence; TONGUE-DOUGHTY = bragging, word-valiant; TONGUE-FENCE = debate, argument: TONGUE FENCER = (1) a master of words, and (2) a mouthing-speaker; TONGUE-LASHING = wordy abuse; TONGUE-MAN = (1) an orator, (2) a chatterbox, and (3) a scold: also TONGUE-PAD (*see* quot. 1696) and TONGUESTER; TONGUE-POWDER = fluency of phrase; TONGUE-SHOT = as far as the voice will reach: *cf.* 'ear-shot'; TONGUE-SORE = an evil tongue, ill-speaking; TONGUE-VALIANT = (1) free of talk: hence (2)

brave in word but cowardly in deed; TONGUEY = voluble, abusive; TO TONGUE-WALK = to abuse; TONGUE-WARRIOR = a boaster; TO TONGUE-WHIP = to lash with scorn; TONGUE-WAGGING = speech-making, verbosity, raillery: *cf.* 'He can WAG HIS TONGUE better than he can wield his sword, pen,' etc. (of one promising more than he can perform); TO WAG ONE'S TONGUE = to talk, to chatter; TONGUE-WORK = chatter: in quot. 1598 = philological studies; A LONG TONGUE = 'so full of talk that one can't get in a word edgeways'; AULD WIVES' TONGUES = scandal. Also PHRASES: ON (or AT) THE TIP (or END) OF THE TONGUE = on the point of speech, about to say (or tell); TO GIVE TONGUE = to blurt out; TO KEEP (or HOLD) ONE'S TONGUE = to be silent; TO WAG ONE'S TONGUE = to speak out of season; 'AS OLD AS MY TONGUE, AND A LITTLE OLDER THAN MY TEETH' = a dovetail to 'How old are you?' A TONGUE TOO LONG FOR ONE'S TEETH (or MOUTH) = indiscreet, over-ready of speech; TO FIND ONE'S TONGUE = to break silence; TO PUT ONE'S TONGUE IN ANOTHER'S PURSE = to silence; TONGUE ENOUGH FOR TWO SETS OF TEETH, said of a talkative person (GROSE); THE TONGUE OF THE TRUMP = the best, the most important thing or person: *see* TRUMP; 'MEW YOUR TONGUE' (old) = 'Shut your mouth!' THE VULGAR TONGUE (GROSE) = cant, slang, heterodox speech, etc.

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Eccl. xxv. 27. As a graueli steezing vp in the feet of an old man so a TUNGV womman to a quyete man [A. V. As the climbing up a sandy way is to the feet of the aged, etc.].

1546. HEYWOOD, *Wit and Folly*, 11. So muche the bettyr, and yow so muche the wurs, That ye may now put YOUR TOONG IN YOUR PURS.

1564. UDALL, *Erasmus' Apoph.*, 24. He hath not learned to speake well. Imputing his TONGUESORE not vnto maliciousness, but vnto the default of right knowledge.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming the Shrew*, i. 1. 214. I will charm him first to KEEP HIS TONGUE. *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, iii. 4. 39. What have I done that thou darest WAG THY TONGUE In noise so rude against me? *Ibid.* (1598), *2 Henry IV.*, i. 1. So York must sit, and fret, and BITE HIS TONGUE While his own lands are bargain'd for and sold. *Ibid.*, i. 1. 74. But Priam FOUND the fire ere he HIS TONGUE. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for Measure*, iv. 4. 28. A deflower'd maid . . . But that her tender shame Will not proclaim against her maiden loss, How might she TONGUE me. *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, v. 4. 147. Such stuff as madmen TONGUE and brain not.

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, ii. 1. MEW THY TONGUE, or wee'le cut it out.

1596. CHAPMAN, *Blind Beggar* [SHEPHEARD (1899), 16]. Do but TONGUE-WHIP him, madam, and care not, And so I leave him to the mercy of your tongue.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, 'To Reader,' xii. He may as justly stand vpon in this TOONG WORK as in Latin, Sir Thomas Eliot.

1603. DAVIES, *Microcosmos*, 22. Then come, sweet Prince, Wales wooeth thee by me, By me hir sorrie TONGS-MAN.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Michælmas Term*, iv. 4. I'll listen to the common censure now, How the world TONGUES me when my ear lies low.

1611. JONSON, *Cataline*, iv. 2. A boasting, insolent TONGUE-MAN.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER, *Double Marriage*, iv. 3. Use more respect, and woman, 'twill become you; At least, less TONGUE.

1627. E. F., *Hist. Edward II.*, 55. I am no TONGUE-MAN, nor can move with language; but if we come to act I'll not be idle.

1634. WITHALS, *Dict.*, 562. *Lingua bellat*: hee layes it on with TONG-POWDER.

1644. MILTON, *Divorce*, ii. 21. An unseemly affront . . . to have her unpleasingness bandied up and down . . . in open court by those hir'd masters of

TONGUE-FENCE. *Ibid.* (1671), *Samson Agon.*, 404. With blandish parlies, feminine assaults, TONGUE-BATTERIES, she surceaseth not, day nor night, To storm me. *Ibid.*, 1180. TONGUE-DOUGHTY giant.

1679. DRYDEN, *Pref. Troil. and Cress.* Let his clack be set a-going, and he shall TONGUE IT as impetuously and as loudly as the arrantest hero of the play. *Ibid.* (1697), *Iliad*, i. 336. TONGUE-VALIANT hero, vaunter of thy might, In threats the foremost but the lag in fight. *Ibid.*, *Grounds of Criticism.* Let his clack be set a-going, and he shall TONGUE IT as impetuously as the arrantest hero of the play.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TONGUE-PAD, a smooth, Glib-tongued, insinuating Fellow.

1709-11. *Tatler* [*Century*]. She who was a celebrated wit at London is, in that dull part of the world, called a TONGUE-PAD.

*d.* 1719. ADDISON, *Pretty Disaffection.* Irritated from time to time by these TONGUE-WARRIORS.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, i. 116. Don't be sparing of your speech with one that is FULL of TONGUE.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, i. 205. God forgive me, but I had a sad lie AT MY TONGUE'S END.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Election Ballads*, ii. An' there will be black-lippit Johnnie, The TONGUE O' THE TRUMP to them a'.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, viii. Mrs. Norris thought it an excellent plan, and had it at her TONGUE'S END, and was on the point of proposing it when Mrs. Grant spoke.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxix. It was ON THE TIP OF THE BOY'S TONGUE to relate what had followed, but he . . . checked himself.

1851. CARLYLE, *Life of Sterling*, v. In all manner of brilliant utterance and TONGUE-FENCE, I have hardly known his fellow.

1859. READE, *Love Me Little*, x. Hum! Eve, wasn't your TONGUE a little TOO LONG FOR YOUR TEETH just now? *Ibid.* (1861), *Cloister and Hearth*, lii. She would stand timidly aloof out of TONGUE-SHOT.

1862. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 2 S. iii. He jes' ropes in your TONGUEV chaps an' reg'lar ten-inch bores, An' lets 'em play at Congress, ef they'll du it with closed doors.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xx. If a man takes to TONGUE-WORK, it's all over with him.

1876. TENNYSON, *Harold*, v. 1. The simple, silent, selfless man Is worth a world of TONGUESTERS. *Ibid.*, *Northern Cobbler.* Then Sally she turn'd a TONGUE-BANGER, an' räated me.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 74. Beer has a marvellous effect in loosing tongues, and although there was not much . . . TONGUE-WAGGING, songs and toasts were very numerous.

TO TONGUE A WOMAN, *verb. phr.* (venery).—*See* VELVET.

**TONIC,** *subs.* (common).—1. A drink: spec. an appetiser.

2. (old).—A halfpenny: *see* RHINO (GROSE).

**TONISH (TONY,** etc.). *See* BON TON.

**TONKABOUT,** *subs.* (Charterhouse and Durham).—'Skying' a ball; to TONK = to drive a ball into the air: cricket.

**TONNER,** *subs.* (colloquial and nautical).—Usually in combination: *e.g.* a TEN-TONNER, etc. (of floating bottoms): *cf.* TWENTY-THOUSAND POUNDER (= a heiress: FARQUHAR, *Recruiting Officer*).

1889. *Scientific American* [*Century*]. Not so long ago a 1000 ton schooner was considered enormous. Now a 1500 TONNER is scarcely remarked.

**TONY,** *subs.* (common).—A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE (B. E.).

1668. DRYDEN, *All for Love*, Prol., 15. In short, a pattern and companion fit For all the keeping TONIES of the pit.

**TONYGLE,** *verb.* (Old Cant).—To copulate: *see* RIDE. [Thus given by HARMAN. Probably NIGGLE (*q.v.*), the '*to*' being the old and long obsolete intensive verbal affix, a form which survives Biblically: *see* Judges ix. 53.]

**Too.** THIS IS TOO MUCH, *phr.* (colloquial).—The retort sarcastic or jocose: an echo of 'Artemus Ward among the Shakers.'

*See* BAG; BOOTS; THIN; TOO-TOO.

**Tool,** *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A person employed by another (in reproach): a jackal, satellite, or dupe; a cat's-paw (B. E. and GROSE). Hence, a POOR TOOL = a clumsy worker, a bad hand at anything; A MERE TOOL = a sycophant. Also (old) TOOL = a useless, shiftless fellow.

1650. WELDON, *Court King James* (1817), 10. [A man is compared to] a TOOL in the workman's hand.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TOOL, an Implement fit for any Turn, the Creature of any Cause or Faction; a meer Property, or Cat's Foot.

1699. GARTH, *Dispensary*, III. Fools were promoted to the council-board, TOOLS to the bench, and bullies to the sword.

1775. SHERIDAN, *Duenna*, ii. 4. Oh, the easy blockhead! what a TOOL I have made of him!

1813. BYRON, *Bride of Abydos*, ii. 16. Such still to guilt just Alla sends—Slaves, TOOLS, accomplices—no friends!

1861. WINTHROP, *Cecil Dreeme*, v. He had been a clerk, TOOL, agent, slave, of the great Densdeath.

2. (old).—A weapon: spec. a sword.

*c.* 1360. *Sir Gawayne* [E.E.T.S.], 2261. Then the gome in the grene graythed hym swythe Gedere vp hys grymme TOLE, Gawayne to smyte.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Nun's Priest's Tale,' 96. Non niggard ne no fool, Ne him that is agast of every TOOL.

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneis* [ARBER], 63. Mye TOOLS make passadge through flame and hostilitye Greekish.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, i. 1. 37. *Gre.* Draw thy TOOL. . . . *Sam.* My naked weapon is out: quarrel, I will back thee.

3. (thieves').—Usually in *pl.* = (*a*) pistols; (*b*) housebreaking implements; (*c*) the hands, THE FORKS (*q.v.*); and (*d*) in *sing.* = a small boy employed to creep through windows, etc., to effect entry. Hence TO TOOL = to burgle, to pick pockets, to steal; FIXED FOR THE TOOLS = convicted for possession of illegal instruments; TOOLER = a burglar or pickpocket; MOLL-TOOLER = a female thief.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 157. He possessed himself of the sixteen-shooter, and handed the Snider to the Doctor. . . . We'll be a match for all the blessed traps . . . with these here TOOLS.

4. (colloquial). — Generic for equipment (*cf.* all senses): spec. (artists') = brushes; (authors') = books, especially works of reference; (medical) = surgical instruments (*see* quot. 1706, sense 6).

5. (driving).—A whip. Hence, as *verb* = to handle a team of horses skilfully; also (loosely) = to drive: applied to all means of locomotion—engine, cart, bicycle, motor-car, etc.; TO TOOL ALONG = to go quickly.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, xiii. 4. He could TOOL a coach.

1883. *Harp. Mag.*, lxv. 579. Only kept from stopping altogether . . . by the occasional idle play of Emerson's whip. . . . So we TOOLED on.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 18 Nov. The crack coaches . . . were TOOLED by expert 'knights of the bench.'

1887. JESSOP, *Arcady*, i. The high-stepping mare that TOOLS him along through the village street.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xiv. See about the coach for Ascot—driving down myself for the Nimrod. TOOL you down in style.

6. (venery).—The *penis*: also (in *pl.*)=the male privities: *see* PRICK. Hence TO GRIND ONE'S TOOL=to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1640. *Ladies' Parliament. Stamford.* She is for the game, She saies her husband is to blame, For her part she loves a foole, If he hath a good TOOLE.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. xii. This little lecher was always groping his nurses and governesses . . . for he had already begun to exercise the TOOLS, and put his codpiece in practice.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxviii. *Pan.* What kind of TOOLS are yours? *Fri.* Big. . . . *Pan.* How many bouts a-nights? *Fri.* Ten. Catso! quoth Friar John, the poor fornicating brother is bashful. *Ibid.*, iv. Prol. What need you use a wooden TOOL? When lusty John does to me come, He never shoves but with his bum.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 46, 'The Surgeon.' His TOOLS are of various Sorts and Sizes; his best he always carries in his Breeches. *Ibid.* (1707), *Hud. Redio*, II. ii. 22. And fire the TOOLS of Generation With Some Venereal Inflammation.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 219. But in her hand, if I must tell ye, She caught my TOOL, and sav'd her belly.

*d.* 1796. BURNS [*Merry Muses* (*c.* 1800), 22]. 'Old Song Revised.' 'And noble TOOLS,' quo' she, 'by my faith!' And ay she waggit it wantonlie.

**TOOLEY-STREET TAILOR**, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—A conceited, bumptious fellow. [HOTTEN: The 'three TAILORS OF TOOLEY STREET' immortalized themselves by preparing a petition for Parliament and presenting it with only their own signatures thereto, which commenced, 'We, the people of England'—so it is said.]

**TOOT**, *subs.* (provincial).—1. The Devil (prov. Eng.): *see* BLACKSPY; and (2) a shiftless fellow, a good-for-nothing. Whence (American) ON A TOOT='raising the devil' (LELAND), 'on a spree' (BARTLETT).

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxvii. 801. Marsh Yates, the 'shif'less TOOT,' and his beautiful, energetic wife.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxxii. I'd never 'a' carried 'em . . . if I 'adn't been ON A regular TOOT for the last week! It's a fool's trick to do.

*See* **TOUT.**

**TOOTH (TEETH)**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A special taste, palate, or relish; a great liking. Hence TOOTHY (or TOOTHFUL)=palatable, to one's liking; THE RUN OF ONE'S TEETH = keep, maintenance; SOMETHING FOR THE TOOTH=(1) food, and (2) a tit-bit (GROSE); TO LOVE THE TOOTH =to gourmandise; TOOTH-MUSIC =mastication (GROSE).

1581. LYLY, *Euphues* [ARBER], 308. I am glad that my Adonis hath a sweete TOOTH in his head.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, iv. 4. Having met one fit for his own TOOTH, you see, he skips from us.

1610. HOLLAND, *Camden*, 543. Very delicate dainties . . . greatly sought by them that LOVE THE TOOTH so well.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, v. 1. If so TOOTHFULL I will be banquetted.

1697. DRYDEN, *Persius's Satires*, iii. 229. These are not dishes for thy dainty TOOTH.

1769-78. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, II. II. xxiii. My compatriots . . . are too squeamish in their taste, and fonder of the TOOTHSOME than the wholesome.

1875. COLLINS, *Blacksmith and Scholar*, i. The splendid saddle (the Squire's own Southdowns), which melted so TOOTHSOMELY in the mouth.

*c.* 1885. *Alienist and Neurol.* [*Century*]. A certain relaxation . . . during which meat or game which is at first tough, becomes more tender and TOOTHY.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii. 867. Affable greetings, pressing invitations, great courtesy, but nothing, absolutely nothing, for the impatient TOOTH of a correspondent.

PHRASES AND COMBINATIONS. —HEN'S TEETH = anything imaginary or rare, a *rara avis*: *cf.* black swan; IN SPITE OF ONE'S TEETH = (1) in face of opposition; (2) under protest; IN THE TEETH = (1) with difficulty or much ado; (2) at long odds, or against the grain; and (3) to one's face; TO CAST (or THROW) IN THE TEETH = to accuse, blame, or bring home to: *see* Matthew xxvii. 44; TO GRIND (or SHOW) ONE'S TEETH = to take amiss, to get angry; TO SET ONE'S TEETH = to steel oneself, to put one's foot down; TO ONE'S TEETH = resolutely, boldly, openly; FROM ONE'S TEETH = reluctantly, as a matter of form, not seriously; TO HIT IN THE TEETH = to taunt, to twit; TO HIDE ONE'S TEETH = to dissemble, to feign friendship; TO LIE IN ONE'S TEETH = to tell unblushing falsehoods; WITH TEETH AND ALL (*see* TOOTH-AND-NAIL); BETWEEN THE TEETH = in a whisper, aside; TO SET THE TEETH ON EDGE = to repel, offend, or shock; TO TAKE THE BIT IN ONE'S TEETH, = to cast aside restraint, 'to kick over the traces'; TO HAVE CUT ONE'S EYE (or HIGH) TEETH = to be cute or knowing, to know WHAT'S WHAT (*q.v.*); OLD IN THE TOOTH = advanced in years: spec. in contempt of old maids; ARMED TO THE TEETH = fully prepared, alert, AWAKE (*q.v.*); BY THE SKIN OF THE TEETH = barely, 'by a close shave'; CLEAN AS A HOUND'S TOOTH = as clean as may be, highly polished; TO CARRY A BONE IN THE TEETH (*see* BONE); TO HAVE THE TEETH WELL AFLOAT (or UNDER) = to be drunk; TO THE HARD TEETH = very severely; TO GO TO GRASS WITH TEETH UPWARDS = to be buried; TO DRAW TEETH = (medical students': obsolete) to wrench off knockers; DOG'S-TOOTH = a snaggle tooth, a TOMBSTONE (*q.v.*); COLT'S-TOOTH (*see ante*); 'He ought to have his teeth drawn' = He should be curbed, SAT UPON (*q.v.*).

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 355. Cicero marked her TO THE HARD TEETH.

1593 (and after). SHAKSPEARE [*see* quots. s.v. TEETH].

1596. DRAYTON, *Baron's Wars*, ii. 43. Mowbray in fight him matchless honour won: . . . Gifford seemed danger TO HER TEETH to dare.

1603. *Court and Times James I.* [Among the verbs is] SHOW OUR TEETH.

1614. FLETCHER, *Wit Sev. Weapons*, v. 1. If you have done me a good turn do not HIT ME I' THE TEETH with 't; that's not the part of a friend.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. 49. Four brigades . . . had no sooner reached the top of the hill but they met Picrochole IN THE TEETH, and those that were with him scattered.

1663. DRYDEN, *Wild Gallant* [LITTLEDALE]. I am confident she is only angry FROM THE TEETH OUTWARDS.

*d.* 1713. ELLWOOD, *Life* [HOWELL], 322. The jailer . . . HID HIS TEETH . . . putting on a show of kindness.

1725. YOUNG, *Love of Fame*, i. 17. When the law SHEWS HER TEETH, but dare not bite.

1790. BRUCE, *Source of Nile*, i. 62. A strong, steady gale almost directly IN THEIR TEETH.

*c.* 1827. MACAULAY, *Hallam's Const. Hist.* As the oath taken by the clergy was IN THE TEETH of their principles, so was their conduct in the teeth of their oath.

1876. BLACKMORE, *Cripps the Carrier*, i. The carrier scarcely knew what to do IN THE TEETH of so urgent a message.

**TOOTH AND NAIL,** *adv. phr.* (colloquial). — In earnest; to the utmost: *i.e.*, even to biting and scratching. Also WITH TEETH AND ALL.

1550. *Jyl of Brentford's Testament* [FURNIVALL], 23. Fight with TOOTHE AND NAYLE.

1550. HUTCHINSON, *Works* (Parker Society), 213. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 527. Men attack something] TOOTH AND NAIL.

*d.* 1634. RANDOLPH, *Pot Good Ale* [*Century*]. And physic . . . will stand against physic both TOOTH AND NAIL.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Red.*, I. iii. 6. Does TOOTH AND NAIL so nobly stand By th' ancient Glories of the Land.

1706. HEARNE, *Reliquiæ*, i. 114. The bishop laboured TOOTH AND NAYLE to have brought in to have succeeded him a certain haughty Dr.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), II. i. He fell TOOTH AND NAIL upon this course.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 7. This Lucrece of the Asturias . . . defended her sweet person TOOTH AND NAIL.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 6 Nov. A desperate TOOTH-AND-NAIL encounter.

**TOOTH - CARPENTER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A dentist; a SNAG-FENCER (*q.v.*).

**TOOTH-DRAWER.** LIKE A TOOTH-DRAWER, *phr.* (old). — Thin; meagre (RAY); bald.

1393. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* C.), vii. 370. Of portours and of pyke-porses, and pyled (bald) TOTH-DRAWERS.

**TOOTHER,** *subs.* (pugilists'). — A blow on the mouth.

**TOOTHFUL,** *subs.* (common). — A dram; a nip: *cf.* THIMBLEFUL.

1868. WHYTE MELVILLE, *White Rose*, ii. 1. Step round and take a TOOTHFUL of something short to our better acquaintance.

1885. *Field*, 4 April. A pull at the milk and soda water . . . or possibly a TOOTHFUL of something a little stronger.

**TOOTHPICK,** *subs.* (old).—1. 'A large stick' (GROSE). THE CRUTCH AND TOOTHPICK BRIGADE (modern) = foppish 'men about town': spec. (*c.* 1884) hangers-on at stage doors when burlesque was in full swing at the Gaiety: they affected, as the badge of their tribe, a crutch-handled stick and a toothpick.

2. (military).—*See* quot.

1901. *Graphic*, 15 June, 798. 2. These gallant gentlemen generally display sovereign contempt for the TOOTHPICK, as they dub the ornamental appendage to uniform . . . by the regulations.

*Adj.* (American). — Narrow and pointed, like a TOOTHPICK: spec. of footgear.

*See* ARKANSAS TOOTHPICK.

**TOOTH-RAKE (or SCRAPER),** *subs. phr.* (old).—A toothpick.

1696. *Nomenclator*, s.v. Dentiscalpium. *Curedent.* A TOOTH-SCRAPER, or TOOTH-RAKE.

**TOOTHY-PEG,** *subs. phr.* (nursery). —A tooth.

1839. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg.* Turn we to little Miss Kilmansegg, Cutting her first little TOOTHY-PEG.

**TOOTING-TUB,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A church organ.

[?]. BROOKE, *Eastford*, 22. I've heard they're subscribing for an organ! Yes, an organ! What on earth will they do next? That ever I should live to see a Popish TOOTIN'-TUB stuck up in our gallery!

**TOOTLE,** *subs.* (University). — Trashy: spec. of immature literary effort.

1886. *Daily News*, 1 Dec. It will produce abundance of easy, loose, rhetorical amateur criticism — will produce TOOTLE, as it used to be called.

**TOOTLEDUM-PATTICK,** *subs. phr.* (provincial). — A fool: *see* BUFFLE.

**TOO-TOO**, *adv.* and *adj.* (old literary: now colloquial).—An intensive form of TOO: over-and-above, more than enough, very good, extreme, utter; spec. (modern but obsolete) of exaggerated æstheticism. [HALLIWELL: It is often nothing more in sense than a strengthening of the word *too*, but TOO-TOO was regarded by our early writers as a single word.]

1533. *Old Play*, quoted by OLIPHANT [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), I. 423]. It is TOO TOO, the pastime.

1587. HOLINSHED, *Hist. Ireland*, F6b, 2b. Adding further, that he was TOO TOO evill, that coulde not speake well.

1590. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, III. iv. 26. A lesson TOO TOO hard for living clay.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, i. 2. 129. Oh that this TOO TOO solid flesh would melt.

1605. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas*, i. 6. Oh TOO-TOO happy!

1618. TAYLOR, *Pennilesse Pilgrimage* [*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. x. 498]. Their loues they on the tenter-hookes did racke, Rost, boyl'd, bak'd, TOO-TOO much white, claret, sacke.

1630. JONSON, *New Inn*, ii. 2. That joy is TOO-TOO narrow Would bound a love so infinite as mine.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, ii. 2. The rigour and extremity of law Is sometimes TOO-TOO bitter.

1891. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. XI. 30. Let the exclusive TOO-TOO æsthetes tolerate the remark that music and painting do not exist for them . . . [alone]. . . .

**TOOTSIE**, *subs.* (common). — A foot: spec. of women and children.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 46. Towards her two TOOTSIES . . . she gazed with a feeling of fear . . . But her hose were well veiled from man's sight.

**TOP**, *subs.* (old).—1. The head (*see* verb); (2) the hair, THE THATCH (*q.v.*): also TOP-DRESSING: spec. the forelock or TOP-KNOT. Whence TOPPER = (1) a violent blow on the head, and (2) = a hat; TOP-LIGHTS = the eyes. Also phrases: TAIL OVER TOP = headlong; TOP OVER TAIL = TOPSY-TURVY (*q.v.*), rashly, hastily; FROM TOP TO TOE = wholly; TOP AND TAIL = everything.

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E.E.T.S.], 2776. Sche TOP OUER TAIL tombled ouer the hacches.

1373. CHAUCER, *House of Fame*, 880. Thow shalt . . . with thyn eres heren wel TOP AND TAIL, and every del. *Ibid.* (1383), *Cant. Tales*, 'Gen. Prol.,' 590. His TOP was dokked lyk a preest beforn.

*c.* 1400. *Chester Plays*, ii. 176. Thou take hym by the TOPPE and I by the tayle.

[?]. *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. ii. 38, f. 76. But syr James had soche a chopp, That he wyste not be my TOPPE, Whethur hyt were day or nyght.

[?]. *Political Poems* (FURNIVALL), 95. Be-hold me how that I ame tourne, For I ame rente fro TOPE TO TO.

15[?]. *Turnament of Totenham*, xv. Ilke man went bakward TOPPE OUER TAYLE.

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxoph.* [ARBER], 47. To tumble ouer and ouer, to TOPPE OUER TAYLE . . . may be also holesom for the body.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 4. 165. All the starred vengeance of heaven fall On her ingrateful TOP.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 67. It costs him many a Rub with his Paws before he can make his TOP LIGHTS to shine clearly.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*. Vile Jem, with neat left-handed stopper, Straight threatened Tommy with a TOPPER.

1874. J. B. STEPHENS, *Poems*, 'To a Black Gin.' The coarseness of thy tresses is distressing, With grease and raddle firmly coalescing, I cannot laud thy system of TOP-DRESSING.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 62. A most successful raid On a swell's discarded TOPPER.

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 4. 1. The origin of the TOPPER. . . . The Baroness Cecile de Courlot, Lady-in-Waiting to the Princess de Lamballe, Princess of Savoy-Carignan, . . . writing from Paris, 19th Nivoise XI., says, 'The latest thing for gentlemen on the Corso at a review at Longchamps was the new high hats. . . . Thiery, who invented them, made a wager that he would introduce the very most absurd shape imaginable, and it would become fashionable. He won his wager.'

3. (common). — In *pl.* = top-boots: *cf.* SMALLS and TRUNKS. Also (rarely) upper garments.

[1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux's Stratagem*, iii. 1. He has TOPS to his shoes up to his mid-leg.]

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xiv. In a green coat, knee-cords, and TOPS. *Ibid.* v. Mr. Weller's TOPS were newly cleaned.

*Verb* (Old Cant). 1. To behead (the usage still lingers in agriculture); to hang. Whence TO BE TOPPED = to be hung: *see* LADDER; TOPPING-CHEAT = the gallows: *see* CHEAT; TOPPING-COVE (or TOPSMAN) = JACK KETCH (*q.v.*); also TOP, *subs.* = a dying speech, a croak (B. E. and GROSE).

2. (colloquial). — Generic for superiority: to excel, surpass, CAP (*q.v.*). Thus TO TOP ONE'S PART = (*a*) to surpass oneself, and (*b*) to do zealously. As *adj.* (or TOPPING) = prime, first-class, distinguished, thorough, extreme: *e.g.* TOP (= the best) ALE; a TOP (= a principal) CHARACTER, or PART; THE TOP OF THE TREE = preëminent socially, in wealth, in a profession, etc.; a TOP (= a favourite) TOAST; a TOP (= a titled or well-to-do) FAMILY; TOP (= full) SPEED; and so forth. TOPPINGEST (or TOPLESS) = the best, supreme; and TOPPINGLY = fine, very well; also (in a baser sense) arrogantly, assumingly, badly, vilely. Also TOPPER (or TOP-SAWYER) = anybody or anything exceptional: as the largest and best fruit: usually placed on top in packing: *cf.* HUMPHREY TOPPERS; an expert thief; a famous horse; a beautiful woman; a man of large means, exceptional influence, high position, or remarkable genius: also (of persons) TOPPING MAN or TOPPING FELLOW (B. E. and GROSE). TO COME OUT ON TOP = to be successful, TO GET THERE (*q.v.*); A LITTLE BIT OFF THE TOP = some of the best; THE TOP OF DESIRE = the height of ambition, all that one cares for: *cf.* TIP-TOP; TOP AND TOP-GALLANT (orig. nautical) = in full FIG (*q.v.*), rig, array, or force.

1557. TUSSER, *Husbandry*, April: 'Lesson for Dairy-Maid.' These TOPPINGLY guests be in number but ten.

1594. PEELE, *Battle of Alcazar*, iii. 3. He cometh hitherward amain, TOP AND TOP-GALLANT, all in brave array.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Troilus*, i. 3. 151. Sometimes, great Agamemnon, Thy TOPLESS deputation he puts on. *Ibid.* (1605), *Lear*, i. 2. 21. TO TOP the legitimate. *Ibid.* (1606), *Macbeth*, iv. 3. 57. TO TOP Macbeth. *Ibid.* (1610), *Coriolanus*, ii. 1. 23. TOPPING all others in boasting.

1608. BREWER, *Merry Devil of Edmonton* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), xi. 131]. He'll be here TOP AND TOP-GALLANT presently.

1682. DRYDEN, *Mac Flecknoe*, 167. But write thy best and TOP; and in each line Sir Formal's oratory will be thine.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. vi. They are . . . TOPPING sheep, fatted sheep, sheep of quality.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TOPPING-FELLOW, who has reacht the Pitch and greatest Eminence in any Art; the Master, and the Cock of his Profession.

1698. JEREMY COLLIER, *Short View*, 219. The fine Berenthia, one of the TOP-CHARACTERS, is impudent and profane.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, iii. 2. I have a project of turning three or four of our most TOPPING FELLOWS into doggrel.

1703. STEELE, *Tender Husband*, v. 1. Well, Jenny, you TOPP'D your part, indeed.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 258. The TOPPINGEST shop-keepers in the city us'd now and then to visit me.

1708. KING, *Art of Love*, v. Th' old man receiv'd her, and exprest much kindness for his TOPPING guest.

1709. DAMPIER, *Voyages*, II. i. 141. Some . . . were TOPPING merchants and had many slaves under them.

*d.* 1713. ELLWOOD, *Life* (HOWELL'S), 291. These two Baptists were TOPPING blades, that looked high and spake big.

1721. D'URFEY, *Pills*, ii. 22. When the world first knew creation A rogue was a TOP PROFESSION.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 'Rich Beggars.' There are TOPPING citizens too, who imitate them.

1734. HEARNE, *Diary*, 23 Jan. TOPPING books formerly . . . greedily bought at great prices, . . . turn'd to waste paper.

*c.* 1738. GAY, *Squire and Cur.* That politician TOPS his part Who readily can lie with art.

1742. JARVIS, *Don Quixote*, I. III. xi. It is the TOPPINGEST thing I ever heard. *Ibid.*, II. III. xviii. I mean to marry her TOPPINGLY when she least thinks of it.

1743–5. POCOCKE, *Descr. East*, II. ii. 9. There being only a few of the TOP FAMILIES in the city who use horses.

1766. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, i. 364. Setting out at TOP speed, he soon overtook him.

1774. FOOTE, *Cozeners*, i. Master Moses is an absolute Proteus; in every elegance at the TOP OF THE TREE.

1782. BURNEY, *Cecilia*, IV. vi. You must needs think what a hardship it is to me to have him turn out so unlucky, after all I have done for him, when I thought to have seen him at the TOP OF THE TREE.

1785. GROSE, *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, s.v. TOP . . . The cove was TOPPED for smashing queer screens. *Ibid.*, s.v. TOP SAWYER signifies a man that is a master genius in any profession. It is a piece of Norfolk slang, and took its rise [?] from Norfolk being a great timber county, where the TOP SAWYERS get double the wages of those beneath them.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 94. You TOPPED your part to perfection, and I was not quite contemptible in mine.

1836. MILNER, *Turpin's Ride to York*, i. 3. I shall never come to the scragging-post, unless you turn TOPSMAN.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, II. 56. A young dandified lawyer, Whose air, nevertheless, speaks him quite a TOP-SAWYER.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xliii. Wasn't he always TOP-SAWYER among you all? Is there one of you that could touch him or come near him on any scent? *Ibid.* (1853), *Bleak House*, ii. My Lady Dedlock has been . . . at the TOP OF THE fashionable TREE.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *Scamps of London*, iv. Our hells are full of Greeks—they are the Corinthians of the order—the TOP SAWYERS.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* III. 387. Thirty-six were cast for death, and only one was TOPPED.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 61. Strawberry pottles are often half cabbage leaves, a few tempting strawberries being displayed on the top of the pottle. . . . Ask any coster that knows the world, and he'll tell you that all the salesmen in the market TOPS UP. *Ibid.*, II. 137. A big pottle of strawberries that was rubbish all under the TOPPERS.

1854–5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xv. He had paid the postboys, and travelled with a servant like a TOP-SAWYER.

1862. CLOUGH, *The Bothie of Tober-Na-Vuolich.* Shady in Latin, said Lindsay, but TOPPING in Plays and Aldrich.

1864. *Spectator*, 1186. The University word shady meaning simply poor and inefficient, as when a man is said to be 'shady in Latin but TOPPING in Greek plays,' is obviously University slang.

1869. BLACKMORE, *Lorna Doone*, xxxvi. 'See-saw is the fashion of England always, and the Whigs will soon be the TOP-SAWYERS.' 'But,' said I, still more confused, 'the King is the TOP-SAWYER according to our proverb; how then can the Whigs be?'

1869. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *M or N.* 'I'll marry a TOP-SAWYER,' he used to say, whenever his uncle broached the question of his settlement in life.

1871. LOWELL, *Study Windows*, 326. Of all who have attempted Homer [Chapman] has the TOPPING merit of being inspired by him.

1872. HARDY, *Under Greenwood Tree*, iv. 4. I don't like her to come by herself, now she's not so terrible TOPPING in health.

1892. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 17 Oct., 2. 1. The song 'If I was only long enough' landed me with one bound at the TOP OF THE TREE.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, iv. When I have been beaten I have always met a better horse than my own. This year I fancy I shall be ON TOP.

1901. JOHNSTON, *Old Dominion*, i. I have the most TOPPING fellow in all London for my guest.

3. (colloquial).—To put in a finishing touch; to conclude: spec. to drink (or toss off) a bumper, or to wind up a meal by a special course. Also TO TOP UP (or OFF).

1614. *Terence in English* [NARES]. Its no heinous offence . . . for a young man to hunt harlots, to TOPPE OFF a canne roundly; its no great fault to breake open dores.

1853. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xi. Four engage to go half-price to the play at night, and TOP UP with oysters. *Ibid.* (1861), *Great Expectations*, x. What'll you drink, Mr Gargery; at my expense, to TOP UP with?

1885. *Century Mag.*, xli. 47. A heavy sleep evolved out of sauerkraut, sausages, and cider, lightly TOPPED OFF with a mountain of crisp waffles.

4. (old).—To snuff (a candle): also TOP THE GLIM (GROSE and CLARK RUSSELL). [Amongst work-people, one cried 'Top!' the others followed, the last having to do duty: long obsolete.] *See verb* 1.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Five Gallants*, i. 1. Top the candle, sirrah! methinks the light burns blue.

5. (old).—'To cheat, to trick, to insult' (B. E. and GROSE); TO GET THE BETTER OF (or A BULGE ON) ONE (*q.v.*): spec. to cheat with dice: *see* quots.

1674. COTTON, *Complete Gamester* (1681), 11. That is, when they take up both dice, and seem to put them in the box, and shaking the box, you would think them both there, by reason of the ratling occasioned with the screwing of the box, whereas one of them is at the top of the box, between his two forefingers, or secured by thrusting a forefinger into the box.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TOP. What do you TOP upon me? c. do you stick a little Wax to the Dice to keep them together, to get the Chance, you wou'd have? He thought to have TOPT upon me, c. he design'd to have Put upon me, Sharpt me, Bullied me, or Affronted me.

6. (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE, and *cf.* TUP.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, v. 2. 136. *Othello.* Cassio did TOP her. . . . Thy husband knew it all. . . . *Emil.* That she was false to wedlock? *Othello.* Ay, with Cassio.

TO CRY IN TOP OF, *verb phr.* (old).—(1) To overrule; (2) to talk down, to outspeak.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, ii. 2. 459. Others whose judgments in such matters CRIED IN THE TOP OF mine.

TO TOP A CLOUT, *verb. phr.* (old).—'To draw the corner or end to the top of a person's pocket, in readiness for shaking or drawing, that is, taking out, when a favourable moment occurs, which latter operation is frequently done by a second person.' (VAUX).

**TO-PAN**, *subs.* (Winchester).—'A large basin of red earthenware placed in each chamber for washing the feet in' (MANSFIELD, *c.* 1840).

**TOP-DIVER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'A Lover of Women. An old TOP-DIVER, one that has Lov'd Old-hat in his time' (B. E. and GROSE).

**TOP-DRESSING,** *subs. phr.* (journalistic). — An introduction to a report: usually written by an experienced hand and set in larger type.

**TOPE,** *verb.* (old: now colloquial). —To drink: spec. to drink hard. Hence TOPER = a confirmed tippler, a SOAKER (*q.v.*); TO TOPE IT ABOUT = to keep the bottle going briskly (B. E. and GROSE).

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scofft*, 'Juno and Jupiter.' A sturdy Piece of Flesh, and proper, A merry Grig, and a true TOPER.

*d.* 1680. BUTLER, *Epig.*, 'On Club of Sots.' The jolly members of a TOPING club.

1688. DRYDEN, *To Sir Geo. Etherege*, 59. If you TOPE in form, and treat, 'Tis the sour sauce to the sweet meat, The fine you pay for being great.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxii. They TOPED . . . cool sparkling . . . syrup; which went down like mother's milk. *Ibid.*, xlii. Oh! that . . . we gentlemen TOPERS had but necks some three cubits long.

1765. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, I. i. v. Sits among his fellow TOPERS at the twopenny club.

*d.* 1796. BURNS [*Merry Muses* (*c.* 1800), 118]. Three wives, Who . . . often met to TOPE and chat, And tell odd tales of men.

*d.* 1845. HOOD, *Don't You Smell Fire?* Was there ever so thirsty an elf?—But he still may TOPE on.

1877. BESANT and RICE, *Son of Vulcan*, Prol. i. In the public houses . . . the TOPERS . . . keep [New Year's Eve] as they keep every feast . . . by making it a day more than usually unholy.

**TOP-HEAVY,** *adj. phr.* (old). — Drunk: *see* SCREWED (RAY, B.E. and GROSE).

**TOP-HONOURS,** *subs. phr.* (old nautical).—Top-sails.

1700. PRIOR, *Carmen Seculare*, 36. Let all the naval World due Homage pay; With hasty Reverence their TOP-HONOURS lower.

**TOP-JOINT.** *See* TOP-O'-REEB.

**TOPLIGHTS.** *See* TOP, *subs.*

**TOP-LOFTY,** *adj. phr.* (American). —Pretentious; bombastic; HIGH-FALUTIN (*q.v.*): also TOP-LOFTICAL.

1879. *Congregationalist*, 17 Dec. TOPLOFTICAL talking . . . and inflammatory speeches.

**TOP-O'-REEB,** *subs. phr.* (back slang).—A pot of beer. TOP-JOINT = a pint of beer.

**TOP OF THE MORNING,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A cheery greeting.

1855. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, ii. 2. The TOP OF THE MORNIN' to ye, my boy! I'll be off to the City.

**TOPPER,** *subs.* (tramps').—1. A cigar stump; and (2) a plug of tobacco at the bottom of a pipe. Hence TOPPER-HUNTER = a scavenger of half-smoked and refuse tobacco.

3. (common).—A lanky person; a LAMP-POST (*q.v.*).

4. *See* TOP, *subs.* and *verb.*

**TOPPING-CHEAT.** *See* TOP, *subs.* 1.

**TOP-ROPES.** TO SWAY AWAY ON ALL TOP-ROPES, *verb. phr.* (old). —To live riotously or extravagantly (GROSE).

**TOPSAIL** (or **TOPSAILS OVER**), *phr.* (old). TOPSY-TURVY (*q.v.*); heels over head.

*c.* 1430. *Destr. Troy* (E.E.T.S.), 1219. Mony turnyt with tene TOPSAYLES OUER That hurlet to the hard vrthe and there horse leuyt.

[?] *Rom. of Cheuelere Assigne* (E.E.T.S.), 320. And eyther of hem TOPSEYLE tumbledde to the erthe.

TO PAY ONE'S DEBTS WITH THE TOPSAIL, *verb. phr.* (nautical) (GROSE).—To go to sea leaving scores unpaid; *cf.* (military) 'to pay one's score with the drum' (=to march away).

**TOPS-AND-BOTTOMS.** TO PLAY AT TOPS-AND-BOTTOMS, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE.

**TOP-SAWYER.** 1. *See* TOP, *subs.*

2. (tailors').—A collar. Also the front of a garment.

TO PLAY TOP-SAWYER, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE.

**TOP-SHUFFLE**, *verb. phr.* (gaming).—To shuffle the lower half of a pack over the upper half without disturbing it. The cut, of course, buries it, but by a very simple movement the cards are forced back to their original condition. This is 'shifting the cut,' and can be done with one hand or two.

**TOPSY-BOOSY**, *adj. phr.* (common).—Drunk: *see* SCREWED.

**TOPSY-TURVY**, *adv.* (old colloquial).—Upside down; upset; in confusion: also as *adj.*, *subs.*, and *verb*, with derivatives such as TOPSY-TURVILY, TOPSY-TURVINESS, TOPSY-TURVYDOM, TOPSY-TURVYFICATION, TOPSY-TURVIFY, and TOPSY-TURVYISM (GROSE). [Of uncertain but much-discussed derivation: the word also shows remarkable changes in form, many of which are given *infra*. The most recently accepted theory of probable derivation (HALL, SKEAT, and *Century*) is TOP + SO + TERVY (=overthrown), with confusion in some of the forms with kindred phrases, such as TOPSAILS OVER (*q.v.*).]

VARIANTS. — TOPSY-TERVY; TOPSY-TYRVY; TOPSIE-TURVIE; TOPSE-TORVE; TOPSY-TURVYE; TOPSIE-TURVY; TOPSY-TURVY; TUPSIE-TURVIE; TOPSI-TURVY; TOPSY-TURVEY; TOPSOLTIRIA (Scots); TAPSALTEERIE (Scots); TAPSIE-TEERIE (Scots); TOP-TURVYE; TOPSEY; TURVY-TOPSY; TOPSYD-TURVEY; TOP-SIDE-TURVEY; TOPSIDE-TURVY; TOPSYTURN; TOPSITURN; TOP-SIETURN; TOPSYTURNY; TOPSI-TURNIE; TOPSIETURN; TOPSI-TURN; TOPSIDE-TURNED; TOPSET-TORVIE; TOPSET-TURVIE; TOPSET-TIRVI; TOPSIDE THE OTHER WAY; TOPSIDE TOTHERWAY; TOPSIDE TURF-WAY; TOSSY-TAIL.

1528. ROY, *Rede Me, &c.* [ARBER], 51. He tourneth all thynge TOPSY TERVY.

1547. HEYWOOD, *Dialogues* [PEARSON, *Works* (1874), vi. 214]. [TOPSIDE-TURNED.]

1583. STANYHURST, *Æneis*, ii. [ARBER, 33, 59]. TOPSIDE TURVEY. *Ibid.* (1586), *Descr. Ireland*, 26. 2. The estate of that flourishing towne was turned arsie versie, TOPSIDE THE OTHER WAIE.

1586. [FOSTER, *Notes and Queries*, 5 S. II. 478. In Bodleian MS. Rawl. Poet. 25 (which is dated 1694–5, and is a copy of a MS. written not later than 1586), on the reverse of sign. E 7, eleventh line, I find the phrase TOPSIDE TURFWAY.]

1589. HUGHES, *Misf. Arthur* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 324]. There fortune laid the prime of Britain's pride, There laid her pomp, all TOPSY-TURVY turn'd.

1594. KYD, *Cornelia* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), ii. 301]. When thwarting destiny, at Africk walls, Did TOPSIDE-TURVEY turn their common-wealth.

1596. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, v. viii. 42. At last they have all overthrowne to grounde Quite TOPSIDE TURVEY.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, iv. 1. We shall o'er-turn it TOPSIE-TURVY down.

1605. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas*, ii. His trembling tent all TOPSIE TURUIE wheels. *Ibid.*, 'The Vocation,' 744. He breaketh in through thickest of his foes And by his travail TOPSI-TURNETH them. *Ibid.*, 'Schisme,' 993. Now Nereus foams, and now the furious waues All TOPSIE-TURNED by the Æolian slaues Do mount and roule.

1606. RICH, *Farewell to Mil. Life* (1846), 29. Now, behoulde, all . . . my purposes tourned cleane TOPSE-TURVE.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widows' Tears*, v. In this TOPSY-TURVY world friendship and bosom-kindness are but made covers for mischief.

1617. MINSHEU, *Guide to Tongues*, s.v. TOPSITURNIE, arsiversie.

1625. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. II. iii. 3. Would rather have the commonwealth turned TOPSIE TURVIE than her tires marred.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. This little lecher was always groping his nurses and governesses, upside down, arsiversy, TOPSITURVY.

1654. H. L'ESTRANGE, *Reign K. Charles* (1655), 75. Thus were all things strangely turned . . . TOPSIDE THE OTHERWAIE.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 61. Then, turning TOPSEY on her Thumb, says, Look, heres Supernaculum. *Ibid.*, 288. If I had not knock'd him down, And turn'd him TOPSY-TURVY under.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double-dealer*, v. All turned TOPSY-TURVY, as sure as a gun.

1713. ADDISON, *Guardian*, 154. I found nature turned TOPSIDE TURVY; women changed into men, and men into women.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 40. My poor mind is all TOPSY-TURVIED.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, iii. 169. With all my precautions how was my system turned TOPSIDE TURVY!

1765. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, II. ii. 23. His words are to be turned TOPSIDE TOTHER WAY to understand them.

*d.* 1774. GOLDSMITH, *Hyperbole*. Here the winds not only blow together, but they turn the whole body of the ocean TOPSY-TURVY.

1796. REYNOLDS, *Fortune's Fool*, Epil. What a bonnet! why it looks quite scurvy, It's like a coal-scuttle turn'd TOPSY-TURVY.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Green Grow the Rashes*, 3. An' war'ly cares an' war'ly men May a' gae TAPSALTEERIE, O!

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, xxxix. In the TOPSY-TURVEYING course of time Hexthorp has become part of the soke of Doncaster.

1837. CARLYLE, *Fr. Revol.*, II. I. x. Then is it verily, as in Herr Tieck's drama, a *verkeherte welt*, or world TOPSYTURVIED.

1840. THACKERAY, *Paris Sketch Book*, 'Madame Sand.' 'Valentine' was followed by 'Lelia,' . . . a regular TOPSYTURVYFICATION of morality, a thieves' and prostitutes' apotheosis.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Gables*, i. The TOPSY-TURVY commonwealth of sleep.

*d.* 1878. BOWLES [MERRIAM, *Life*, II. 159]. It is very hard to keep it [optimistic faith] fresh and strong in the presence . . . of such TOPSY-TURNING of right and wrong.

1879. ELIOT, *Theoph. Such*, x. Insane patients whose system, all out of joint, finds matter for screaming laughter in mere TOPSY-TURVY.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 26 Nov., 2. Vivisection is TOPSYTURVYFIED in a manner far from pleasing to humanity. *Ibid.* (1886), 5 Feb. Has done some clever things in his time, can sing a good song, and might well be employed for Faust viewed TOPSITURVILY.

1885. *Athenæum*, 21 Mar., 384. The view of cynical TOPSYTURVYDOM which has been so long worked with success at length shows signs of exhaustion.

1890. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. x. 286. Under the heading TOPSY-TURVYDOM, the author says . . . the Japanese do many things in a way that runs directly counter to European ideas.

**TOP-YOB**, *subs. phr.* (back slang). —A pot-boy.

**TORCH-CUL**, *subs. phr.* (old).—BUMFODDER (*q.v.*)—B. E. and GROSE.

**TORCH-RACE**, *subs. phr.* (Winchester: obsolete). — Formerly, part of the breaking-up ceremony of the winter half-year. On the last morning the boys, after early chapel, rushed out of gates, each bearing a burning birch broom, up College Street and along the wall of the close up to the old White Hart Inn, where breakfast was prepared before the chaises started. This subsequently gave way to a race of Seniors in sedan chairs.

**TORMENTOR**, *subs.* (nautical).—1. A long iron fork: used by cooks at sea.

2. (theatrical).—A first groove wing.

3. (common). — A BACK-SCRATCHER (*q.v.*), sense 1.

**TORMENTOR-OF-CATGUT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A fiddler; a CATGUT-SCRAPER (GROSE).

**TORMENTOR-OF-SHEEPSKIN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A drummer (GROSE).

**TORN-DOWN**, *subs.* (prov. and American).—An unruly, unmanageable person: as *adj.* = (1) rebellious; (2) overpowering.

1870. BAKER, *New Timothy*, xxxii. You know I was a girl onst; led the General a dance of it, I tell you. Yes, a real TORN-DOWN piece I was.

**TORPID** (or **TOGGER**), *subs.* (Oxford). —(1) A second-class racing eight: corresponding to the Cambridge SLOGGER (*q.v.*); (2) one of the crew; and (3) in *pl.* the Lent races: also as *adj.*

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. xii. The Misses Green [saw] their brother pulling in one of the fifteen TORPIDS . . . immediately in the wake of the other boats.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xxvii. The TORPIDS being filled with the refuse of the rowing men—generally awkward or very young oarsmen—find some difficulty in the act of tossing.

1884. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 19 Feb. Twenty-six TORPID eights were out at Oxford in training for the races. *Ibid.*, 26 Feb. An undergraduate who is one of their best TORPIDS.

1889. *Felstedian*, Feb., 11. After the TORPIDS will come the Clinker Forms—an institution hitherto unknown in Oxford.

1890. DICKENS, *Dict. Oxford*, 18. The TORPID Races last six days.

1900. *Westminster Gazette*, 21 Feb., 8. 3. Oxford University TORPIDS. These races were concluded to-day.

1900. *St. James's Gaz.*, 19 Feb. 6. 2. The TORPID races were continued at Oxford on Saturday in fine and pleasant weather, the attendance being large.

4. (Harrow).—A boy who has not been two years in the school.

**TORRAC**, *subs.* (back slang).—A carrot. 'Ekat a TORRAC'=an obscene retort.

**TORRIL**, *subs.* (HALLIWELL).—A worthless woman, or horse.

**TORTURER OF ANTHEMS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A chorister; a HALLELUJAH HOWLER (*q.v.*).

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 170. 'I am perfectly well acquainted with that city,' said the brazen-lunged TORTURER OF ANTHEMS.

**TORTLE**, *verb.* (American: Philadelphia).—To shamble away.

1837. J. C. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches.* Put on your skeets and TORTLE.

**TORTOISE.**—*See* PUMP AND TORTOISE.

**TORY,** *subs.* (old: long recognised). —(1) Orig. (Irish)=a marauder: spec. a bandit (16th century) who, to cover lawlessness, took up arms for the King. Hence (2) a bully, a 'terror'; and (3) a generic reproach: *e.g.*, (*a*) a sympathiser with, disbeliever in, or supposed abettor of the Popish plot; (*b*) one who refused to concur in the Exclusion Act confirming the succession to the throne to Protestants, a measure which was directly aimed at the Duke of York, afterwards James II.; and (*c*), collectively, the Court as distinguished from the Country party, or WHIGS (*q.v.*). Subsequently TORY assumed its modern meaning: *i.e.*, one upholding the existing order of things in Church and State, as opposed to LIBERAL, *i.e.*, one who sought, by experimental legislation, to remedy admitted or supposed disabilities. About 1832 TORY began to be superseded by 'Conservative'; indeed the march of time has now (1903) considerably modified the old TORY political ideas.

1566. *Irish State Papers.* That Irish Papists . . . have returned into Ireland, occasioning the increase of TORIES and other lawless persons.

[?] BISHOP, *Marrow of Astrology*, 43. And now I must leave the orb of Jupiter, and drop down a little lower to the sphere of Mars, who is termed a TORY amongst the stars.

1680. [PINNOCK, *Goldsmith's Hist. Eng.* (1873), 252. The year 1680 is remarkable for the introduction of the well-known epithets Whig and TORY. The former was given to the popular party, from their pretended affinity to the fanatical conventiclers of Scotland, who were known by the name of Whigs. The latter was given to the courtiers, from a supposed resemblance between them and the Popish banditti in Ireland, to whom the appellation of TORIES was affixed. Thus these two ridiculous words came into general use, and have continued ever since to mark rival parties, though with very different meanings.]

1681. DRYDEN, *Absalom and Achit.*, 'To Reader.' Wit and fool are consequents of Whig and TORY; and every man is a knave or an ass to the contrary side. *Ibid.*, *Kind Keeper*, iv. 1. Lift up your voices . . . you TORY-RORY jades.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Pant. Prog.* Braggadocios, TORY-RORY rakes and tantivy boys.

1695. *Laws of William III.* [RIBTON-TURNER, *Vagrants and Vagrancy*, 396]. The frequent robberies, murders, and other notorious felonies, committed by robbers, rapparees, and TORIES, upon their keeping hath greatly discouraged the replanting of . . . [Ireland].

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TORIES, Zealous Sticklers for the Prerogative and Rights of the Crown, in behalf of the Monarchy; also Irish thieves, or *Rapparies.*

1706. PHILLIPS, *World of Words*, s.v. Moss-troopers, a sort of rebels in the northern part of Scotland, that live by robbery and spoil, like the TORIES in Ireland, or the banditti in Italy.

1714. HEARNE, *Diary*, 25 Sep. King George hath begun to change all the ministers, and to put in the whiggs . . . to the grievous mortification of that party called TORIES.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, etc., i. 43. To oagle there a TORY tall, or a little Whig, Defying the Pretender.

1725. SWIFT, *Letter*, 11 Sep. There is hardly a whig in Ireland who would allow a potato and butter-milk to a reputed TORY.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TORY. An advocate for absolute monarchy and church power: also, an Irish vagabond, robber, or rapparee.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, ii. At this time were first heard two nicknames which, though originally given in insult, were soon assumed with pride. . . . It is a curious circumstance that one . . . was of Scotch, and the other of Irish, origin. Both in Scotland and in Ireland, misgovernment had called into existence bands

of desperate men, whose ferocity was heightened by religious enthusiasm. . . . Thus the appellation of Whig was fastened on the Presbyterian zealots of Scotland, and was transferred to those English politicians who showed a disposition to oppose the court, and to treat Protestant nonconformists with indulgence. The bogs of Ireland, at the same time, afforded a refuge to Popish outlaws, much resembling those who were afterwards known as Whiteboys. These men were then called TORIES. The name of TORY was therefore given to Englishmen who refused to concur in excluding a Roman Catholic prince from the throne.

1886. *Fortnightly Rev.*, xxxix. 136. It was never certain whether he was going to nobble the TORIES, or square the Radicals.

1887. *Contemp. Rev.*, li. 4. The party led by Sir Robert Peel no longer called itself 'TORY,' but Conservative.

4. (American). — A loyalist: during the period of the War of Independence. Hence any one favouring the claims of Great Britain against the revolted Colonies.

1821. COOPER, *Spy*, xxix. Washington will not trust us with the keeping of a suspected TORY, if we let the rascal trifle in this manner with the corps. *Ibid.*, xxii. Surrender, you servants of King George . . . or I will let a little of your TORY blood from your veins.

1855-9. IRVING, *Life of Washington*, ii. 371. It was said that the TORIES were arming and collecting in the Highlands, under the direction of distinguished officers, to aid the conspiracies formed by Gov. Tryon and his adherents.

**TOSH**, *subs.* (public schools'). — 1. A bath, a foot-pan. Also as *verb* = to splash, to douse, to throw water over a person: *e.g.*, 'He TOSHED his house beak by mistake, and got three hundred'; TOSH-POND (Royal Military Academy) = the bathing-pond.

1881. PASCOE, *Life in Our Public Schools*. A TOSH PAN, an important utensil for periodical ablutions on stated nights, is also provided.

2. *See* TUSH.

3. (University). — Nonsense; ROT (*q.v.*): 'What frightful TOSH' (*Oxf. Mag.* 26 Oct. 1892).

**TOSHER**, *subs.* (Oxford University). — 1. An unattached student.

2. (nautical). — A small fishing vessel.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 26 Nov. Thus a TOSHER is not a longshore driver, though both little vessels are employed in catching what they can close into the land.

3. (HOTTEN). — 'A man who steals copper from ships' bottoms in the Thames.'

**TOSH-SOAP**, *subs. phr.* (public schools'). — Cheese: *see* TOSH.

**TOSS**, *subs.* (old colloquial). — 1. agitation, commotion, anxiety.

1666. PEPYS, *Diary*, 2 June. This put us at the Board into a TOSSE. *Ibid.* (1667), 10 Oct. Lord what a TOSSE I was for some time in, that they could not justly tell where it [gold that he had buried] was.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, ii. 5 'We are all in a TOSS in our neighbourhood,' said Mistress Pottle.

2. (Billingsgate). — A measure of sprats.

*Verb.* (colloquial). — To drink at a draught, to gulp: *e.g.*, to TOSS a can of beer: also to TOSS OFF: *cf.* TOAST. Hence TOSS-POT = a drunkard (GROSE): *see* LUSHINGTON; TOSSED (or TOSTICATED) = drunk: *see* SCREWED.

1560. PILKINGTON, *Sermons* (Parker Soc.) [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 558. Among the new substantives are gamester . . . lip-labour] a TOSSPOT.

1582. HAKLUYT, *Voyages*, i. 253. They returne to their old intemperancie of drinking, for they are notable TOSSPOTS.

1583. ASCHAM, *Scholemaster*, iv. 35. A certain friar TOSSING THE POT, and drinking very often at the table was reprehended by the priour.

1592. NASHE, *Summer's Last Will* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), viii. 59]. Rise up, Sir Robert TOSS-POT [*Here he dubs Will Summer with the Black-Jack*].

1599. HALL, *Satires*, I. ii. 26. Now TOSS they bowls of Bacchus' boiling blood.

[?] *Robin Hood* [CHILD, *Ballads*. v. 375]. For in a brave vein they TOSSED OFF the bouls.

*d.* 1637. P. HOLLAND, *Plinie*, XXIII. xviii. Our lustie TOSS-POTS and swill-bowls.

1648–50. BRAITHWAIT, *Barnaby's Jo.*, II. 57. There I TOSSED it with my Skinkers.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. v. Thus became TOM TOSSPOT rich.

1670. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 129. Away he flies Ere TOSS-POT could unglue his eyes.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 15. I mean to TOSS A CAN, and remember my sweetheart afore I turn in.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, vi. 201. We TOSS about the never-failing Cann, We drink and piss . . . and drink to piss again.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 'Epith. P. Ægidus.' The husband . . . has been call'd Blockhead, TOSS-POT, Swill-Tub.

1820. LAMB, *Two Races of Men*. A good part he drank away (for he was an excellent TOSS-POT).

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, 75. The soldiers . . . were TOSSING OFF the heavy wet and spirits.

1837. MARRYAT, *Snarleyyow*, xxxii. The corporal produced the bottle and the glass, poured it out, made his military salute, and TOSSED IT OFF.

1841. DICKENS, *Barnaby Rudge*, xiii. To be looked upon as a common pipe-smoker, beer-bibber . . . and TOSS-POT.

Also COLLOQUIALISMS and PHRASES: TO TOSS OUT = (1) to dress hurriedly, and (2) to depart hastily; TO TOSS OFF = (1) *see verb supra*; (2) to do, execute, or turn out quickly: as TO TOSS OFF a poem, a task, or musical performance; (3) to while away (of time), to dispose of easily; and (4) = to masturbate (venery); TO TOSS UP (or TO TOSS) = (1) to decide a matter by 'skying' a coin (GROSE): also as *subs.* (or TOSS-UP) = an even chance, and TO WIN THE TOSS = to be successful; TO TOSS UP = (2) to prepare rough and readily (of food).

[?] *Richard Cœur de Leon* [WEBER, *Met. Rom.*, II. 170]. Lordynges, now ye have herd . . . How Kyng Richard with his maystry WAN THE TOSS off Sudan Turry.

*c.* 1692. KING, *Vestry*. On Saturday stew'd beef, with something nice, Provided quick, and TOSS'D UP in a trice.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Bee*, No. 2. I . . . walked behind a damsel TOSSED OUT in all the gaiety of fifteen; her dress was loose, unstudied, and seemed the result of conscious beauty.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 407. It is a TOSS UP who fails and who succeeds: the wit of to-day is the blockhead of to-morrow.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Gables*, vii. Poor Hepzibah was seeking for some . . . tit-bit which . . . she might TOSS UP for breakfast.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lon. Lab.*, I. 206. TO TOSS THE PIEMAN is a favourite pastime with costermongers' boys, and all that class. If the pieman WINS THE TOSS he receives a penny without giving a pie; if he lose, he hands over a pie for nothing. *Ibid.* II. 412. They spend . . . what money they may have in TOSSING for beer, till they are either drunk or penniless.

1853. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xiii. 'I haven't the least idea,' said Richard, musing, 'what I had better be. Except that I am quite sure I don't want to go into the Church, it's a TOSS-UP.'

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. 5. Hasn't old Brooke WON THE TOSS, with his lucky halfpenny, and got choice of goals?

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, ii. 1. Have you read *Cynthia?* It is a delightful thing TO TOSS OFF a dull hour with.

1872. ELIOT, *Middlemarch*, lxxxiii. It is a mere TOSS-UP whether I shall ever do more than keep myself decently.

1882. ASHTON, *Social Life*, etc., II. 35. He TOSSED UP whether he should hang or drown. The coin fell on its edge in the clay, and saved his life for that time.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxviii. 856. One of the most earnest advocates of the measure said, 'Tis the TOSS of a copper.'

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 23 Sep. There may have been instances where juries have 'TOSSED UP' sooner than remain to convince an obstinate colleague.

1886. *Field*, 4 Sep. [It] looked a TOSS-UP as to which would arrive home first.

1888. KIPLING, *Only a Subaltern*. 'He'll do,' said the doctor quietly; 'it must have been a TOSS-UP all through the night.'

*See* BLANKET.

**TOSS-PLUME**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A braggart; a swaggerer.

**TOSSY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Off-hand; careless: also TOSSILY, *adv.*

1849. KINGSLEY, *Yeast*, vii. Argemone answered by some TOSSY commonplace. *Ibid.* She answered TOSSILY enough.

**TOSSY-TAIL**, *adv. phr.* (provincial). —TOPSY-TURVY (*q.v.*).

**TOSTICATION**, *subs.* (old). — Perplexity; commotion: whence TOSTICATED=(1) restless, worried; and (2) 'intoxicated': also TOSSICATED. *See* Toss, *verb.*

17[?]. SWIFT, *Jour. to Stella* [*Century*]. I have been so TOSTICATED about since my last that I could not go on in my journal manner.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, III. lxviii. I want those TOSTICATIONS (thou seest how women and women's words fill my mind) to be over . . . that I may sit down quietly, and reflect.

**TOT**, *subs.* (common).—1. Generic for anything small: spec. an endearment: *e.g.*, a wee TOT = a little child: *cf.* TODDLEKINS. Also (2) a measure holding a gill; whence a nip or dram, a GO (*q.v.*); as *verb*=to drink: *see* TOTE.

1725. RAMSAY, *Gentle Shepherd* [*Works*, II. 81]. Sic wee TOTS toolying at your knee.

1868. WHYTE MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. i. He . . . often found himself pining for . . . the glare of the camp-fires, the fragrant fumes of the honey-dew, and the TOT of rum.

1886. *St. James's Gaz.*, 10 Sep. Haydn . . . liked company; but if a guest stayed beyond a certain period, the great composer would suddenly start up, tap his forehead and say, 'Excuse me, I have a TOT'; by which he meant that he had a thought, and must go to his study to jot it down. A minute after he would return, looking all the brighter; and as forgetful as the Irish judge of La Rochefoucauld's maxim—that you may hoodwink one person, but not all the world. The expression, 'a TOT of spirits,' is said to have had this respectable origin.

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, vii. Raoul told a tale of a repentant mother's interest in the child which she had left as a wee TOT of two.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 294. Up came the children, wild-eyed, unkempt, dirty, ragged, yet brown, hardy, and active little TOTS.

3. *See* TOTTERY.

4. (common).—A bone: spec. (army)=kitchen refuse and (general) all kinds of waste, or marine store stuff. Hence TOTTING=bone-picking, dust-heap sifting; TOT-PICKER (or RAKER)=a scavenger. THE OLD TOTS=the 17th Lancers; the 'Death or Glory' Boys: in allusion to the regimental badge of 'A Skull and Crossbones.'

1884. GREENWOOD, *Little Ragamuffins*. P'r'aps he's goin' A-TOTTIN' (picking up bones).

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 22. Anything . . . left on the TOT, or bone, is the recognised perquisite of the orderly-man.

*Verb.* (colloquial). — (1) To count; to reckon: also TO TOT UP (or TOTE). Also (2)=to wager all: *cf.* TOTE *infra.* Hence as *subs.* = an exercise in addition;

TOT-BOOK = a book containing examples for practice; THE TOTE (or THE WHOLE TOTE) = all, everything; TO TOTE FAIR = to reckon accurately: hence (South and Western American) = to act honestly; to PLAY THE GAME (*q.v.*).

1766. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, ii. 211. These TOTTED together will make a pretty beginning of my little project.

[ ? ]. THACKERAY [*Century*]. 'A Night's Pleasure.' Seventeen hundred and twenty-five goes of alcohol in a year, we TOTTED it UP one night at the bar. *Ibid.* (1860–3), *Roundabout Papers*, xix. The last two TOT UP the bill.

1852. SAVAGE, *R. Medlicott* (1864), III. ii. 'One thousand eight hundred,' said Hyacinth, TOTTING his entries.

18[?]. *Chicago Tribune* [BARTLETT]. The predicament [of assassination] in Texas can be avoided by always 'TOTING FAIR' with everybody. Indeed, if you TOTE FAIR, you need TOTE no weapons; that is, you can go unarmed.

1895. *Notes and Queries*, 2 S. viii. 338. I have frequently heard in Lincolnshire the phrase, 'Come, TOTE IT UP, and tell me what it comes to.'

1896. *Athenæum*, No. 3268, 757. Graduated Exercises in Addition (TOTS and Cross TOTS, Simple and Compound).

**TOTE**, *subs.* (common). — A teetotaller: also (in sarcasm, with a glance at TOT = to drink drams) = a hard drinker.

*c.* 1870. *Music Hall Song*, 'Hasn't got over it yet.' As well we'd another old chum, By all of his mates called the TOTE, So named on account of the rum He constantly put down his throat.

*c.* 1889. *Music Hall Song*, 'Toper and Tote.' You'll always find the sober TOTE With a few pounds at command.

*See* TOT.

*Verb.* (American).—To carry; to bear a burden; to endure. Hence TOTE-LOAD = as much as one can carry; TOTE-ROAD = a road or track.

18[?]. *Negro Melody*, 'Come back, Massa' [BARTLETT]. De 'possum and de coon are as sassy as you please, Since all de blooded dogs were TOTED off by fleas; De measles TOTED off all de cunnin' little nigs, An' de sojers ob de army hab TOTED off de pigs.

18[?]. *Old Negro Song* [BARTLETT]. Dey say fetch an' TOTE 'stead of bring and carry, An' dat dey call grammar!—by de Lawd Harry.

18[?]. *Pickings from the Picayune*, 120. The watchman arrested Mr. Wimple for disturbing the peace, and TOTED him off to the calaboose.

18[?]. *Chronicles of Pineville*, 169. My gun here TOTES fifteen buckshot and a ball, and slings 'em to kill.

1843. CARLTON, *New Purchase*, I. 167. Here a boy was ferociously cutting wood—there one TOTING wood.

1844. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 39. The militia had everlastin' great long swords as much as they could TOTE. *Major Jones's Travels*. I could never bear to see a white gall TOATIN' my child about, and waitin' on me like a nigger: it would hurt my conscience.

*c.* 1869. DONNELY, *Speech in Congress* [*S.J. and C.*]. I cannot think Mr. Ulysses S. Grant will degenerate into a kind of hand-organ to be TOTED around on the back of a gentleman from Illinois.

1870. *Science*, XI. 242. I should also like to know how much a man can TOTE, how much a woman can TOTE, and how long a time, without resting, the TOTING may go on.

1873. *Trans. Am. Philol. Soc.*, xiii. 211. His report of his having induced the aristocratic Navajos to TOTE his luggage was received from the mouth of Gen'l Kane with a good-natured amused derision.

1879. *Scribner's Mag.*, VIII. 496. Its forests are still so unbroken by any highways save the streams and the rough TOTE-ROADS of the lumber-crews that this region cannot become populous with visitors.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn.* I TOTED UP a load, and went back and sat down on the bow of the skiff to rest.

1885. *Century Mag.*, XL. 224. The bullies used to . . . make them TOTE more than their share of the log.

1890. *Cent. Dict.*, s.v. TOTE. Origin unknown; usually said to be an African word introduced by Southern negroes, but the African words which have come into English use through Southern negroes are few and doubtful . . . and do not include verbs.

**TOTER,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—A piper [GIFFORD: a low term].

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, iii. 3. His name was Vadian, and a cunning TOTER.

**TOTHER (TONE),** *indef. prons.* (once literary: now vulgar).—The other; the one (THE=*thet*, the old neuter article); TONE AND TOTHER=both; TOTHER-EMMY=the others.

[12[?]. *Old Eng. Homilies*, 2 S. 175. ÞAT ON is Seint Peter and ÞAT OÐER is Seint Andrew.]

1340. HAMPOLE, *Prose Treat.* [E.E.T.S.], 29. Thou sulde doo bathe . . . the TANE AND THE TOTHER.

1360. CHAUCER, *Rom. of Rose*, 5559. The TOON yeveth conysaunce, And the TOTHER ignoraunce.

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Luke xvi. 13. He schal hate oon, and loue the TOTHER.

[?]. *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. ii. 38. f. 74. The TOTHER day on the same wyse, As the kynge fro the borde can ryse.

1530. TYNDALE [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 429. Tyndale sometimes, like his enemy More, uses the old form of 1180, 'THE TONE, THE TOTHER.']

1551. MORE, *Worship of Images*, 'Utopia,' Int. xci. Many other thinges touchyng the pestilent secte of Luther and Tyndale, by the TONE bygone in Saxony: and by the TOTHER laboured to be brought into England.

1565–7. GOLDING, *Ovid*, 'Pref.,' sign. A7. And where the TONE gives place, There still the other presseth in his place. *Ibid.*, ii. 9. So was Licaon made a woolfe; and Jove became a bull, The TONE for using crueltie, the TOTHER for his trull.

1573. TUSSER, *Good Husbandrie*, 145. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 583. The old THE TONE (here followed by THE TOTHER) is contracted into TONE.]

*d.* 1586. Sir P. SYDNEY, *Harington's Ariosto*, Notes, Bxi. As far from want, as far from vaine expence; TONE doth enforce, the other doth entice.

1591. HARINGTON, *Ariost.*, i. 18. And that with force, with cunning, nor with paine, The TONE of them could make the other yield.

1727. GAY, *Beggars' Opera*, ii. 2. How happy could I be with either, Were T'OTHER dear charmer away.

ONE WITH OTHER, *subs. phr.* (venery). — Copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

**T'OTHER-DAY,** *subs. phr.* (common). — Spec. the day before yesterday, but frequently used in an indefinite sense.

**T'OTHER SCHOOL,** *subs. phr.* (Winchester).—1. One's former school; (2) any school not a public school. As *adj.* = NON-LICET (*q.v.*), or unbecoming because more or less alien to Winchester. T'OTHER-UN (Charterhouse) = a private school.

**T'OTHER-SIDER,** *subs. phr.* (Victoria: now rare). — A convict: *see* SIDNEY-SIDER.

**TOTTER,** *verb.* (Old Cant). — To hang; to swing on the gallows.

1630. FLETCHER, *Night-Walker*, iii. 3. I would lose a limb to see their rogueships TOTTER.

**TOTTERARSE,** *subs.* (provincial).—Seesaw.

**TOTTERY,** *adj.* (colloquial). — Shaky; unsteady: also TOTTLISH (or TOTTY). Hence TOTTLE, *verb* = to walk unsteadily; TOTTY-HEADED = giddy, hare-brained (B. E. and GROSE); TOT =a simpleton: *see* BUFFLE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Reeve's Tale,' 333. Myn heed is TOTY of my swynk to-night.

[?]. *MS. Rawl.*, C. 86. So TOTY was the brayn of his hede, That he desired for to go to bede.

1819. SCOTT, *Ivanhoe*, xxxii. I was somewhat TOTTY when I received the good Knight's blow.

1855. HAMMOND, *Wild Northern Scenes*, 207. Our little boat was light and TOTLISH; and, as I pressed the trigger of my rifle, it rolled slightly over.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, vi. When I looked up and saw what a TOTTERY performance it was, I concluded to give them a wide berth.

1895. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxxix. 116. I find I can't lift anything into this canoe alone—it's so TOTTLISH.

**TOTTIE**, *subs.* (common).—A high-class harlot: somewhat of an endearment: *cf.* TOT.

**TOUCH**, *subs.* (old).—1. Worth; value; cost: usually in combination, as a GUINEA-TOUCH = something costing a guinea; a PENNY-TOUCH = a penn'orth. Also (Eton) = a present of money.

1720. Sir ERASMUS PHILLIPP, *Diary*, 22 Sep. At night went to the ball at the Angel, a guinea-TOUCH.

*d.* 1745. SWIFT [*Century*]. Print my preface in such form as, in the bookseller's phrase, will make a sixpenny TOUCH.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. TOUCH . . . Sometimes said of a woman to imply her worthlessness, as, 'Only a HALF-CROWN TOUCH.'

2. (old colloquial).—A trick; a dodge; a contrivance: *cf. verb.* 1. TO DO A TOUCH = to make shift; to manage somehow.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Fran.* TOUCHE, a crafty dede, *tour.*

1535. JOY, *Apology to Tyndale* [ARBER], 25. [The word TOUCHE is used for *trick*.]

3. (colloquial). — Generic for the minimum of effort or effect: *e.g.*, a TOUCH (= suspicion) of frost; a TOUCH OF THE TAR-BRUSH = slightly coloured (of mixed white and black blood); a TOUCH (=a spice) of humour; a slight TOUCH = a gentle reminder: hence TO TOUCH UPON = to dwell lightly on a matter; a TOUCH (=a pricking) of conscience; a TOUCH (=a trace) of pity; a TOUCH (=a foretaste) of spring; a TOUCH (=a twinge) of pain; TO TOUCH OFF = to outline, draft, or produce hastily or by a few strokes of pen, pencil, or brush; TO TOUCH UP = (1) to gently jog the memory, (2) to urge, egg on, or spur forward, (3) to improve, mend, or add to (*cf.* TO TOUCH OFF and TOUCHY): also *see verb.* 4: hence TOUCH-UP, *subs.* = (1) a reminder, (2) a spur to action, (3) a finishing or improving stroke.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, i. 2. 71. No beast so fierce but knows some TOUCH of pity.

1648. GAUDEN, *Eikon Basilike.* I never bare any TOUCH of conscience with greater regret.

1715. ADDISON, *Freeholder*, No. 44. What he saw was only her natural countenance, TOUCHED UP with the usual improvements of an aged coquette.

*d.* 1774. GOLDSMITH, *Clubs.* I was upon this whispered . . . that I should now see something TOUCHED OFF to a nicety.

1821. GALT, *Ayrshire Legatees*, viii. He's such a funny man, and TOUCHES OFF the Londoners to the nines.

1851. HAWTHORN, *Seven Gables*, x. Give me a rose that I may press its thorns and prove myself awake by the sharp TOUCH of pain!

*d.* 1878. BRYANT, *Song Sparrow.* While the air has no TOUCH of spring, Bird of promise! we hear thee sing.

1886. *Field*, 22 Jan. A TOUCH of frost.

1890. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S., x. 118. Faint in some parts, very dark in others. If the plate was worn it has been TOUCHED afterwards.

*See* TOUCH-AND-GO.

*Verb.* (old colloquial). — 1. Generic for getting: spec. (GROSE) to get money in hand. Also in modern usage = to obtain speciously or secretly, by methods that will not bear too close a scrutiny; and hence (thieves') = to steal: in Australia to act unfairly: *cf. subs.*

1726. VANBRUGH and CIBBER, *Provoked Husband* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 159. A man TOUCHES money (obtains it), a new sense of the verb].

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), III. ii. All that I have been able to TOUCH being no more than three thousand ducats.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker* (1900), ii. 134. England, I conceive, may TOUCH about one million sterling a year.

1796. HOLMAN, *Abroad and at Home*, i. 3. I could not go abroad without her, so I TOUCH'D father's cash.

1862. *Cornhill*, Nov., 648. We have just TOUCHED for a rattling stake of sugar at Brum.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* One day I took the rattler from Broad Street to Acton. I did not TOUCH them, but worked my way to Shepherd's Bush.

1879. *Macm. Mag.*, xl. 502. I TOUCHED for a red toy and red tackle.

1888. SIMS, *Plank Bed Ballad* [*Referee*, 12 Feb., 3]. A spark prop a pal . . . and I had TOUCHED.

1888. *St. Louis Globe Democrat.* A dip TOUCHED the Canadian sheriff for his watch and massive chain while he was reading the Riot Act.

*c.* 1889. *Bird o' Freedom* [*S. J. and C.*]. He ran against a wealthy friend whom he thought to TOUCH. 'No, my boy,' said the friend, 'I never give or lend money.'

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 102. I knew a thing or two about poker, and it would have required George Appo himself to have TOUCHED me for my wad.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 17. He lived upon credit, and what he could TOUCH.

2. (colloquial). — To be equal to, capable of, or bear comparison with. TO HAVE A TOUCH = to make an attempt.

1713. STEELE, *Guardian*, No. 82. Mr. William Peer distinguished himself particularly in two characters, which no man ever could TOUCH but himself.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xliii. Wasn't he always top-sawyer among you all? Is there one of you that could TOUCH him, or come near him?

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* I. 162. I thought I'd have a TOUCH at the same thing. But you see I never could rise money enough to make a do of it.

1865. *Major Jack Downing*, 30. The children of Israel going out of Egypt with their flocks and their little ones is no TOUCH to it [*i.e.*, the first day of May in New York].

4. (venery). — To copulate: *see* RIDE: as *subs.* = the act of kind; whence TOUCH-HOLE = the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; TOUCH-TRAP = the *penis*: *see* PRICK; TOUCH-CRIB = a brothel. Also (5) (or TO TOUCH UP) to grope a woman; (6) to roke a man; TOUCHABLE = (1) RIPE (*q.v.*), and (2) in trim for the act; also TO TOUCH UP (GROSE) = to masturbate. 'Not to be TOUCHED with a pair of tongs' (of a foundered whore): *see* BARGE-POLE.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.* v. Free from TOUCH or soil with her.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. xii. His governesses burst out laughing. . . . One would call it her pillicock . . . her TOUCH-TRAP, her flap-dowdle.

1661. *Merry Drollery* [EBSWORTH], 229. No man will TOUCH HER WITHOUT A PAIR OF TONGS.

1668. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo* (1678), 22. Your Beauties can never want gallants to lay their appetites. . . . Whereas nobody will TOUCH the ill-favoured WITHOUT A PAIR OF TONGS.

1670. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 80. If Æneas be a spark they there . . . May take a gentle TOUCH together: So each of other may have Proof.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, iv. 207. But give me the Buxom Country Lass . . . That will take a TOUCH upon the grass, Ay, marry, and thank you too.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 'Lying-in Woman.' Would you have me persuade your Husband never to TOUCH you more?

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, lxxxvii. He wrote a letter to Hatchway, desiring him to receive this hedge inamorata, and desired her to be cleaned and clothed in a decent manner . . . so that she should be TOUCHABLE on his arrival.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 361. May I for cats and dogs turn butcher, If ever yet she'd let me TOUCH her.

**7.** (old).—To arrest (GROSE).

PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS. IN TOUCH WITH=(1) in sympathy, and (2) near at hand; OUT OF TOUCH WITH=(1) antagonistic, and (2) out-of-the-way, un-get-at-able; TO TOUCH ONE =to affect, concern, or influence; TO TOUCH A SORE SPOT (UP, HOME, or ON THE RAWS, etc.), to irritate by allusion or joke, to rub up the wrong way, to clinch an argument, advice, or comment; TRUE AS TOUCH= absolutely true; TO TOUCH BOTTOM (or BEDROCK)=(1) to reach the lowest point, and (2) to get at the truth of matters; TO TOUCH HER UP (nautical)=to shake a vessel by luffing; 'TOUCH POT, TOUCH PENNY' = 'No credit given'; 'TOUCH BONE AND WHISTLE' (GROSE)='Anyone having broken wind backwards, according to vulgar law, may be pinched by any of the company till he has touched bone (*i.e.* his teeth) and whistled.'

*c.* 1400. GENERYDES (E. E. T. S.), 560. With that the quene was wroth in hir maner, Thought she anon this TOWCHITH me right near.

1549. LATIMER, *Serms. bef. Ed. VI.*, III. They keep no TOUCH; they will talk of many gay things; they will pretend this and that, but they keep no promise. *Ibid.* As the text doth rise, I will TOUCH AND GO a little in every place.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry VI.*, iv. 1. 118. The quarrel TOUCHETH none but us alone.

1633. SHIRLEY, *Bird in a Cage*, iv. 1. If Florence now KEEP TOUCH, we shortly shall Conclude all fear with a glad nuptial.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, ii. 1. Beshrew me, but his words have TOUCH'D me home.

1720. SWIFT, *Elegy on Mr. Demar.* He TOUCHED THE PENCE when others TOUCHED THE POT.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, iii. 2. We know the custom of such houses, continues he; 'tis TOUCH-POT, TOUCH-PENNY; we only want money's worth for our money.

1838. BECKETT, *Paradise Lost*, 97. He's told by Dominus Factotum, To TOUCH YOU UP about the bottom.

1856. B. TAYLOR, *Northern Travel*, 43. A handsome, lively boy, whose pride was a little TOUCHED by my remonstrances.

[?]. *New Princeton Rev.*, II. 47. We want, with our brethren of the working class, that which we have largely lost . . . that expressive thing which we call TOUCH.

1882. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 14 Sep. There were frequent halts to enable the regiments to maintain TOUCH.

1889. *Academy*, 1 June, 371. The European in Morocco feels that when he is in company with a Barbary Jew he is IN TOUCH WITH Europe.

*See* TOUCHED.

**TOUCH-AND-GO**, *subs.* and *adj.* (colloquial).—1. Uncertain; risky; nothing to spare; hasty; superficial: of persons and things. As *subs.* =(1) a narrow escape, a close shave; and (2) a trifle. Also A NEAR (or CLOSE) TOUCH (or TOUCHER); AS NEAR AS A TOUCHER = as near as may be,

very nearly. To TOUCH AND GO (old coaching: *cf.* nautical phrase, TO TOUCH BOTTOM = to graze the shallows) = (1) to drive close enough to TOUCH and escape injury (HOTTEN: a trick of the old jarveys to show their skill); hence (2) applied to anything within an ace of ruin: *cf.* quot. 1549, s.v. TOUCH (phrases).

1831. FERRIER, *Destiny*, iii. So it was with Glenroy and his lady. It had been TOUCH-AND-GO with them for many a day, and now, from less to more, from bad to worse, it ended in a threatened separation.

1860. SALA, *Baddington Peerage*, i. 188. It was a near TOUCHER, though.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iii. 18. And there we are in four minutes' time, as NEAR AS A TOUCHER. *Ibid.* [ANNANDALE]. The next instant the hind coach passed my engine by a near shave. It was the nearest TOUCH I ever saw.

1883. *Century Mag.*, xxxvi. 127. It was TOUCH AND GO to that degree that they couldn't come near him.

1887. *St. James's Gazette*, 25 Oct. Herr Ludwig had A TOUCH-AND-GO journey before he caught the *Servia*.

1888. *Academy*, 3 Mar., 148. The illusive TOUCH-AND-GO manner.

1889. OLIPHANT, *Poor Gentleman*, xli. It was as Rochford felt, TOUCH AND GO, very delicate work with Sir Edward.

**TOUCHED,** *adv.* (colloquial).—Slightly crazy; mentally impaired. Hence TOUCH, *subs.* = a kink, a twist: *cf.* Old Eng. *touch* = to infect, blemish, taint.

1704. STEELE, *Lying Lover*, v. 1. Pray mind him not, his brain is TOUCH'D. *Ibid.* (*c.* 1709), *Tatler*, 178. This TOUCH in the brain of the British subject is certainly owing to the reading newspapers.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, v. 2. Madam, you see master's a little—TOUCHED, that's all.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 86. There were some who called her 'TOUCHED,' because she told them plump and plain that she wasn't going to be a fellow's chattel.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, ix. He is not to be judged by their law; he has been TOUCHED.

**TOUCHER.** *See* TOUCH-AND-GO.

**TOUCH-MY-NOB,** *subs.* (rhyming).—A shilling; A BOB (*q.v.*): *see* RHINO.

**TOUCH-PIECE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A good-luck piece given by the sovereign to those they 'touched' for the cure of scrofula, or king's evil.

1882. *Athenæum*, 28 Oct. Before the reign of Charles II. no coins were struck specially for TOUCH-PIECES, the gold 'angel' having been used for the purpose. The TOUCH-PIECES are all similar in design. Those of the Pretenders, however, which were struck abroad, are of much better work than those made in England. . . . These TOUCH-PIECES (all of them perforated) are curious relics of a superstition which had existed for many centuries, and was only stamped out on the accession of the Brunswick dynasty.

**TOUCHY,** *adj.* (old and still colloquial).—1. Irritable, apt to take offence, all 'angles and corners' [*i.e.*, tetchy]. [JOHNSON: 'a low word.'] Hence TOUCHINESS = sensitiveness, peevishness.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Works*. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 373. The verb TOUCH gets the new sense of *irritare*; . . . hence our TOUCHY.]

1605. *King Leir and his Three Daughters*. She breeds yong bones, And that is it makes her so TUTCHY sure.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Chatouilleux à la poincte.* Quick on the spurre . . . TICHY, that will not endure to be TOUCHED.

1611. FLETCHER, *Maid's Trag.*, iii. Y'are TOUCHIE without all cause.

1628. EARLE, *Microcos.*, 'A Blunt Man.' Hee is TEACHY himself, and seldome to his own abuses replyes but with his Fists.

1648. GAUDEN, *Eikon Basilike*. My friends resented it as a motion not guided with such discretion as the TOUCHINESS of those times required.

1651. RANDOLPH, *Hey for Honesty*, Introduction. This is no age for wasps; 'tis a dangerous TOUCHY age, and will not endure the stinging.

1727. GAY, *Fables*, iv. You tell me that you apprehend My verse may TOUCHY folks offend.

1742. RAY, *North Country Words*, 45. TECHEY for TOUCHY, very inclinable to Displeasure or Anger.

1831. SMITH, *Letters* [DAVIES] You have a little infirmity—tactility or TOUCHINESS.

1844. BARNES, *Poems in Dorset Dialect*, Glossary. TOUCHY . . . very irritable or sensitive, impatient of being even 'touched.'

1885. *Daily Teleg.*, 14 Oct. In South Australia he is exceptionally TOUCHY, and, in particular, you must not interfere with his pipe.

2. (artists').—Descriptive of a style in which points, broken lines, or touches are employed, as distinguished from firm unbroken line work: *cf.* TOUCH, *verb.* 2.

3. (Christ's Hospital).—Rather: *e.g.*, TOUCHY A LUX=rather a good thing.

**TOUGH**, *subs.* (American). — A rough; a bully.

1879. *Scribner's Mag.*, viii. 692. The whole appearance of the young TOUGH changed, and the terror and horror that had showed on his face turned to one of low sharpness and evil cunning.

*c.* 1889. *D. Teleg.* [*S. J. and C.*]. The TOUGH, his northern appellation changed to "hoodlum," continues to flourish in San Francisco.

*Adj.* (colloquial).—Generic for difficult, trying, severe: *e.g.*, a TOUGH (=incredible) YARN: 'a long story' (GROSE); a TOUGH (=difficult) JOB; a TOUGH (=severe) REBUKE; a TOUGH (=violent) STORM; a TOUGH (=prolonged) SIEGE; a TOUGH (=stubborn) CUSTOMER: a hard nut to crack. Also TO MAKE IT TOUGH=(1) to raise difficulties, to make much of a small matter, and (2) to take excessive pains; AS TOUGH AS WHITLEATHER (RAY)=as tough as may be.

[?]. *MS. Cantab.*, Ff. v. 48, f. 53. To day thou gate no moné of me, Made thou it never so TOW3.

[?]. *Releg. Cent.* ii. 29. Befe and moton wylle serve wele enow; And for to seche so ferre a lytill bakon flyk, Which hath long hanggid, resty and TOW.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales* [TYRWHITT], 13,309. And up he goth and maketh it ful TOUGH. *Ibid.*, *Troilus*, v. 101. If that I . . . make it to TOUGH. *Ibid.*, *Booke of Dutchess*, 531. And made it neyther TOUGH ne queint.

*c.* 1640. HOWELL, *Letters*, I. iv. 15. [Breda] has yielded . . . to Spinola's Hands, after a TOUGH Siege of thirteen months.

1781. COWPER, *Table Talk*, 458. Callous and TOUGH, the reprobated race grows judgment-proof.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xiv. I found Mr. Macready . . . a TOUGH, sagacious, long-headed Scotchman.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, II. 69. 'My Lord,' said the King, 'here's a rather TOUGH JOB.'

*See* OLD TOUGHS.

**TOUPEE**, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female pubic hair: *see* FLEECE; and (2) a MERKIN (*q.v.*): *see* LADY'S LOW TOUPÉE.

**TOUR**, *subs.* (old).—A turn or drive: spec. the fashionable promenade in Hyde Park: now (1903) THE ROW (Rotten Row). Also as *verb.*

1665. PEPYS, *Diary*, 19 Mar. Mr Povy and I in his coach to Hyde Parke, being the first day of the TOUR there; where many brave ladies. *Ibid.* (13 Mar. 1668). Took up my wife and Deb., and to the park, where being in a hackney, and they undressed, was ashamed to go into the TOUR.

1706. CENTLIVRE, *Basset Table*, i. 2. The sweetness of the Park is at eleven, when the Beau-Monde make their TOUR there.

17[?]. [ASHTON, *Queen Anne*, II. 173.] You'll at least keep Six Horses, Sir Toby, for I wou'd not make a TOUR in Hyde Park with less for the World; for me thinks a pair looks like a Hackney.

*See* TOWRE.

THE GRAND TOUR, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—In 18th and early 19th centuries a continental tour embracing France, Switzerland, Italy, and Germany: regarded as an essential finish to the education of young men of rank.

**TOUSLE** (or **TOWSLE**), *verb.* (colloquial). — To rumple; TO PULL (or MESS) ABOUT (*q.v.*); to ransack; freq. with 'mousle.' Whence (venery) = to master a woman by romping. Also TOUSY = rough, dishevelled, unkempt. [*Cf.* TOUSE.]

1370. *Thornton Rom.* [Camden Soc.], 239. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 81. The *l* is added, for the verb *touse* becomes *tousel* (Scott's TOWZEL).]

1530. TYNDALE, *Works*, ii. 151. He TOWSETH and mowseth.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 10. He'll TOUZLE her and mouzle her. The rogue's sharp set . . . what if he should . . . fall to without the help of a parson. ha?

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, i. 1. You slut, how you've TOUSLED the curls.

1791. BURNS, *Tam o' Shanter.* A TOWZIE tyke, black, grim and large.

1791. *Old Song*, 'My Jockey is a Bonny Lad.' And then he fa's a kissing, clasping, hugging, squeezing, TOUSLING, pressing, winna let me be.

1816. SCOTT, *Old Mortality*, xiv. She loot Tam TOUSLE her tap-knots. *Ibid.* (1816), *Antiquary*, ix. After they had TOUZLED many a leather pokeful of papers.

1852. STOWE, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, ix. A very heavy mat of sandy hair, in a decidedly TOUSLED condition.

1887. *Field*, 27 Mar. A large TOUSEY dog that can kill singly a fox or badger.

**TOUT**, *subs.* (Old Cant). — The posteriors; the BACKSIDE (*q.v.*), the BUM (*q.v.*).

1383. CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales*, 3810, 'Miller's Tale.' The hote culter brenned so his TOUTE. *Ibid.* Thus swived was the carpentere's wif . . . And Absolon hath kist hire nether eye; And Nicholas is scalded in the TOUTE.

[?]. *MS. Ashmole.*, 61, f. 60. Rubyng of ther TOUTE.

1882. PAYNE, *Thousand Nights*, etc., 'Porter of the Three Ladies of Baghdad.' Thy caze, thy TOUT, thy catso, thy coney.

*Verb.* (Old Cant).—'To look out sharp, to be on one's guard' (B. E.): also TO KEEP TOUT: *see* NARK. Hence (HALLIWELL) = to follow; and (modern) = to canvass for custom as do hotel, coach, or steamer servants, to solicit employment as does a guide, or (racing: *see* TIP) to spy out special information concerning horses in training. A STRONG TOUT = strict observation, close watching (VAUX). As *subs.* = (1) a hotel, coach, or steamer runner, (2) a spy for thief or smuggler, (3) a racing agent or 'horse-watcher' (GROSE). Also TOUTING-KEN = a tavern-bar (B. E. and GROSE).

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TOUT. Who TOUTS? c. who looks out sharp? TOUT the Culls, c. Eye those Folks which way they take.

1718. C. HIGDEN, *True Disc.*, 13. He is a pushing TOUTE, alias thieves' watchman, that lies scouting in and about the City to get and bring intelligence to the thieves, when and where there is a Push, alias an Accidental Crowd of People.

*d.* 1761. RICHARDSON, *Corresp.*, III. 316. A parcel of fellows, mean traders whom they call TOUTERS, and their business TOUTING—riding out miles to meet carriages and company coming hither, to beg their custom while here.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. TOUT. A look-out house, or eminence. *Ibid.*, TOUTER . . . Men, who, on the sly, obtain the speed and capabilities of race-horses during their training, and give

information to certain persons . . . who bet their money with more certainty. *Ibid.*, TOUTING. Publicans forestalling guests, or meeting them on the road, and begging their custom; to be met with at Brighton, Margate, etc.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxxii. Bess, my covess, strike me blind if my sees don't TOUT your bingo muns in spite of the darkmans.

1837. DISRAELI, *Venetia*, 69. Come, old mort . . . TOUT the cobble-colter; are we to have darkmans upon us?

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (1842), 256. I have not a doubt, I shall rout every TOUT.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxxvii. Thimbleriggers, duffers, TOUTERS, or any of those bloodless sharpers, who are, perhaps, a little better known to the police.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, x. 'It suits my purpose to become the principal medical man in this neighbourhood——' 'And I am to TOUT for introductions for you?'

1863. *Law Mag. Rev.*, 22. Barristers' clerks TOUTING among prisoners and prosecutors.

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.

1869. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. TOUT. An agent in the training districts, on the look-out for information as to the condition and capabilities of those horses entering for a coming race. TOUTS often get into trouble through entering private training-grounds. They, however, are very highly paid, some making 40*l.* or 50*l.* a week during the season.

1885. *Field*, 3 Oct. There had been a good deal of before-breakfast TOUTING on the Bury side of the town. *Ibid.* Everybody was industrious, the professional TOUTS being outnumbered by the amateurs. *Ibid.* (1886), 4 Sep. The gallops . . . are less liable to be TOUTED than any other training-ground.

1886. *Athenæum*, 3067. A species of racing TOUT enters the cottage of a female trainer.

**TOW**, *subs.* (Shrewsbury School).—1. A long run in: at hare and hounds.

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life*. After that last 'all up' there is a TOW or continuous run of from one to three miles.

2. (common). — Generic for money: *see* RHINO.

TO TOW OUT, *verb. phr.* (old).—To decoy: spec. to distract attention and thus pave the way for robbery by a confederate: also TOW-STREET (GROSE) and TOW-LINE (VAUX).

IN TOW, *phr.* (colloquial).—In hand, at one's apron strings, under one's influence, or at command: of persons and things; spec. of a woman who is said to have such and such an admirer IN TOW.

**TOWARDS.** I LOOKS (*sic*) TOWARDS YOU, *phr.* (common).—A toast.

1857. WHITTY, *Bohemia*, I. 166. Ladies, I LOOKS TOWARD YOU.

**TOWEL**, *subs.* (common). — 1. A cudgel: also OAKEN (or BLACKTHORN) TOWEL; as *verb* (TO GIVE A TOWELLING or TO RUB DOWN WITH A TOWEL)=to reprimand, scold, and (spec.) thrash (GROSE).

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker*, i. 83. Prankly, shaking his cane, bid him hold his tongue, otherwise he would dust his cassock for him. 'I have no pretensions to such a valet,' said Tom; 'but if you should do me that office, and overheat yourself, I have here a good OAKEN TOWEL at your service.'

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 469. I got a TOWELLING, but it did not do me much good.

2. (old).—The *anus*; fundament: *see* BUM: also TEWEL.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 7730, 'Sompnoures Tale.' And whan this sike man felte this frere About his TOWEL gropen ther and here, Amid his hond he let the frere a fart.

A LEAD (or LEADEN) TOWEL, *subs. phr.* (common).—A bullet.

1812. J. and H. SMITH, *Rejected Addresses*, 182. Make Nunky surrender his dibs, Rub his pate with a pair of LEAD TOWELS.

**TOWER**, *subs.* (old).—1. A fashion in feminine hair-dressing, *temp.* William III. and Anne: pasteboard, ribbon, and lace were built up in tiers, or in stiffened bows, and draped with a lace scarf or veil. Also (2) a wig or the natural hair built up in the same fashion; and (3) false hair worn on the forehead (B. E.).

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, 'To his Lady,' 186. Lay trains of amourous intrigues In TOW'RS, and curls, and periwigs.

1675. *Woman Turn'd Bully* [NARES]. 'Tis a frightful thing to see some women . . . undress'd: I do not mean naked; but only their face without the TOOR, shades, locks, hollows, bullies, and some transitory patches.

1675. *Ape-Gentlewoman*, 1. Her greatest ingenuity consists in curling up her TOWRE, and her chiefest care in putting it on.

1676. ETHEREGE, *Man of Mode*, ii. 1. Her TOUR wou'd keep in curl no longer.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 63. Should I adorn my head with curles and TOWERS, When a poor skipper's cap does cover yours?

1710. CONGREVE, *Ovid's Art of Love*, iii. And Art gives Colour which with Nature vyes: The well-wove TOURS they wear their own are thought.

1711. [SYDNEY, *England and English*, i. 90. About the year 1711 the good taste of the Queen induced her to discontinue wearing the . . . TOWER or Bow steeple, names which the wits bestowed in derision.]

*Verb.* (Old Cant).—(1) To watch closely; to see, observe, understand: as a hawk on the look-out for prey: also TOURE, TOUR, TWIRE, TWYRE; TO TOUR OUT=to go abroad in search of booty: hence to be off, to decamp (HARMAN, B. E. and GROSE). [GROSE: 'to overlook, to rise aloft, as in a high tower.' DYCE: 'a verb particularly applicable to certain hawks, etc., which TOWER aloft, soar spirally to a station high in the air, and thence swoop upon their prey.']

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* (E.E.T.S.), 86. Now I TOWER that bene bouse makes nase nabes.

1607. DEKKER, *Jests to Make You Merie* [GROSART, *Works*, ii. 329]. Kinchen the coue TOWRES, which is as much as, Fellow the man smokes or suspects you.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*. 'TOWRE out ben Morts' [Title].

1737. *Old Ballad*, '*Black Procession*' [*Bacchus and Venus*]. TOURE you well; hark you well, see Where they are rubb'd.

1822. SCOTT, *Fort. Nigel*. TOUR the bien mort TWIRING the gentry cove.

1837. DISRAELI, *Venetia*, 71. Queer cuffin will be the word if we don't TOUR.

BEEN ROUND THE TOWER (Old Cant).—Clipped: of money (B.E. and GROSE).

**TOWER-HILL-PLAY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A slap on the Face and a kick on the Breech' (B.E. and GROSE).

**TOWER-HILL VINEGAR**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The swordsman's block. [Tower-hill was, for long, the place of execution.] Hence TO PREACH ON TOWER HILL=to be hanged. *See* TYBURN.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Magnyfycence* [*Works* (DYCE), i. 295]. Some fall to foly them selfe for to spyll, And some fall PRECHYNGE ON TOWRE HYLL.

**TOWERING**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Extreme, violent, outrageous.

1713. ADDISON, *Cato*, ii. 1. All else is TOWERING phrenzy and distraction.

1849–61. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, xxii. Russell went into a TOWERING passion.

**TOWHEAD**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A flaxen-haired person; and (2) a rumple-head; in contempt. Whence TOW-HEADED = rough-headed, unkempt.

**TOWN**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. London: *e.g.* 'I go to (or leave) TOWN to-morrow'; 'So-and-so is in TOWN: *cf.* LANE, HOUSE, ALLEY, etc.: whence MAN ABOUT TOWN (*see* PHRASES).

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, Prol. As you are known the first and happiest hearers of the TOWN.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Westward Hoe*, iii. 1. *Ten.* I know not when he will come to TOWN. *Moll.* He's in TOWN; this night he sups at the Lion in Shoreditch.

1648. *Commons' Journals*, v. 245. That a letter be directed to the Vice-Admiral to desire him to suffer Prince Philip, brother to the Prince Elector, to come to TOWN.

1711. ADDISON, *Spectator*, No. 2. A baronet . . . Sir Roger de Coverley. When he is in TOWN he lives in Soho Square.

*c.* 1825. JENKINSON [DAVIES: Bp. Jenkinson of St. David's (1825-40) offered a curate in his diocese a living, and desired him to come to TOWN to be instituted. The curate expressed every willingness to obey the command, but added that his Lordship had omitted to mention the name of the town where his presence was required.]

2. (University and schools').—Townspeople, as distinguished from GOWN (*q.v.*) = the members of the University. [In early days Universities were subject to perpetual conflict—with the TOWN, the Jews, the Friars, and the Papal Court: *see* quot. 1853.] Also TOWNSMAN and (Cambridge) TOWNEE (or TOWNER): Ger. *Philister*. TOWN-LOUT (Rugby) = a scholar residing in the town with his parents, and TOWNEY (Christ's Hospital) = (1) the antithesis of 'housey,' that is peculiar to the Hospital: whence (spec.) TOWNEYS = clothes more in accordance with modern taste for town wear than is the distinctive BLUE habit; also (2) a comrade from the same town or locality (army): Fr. *pays*.

1846. *Punch*, x. 163. For the gownsmen funk the TOWNSMEN, And the TOWNSMEN funk the gown.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. iii., Note. TOWN and Gown disturbances [date back to] 1238. They not unfrequently terminated fatally to some of the combatants: on St. Scholastica the Virgin, February 10th, 1345, several lives were lost on either side. Grostête, the Bishop [Lincoln], placed the townspeople under an interdict, [which lasted] till 1357, when the mayor and sixty of the chief burgesses were required every anniversary to attend St. Mary's Church and offer up mass for the souls of the slain scholars, and individually present an offering of one penny at the high altar, besides a yearly fine of 100 marks to the University, with the penalty of an additional fine of the same sum for every omission in attending at St. Mary's. This fell into abeyance at the Reformation. In 15 Eliz., however, the University claimed arrears, and it was decided that the town should continue the annual fine and penance, though the arrears were forgiven. The fine was yearly paid on the 10th of February until put an end to by Convocation in the year 1825.

1887. *Blue*, Nov. Mention is made of the time when a boy leaves the school. The consequent change of dress might be vulgarly expressed by 'exchanging houseys for TOWNEYS.'

1899. HEYWOOD, *Guide to Oxford*. TOWN and gown rows . . . nowadays . . . are happily unknown.

PHRASES, ETC.—TO COME TO TOWN = (1) to become common, and (2) to be born; ON THE TOWN = (1) getting a living by

prostitution, thieving, or the like, and (2) in the swing of pleasure, dissipation, etc., London (*see subs.* 1) being regarded as the centre of national life; TO GO (or TAKE A TURN) ROUND THE TOWN = to seek amusement, spec. at night and by a round of 'the halls'; A MAN (or WOMAN) OF THE TOWN = a person whose living, occupation, or taste is more or less connected with the shady or 'fast' side of life (GROSE); TO PAINT THE TOWN RED (*see* RED); IN TOWN (BEE) = in funds; OUT OF TOWN = hard up, penniless.

1593. NASH, *Works* (GROSART), ii. 283. [NASH] I knew a MAN ABOUT TOWN.

1600. *MS.*, '*The Newe Metamorphosis.*' This first was court-like, nowe 'tis COME TO TOWNE; 'Tis common growne with every country clowne.

1640–50. HOWELL, *Letters*, ii. 89. [Howell calls himself] a YOUTH ABOUT THE TOWN.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, ii. 1. A man may . . . bring his bashful wench, and not have her put out of countenance by the impudent honest WOMEN OF THE TOWN.

1686–7. AUBREY, *Gentilisme* (1881), 163. The TOWNE is full of wanton wenches, and . . . (they say) scarce three honest women in the TOWN.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Dial. of Dead* [*Works*, ii. 313]. I have been a MAN OF THE TOWN . . . and admitted into the family of the Rakehellonians.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Wakefield*, xx. The lady was only a WOMAN OF THE TOWN, and the fellow her bully and a sharper.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. High-flyers—WOMEN OF THE TOWN, in keeping.

1823. BYRON, *Don Juan*, xi. 17. Poor Tom was once a KIDDY UPON TOWN, A thorough varmint and a real swell.

1842. EGAN, *Capt. Macheath*, 'Jack Flashman.' Jack long was ON THE TOWN, a teazer; Could turn his fives to anything, Nap a reader, or filch a ring.

1900. GRIFFITHS, *Fast and Loose*, xxii. He . . . aspired more and more to be thought a tip-top swell, a fashionable MAN ABOUT TOWN.

**TOWN-BULL (RAKE, or STALLION),** *subs. phr.* (old). — A common whoremaster, wencher, MUTTON-MONGER (*q.v.*) (B.E. and GROSE). [NARES: it was formerly the custom to keep a bull for common town use.] Hence, 'AS LAWLESS AS A TOWN-BULL' (RAY) = 'one that rides all the women he meets' (B.E.); and TOWN-HUSBAND = a parish officer whose duty it was to collect bastardy fees.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, iii. 1. *Ho.* TOWN-BULL government; do you not mean so, sir? *Lod.* Do you imagine he went about stealing of city venison?

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. This piece of officer, this nasty patch, (Whose understanding sleepes out many a watch), Ran like a TOWNE BULL, roaring up and downe, Saying that we had meant to fire the towne.

1636. DAVENANT, *Platonic Lovers*, iv. 1. My son hath turned . . . from a tame soldier to a TOWN BULL.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. i. This made the beauteous queen of Crete To take a TOWN-BULL for her sweet.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 116. What think you, lady, of your Father Jove? Shew me a TOWN-BULL h'as been more in Love.

1689. *Princess of Cleve.* Believe me, sir, in a little time you'll be nick'd the TOWN-BULL.

1711. SWIFT, *Examiner*, 29. Lewdness and intemperance are not of so bad consequences in the TOWN-RAKE as in a divine.

TO ROAR LIKE A TOWN-BULL, *verb. phr.* (old). — 'To cry, or bellow aloud' (GROSE).

**TOW-POW,** *subs. phr.* (military).—In *pl.* = The Grenadier Guards (HOTTEN).

**TOW-ROW,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A noise; a RACKET (*q.v.*).

**TOUZERY GANG (THE),** *subs. phr.* (common).—Mock auction swindlers: they hire sale-rooms, usually in the suburbs, and advertise their ventures as 'Alarming Sacrifices,' 'Important Sales of Bankrupts' Stock," etc.

**TOWZLE (or TOWSE).** *See* TOUSLE, *verb.*

**TOY,** *subs.* and *verb.* (old).—Generic for wantonness: as *subs.* = (1) a lewd conceit, jest, or tale; a love poem; amorous sport; (2) a maidenhead; and (3) the female *pudendum.* As *verb* = to wanton, to dally: also TO TICK AND TOY. TOYFUL (TOYSOME, TOYISH, or TOYING) = amorous, wanton (BAILEY, 1731).

1303. MANNING [Robert of Brunne]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 427. Manning used TOY for dalliance in 1303. *Ibid.*, i. 370. He (Skelton) has Manning's peculiar sense of TOY.]

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Works* [DYCE], 50. To TOYE with him.

1571. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pithias*, Prol. The matron grave, the harlot wild, and full of wanton TOYS.

1579. GOSSON, *School of Abuses.* Such ticking, such TOYING, such smiling, such winking, and such manning them home when the sports are ended.

15[?]. HARRISON, *Passion of Sappho* [NICHOLS, iv. 183]. Wanton Cupid, idle TOYER, Pleasing tyrant, soft destroyer.

1590. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, II. ix. 34–35. And eke emongst them little Cupid play'd His wanton sportes . . . But other some could not abide to TOY.

1596. NASH, *Saffron Walden*, iii. 44. [Nash confesses he was often obliged] to pen unedifying TOYS for gentlemen.

[?]. *Gilderoy* [CHILD, *Ballads*, VI. 199]. Aft on the banks we'd sit us thair, And sweetly kiss and TOY.

1614. *England's Helicon* [NARES]. Unto her repaire. . . . Sit and TICK AND TOY till set be the sunne.

*c.* 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's Jl.* (1723), 61. With me TOY'D they, buss'd me, cull'd me.

1667. MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, ix. 1034. So said he, and forebore not glance or TOY Of amourous intent.

1663. KILLIGREW, *Parson's Wedding*, i. 2. [TOY = maidenhead.]

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 46. But we can cherish lusty Yeoman, And carry Toys like other women.

1680. DRYDEN, *Spanish Friar*, iv. 2. O virtue, virtue, what art thou become, That man should leave thee for that TOY, a woman!

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, Epil. As a rash girl, who will all hazards run, And be enjoyed . . . Soon as her curiosity is over, Would give the world she could her TOY recover.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. ii. 8. Kisses, LOVE-TOYS, and am'rous Prattle.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, v. 299. Two or three TOYSOME things were said by my lord (no ape was ever so fond!) and I could hardly forbear him.

1841. MACAULAY, *Warren Hastings.* A *roi fainéant* who chewed bang, and TOYED with dancing girls.

Hence (old colloquial) = (4) anything of casual or trifling interest, use, amusement, or adornment, of adventitious worth, as contrasted with serious, hard use, or intrinsic value: a nick-nack, *e.g.*, a trinket, an idle story, odd conceit, and spec. anything diminutive.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Sclaunder and False Detractions.* Then let them vale a bonet of their proud sayle, And of their taunting TOIES rest with il hayle.

1530. TYNDALE, *Works.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 427. Tyndale uses TOY much like children's play, ii. 11 (Last Part).]

1550. LATIMER, *Serm. bef. Ed. VI.* Here by the way I will tell you a merry TOY.

1564. UDAL, *Erasmus.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 484. The word TOY had already meant a trifle or a folly; it now stands for a play on words, page 115, and in page xxiv. it expresses joke.]

1590. MARLOWE, *Tamburlaine*, i. 2. 'Tis a pretty TOY to be a poet.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, v. 1. 3. I never may believe these antique fables, nor these fairy TOYS. *Ibid.* (1592), *1 Henry VI.*, iv. 1. 145. A TOY, a thing of no regard. *Ibid.* (1604), *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4. 326. Any silk, any thread, Any TOYS for your head?

1594. HOOKER, *Eccles. Polity*, i. 15. A man whose wisdom is in weighty affairs admired would take it in some disdain to have his counsel solemnly asked about a TOY.

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, iii. 1. 32. For your busk, attires and TOYS, Have your thoughts on heavenly joys.

*d.* 1719. ADDISON, *Italy* [*Works* (BOHN), i. 504]. One cannot but be amazed to see such a profusion of wealth laid out in coaches, trappings, tables, cabinets, and the like precious TOYS.

1888. BLACK, *Houseboat*, ii. Perched on the top of a hill was a conspicuous TOY of a church.

**5.** (old).—A whim, fancy, huff, offence, or caprice. Hence TO TAKE TOY=(1) to be huffish, whimsical, restless; and (2) to go at random, play tricks, act the fool: whence TOYSOME, etc: *cf.* HOITY-TOITY = thoughtless, giddy. TOYT-HEADED=feather-brained.

14[?]. *Babees Book* [E.E.T.S.], 332. Cast not thyne eyes to ne yet fro, As thou werte full of TOYES.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, i. 4. 77. The very place puts TOYS of desperation, Without more notice, into every brain.

1598. MARLOWE, *Hero and Leander*, v. To hear her dear tongue robb'd of such a joy, Made the well-spoken nymph TAKE such A TOY. That down she sunk.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Capricciare*, to growe or be humourous, TOISH, or fantastical.

1605. JONSON, CHAPMAN, etc., *Eastward Ho!* iii. 2. A TOY, a TOY, runs in my head, i' faith.

1607. CHAPMAN, *Bussy D'Ambois*, i. 1. *Ta.* Why did the TOY TAKE him in th' head now? *Bu.* 'Tis leap-year, lady.

*c.* 1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Two Noble Kinsmen*, v. 4. 65. The hot horse, hot as fire, TOOKE TOY at this.

1613. MARSTON, *Insatiate Countess*, i. *Men.* How now, my lady? does the TOY TAKE you, as they say? *Abi.* No, my lord; nor doe we TAKE YOUR TOY, as they say.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, i. 2. The fool . . . can commit whom he will, and what he will, error, absurdity, as the TOY TAKES him.

1628. EARLE, *Microcos.* [ARBER], 63. She is indeed one that has TAKEN A TOY at the fashion of Religion, and is enamour'd of the New-fangle.

*d.* 1631. DONNE, *Prog. of Soul*, 46. It quickened next a TOYFUL ape.

*d.* 1663. SANDERSON, *Works*, i. 358. As they sometimes withdraw their love from their children upon slender dislikes, so these many times TAKE TOY at a trifle.

1665. GLANVILLE, *Scep. Sci.* Your society will discredit that TOYISHNESS of wanton fancy that plays tricks with words, and frolicks with the caprices of frothy imagination.

*d.* 1665. ADAMS, *Sermons*, 'The Fatal Banquet,' i. 221. These TOYTHEADED times.

*d.* 1667. JER. TAYLOR, *Works* (1835), II. 320. The contention is trifling and TOYISH.

*d.* 1703. POMFRET, *Dies Novissima*. Adieu, ye TOYISH reeds that once could please My softer lips, and lull my cares to ease.

1903. BOOTHBY, *Long Live the King*, viii. HOIGHTY-TOITY . . . what is the matter with you now?

**6.** (thieves').—A watch. Whence WHITE TOY=a silver watch; RED TOY=a gold watch; TOY AND TACKLE=watch and chain; TOY-GETTER=a watch-snatcher.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail*. He was very tricky at getting a poge or a TOY, but he would not touch TOYS because he was afraid of being turned over.

**7.** (Winchester). — In *pl.*=a bureau—desk and bookcase combined. Whence TOY-TIME = evening preparation.

1440. *Prompt. Parv.* TEYE, of a cofyr or forcer.

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life*. The clock striking seven, each junior retires to his TOYS or bureau for an hour and a half during what is known as TOY-TIME, when the work of the next morning and the week's composition have to be prepared.

1891. WRENCH, *Winchester Word-Book*, s.v. TOYS . . . The expression TOY-TIME suggests that the *s* has been added. If TOYS has not descended from this word [teye], it must have been transferred from the contents of the TOYS, and mean simply *one's belongings*.

**TPROT**, *intj.* (old).—An exclamation of contempt (WRIGHT, *Political Songs*, 381).

**TRACE**, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* = authority, work, guidance, restraint; hence IN THE TRACES = in HARNESS (*q.v.*), at steady work; TO KICK OVER THE TRACES = to set at defiance, run riot, take the law into one's own hands.

**TRACK**, *verb.* (Old Cant).—1. To go: hence TO TRACK UP THE DANCERS = 'to whip upstairs' (HEAD, 1671; B. E., *c.* 1696; GROSE, 1785). Also (modern) TO MAKE TRACKS = to go (or run) away: *see* BUNK; TO MAKE TRACKS FOR = (1) to proceed towards; and (2) to attack, TO GO FOR (*q.v.*).

1847. LYTTON, *Lucretia*, II. vii. 'Bob, TRACK THE DANCERS. Up like a lark—and down like a dump.' Bob grinned . . . and scampered up the stairs. *Ibid.* (1858), *What Will He Do With it?* III. xvi. Come, my Hebe, TRACK THE DANCERS.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, xiv. You will be pleased TO MAKE TRACKS, and vanish out of these parts for ever.

1887. *Field*, 28 Feb. On joining my friend, we at once MADE TRACKS FOR the camp, ready for what was to follow.

1888. WARD, *Rob. Elsmere*, xiii. I MADE TRACKS FOR that lad. . . . I found him in the fields one morning.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*. He said he was a banker, did our smart Teutonic Max, And many a quid he'd given her, before he MADE HIS TRACKS.

2. (modern.) — In various phrases: *e.g.* IN ONE'S TRACKS = on the spot, as one goes, then and there; OFF THE TRACK = discursive, out of one's reckoning, at sea; INSIDE TRACK = the truth, BEDROCK (*q.v.*).

1884. *Century Mag.*, xl. 224. [The boy] was in for stealing horses, but I think the real thief swore it off on him. If he did, God forgive him; he had better have shot the boy IN HIS TRACKS.

**TRADE**, *subs.* (American colloquial). —1. An exchange: *e.g.* a swopping of knives. Also as *verb* = to exchange.

2. (Christ's Hospital). — *See* quot.

1900. *D. Teleg.*, 16 Mar. 'London Day by Day.' After the boys had concluded their simple repast of bread and butter, they formed up two-and-two, and bowed to the Lord Mayor, the different wards being headed by THE TRADES as the boys who carry the candlesticks, the bread-baskets, table-cloth, and cutlery are termed.

**TRADE-MARK**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. A scratch on the face; hence TO PUT ONE'S TRADE-MARK UPON ONE = to claw the face: spec. of women.

*c.* 1876. *Music Hall Song*, 'Father, take a run.' The old woman . . . pawns everything in the place; And if I correct her for what she has done, She DRAWS HER TRADE-MARK DOWN MY FACE.

2. (servants').—A cap.

**TRADER**, *subs.* (old).—A whore: *see* TART: also SHE-TRADER and TRADING DAME. Hence THE TRADE = harlotry.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 72. That she, Now car'd no more for her good Name Than any common TRADING DAME.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Poems*, 45. Ah London th'adst better have built new Burdellos, T'encourage SHE-TRADERS and lusty young Fellows.

*d.* 1796. BURNS [*Merry Muses* (*c.* 1800), 52]. Our dame hauds up her wanton tail As due as she gaes lie, An' yet misca's a young thing, The TRADE if she but try.

**TRADESMAN**, *subs.* (old).—A thief (GROSE): *see* THIEF. Hence A REGULAR TRADESMAN = an expert thief: also (common) = a compliment applied to anyone who thoroughly understands his business whatever it may be.

**TRADES UNION (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (military). — The First (The King's) Dragoon Guards. [At one time most of the officers were sons of tradesmen, which is still an offence in the Cavalry.]

**TRADING**, *subs.* (American political).—A veiled form of political treachery: a State Governor is to be elected, and at the same election, say, Presidential electors; the one party agree with their political enemies that, in return for votes for their own candidate for Governor, they will vote and procure votes for the others' candidate for President. The practice is susceptible of numerous combinations and devices (WALSH). Whence TRADING POLITICIAN = a corrupt, venal elector or candidate; one who is regulated by interest rather than principle.

1839-43. BROUGHAM, *Hist. Sketches*, 'Canning.' The common herd of TRADING POLITICIANS.

**TRAGEDY JACK**, *subs. phr.* (theatrical).—A heavy tragedian: in contempt.

**TRAIL**, *verb.* (old).—To quiz, befool, draw out, GET AT (*q.v.*): also as *subs.*

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, xvii. I presently perceived she was (what is vernacularly termed) TRAILING Mrs. Dent: that is, playing on her ignorance; her TRAIL might be clever, but it was decidedly not good-natured.

1900. KERNAHAN, *Scoundrels and Co.*, xxi. To see the Ishmaelites TRAIL a sufferer from swelled head is to undergo inoculation against that fell malady.

TO TRASH A TRAIL, *verb. phr.* (Western American).—To take to water in order to destroy scent: of human beings as well as animals.

**TRAIL-TONGS** (or **- TRIPES**), *subs. phr.* (common). — A slatternly servant; a DIRTY PUZZLE (*q.v.*). Hence TRAILY = slovenly.

**TRAIN**, *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To travel by train, usually with it: *cf.* ''bus it,' 'foot it,' 'tram it,' etc. Whence TO TRAIN UP = to hurry.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxvii. 954. From Aberdeen to Edinburgh we TRAINED IT by easy stages.

2. (American). — To romp, 'carry on,' act wildly. [BARTLETT: 'almost peculiar to the girls of New England,' but *cf.* sense 3.]

3. (colloquial). — To consort with on familiar terms: *e.g.*, 'TRAINING with such a crowd does not suit me.'

**TRAINER**, *subs.* (American). — A militia-man; spec. when called out for periodical 'training.'

**TRAITOR.** THERE ARE TRAITORS AT TABLE, *phr.* (old).—Of a loaf turned the wrong side upwards.

**TRAM**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A tramway-car: *cf.* 'bus,' 'rail' 'motor,' etc.

**TRAMP,** *subs.* and *verb.* (old: now recognised).—1. 'On the look-out for employment; walking about from place to place. *Cant*' (GROSE).

2. (nautical). — A cargo boat seeking charter or cargo when and where obtainable; also TRAMP-STEAMER, and OCEAN TRAMP.

**TRAMPER,** *subs.* (workmen's).—A travelling mechanic.

**TRAMPLER,** *subs.* (old).—A lawyer: *see* GREENBAG.

1619. MIDDLETON, *World at Tennis.* Pity your TRAMPLER, sir, your poor solicitor.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. The TRAMPLER is in hast, O cleere the way, Takes fees with both hands cause he cannot stay.

**TRAMPOLIN,** *subs.* (circus). — A double spring-board.

**TRAMPOOSE,** *verb.* (American).—To walk, tramp, wander about: *cf.* VAMOOSE. Also TRAMPOUS and TRAMPOOS.

*d.* 1818 [?]. D. HUMPHREYS, *Yankee in England.* Some years ago, I landed near to Dover, And seed strange sights, TRAMPOOSING England over.

1837. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 387. I had been down city all day TRAMPOOSING everywhere a'most to sell some stock. *Ibid.* (1843-4), *The Attaché*, ii. I felt as lonely as a catamount, and as dull as a bachelor beaver; so I TRAMPOUSSES off to the stable.

1850. PORTER, *Tales of the South and West*, 44. So we TRAMPOUSED along down the edge of the swamp, till we came to a track.

**TRANEEN.** NOT WORTH A TRANEEN, *phr.* (Irish).—Valueless; not worth a rush. [TRANEEN = the Traneen-grass].

**TRANGDILLO.** *See* TWANGDILLO.

**TRANGRAM (TRANGAM** or **TRANKUM),** *subs.* (old).—A trifle, fal-lal, ornament; anything or anybody of little or no value. *Cf.* reduplication, TRINKUM-TRANKUM.

1677. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, iii. 1. But go, thou TRANGAME, and carry back those TRANGAMES, which thou hast stol'n or purloin'd.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *Hist. John Bull*, II. vi. What's the meaning of all these TRANGRAMS and gimcracks?

1820. SCOTT, *Abbot*, xix. 'What, have you taken the chain and medal off from my bonnet?' 'And meet time it was when yon . . . rogue . . . began to inquire what popish TRANGAM you were wearing.' *Ibid.* (1825), *St. Ronan's Well*, xviii. The shawl must be had for Clara, with the other TRANKUMS of muslin and lace.

**TRANKLEMENT,** *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = intestines, entrails: *cf.* TROLLY-BAGS.

**TRANSCRIBBLER,** *subs.* (old).—(1) A careless copyist: hence (2) a plagiarist.

1746. GRAY, *To Wharton*, 11 Sept. Thirdly, he [Aristotle] has suffered vastly from the TRANSCRIBBLERS, as all authors of great brevity necessarily must.

**TRANSFISTICATED,** *adj.* (old).—Pierced.

1600. *Letting of Humours Blood in the Head-Vaine.* For though your beard do stand so fine mustated, Perhaps your nose may be TRANSFISTICATED.

**TRANSLATE,** *verb.* (old).—To re-manufacture selected parts of old boots and shoes. Also (tailors') to turn (or cut down) a coat or other garment. Whence TRANSLATOR = (1) a cobbler; (2) in *pl.* = re-made boots and shoes; and (3) a renovating tailor (B. E. and GROSE).

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, 'Pant. Prog.' (1900), v. 214. Shoemakers and TRANSLATORS, tanners, bricklayers.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. TRANSLATOR, Sellers of old Shoes and Boots, between Shoe-makers and Coblers.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 73. The cobbler is affronted, if you don't call him Mr. TRANSLATOR.

1757. SEWELL, *Dict.*, s.v. TRANSLATOR, *Schoenlappen.*

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 40. Great quantities of second-hand boots and shoes are sent to Ireland to be TRANSLATED there. . . . 'TRANSLATION, as I understand it (said my informant), is this—to take a worn, old pair of shoes or boots, and by repairing them make them appear as if left off with hardly any wear—as if they were only soiled.' *Ibid.*, II. 110. Among these things are blankets . . . TRANSLATED boots, mended trousers. *Ibid.*, I. 51. To wear a pair of second-hand [boots] or TRANSLATORS . . . is felt as a bitter degradation.

1864. *Times*, 2 Nov. The clobberer, the reviver, and the TRANSLATOR lay hands on them . . . to patch, to sew up, and to restore as far as possible the garments to their pristine appearance.

1865. *Cassell's Paper*, 'Old Clo'.' They are now past 'clobbering,' 'reviving,' or 'TRANSLATING.'

188[?]. GREENWOOD, *Woodchopper's Wedding*. I interviewed the kind-hearted old TRANSLATOR . . . in his kitchen in Leather Lane.

*c.* 1889. *Sporting Times* [*S. J. and C.*]. Baeker had to limp in his socks to the New Cut, and purchase a pair of TRANSLATED crab-shells to go home in.

**TRANSMOGRIFY** (or **TRANSMIGRIFY**), *verb.* (old). —To transform, change, alter, or 'new vamp' (B. E. and GROSE). Also, as *subs.*, TRANSMOGRIFICATION.

1728. FIELDING, *Love in Sev. Masques*, v. 4. I begin to think . . . that some wicked enchanters have TRANSMOGRIFIED my Dulcinea.

1751–4. JORTIN, *Eccles. Hist.*, i. 254. Augustine seems to have had a small doubt whether Apuleius was really TRANSMOGRAPHIED into an ass.

1777. FOOTE, *Trip to Calais* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 187. There is the curious TRANSMOGRIFY].

1836. SCOTT, *Tom Cringle's Log*, iii. Jonathan . . . let drive his whole broadside: and fearfully did it TRANSMOGRIFY us.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'St. Aloys.' The TRANSMOGRIFIED Pagan performed his vow.

1884. *Nation*, 20 Mar., 250. But of all restorations, reparations, and TRANSMOGRIFICATIONS that inflicted upon the Cnidian Venus of the Vatican is the most grotesque.

**TRANSNEAR**, *verb.* (GROSE).—'To come up with any body.'

**TRAP**, *subs.* (old).—1. Sagacity, craft, contrivance, penetration. Hence TO UNDERSTAND TRAP = to be knowing, WIDE-AWAKE (*q.v.*), alive to one's own interest (GROSE); TO SMELL TRAP = to suspect: spec. of thieves in 'spotting' a 'tec. 'That TRAP is down' = The trick (or try-on) has failed, It's no go.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works* (1705). Crying out, Split my Wind Pipe, Sir, you are a Fool, and DON'T UNDERSTAND TRAP, the whole world's a Cheat.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 203. It is almost impossible that all these circumstances . . . should be collected without some contrivance for purposes that do not obviously appear; and nothing but TRAP can resolve them. *Ibid.*, 549. Some cunning persons that had found out his foible and ignorance of TRAP, first put him in great fright.

1748. BOYER, *Dict.* You DO NOT UNDERSTAND TRAP, 'vous n'y entendez pas finesse.'

1760. FOOTE, *Minor*, ii. Our Minor was a little too hasty; he DID NOT UNDERSTAND TRAP, knows nothing of the game, my dear.

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, i. 51. His good lady . . . UNDERSTOOD TRAP as well as any woman in the Mearns.

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London.* They can discover the detective . . . by his step, or by his clumsy affectation of unofficial loutishness. They recognise the stiff-neck in the loose neckerchief. They smell TRAP and are superior to it.

1881. ROBSON, *Bards of the Tyne*, 275. Says, aw, 'Smash! thou is UP TO TRAP!' For he lets the folks byeth in and out.

2. (old).—A sheriff's officer, thief-taker, policeman, or detective (GROSE).

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. iv. 8. TRAPS Divers, Punks, and Yeomen.

1800. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 116. There's no hornies, TRAPS, scouts, nor beak-runners amongst them.

1819. VAUX, *Glossary*, s.v. TRAPS, police officers, or runners, are properly so called; but it is common to include constables of any description under this title.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. Item . . . I gave the item that the TRAPS were a coming.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford* (1854), 80. Where a ruffler might lie, without fear that the TRAPS should distress him.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xiii. The TRAPS have got him, and that's all about it.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* (1889), 12. 'Where are the lurchers?' 'Who?' asked Wood. 'The TRAPS!' responded a bystander.

1841. REYNOLDS, *Pickwick Abroad*, xxvi. But should the TRAPS be on the sly, For a change we'll have a crack.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geof. Hamlyn*, vi. Dick's always in trouble; . . . there's a couple of TRAPS in Belston after him now.

1867. *Victorian Song Book*, 'Where's your License?' 6. The little word Joe! which all of you know, Is the signal the TRAPS are quite near.

1885. *Leisure Hour*, Mar. 192. Meantime the Kellys had got to hear that the TRAPS were in search of them.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 157. We'll be a match for all the blessed TRAPS between here and Sydney with these here tools.

1895. MARRIOTT-WATSON [*New Review*, July, 2]. He . . . was very useful . . . both to us on the lay, and to the TRAPS.

3. (common).—A carriage; 'a fast name for a conveyance of any kind' (HOTTEN). [SALA: 'The old-fashioned gig had, under the seat, a sort of boot extending a few inches beyond the back of the seat. At the beginning of the century gigs were raised upon higher wheels than at present. On this raised vehicle the boot was lengthened behind, holding a brace of dogs for sporting purposes. In these "dog-carts" (thus named afterwards) the dogs were at first placed in the boot at the front, and I dare say that the "noble sportsmen" may occasionally have had their heels or their calves bitten by dogs with short tempers, and with scant liking for the confinement of the boot. This led to a great improvement, in the shape of an open latticed box, which was attached to the back of the body of the conveyance, and provided with a trap-door behind for the admission of the dogs. In process of time the latticed box was found very convenient for the carriage of other things besides dogs, and as everything conveyed in the cart (chattels, not people) had to be put in through the trap-door (soon curtailed into TRAP: compare "bus" for omnibus, "cab" for cabriolet), the conveyance itself was eventually termed TRAP.'] Hence TRAPPER = a horse used in a TRAP: *cf.* VANNER, BUSSER, CABBER, etc., on the model of 'hunter.'

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lvii. Florac's pleasure was to drive his Princess with four horses into Newcome. He called his carriage his TRAPPE, his 'dragué.'

1872. INGELOW, *Off the Skelligs*, xx. I think you must make room for me inside the TRAP. It is remarkable how much men despise close carriages, and what disrespectful epithets they invent for them.

1887. *St. James's Gaz.*, 2 Feb. The object of the Spring Show is to encourage generally the breeding of sound and shapely half-bred horses, ponies, nags, TRAPPERS, hacks, chargers, harness-horses, and hunters.

**4.** (colloquial). — Belongings; THINGS (*q.v.*); STICKS AND STONES (*q.v.*): usually in a measure of contempt, *cf.* RATTLE-TRAP.

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xvii. A part of her crew . . . promised to conceal him and his TRAPS until the *Pilgrim* should sail.

1840. THACKERAY, *Comic Almanack*, 237, 'Cox's Diary.' Carry you, and your kids, and your TRAPS, etc. *Ibid.* (1854-5), *Newcomes*, xxx. A couple of horses carry us and our TRAPS.

1853. HALIBURTON, *Wise Saws*, etc. We call clothes and other fixins 'TRAPS' here, and sometimes 'duds' for shortness.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, xiv. On the first hint of disease, pack up your TRAPS and your good lady, and go and live in the watch-house across the river.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 147. The other was a sort of storeroom, where the old cap'n kep' all sorts o' TRAPS.

1877. HALE, *Adv. of a Pullman*, 143. A cheerful black boy followed with their other TRAPS, and so they crossed to the platform of the through-train.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 3 Sep. As soon as the affair was over, the TRAPS were packed up as quickly as possible and the party drove away.

1900. NISBET, *Sheep's Clothing*, III. vii. He left his TRAPS at the wharf when he landed.

**5.** (Australian).—SWAG (*q.v.*).

**6.** (venery).—The female *pudendum*: also CARNAL TRAP: *see* MONOSYLLABLE and TRAPSTICK.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, II. xxi. Here within . . . showing his long codpiece, is Master John Thursday who . . . doth so well know how to find out all the corners . . . in your CARNAL TRAP.

**TRAPAN**, *subs.* and *verb.* (old: now recognised).—'He that draws in or wheedles a Cull, and Bites him. TRAPAN'D, c. Sharpt, ensnar'd'; 'to inveigle, to ensnare' (GROSE).

**TRAPES** (or **TRAIPES**), *subs.* (old). —1. A sloven, slattern, draggle-tail (B.E. and GROSE): a generic term of contempt for a woman; hence (2) a going or gadding about, in a more or less careless, objectless, or even lawless fashion: also TRAPESING. As *verb* (or TO TRAPE) = to gad about; to wander listlessly, or in a slovenly or be-draggled fashion: *cf.* TRESPASS, Fr. *trépasser.*

1673. COTTON, *Burlesque on Burlesque*, 274. I had not car'd If Pallas here had been preferr'd; But to bestow it on that TRAPES, It mads me.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, III. ii. 467. But when he found the solemn TRAPES. Possess'd with th' Devil, worms, and claps.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, ii. Has she not lost her diamond necklace? Answer me to that, TRAPES.

1715. GAY, *What d'ye call it*, i. 1. From door to door I'd sooner whine and beg . . . Than marry such a TRAPES.

1728. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 141. Lo, next two slip-shod muses TRAIPSE along, In lofty madness, meditating song.

1728. YOUNG, *Satires*, vi., 'On Women.' Since full each other station of renown, Who would not be the greatest TRAPES in town?

*d.* 1745. SWIFT, *Works* [*Century*]. I am to go TRAPING with Lady Kerry and Mrs. Pratt to see sights all this day.

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, i. The daughter a tall, TRAPESING, trolloping, talkative maypole.

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, ii. So away goes lunch, and off goes you and the 'Sir' a-trampoosin' and a-TRAPESIN' over the wet grass agin.

1852. THACKERAY, *Esmond*, ii. 15. How am I to go TRAPESING to Kensington in my yellow satin sack before all the fine company?

1855. LELAND, *Meister Karl's Sketch-Book*, 259. It has happened more than once to Meister Karl, during his tourifications, TRAPESINGS, tramps, trudges, and travels, . . . to be thrown into many a canny country corner of New England.

1862. WOOD, *Channings*, 471. It's such a toil and a TRAPES up them two pair of stairs.

18[?]. PALMER, *Devonshire Courtship*, 14. It wasn't vor want o' a good will, the litter-legg'd TRAPES hadn't a' blowed a coal between you and me.

1885. *D. Chron.* 14 Oct. He would not be found TRAPESING about the constituency.

**TRAPPER.** *See* TRAP, *subs.* 3.

**TRAPPING,** *subs.* (old).—Blackmail; Fr. *chantage*.

[?]. *Countrey Gentleman's Vade Mecum.* And last for their art of TRAPPING. This is mystery that they commonly manage either by the assistance of a pregnant whore, or by the help of some letters, or papers, that they pick out of your pocket, that gives them an inlet into your affairs.

**TRAPPY,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Tricky, treacherous: also TRAPPINESS.

1882. *D. Teleg.*, 13 Nov. The fences might have increased in size, however, without being made TRAPPY.

1885. *Field*, 26 Dec. Once over this there were broad pastures and large banks and ditches, innocent of TRAPPINESS for the most part, before the riders.

**TRAPSTICK,** *subs.* (old).—1. In *pl.* =the legs (GROSE).

2. (venery). — The *penis*; MIDDLE-LEG (*q.v.*): *see* PRICK.

1673. COTTON, *Burlesque on Burlesque*, 283. Well, well! but he were best to take heed How he attacks my Maidenhead: His mighty TRAPSTICK cannot scare us.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xlv. Ere long, my friends, I shall be wedded, Sure as my TRAP-STICK has a red head.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 188. With his TRAPSTICK on the cock . . . With such a force he drove it in It made the light-heel'd gipsy grin.

**TRASH,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. Generic for trifles and worthlessness (now recognised): spec. a harlot: whence, TRASHERY (or TRASHTRIE)=rubbish, odds and ends; TRASHILY (or TRASHY)=worthless, useless; TRASH-BAG=a good-for-nothing; TRASHMIRE =a slattern; and (American) TRASH=a negro term of contempt: *see* WHITE TRASH.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, ii. 1. 312. This poor TRASH of Venice. *Ibid.*, v. 1. 85. I suspect this TRASH [a strumpet] To be a party in this injury.

*c.* 1622. HEYWOOD, *Fair Maid of the West* (1631), I. 35. I heare say there's a whore here that draws wine . . . And I would see the TRASH.

*d.* 1779. ARMSTRONG, *To a Young Critic.* Who riots on Scotch collops scorns not any Insipid, fulsome, TRASHY miscellany.

1787. BURNS, *Twa Dogs.* Wi' sauce, ragouts, and sic like TRASHTRIE, That's little short o' downright wastrie.

1813. SCOTT, *Bridal of Triermain*, ii. Who comes in foreign TRASHERY Of tinkling chain and spur.

2. (Old Cant).—Money: *see* RHINO.

*c.* 1590. GREENE, *James IV.*, iii. 1. Therefore must I bid him provide TRASH, for my master is no friend without money. *Ibid.*, *Alphonsus*, iii. 1. Nor would Belinus for King Crœsus' TRASH Wish Amurack to displease the gods.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, 93. Pelfe, TRASH, *id est*, mony.

1607. SHAKSPEARE, *Julius Cæsar*, iv. 3. 74. I had rather coin my heart, And drop my blood for drachmas, than to wring From the hard hands of peasants, their vile TRASH By any indirection.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 17. Money! said he, . . . you have a poor opinion of Spanish charity, if you think that people of my stamp have any occasion for such TRASH upon their travels.

**TRAT,** *subs.* (old).—An old woman; a witch (*q.v.*): in contempt: *cf.* TROT.

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E.E.T.S.], 4769. Tho two TRATTES that William wold haue traysted.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Freres Tale,' 7164. Come out, he sayd, thou olde very TRATE.

1512–13. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 122. Thus said Dido, and the tothir with that Hyit on furth with slaw pase like ane TRAT.

**TRAV**, *subs.* (Felsted School).—Travelling money.

**TRAVEL**, *verb.* (colloquial). — To walk: spec. to go quickly; usually with *along*: *e.g.* 'The motor TRAVELLED ALONG, and no mistake.'

TO TRAVEL OUT OF THE RECORD, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). To wander from the point at issue, or the matter under discussion.

1857. DICKENS, *Little Dorrit*, ii. 28. I have TRAVELLED OUT OF THE RECORD, sir, I am aware, in putting the point to you.

*See* BODKIN and TRAVELLER.

**TRAVELLER**, *subs.* (old). — 1. A highwayman. Hence TO TRAVEL THE ROAD = to take to highway robbery.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux's Stratagem*, iv. 2. There's a great deal of address and good manners in robbing a lady; I am the most a gentleman that way that ever TRAVELLED THE ROAD.

2. (tramps').—A tramp.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* There are many individuals in lodging-houses who are not regular patterers or professional vagrants, being rather, as they term themselves, TRAVELLERS.

3. (old).—A transported felon, a convict: also a TRAVELLER AT HIS (or HER) MAJESTY'S EXPENSE.

4. (common). — A *bonâ fide* traveller: *i.e.* a person who, under the Licensing Act, is entitled to demand refreshment during prohibited hours.

5. (thieves'). — A thief who changes his quarry from town to town.

6. (Australian).—A SWAGMAN (*q.v.*). Hence TRAVELLER'S-HUT = quarters on a station set aside for swagmen, stockmen, and others not eligible for the squatter's house.

1869. CLARKE, *Peripatetic Philosopher*, 41. At the station where I worked for some time (as 'knock-about-man') three cooks were kept during the 'wallaby' season—one for the house, one for the men, and one for the TRAVELLERS. Moreover, 'TRAVELLERS' would not unfrequently spend the afternoon at one of the three hotels (which, with a church and a pound, constituted the adjoining township), and having 'liqoured up' extensively, swagger up to the station, and insist upon lodging and food—which they got. I have no desire to take away the character of these gentlemen TRAVELLERS, but I may mention as a strange coincidence, that, was the requested hospitality refused by any chance, a bush-fire invariably occurred somewhere on the run within twelve hours.

1893. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 Aug., 8. 7. Throughout the Western pastoral area the strain of feeding the 'TRAVELLERS,' which is the country euphemism for bush unemployed, has come to be felt as an unwarranted tax upon the industry, and as a mischievous stimulus to nomadism.

1896. *Australasian*, 8 Aug., 249. 2. They never refuse to feed TRAVELLERS; they get a good tea and breakfast, and often ten to twenty are fed in a day. These TRAVELLERS lead an aimless life, wandering from station to station, hardly ever asking for and never hoping to get any work, and yet they expect the land-owners to support them.

TO TIP THE TRAVELLER, *verb. phr.* (common). — To humbug; to romance; to tell wonderful stories of adventure *à la Mun-*

*chausen*: also TRAVELLER'S-TALE and TRAVELLER'S TALENT (GROSE).

1760–62. SMOLLETT, *Greaves*, vi. Aha! dost thou TIP me THE TRAVELLER, my boy?

**TRAVELLING-PIQUET**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A mode of amusement, practised by two persons riding in a carriage, each reckoning towards his game the persons or animals that pass by on the side next them, according to the following estimation:—A parson riding on a gray horse, with blue furniture—game; an old woman under a hedge — ditto; a cat looking out of a window—60; a man, woman, and child in a buggy—40; a man with a woman behind him—30; a flock of sheep —20; a flock of geese—10; a postchaise—5; a horseman—2; a man or woman walking—1' (GROSE).

**TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP**, *subs. phr.* (University).—RUSTICATION (*q.v.*).

1794. *Gent. Mag.*, 1085. Soho, Jack! almost presented with a TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIP? very nigh being sent to grass, hey?

**TRAVELLING TRADESMAN**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A respectable mechanic in search of work.

**TRAVERSE.** *See* CART and TOM COX'S TRANSVERSE.

**TRAVIATA.** *See* COME.

**TRAY**, *adj.* (thieves'). — Three: spec. three months' imprisonment; TRAY SODDY MITS = threepence halfpenny. [It. *tre, soldi, mezza.*]

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 71. And the magistrate who interviewed her left but very little doubt That the moons she'd have to do would be a TRAY.

BEFORE ONE CAN SAY TREYACE, *phr.* (old).—In a moment.

**TRAY TRIP**, *subs. phr.* (old).—An ancient game like Scotch hop (or HOPSCOTCH), played on a pavement, marked out in chalk into different compartments.

**TREACLE**, *subs.* (common). — 1. Thick inferior port.

2. (common). Love-making, SPOONING (*q.v.*). TREACLE-MOON = the honeymoon.

**TREACLE BOLLY.** *See* BOLLY.

**TREACLE-SLEEP**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—*See* quot.

1849. CARLYLE [FROUDE, *Life in London*, viii.]. I fell first into a sluggish torpor, then into TREACLE-SLEEP, and so lay sound.

**TREACLE TOWN**, *subs. phr.* (common). — 1. Bristol: the city is an important centre of the sugar-refining industry. Also (2) = Macclesfield: in allusion to a hogshead of treacle which burst, and, for a time, filled the gutters.

**TREACLE-WAG**, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—Very small beer.

**TREAD** (or **TREADLE**), *subs.* (conventional). — The act of kind, properly of birds: as *verb* (or TO CHUCK A TREAD) = to copulate: *see* RIDE. TREADING = copulation; TREAD-FOWL = a cock-bird; and TREDDLE = a whore ('a cant term'—HALLIWELL).

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Monk's Tale,' Prol., 57. Thow woldest han been a TREDEFOWEL aright.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, v. 2. 915. When shepherds pipe on oaten straws; when turtles TREAD.

1594. LYLY. *Mother Bombie*, i. 3. Shee will choose with her eye, and like with her heart, before she consent with her tongue; shee will fall too where shee likes best; and thus the chicke scarce out of the shel, cackles as though shee had beene TRODEN with an hundredth cockes.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, i. 4. *Cers.* Did not one of the countess's serving gentlemen tell us . . . that he had already possessed her sheets? *To.* No . . . 'twas her blankets. *Cers.* Out, you young hedge-sparrow, learn to TREAD afore you be fledge!

1638. FORD, *Fancies*, iii. 3. Whore, bitch-fox, TREDDLE!

1692. DRYDEN, *Juvenal*, vi. And TREADS the nasty puddle of his spouse.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. ii. Kept, billed, and TROD their females like men, but somewhat oftener.

PHRASES. — TO TREAD ON ONE'S TOES = to vex, offend, or injure; TO TREAD ONE'S SHOES STRAIGHT = to go carefully, act discreetly, exercise caution.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 318. I've heard the old man say . . . how he had to TREAD HIS SHOES STRAIGHT about what books he showed publicly.

1868-9. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, i. 130. He could not turn about . . . Nor take a step . . . and fail to TREAD ON some ONE'S TOES.

*See* BLACK-OX; BOARDS.

**TREADER,** *subs.* (common). — A shoe.

**TREASON,** *subs.* (venery).—Adultery: also FLESHLY TREASON.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 3. Those [diamonds] are they your husband . . . would have given to a niece of mine . . . to have committed FLESHLY TREASON with her.

**TREASURE,** *subs.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoft* (1770), 261. Come, Ladies, blanch you to your Skins . . . And whilst your Judge with leering Eyes . . . I'll be so civil and so wise . . . To turn my back . . . And whilst your TREASURE you display Turn my Calves-head another way.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Merry Muses*, 'O saw ye my Maggy' (*c.* 1800), 61. My Maggy has a TREASURE, A hidden mine of pleasure.

**TREASURY (THE),** *subs.* (theatrical). —The weekly payment.

**TREAT,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. An entertainment or party; in modern usage spec. of children and schools. Hence (common) = something paid for by an elder or superior, or given as a token of good will and affection: *e.g.* a drink, a dinner, a theatre-ticket, an entertainment, or the like. Also (2) a turn in a round of drinks: 'It's my TREAT.' As *verb* (or TO STAND TREAT) = to bear the expense of refreshments, an outing, or an entertainment. Also 'It does me a TREAT' = 'That's O.K.; real jam, and no error.' *See* TREATING.

1660. PEPYS, *Diary*, i. 195. My wife and I by water to Captain Lambert's, where we took great pleasure in their turret-garden . . . and afterwards had a very handsome TREATE and good musique that she made upon the harpsicord.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, i. 1. Did you ever know a woman refuse a TREAT? no more than a lawyer a fee. *Ibid.* Fetch us a TREAT, as you call it.

1695. PRIOR, *Prol. spoken in Westminster School.* Our generous scenes are for pure love repeated, And if you are not pleased at least you're TREATED. *Ibid.*, *Orphan*, 'Prologue.' Our gen'rous Scenes for Friendship we repeat; And if we don't Delight, at least we TREAT.

1706. *Fifteen Comforts of Matrimony.* Fine TREATS and balls she is invited to, And he, good man, consents that she shall go.

*d.* 1745. SWIFT, *Stella*, vii. I dined with Mr. Addison and Dick Stuart, Lord Mountjoy's brother: a TREAT of Addison's.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xlvii. I desired her, however, to sit, and TREATED her with a dish of tea. *Ibid.* (1749), *Gil Blas* (1812), II. ix. Thy uncle, the mercer, TREATED yesterday, and regaled us with a pastoral feast.

1848. THACKERAY, *Book of Snobs*, xxxv. We don't have meat every day . . . and it is a TREAT to me to get a dinner like this.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature* [BARTLETT]. I was never sold before, I vow; I cave in, and will stand TREAT.

1885. *Weekly Echo*, 5 Sep. She and the girl were attending with donkeys at the annual TREAT at a Convalescent Home for children.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 39. He put down a sovereign to TREAT us, And I collared the change by mistake.

3. (common).—In sarcasm: a nuisance, a TERROR (*q.v.*), anybody or anything objectionable.

**TREATING**, *subs.* (political).—Bribery. [A candidate who corruptly gives, causes to be given, or is accessory to giving, or pays, wholly or in part, expenses for meat, drink, entertainment, or provision for any person, before, during, or after an election, in order to be elected, or for being elected, or for corruptly influencing any person to give or refrain from giving his vote, is guilty of TREATING, and forfeits £50 to any informer, with costs. Every voter who corruptly accepts meat, drink, or entertainment, shall be incapable of voting at such election, and his vote shall be void (*Abstract of Act of Parliament*).]

**TREATING-HOUSE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A restaurant.

*c.* 1704. *Gentleman Instructed*, 287. The taverns and TREATING-HOUSES have eas'd you of a round income. *Ibid.*, 479. His first jaunt is to a TREATING-HOUSE; here he trespasses upon all the rules of temperance and sobriety.

**TREBLE X'S (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 30th Foot, now the 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Also TRIPLE X'S.

**TREDDLE.** *See* TREAD.

**TREE**, *subs.* (old).—A gallows: also SUBSTANTIAL TREE, FATAL TREE, 'TREE that bears fruit all the year round,' the TREE with three corners, etc.; spec. (Biblical and colloquial)=the Cross. *See* TRIPLE-TREE and TYBURN-TREE.

1611. *Bible*, Acts x. 39. Whom they slew and hanged on a TREE.

*c.* 1690. BROWN, *Works*, i. 70. Tho' 'twas thy Luck to cheat the FATAL TREE.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 217. Tell us rather to wait for you under a more SUBSTANTIAL TREE.

*d.* 1892. WHITTIER, *Works* [*Century*]. But give to me your daughter dear, And, by the HOLY TREE, Be she on sea or on the land, I'll bring her back to thee.

*Verb.* — To perplex, get at one's mercy, put in a fix, drive to the end of one's resources. Whence, TREED (or UP A TREE)=cornered, obliged to surrender, DONE FOR (*q.v.*).

1847-8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xxxiv. The dreadful predicament in which he found himself, in a house full of old women . . . 'Regularly UP A TREE.'

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geof. Hamlyn*, v. You are TREED, and can't help yourself.

PHRASES.—AT THE TOP OF THE TREE (*see* TOP); TO TREE ONESELF (American)=to conceal oneself, hide; LAME AS A TREE=very lame; TO BARK UP THE WRONG TREE (*see* BARK); 'Put not the hand between the bark and the TREE'='Meddle not in family matters': also BETWEEN BARK AND TREE (or WOOD)=a well-adjusted bargain.

1562. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs and Epigrams*, 67. It were a foly for mee, To put my hande BETWEENE THE BARKE AND TREE . . . Betweene you.

1600. HOLLAND, *Livy*, xxxvi. v. 921. To deale roundly and simply with no side, but to go BETWEEN THE BARK AND THE TREE.

1642. ROGERS, *Naaman*, 303. So audacious as to go BETWEENE BARKE AND TREE, breeding suspitions . . . betweene man and wife.

1804. EDGEWORTH, *Mod. Griselda* [*Works* (1832), v. 299]. An instigator of quarrels between man and wife, or, according to the plebeian but expressive apophthegm, one who would come BETWEEN THE BARK AND THE TREE.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. vii. 'What a pull,' said he, 'that it's lie-in-bed, for I shall be as LAME AS A TREE, I think.'

*Adj.* (old). — Three: *e.g.*, TREEWINS = threepence; TREE-MOON = three months' imprisonment, etc. (GROSE): *see* TRAY.

**TREE OF KNOWLEDGE,** *subs. phr.* (Charterhouse: almost obsolete). —The tree under which books, etc., are piled in the interval between morning school and dinner.

**TREER,** *subs.* (Durham School: obsolete).—A boy who avoids organised sports, but plays a private game with one or two friends. [Presumably because played at the trees by the side of the ground.]

**TREK,** *verb.* (common). — To go away, run off, BUNK (*q.v.*): of South African origin, properly = to yoke oxen to a waggon.

**TREMBLE,** *subs.* (common). — Involuntary shaking; spec. when caused by excessive cold, fear, drinking, etc. Also, ALL OF A TREMBLE = agitated, excited, shivery-shaky.

1849. BRONTÉ, *Shirley*, xx. Mrs. Gill . . . came 'ALL OF A TREMBLE,' as she said herself.

1882. BLACKMORE, *Christowell*, xli. The housekeeper . . . to set a good example, ordered back her TREMBLES and came out.

**TREMBLER,** *subs.* (old).—In *pl.* = the extreme Protestant section of early Reformation days: *cf.* QUAKER.

1705. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, I. x. 21. As thus I strol'd along the street, Such gangs and parcels did I meet Of these quaint primitive dissemblers, In old queen Bess's days call'd TREMBLERS; For their sham shaking, and their shivering.

*See* KNEE-TREMBLER.

**TRENCH,** *subs.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 35. The smooth rimm'd TRENCHES Of sooty, sweaty, negro wenches. *Ibid.*, 361. I'll give him seven wenches With fists so hard they've kept their TRENCHES From being storm'd.

**TRENCHER,** *subs.* (old). — 1. A square wooden platter: in general use before plates, and till lately at Winchester. Whence, TRENCHERING = eating; TRENCHER-BUFFON = a droll or butt whose place has been taken by the 'professional diner-out'; TRENCHER-CHAPLAIN = a domestic chaplain; TRENCHER-FLY (FRIEND, MAN, or MATE) = a hanger-on, smell-feast, parasite, or sponger: whence TO LICK THE TRENCHER = to sponge, to lickspittle; TRENCHER KNIGHT (or KNIGHT OF THE TRENCHER) = a serving man, or waiter at table: hence TRENCHER-CLOAK = a cloak worn by servants and apprentices; TRENCHER-MAN = (1) a hearty feeder (GROSE), one who 'plays a good knife and fork,' (2) = a cook, and (3) *see supra*; TRENCHER-LAW = the regulation of diet; TRENCHER-

CRITIC = an epicurean law-monger; TRIM AS A TRENCHER = as trim or exact as may be, as clean as a TRENCHER when licked.

1542. UDAL, *Eras. Apoth.*, 276. Filling vp as TRIMME AS A TRENCHER the space that stood voide.

1547. HEYWOOD, *Dialogues* [PEARSON, *Works* (1874), vi. 171]. His TRENCHER-FLIES about his table jearing.

*d.* 1586. SIDNEY, *Works* [*Ency. Dict.*]. Palladius assured him, that he had already been more fed to his liking than he could be by the skilfullest TRENCHER-MEN of Media.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Labour Lost*, v. 2. 464. Some carry-tale, some please-man . . . some mumble-news, some TRENCHER-KNIGHT. *Ibid.* (1600), *Much Ado*, i. 1. He is a very valiant TRENCHER-MAN; he hath an excellent stomach. *Ibid.* (1609), *Timon of Athens*, iii. 6. Courteous destroyers, affable wolves, meek bears, You fools of fortune, TRENCHER-FRIENDS, time's flies.

1594. HOOKER, *Eccles. Politie.* These TRENCHER-MATES frame to themselves a way more pleasant.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, IV. iv. 221. When spleenish morsels cram the gaping maw, Withouten diet's care or TRENCHER-LAW; Tho' never have I Salerne rhymes profess'd To be some lady's TRENCHER-CRITIC guest. *Ibid.*, II. vi. 2. A gentle squire would gladly entertain Into his house some TRENCHER-CHAPPERLAIN.

1600. *Letting of Humours Blood in the Head-Vaine.* Spotted in divers places with pure fat, Knowne for a right tall TRENCHER-MAN by that.

1608. WITHALS, *Dict.*, 263. A fellow that can licke his lordes or his ladies TRENCHER in one smooth tale or merrie lye, and picke their purses in another.

1612. DAVIES, *Muse's Sacrifice*, Dedication. [Davies speaks of] TRENCHER-BUFFONS.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 134. The good TRENCHER-MAN, his nasty Sire.

1692. LESTRANGE, *Fables* [*Ency. Dict.*]. He tried which of them were friends, and which only TRENCHER-FLIES and spungers.

1847–8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair* [*Ency. Dict.*]. A led-captain and TRENCHER-MAN of Lord Steyne.

2. (University and schools).—A college cap, a MORTAR-BOARD (*q.v.*). [In shape thought to resemble an inverted trencher with a basin upon it.] Also TRENCHER-CAP.

1862. Mrs. WOOD, *Channings*, 91. The college boys raised their TRENCHERS.

**TREPAN.** *See* TRAPAN.

**TREY.** *See* TRAY.

**TREYNING-CHEAT.** *See* TRINE.

**TRIAL,** *subs.* (Harrow).—An examination: hence TRIALS = the examinations at the end of the summer and winter terms.

**TRIANGLE,** *subs.* (military).—1. In *pl.* = a frame of three halberds stuck in the ground and bound at the top: to this soldiers were bound to be flogged: obsolete.

2. (common).—In *pl.* = delirium tremens: *see* JIM-JAMS.

**TRIANTELOPE,** *subs.* (Australian).—A comic variation of *Tarantula.* [Applied in Australia to a perfectly harmless spider (though popularly supposed to be poisonous), with mandibles, but which will attack nobody unless itself attacked.]

1846. HODGSON, *Reminiscences of Australia*, 173. The tarantulas, or 'TRIANTELOPES,' as the men call them, are large, ugly spiders, very venomous.

1860. ANON., *My Experiences in Australia*, 151. There is no lack of spiders either, of all sorts and sizes, up to the large tarantula, or TRI-ANTELOPE, as the common people persist in calling it.

**TRIB,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A prison (B. E. and GROSE): *see* CAGE. [That is, *tribulation.*] He is in TRIB (B. E.) = 'he is layd by the Heels, or in a great deal of trouble.'

**TRIBE,** *subs.* (colloquial). — A number of persons: in contempt.

*d.* 1685. ROSCOMMON, *Prol. to Duke of Y. at Edinburgh.* Folly and vice are easy to describe, The common subjects of our scribbling TRIBE.

1859. TENNYSON, *Geraint.* A TRIBE of women dress'd in many hues.

**TRIBUNE,** *subs.* (Winchester: obsolete). — A large pew in ante-chapel: reserved for ladies.

**TRIBUTE.** TO DEMAND TRIBUTE OF THE DEAD, *verb. phr.* (old).— To attempt the impossible or absurd (RAY).

**TRICK,** *subs.* (old thieves')—1. A watch (TUFTS, 1798).

2. (nautical).—A turn; a spell: *e.g.* 'a TRICK at the helm.'

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, v. That night it was my turn to steer, or, as the sailors say, my TRICK at the helm for two hours.

3. (common).—In *pl.* = wantonness: spec. of women (BEE): whence TO GET UP TO TRICKS = to play the whore; BEEN PLAYING TRICKS = pregnant; TO DO THE TRICK = to get with child (*see* also PHRASES).

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 19. Had I been there you would have had the other bout. . . . Rise, said I, be very quick; This is no time for any wanton TRICK.

4. (Western American).—Belongings, THINGS (*q.v.*), BAGGAGE (*q.v.*).

PHRASES and COLLOQUIALISMS.—A TRICK WORTH TWO (or A BETTER TRICK) = (1) a better way, a smarter expedient, and (2) a slightly sarcastic refusal: *e.g.* 'No, thanks! It's all right, but I KNOW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF THAT'; TO DO THE TRICK = (1) to accomplish one's purpose, and (2) *see* TRICK, *subs.* 3; A TRICK WITH A HOLE IN IT (American), of anything extraordinary; TO TRICK AND TIE = (1) to be equal (sporting) and (2) to have something in reserve. Also (proverbial saying) 'TRICK FOR TRICK, and a stone in thy foot besides, quoth one, pulling a stone out of his mare's foot, when she bit him on the back, and he her on the buttock.'

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, ii. 1. 41. Soft: I KNOW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF THAT.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 1. 'Go turn Country-Parson.' . . . 'Thanks to my stars, I KNOW A BETTER TRICK THAN THAT.' *Ibid.*, iii. 31. They KNOW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF HIS, and have often experimented, that if one won't another will.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, III. xv. 'Ah!' says she, 'it is as I feared; the key is gone!' I was thunderstruck at this news; but she said SHE KNEW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF THAT, and bidding me follow her, . . . she opened a door into the area.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, i. Hear what he says of you, sir? Clive, best be off to bed, my boy—ho! ho! No, no. We KNOW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF THAT. We won't go home till morning, till daylight does appear.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxiv. We KNEW A TRICK WORTH TWO OF THAT.

1900. GRIFFITHS, *Fast and Loose*, xxxi. 'How many of you will there be?' 'Half a dozen TO DO THE TRICK.' More might attract suspicion.

*See* BAG-OF-TRICKS.

**TRICK-AND-A-HALF,** *subs. phr.* (old). — A master-stroke of roguery: *cf.* A-LIE-AND-A-HALF = the truth: in sarcasm.

**TRICKETT,** *subs.* (Australian).—A long drink of beer. [New South Wales, after Trickett, the champion sculler.]

**TRICKY,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Clever, smart, NEAT (*q.v.*): *cf.* TRICK (once literary) = neat, spruce, trim, elegant.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* He was very TRICKY at getting a poge or a toy.

**TRIED VIRGIN,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A harlot: *see* TART.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. 'Pant. Prog.' TRIED VIRGINS, *bona robas*, barbers'-chairs.

**TRIG,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A cockscomb, a dandy; as *adj.* (also TRICK) = (1) neat, spruce, in good condition; whence (2) trustworthy, active, clever: also TRIG AND TRIM (or TRIG AND TRUE, TIGHT, etc.). [Obsolete, provincial, or colloquial in all uses.] Hence TRIGLY, TRIGNESS, and other derivatives.

*c.* 1200. *Ormulum*, 6177. Thin laferrd birrth the buhsumm beon & hold & TRIGG & TREWWE.

1512-13. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 402. In lesuris and on leyis litill lammes Full TAIT AND TRIG socht bletand to thare dammes.

1570. ELDERTON, *Lenten Stuffe* (HALLIWELL). So he that hathe a consciens cleere May stand to hys takkell TRYKLYE.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, iv. 1. It is my humour: you are a pimp and a TRIG, And an Amadis de Gaul, or a Don Quixote.

1787. BURNS, *To W. Creech.* Auld Reekie aye he keepit tight, An' TRIG AND BRAW; But now they'll busk her like a fright, Willie's awa.'

1804. TARRAS, *Poems*, 124. O busk yir locks TRIGLY, an' kilt up yir coaties.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xxiv. Fling the earth into the hole, and mak a' things TRIG again. *Ibid.* (1825), *St. Ronan's Well*, ii. 137. The younger snooded up her hair, and now went about the house a damsel so TRIG AND NEAT, that some said she was too handsome for the service of a bachelor divine.

1821. GALT, *Annals of Parish*, 29. The lassies who had been at Nanse Banks' school were always well spoken of . . for the TRIGNESS of their houses, when they were afterwards married.

1879. *Century Mag.*, xxviii. 541. The stylish gait and air of the TRIG little body.

1890. BARR, *Olivia*, xvii. I wish I was in mid-ocean all TRIG AND TIGHT, Then I would enjoy such a passion of wind.

2. (thieves').—'A bit of stick, paper, etc., placed by thieves in the keyhole of, or elsewhere about, the door of a house, which they suspect to be uninhabited; if the TRIG remains unmoved the following day, it is a proof that no person sleeps in the house, on which the gang enter it the ensuing night upon the screw, and frequently meet with a good booty, such as beds, carpets, etc., the family being probably out of town.' This operation is called 'TRIGGING the jigger' (GROSE).

*Verb.* (old).—1. To stop: as *subs.* = an obstacle, prop, or skid.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Yet I have heard some serjeants have beene mild, And us'd their prisoner like a Christian's child; Nip'd him in private, never TRIG'D his way.

1647. STAPYLTON, *Juvenal*, xvi. 62. Nor is his suite in danger to be stopt, Or, with the TRIGGS of long demurrers propt.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Poems.* Times wheels are TRIG'D, and brib'd to make a stand.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, iii. I stand ready to TRIG the wheels in all the steep places.

2. (old).—To trudge along, to hasten.

[?]. *Old Ballad*, 'Three Merry Butchers' [NARES]. As they rode on the road, And as fast as they could TRIG, Strike up your hearts, says Johnston, We'll have a merry jig.

1653. WILSON, *Inconstant Lady*. After such fearefull apparitions Hee TRIGGS it to Romilia's.

1676. ETHEREGE, *Man of Mode*, iii. 3. There's many of my own Sex With that Holborn Equipage TRIG to Gray's Inn Walks.

TO TRIG IT, *verb. phr.* (old: GROSE). — To play truant; to CHARLEY-WAG (*q.v.*).

TO LAY A MAN TRIGGING, *verb. phr.* (old: GROSE).—To knock down, TO FLOOR (*q.v.*).

**TRIG-HALL,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Open house; LIBERTY-HALL (*q.v.*).

**TRIGIMATE** (or **TRIGRYMATE**), *subs.* (old).—'An idle She-Companion' (B. E. and GROSE); 'an intimate friend' (HALLIWELL).

**TRIKE,** *subs.* (common).—A tricycle: *cf.* BIKE.

1901. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 15 May, 1. 2. The commercial 'TRIKE' is, perhaps, the least supportable of the various tyrannies on wheels which it is the perambulating Londoner's lot to endure.

**TRILL,** *subs.* (old).—The *anus*: *see* BUM [HALLIWELL: 'a cant term'].

**TRILLIBUB,** *subs.* (old).—1. Tripe; hence (2) anything of trifling value or importance. Also TRILLABUB, TRULLIBUBBE, TROLLYBAG, etc. TRIPES AND TRULLIBUBS (GROSE) = a fat man.

1599. MASSINGER, *Old Law*, iii. 2. I hope my guts will hold, and that's e'en all A gentleman can look for of such TRILLIBUBS.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. There cannot be an ancient TRIPE AND TRILLIBUB in the town, but thou art straight nosing it.

1637. SHIRLEY, *Hyde Park*, iii. 2. But I forgive thee, and forget thy tricks And TRILLIBUBS.

**TRILLIL,** *verb.* (old).—To drink: onomatopœia.

1599. NASHE, *Lenten Stuffe* [Harl. Misc., vi. 166]. In nothing but golden cups he would drinke or quaffe it; whereas in wodden mazers and Agathocles' earthen stuffe they TRILLILD it off before.

**TRIM,** *subs.* (B. E. and GROSE: still colloquial). — Dress: spec. 'State dress' (GROSE). Hence as *adj.* (and *adv.*) = spruce, neat, WELL-GROOMED (*q.v.*); IN SAD TRIM = 'Dirty, Undrest'; A TRIM LAD = 'a spruce, neat, well-trickt Man' (B. E.); TO TRIM UP (or FORTH) = to dress, make clean and neat, set out: spec. to shave or clip the beard.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse*, 762. I TRYMME, as a man dothe his heare or his busshe. . . . TRYMME my busshe, barber, for I intende to go amongest ladyes to-day.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 1. Young Adam Cupid, he that shot so TRIM. *Ibid.* (1601), *Henry VIII.*, i. 3. What a loss our ladies will have of these TRIM vanities. *Ibid.* (1608), *Antony and Cleopatra*, v. 2. I found her TRIMMING UP the diadem On her dead mistress.

1659–69. PEPYS, *Diary*, i. 187. Before I went to bed the barber come to TRIM me and wash me, and so to bed, in order to my being clean to-morrow.

1696. *Nomenclator* [NARES]. Their fronts or partes which are in sight, being smooth and TRIM on both sides, their naturall substance remaineth rough and unhewne, to stuffe and fill up the middest of a wall, etc.

*Verb.* (old colloquial).—1. To call to account, reprove, thrash; hence, TO TRIM ONE'S JACKET = to drub, 'dress down,' dust one's coat; TRIMMING = a beating, scolding, or jacketing; TRIMMER = (*a*) a severe disciplinarian, also of things, and (*b*) *see infra* (GROSE).

*c.* 1520. *Wife lapped in Morrell's Skin* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iv. 209], 717. For I will TRIM thee in thy geare, Or else I would I were cald a sow.

*d.* 1536. TYNDALE, *Works*, ii. 313. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 431. The priests propose to TRIM Queen Katherine.]

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, iii. 2. I'faith we shall TRIM him betwixt us.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 157. But after that, I know it fact, He fifty blust'ring bullies thwack'd . . . He TRIMM'D their jackets every one.

1773. FOOTE, *Bankrupt*. [A severe leading article is called a TRIMMER].

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, ii. 1. *Fag.* So! Sir Anthony TRIMS my master; he is afraid to reply to his father; then vents his spleen on poor Fag.

1778. BURNEY, *Evelina*, xlvii. His mouth was wide distended into a broad grin at hearing his aunt give the beau such a TRIMMING.

18 . HOOD, *Trimmer's Exercise.* You've been spelling some time for the rod, And your jacket shall know I'm a TRIMMER.

**2.** (old). — To cheat; hence TRIMMING = 'Cheating People of their Money' (B. E.): *cf.* SHAVE.

**3.** (venery).—To deflower, to possess a woman: *see* RIDE: also TO TRIM THE BUFF. Hence UNTRIMMED = virgin, undeflowered.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iii. 1. 209. The devil tempts thee here, In likeness of a new UNTRIMMED bride.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, iv. 4. Twenty to one she is some honest man's wife of the parish, that steals abroad for a TRIMMING, while he sits secure at home, little knowing, God knows, what hangs over his head.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER and MASSINGER, *False One*, ii. 3. An she would be cool'd, sir, let the soldiers TRIM her.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 110. And he . . . has liberty to take and TRIM The buff of that bewitching brim. *Ibid.*, 112. Let him with Nell play tit for tat, And TRIM her till I eat my hat.

*See* TRIMMER.

**TRIMMER**, *subs.* (old).—1. Orig. nautical. Figuratively = a moderate man, one taking a middle course between two extremes. Hence (2) a waverer, apostate (GROSE), or time-server. Also TO TRIM, *verb*, and such derivatives as TRIMMING, etc. [In Eng. politics a party which followed the Marquis of Halifax (1680–96) in TRIMMING between the Whigs and the Tories: *see* quot. *infra*].

*c.* 1680. HALIFAX, *Character of a Trimmer*, Pref. The innocent word TRIMMER signifies no more than this: That if men are together in a boat, and one part of the company should weigh it down on one side, another would make it lean down as much to the contrary, it happens there is a third opinion, of those who conceive it would do as well if the boat went even without endangering the passengers.

*c.* 1680. NORTH, *Lives of the Norths.* [A certain party are called TRIMMERS.]

1682. DRYDEN, *Duke of Guise*, Epilogue. A TRIMMER cried (that heard me tell this story), Fie, Mistress Cooke! faith, you're too rank a Tory! Wish not Whigs hanged, but pity their hard cases.

*c.* 1680. [MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, ii.] He was the chief of those politicians whom the two great parties contemptuously called TRIMMERS. Instead of quarrelling with this nickname, he [Halifax] assumed it as a title of honour. . . . Everything good, he said, TRIMS between extremes. . . . Thus Halifax was a TRIMMER on principle.

*c.* 1696. B.E., *Dict. Cant. Crew.* TRIMMER, a moderate Man, betwixt Whig and Tory, between Prerogative and Property. To TRIM, to hold fair with both sides. TRIM the Boat, poise it. TRIM of the Ship, that way she goes best.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. iv. 18. Let me know Whether . . . like TRIMMERS now-a-days . . . You equally extend both ways.

1710. HUGHES, *Hudibras Imitated*, 19. A creature of amphibious nature, That TRIMS betwixt the land and water, And leaves his mother in the lurch.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 270. He who perseveres in error without flinching gets the credit of boldness and consistency, while he who wavers in seeking to do what is right gets stigmatised as a TRIMMER.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 6 Nov. Lord Hartington is not the sort of statesman to TRIM his opinions according to the expediency of conciliating or not conciliating.

1885. *D. Chron.*, 5 Oct. They wanted no such aristocrats or TRIMMING Whigs for that constituency.

*See* TRIM.

3. (colloquial).—Anything specially decisive, of good quality, or noteworthy; a SETTLER (*q.v.*): spec. (cricket)=a well-delivered ball. Hence TRIMMING=large, big, etc.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xi. I will show you his last epistle, and the scroll of my answer—egad, it's a TRIMMER!

**TRIMMING**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. In *pl.* = accessories: spec. those accompanying any dish or article of food.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxvii. A boiled leg of mutton with the usual TRIMMINGS.

1839. KIRKLAND, *New Home* [BARTLETT]. A cup of tea with TRIMMINGS is always in season, and is considered as the orthodox mode of welcoming any guest.

1845. *Knickerbocker Mag.*, Aug. The party luxuriated at Florence's [eating-house] on lobster and TRIMMINGS.

1848. THACKERAY, *Snobs*, xx. Whenever I ask a couple of dukes and a marquis or so to dine with me, I set them down to a piece of beef, or a leg of mutton and TRIMMINGS.

1860. HOLMES, *Professor*, iii. Champion, by acclamation of the College heavy-weights, broad-shouldered, bull-necked, square-jawed, six feet and TRIMMINGS.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxi. Amerikins is all right . . . Theirs is a big country, too—bigger than ours: but we make it up in the TRIMMINS like.

2. *See* TRIM and TRIMMER.

**TRIM-TRAM**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A trifle; an absurdity; folly; nonsense. As *adj.* = foolish, nonsensical, trifling. Also (GROSE) 'like master, like man.'

1547. PATTEN [ARBER, *Eng. Garner*, iii. 70]. Our consciences, now quite unclogged from the fear of [the Pope's] vain terriculaments and rattle-bladders, and from the fondness of his TRIM-TRAMS and gewgaws.

1583. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, ii. 113. But loa to what purpose do I chat such janglerye TRIM TRAMS.

1760-2. SMOLLETT, *Sir L. Greaves*, xiii. They thought you as great a nincompoop as your 'squire—TRIM-TRAM, like master, like man.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 411. He's telling some long TRIM-TRAM story.

**TRINCUM** (or **TRINKUM**), *subs.* (old).—A trinket.

**TRINE**, *verb.* (Old Cant).—1. To hang: *see* LADDER (B. E. and GROSE). TRINING-CHEAT = the gallows. [That is, TRINE=three + CHEAT (*q.v.*), generic for thing.] Also TREYNE.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 31. Their end is either hanging, which they call TRINING in their language, or die miserably of the pox.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all* (H. Club's Rpt., 1874), 37. If you will make a word for the gallows, you must put thereto this word, TREVNING, which signifies hanging; and so TREVNING CHEATE is as much to say, hanging things, or the gallows.

1612. DEKKER, *O per se O*, 'Bing Out, Bien Morts.' On chates to TRINE, by Rome-coues dine for his long lib at last.

2. (old).—To go.

1360. *Allit. Poems* (MORRIS). [We see the Danish TRINE (ire), which Scott used as a slang term, 'TRINE to the nabbing cheat.']

1609. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight.* If we . . . dup but the gigger of a country-coves ken, from thence . . . we TRINE to the chats.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush.* And Herman Beck strine and TRINE to the Ruffin.

**TRINGUM-TRANGUM,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A whim, a fancy (B. E. and GROSE).

**TRINKET,** *subs.* (old: in some senses recognised).—1. In *pl.* = 'Porringers, and also any little odd thing, Toies and Trifles' (B. E.); 'toys, baubles, or nick-nacks' (GROSE).

2. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, iii. 1. *Lord T.* Women sometimes lose more than they are able to pay, and if a creditor be a little pressing, the lady may be induced to try if, instead of gold, the gentleman will accept of a TRINKET. *Lady T.* My lord, you grow scurrilous.

**TRIP,** *subs.* (B. E. and GROSE: now recognised). — 1. A short voyage or journey, an excursion: not in general use till 18th century: as *verb* (modern), or TO TRIP IT = to make short journeys; also TRIPPER (or TRIPPIST)=(1) an excursionist: often in the combination CHEAP TRIPPER. Also (2) a tram conductor, railway guard, or driver who gets paid by the trip (American).

*c.* 1360. *York Plays*, 142. And sertis I dred me sore To make my smal TRIPPE.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, Epil. She, to return our foreigner's complaisance, At Cupid's call has made a TRIP to France. *Ibid.* (1699). *The Constant Couple, or A TRIP to the Jubilee* [Title].

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, v. 255. It will be but what mariners call a TRIP to England.

1886. *Modern Society*, 16 Jan., 117. With returning appetite came the desire to the convivial ocean TRIPPISTS to set sail again for the Mediterranean.

1887. *Referee*, 30 Oct. The unpromising outlook did not affect the attendance, which, as regards its day TRIPPERS, would not be stalled off by weather.

1890. *Academy*, 4 Jan., 3. The dialect is dying out in Manx before the inroads of the TRIPPER.

1890. BESANT, *Armorel*, ii. There are two men in her, and they've got no oars in the boat. Ignorant TRIPPERS, I suppose.

2. (old colloquial: now recognised). — A failure, mistake, or error: spec. the result of inadvertence or want of thought; 'an Error of the Tongue or Pen, a stumble, a false step, a miscarriage, or a Bastard' (B. E. and GROSE): *e.g.* She has made a TRIP = She has had a bastard.

1628. MILTON, *Vacation Exercise*, 3. And mad'st imperfect words with childish TRIPS.

1677. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, v. 1. How, Cousin! I'd have you know before this *faux pas*, this TRIP of mine, the World cou'd not talk of me.

3. (old). — A moment; the 'twinkling of an eye.'

1726. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, 59. They'll whip it up in the TRIP of a minute.

4. (thieves'). — A thief's woman; a FANCY PIECE (*q.v.*): *see* TART.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* It was at one of these places I palled in with a TRIP, and stayed with her until I got smugged.

*c.* 1888. *Referee* [*S. J. and C.*]. My TRIP—cuss the day as I seen her—She sold off my home to some pals in her mob For a couple of foont and ten deaner.

5. (theatrical). — The *pas de deux* by which harlequin and columbine introduce each scene in the harlequinade.

6. (American). — Threepence ; 3d. : *cf.* THRIP, THREP, etc.

[?]. HILLS, *Vulg. Arith.* [*Century*]. The same vingten is woorth our TRIP, or Eng. 3d., or woorth halfe a Spanish royall.

**TRIPE,** *subs.* (once literary : now vulgar). — In *pl.* = the guts : whence the belly. Also in contempt both of persons and things ; TRIPE-VISAGED = flabby, baggy, expressionless ; MR. DOUBLE-TRIPE = a fat man : also TRIPES AND TRULLIBUBS (GROSE) ; TRIPE-CHEEK = a fat blowsy face.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, v. 4. 9. Thou . . . TRIPE-VISAGED rascal.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, iv. 3. *Alice.* Thou sow of Smithfield, thou ! *Urs.* Thou TRIPE of Turnbull.

*c.* 1630. HOWELL, *Letters*, ii. The Turk, when he hath his TRIPE full of Pelaw, or of Mutton and Rice, will go . . . either to the next Well or River to drink Water.

1834. HOOD, *Tylney Hall*, xxxv. I'm as marciful as any on 'em—and I'll stick my knife in his TRIPES as says otherwise.

**TRIPLET,** *subs.* (colloquial).—One of three at a birth ; in *pl.* = three children at a birth.

1874. FLINT, *Physiology*, 941. We have in mind at this moment a case of three females, TRIPLETS, all of whom lived past middle age.

**TRIPLE-TREE,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant). —The gallows : *see* NUBBING-CHEAT, LADDER, and TREE.

*d.* 1635. RANDOLPH [?], *Hey For Honesty*, iv. 1. This is a rascal deserves to ride up Holborn, And take a pilgrimage to the TRIPLE TREE, To dance in hemp Derrick's coranto.

1641. BROOME, *Jovial Crew*, i. What they may do hereafter under a TRIPLE TREE is much expected.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, iv. xvi. That very hour from an exalted TRIPLE TREE two of the honestest gentlemen in Catchpoleland had been made to cut a caper on nothing.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 62. A wry mouth on the TRIPLE TREE puts an end to all discourse about us.

1855. LELAND, *Meister Karl.* For whether I sink in the foaming flood, Or swing on the TRIPLE-TREE, Or die in my bed as a Christian should, Is all the same to me !

**TRIPLE X'S (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 30th Foot, now the 1st battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Also TREBLE X'S.

**TRIPOLY.** TO COME FROM TRIPOLY, *verb. phr.* (old). — To vault or tumble ; to perform with spirit (HALLIWELL).

**TRIPOS,** *subs.* (Cambridge Univ.).—Orig. the stool on which the champion of the University sat at the disputations held with the 'Father' in the Philosophy School on Ash Wednesday, at the admission of Bachelors of Arts to their degree ; then it was transferred to the Bachelor himself ; still later to the humorous, or, in some cases, scurrilous, speech with which 'Mr. TRIPOS' opened the proceedings, and to the verses of the Bachelors at the Acts, each sheet of verses being called a TRIPOS or TRIPOS-paper. The honours-lists were printed (about 1747–8) on the backs of these verses, and so TRIPOS came to mean an honour-list, and, last of all, the examination itself. Until the year 1824 there was only one TRIPOS, the Mathematical ; and up to 1850 only those who had obtained honours in mathematics were admitted to the Classical examination. The degree was not given for that examination

till a few years later. There are now nine TRIPOSES . . . founded in the following order: Mathematical, Classical, Moral Sciences, Natural Sciences, Theological, Law, History, Semitic and Indian Languages, with a Mediæval and Modern Languages TRIPOS from 1885.

**TRIPPER.** *See* TRIP.

**TRIPPING UP.** *See* CARRY THE STICK, adding quot. *infra.*

1887. *Daily Chronicle*, 18 Nov. A witness at the East End inquest yesterday alluded to 'TRIPPERS-UP,' as though everyone should know them as they would bakers, butchers, grocers, or other tradesmen. To the Coroner's perplexed question, 'What is that?' Inspector Read answered: 'A man who TRIPS you up and robs you. If you make a noise they jump on you.'

**TRISTRAM.** SIR TRISTRAM'S KNOT, *subs. phr.* (old). — A halter; TO TIE SIR TRISTRAM'S KNOT = to hang: *see* LADDER.

**TRIUMPH.** TO RIDE TRIUMPH, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—To go helter-skelter, rough-shod, full tilt.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, iii. 157. So many jarring elements breaking loose, and RIDING TRIUMPH in every corner of a gentleman's house.

**TRIVET.** RIGHT AS A TRIVET, *phr.* (colloquial).—As right, secure, or good as may be. TO SUIT TO A TRIVET = to suit perfectly. *See* RIGHT.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'St. Romwold.' Go home! you'll find there all as RIGHT AS A TRIVET.

1843. DICKENS, *M. Chuzzlewit*, xxviii. He's all right now; you ain't got nothing to cry for, bless you! he's RIGHTER THAN A TRIVET. *Ibid.* (1865), *Mutual Friend*, ii. 14. 'As to the letter, Rokesmith,' said Mr. Boffin, 'you're AS RIGHT AS A TRIVET.'

1855. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, ii. 2. 'How are you?' . . . 'RIGHT AS A TRIVET, my prince of prospectus mongers.'

**TROC,** *subs.* (London).—The Trocadero: formerly Music Hall, now Restaurant.

*c.* 1889. *Sporting Times.* 'Shall it be the Royal, Pav., or TROC?' And echo answered, 'TROC!'

1899. GOULD, *Racecourse and Battlefield*, viii. Come . . . we will celebrate my appointment in real good style. Where shall it be—the TROC, the Cri, the Princes, or the club?

**TROJAN,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A term of commendation: (1) a plucky fellow, a STICKER (*q.v.*); and (2) a familiar address, either to equals or inferiors. Hence TRUSTY TROJAN (B. E. and GROSE) = a sure friend or confidant: also TRUSTY TROUT.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, v. 2. 639. Hector was but a TROJAN in respect of this. *Ibid.* v. 2. 681. Unless you play the honest TROJAN.

1600. KEMP, *Dance to Norwich* [ARBER, *Eng. Garner*, vii. A good fellow is called a true TROJAN].

*c.* 1614. FLETCHER, *Night-walker*, ii. 1. Sam the butler's true, the cook a reverend TROJAN.

1628. FORD, *Lover's Melan.*, iv. 2. By your leave, gallants, I come to speak with a young lady, as they say, the old TROJAN's daughter of this house.

1837–8. THACKERAY, *Yellowplush Papers*, vii. He bore . . . [the amputation of his hand] in cors like a TROJIN.

(3). — A boon companion, a LOOSE FISH (*q.v.*); occasionally (but loosely) a thief.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 1. 77. Tut! there are other TROJANS that thou dreamst not of, the which, for sport's sake, are content to do the profession some grace. *Ibid.* (1599), *Henry V.*, v. 1. Dost thou thirst, base TROJAN, To have me fold up Parca's fatal web?

**TROLL**, *verb.* (B. E. and GROSE). —'To loiter or saunter about': *cf.* TRULL. As *subs.* (or TROLLOCKS)=a slattern: *see* TRULL.

**TROLLOLL**, *verb.* (old).—To sing in a jovial, rollicking fashion (B. E. and GROSE).

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 101. They got drunk and TROLLOLL'D it bravely.

**TROLLOP**, *subs.* (old).—1. 'A lusty, coarse Ramp or Tomrig' (B. E. and GROSE); a hedge-whore: also (2) a generic reproach: of women. Whence TROLLOPING (TROLLOPISH or TROLLOPY)= wanton, filthy, draggletail. As *verb* (or TO TROLLOP ABOUT)=to gad about: spec. (modern)=to quest for men. Also TROLLOPEE =a loose dress for women: *cf.* LOOSE-BODIED.

*c.* 1641. MILTON, *Apol. for Smectym.* Does it not argue rather the lascivious promptnesse of his own fancy, who from the harmelesse mention of a Sleekstone could neigh out the remembrance of his old conversation among the Viraginian TROLLOPS?

1675. COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque* (1770), 191. Had either so much Grace or Wit, Manners, or Shame, or altogether, As not to bring thy TROLLOPS hither.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 273. I tell thee, thou insignificant north-country TROLLOP . . . that one soldier is better than a thousand . . . stiff-rump'd parsons.

1706. VANBRUGH, *Mistake*, i. We are no fools, TROLLOP, my master, nor me; And thy mistress may go—to the devil.

1754. LADY M. W. MONTAGU, *Letter*, 28 June. Yet the virtuous virgin resolves to run away with him, to live among banditti, to wait upon his TROLLOP, if she had no other way of enjoying his company.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Bee*, No. 2. There goes Mrs. Roundabout—I mean the fat lady in the lute-string TROLLOPEE.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* (1900), i. 91. To take up with a dirty TROLLEP under my nose. . . . I ketched him in the very fact, coming out of the housemaid's garret.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, xxxvii. A TROLLOPY-looking maid-servant, seemingly in waiting for them at the door, stepped forward.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, i. Yes, you abominable woman . . . all will see the like of it that have anything to do with your TROLLOPING sex.

**TROLLYBAGS**, *subs.* (provincial).—Tripe.

**TROLLY-LOLLY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'Coarse Lace once much in fashion, now worn only by the meaner sort' (B. E., GROSE, and HALLIWELL).

**TROLLYWAGS**, *subs.* (common).—Trousers, breeches: *see* KICKS.

**TROMBONING.** TO GO TROMBONING, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE.

**TRONK**, *subs.* (S. African).—A prison: *see* CAGE.

1875. LADY DUFF GORDON, *Letters from the Cape.* He informed me that he had just been in the TRONK, and on my asking why, replied, 'Oh, for fighting and telling lies.'

**TROOPER**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A half-crown (B. E.).

PHRASES.—TO SWEAR LIKE A TROOPER (a simile of hard swearing), 'to volley oaths till the air is blue'; 'You'll die the death of a TROOPER'S horse' ('a jocular method of telling anyone he will be hanged, *i.e.* will die with his shoes on'—GROSE).

**TRORK**, *subs.* (back slang).—A quart.

**TROS**, *subs.* (back slang).—Sort: spec. of anything bad or not to one's liking. Thus TROSSENO= a bad day, coin, etc.; also DABTROS.

1866. *London Miscellany*, 3 Mar., 57. It was a regular TROSSENO. If it went on like that always, he said, he should precious soon nommus (cut it).

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* A regular scab! . . . and a coster declared he was 'a TROSSENO, and no mistake!'

**TROT** (or **TRAT**), *subs.* (old).—1. An old woman: in contempt: usually OLD TROT; a bawd: 'a sorry base old woman' (B. E.): 'a decrepit old woman' (GROSE).

1512–3. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, B. iv. 96, l. 97. Out on the old TRAT agit wyffe or dame. *Ibid.*, 122, 39. Thus saith Dido, and the tother with that, Hyit or furth with slow pase like ane TROT.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, i. 1. The OLD TROT sits groaning with alas and alas. *Ibid.*, ii. 2. I will have the young whore by the head and the OLD TROT by the throat.

1560. GASCOIGNE, *Supposes*, ii. 5. Goe: that gunne pouder consume the OLD TROTTE!

1570. TURBERVILLE, *Of a Contrerie Mariage*. Put case an aged TROT be somewhat tough? If coyne shee bring the care will be the lesse. *Ibid.* [CHALMERS, ii. 618]. A filthie Trull is yrksome to the eie. . . . An aged TROT to lyke is hard to finde.

*c.* 1586. WARNER, *Albion's England*, ii. 47. He got assurance to be wedded to the OLD deformed TROT.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, i. 2. 80. Or an OLD TROT, with ne'er a tooth in her head, though she have as many diseases as two and fifty horses. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for Meas.*, iii. 2. 52. What sayest thou, TROT? . . . Bawd is he doubtless, and of antiquity, too.

1593. CHURCHYARD, *Challenge*, 250. Awaie OLD TROTTS, that sets young flesh to sale.

1594. *Affectionate Shepheard.* This leare I learned of a beldame TROT, (When I was yong and wylde as now thou art).

1599. NASHE, *Lenten Stuffe*. A cage . . . roomsome enough to comprehend her, and the toothless TROT her nurse, who was her only chat mate and chamber maid.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. vi. An ugly OLD TROT in the company . . . had the reputation of an expert she-physician.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 138. The hobbling TROT limps down the Stairs.

2. (old).—An endearment: of a child learning to run.

1854–5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, x. Ethel romped with the little children, the rosy little TROTS.

1897. OUIDA, *Massarenes*, 10. She must not keep this bonbonnière; the contents are more than enough for a careless little TROT who knocks people about with her balloon.

3. (American schools'). — A PONY (*q.v.*), CRIB (*q.v.*). Whence as *verb* (or TO TROT A LESSON) = to use a translation or other adventitious aid to study.

*Verb.* (thieves').—1. To steal in broad daylight.

2. (colloquial). — Generic for doing: thus TO TROT OUT (= express) AN OPINION; TO TROT OUT (= escort) A JUDY; TO TROT OUT (= sing) A SONG; TO TROT OUT (= spend) THE PIECES, and so forth. TO TROT ROUND = to take a turn round the town, the halls, etc.; ON THE TROT = on the GO (*q.v.*), pegging away; DOG-TROT = 'a gentle pace' (GROSE); TO TROT UP (auctioneers') = to bid against, to run up prices.

1888. CHRISTIE MURRAY, *Weaker Vessel*, xiii. They would sit for hours solemnly TROTTING OUT for one another's admiration their commonplaces . . . until I tingled from head to foot.

1860. *New York Ev. Post*, 18 Feb. The friends of Alexander H. Stephens are making vigorous efforts to TROT HIM OUT for the Presidency.

TO TROT OUT (or FEED) ONE'S PUSSY, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To receive a man: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

PHRASE.—'He lies as fast as a dog can TROT' (of a persistent liar).

**TROT-COSY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, i. 318. The upper part of his form . . . was shrouded in a large great-coat belted over his under habiliments, and crested with a huge cowl of the same stuff, which, when drawn over the head and hat, completely overshadowed both, and being buttoned beneath the chin was called a TROT-COZY.

**TROTTER**, *subs.* (old).—1. In *pl.* = the feet: orig. of sheep (B. E. and GROSE): whence SHAKE (BOX or MOVE) YOUR TROTTERS! = 'Begone! troop off!' TO SHAKE ONE'S TROTTERS AT BILBY'S BALL (where the sheriff pays the fiddlers) = to be put in the stocks (GROSE: 'perhaps the Bilboes ball'). TROTTER-CASES (or BOXES) = boots or shoes.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xviii. He applied himself to a process which Mr. Dawkins designated as 'japanning his TROTTER-CASES.'

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard*, ii. All's bowman, my covey! Fear nothing! We'll be upon the ban-dogs before they can SHAKE THEIR TROTTERS.

1892. WATSON, *Wops the Waif*, iv. Teddy, look out, yer-ve got yer hoof on my TROTTERS.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, 52. That particular cut known as 'bell-bottoms' . . . technically known as 'having one's strides cut a bit saucy-like over the TROTTERS.'

2. (University). — A tailor's assistant: he goes on round for orders; also (dressmakers' and milliners') = a messenger: Fr. *trottin.*

1898. GISSING, *Town Traveller*, iv. Did she not well remember the day when the poverty of home sent her, a little girl, to be TROTTER in a workroom?

**TROUBLE**, *subs.* (various).—1. Imprisonment (thieves'); (2) = childbed, pregnancy (conventional); (3) = a TO-DO (*q.v.*): *e.g.* 'What's the TROUBLE?' = 'What's going on?' Hence IN TROUBLE = (1) arrested, QUODDED (*q.v.*); (2) pregnant, LUMPY (*q.v.*): spec. got with a bastard; TO GET INTO TROUBLE = 'to be found out and punished' (GROSE).

1555. CAVENDISH, *Cardinal Wolsey* [SINGER], 382. [The phrase] be IN TROUBLE [is used of a man imprisoned].

1871. *D. Teleg.*, 4 Dec. A friendly lead for the benefit of Bill, who is just out of his TROUBLE. *Ibid.* (1885), 16 Nov. He would have GOT INTO TROUBLE if the old people hadn't helped him out of it.

1899. JOHNSTON, *Old Dominion*, vii. My friend has been IN TROUBLE. . . . He will not make the worse conspirator for that.

1900. GRIFFITHS *Fast and Loose*, xxxi. 'It would be worse for everyone if I got into TROUBLE.' 'What are you talking about TROUBLE for? . . . While we are hustling the screws you . . . lead him off.'

Also in combination: TROUBLE-GUSSET (-GIBLETS or -GUTS) = the *penis*: *see* PRICK; TROUBLE-HOUSE = a disturber of family concord; TROUBLE-MIRTH = a wet-blanket, spoil-sport, mar-all; TROUBLE-REST = an element of discord, sickness, anything tending to unhappiness or discomfort; TROUBLE-STATE (or TOWN) = a rebel, an agitator, a 'drunk and disorderly.' Also PROVERBIAL SAYINGS, 'That horse is TROUBLED with corns' (*i.e.* foundered); 'TROUBLES never come singly' (*see* quot. 1509).

[1509. BARCLAY, *Ship of Fools* (JAMIESON, 1874), ii. 251. One myshap fortuneth never alone.]

1595–1609. DANIEL, *Civil Wars* [*Ency. Dict.*]. Those fair baits those TROUBLE-STATES still use.

1614. *I Would and Would not*, s.v. [TROUBLE-TOWN].

*d.* 1618. SYLVESTER, *Furies*, 328. Foul TROUBLE-REST, fantastik greedy-gut.

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, v. 14. Soul-boiling rage and TROUBLE-STATE sedition.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. xi. He had already begun to exercise the tools . . . and some of the women would give these names, my Roger . . . my smell-smock, TROUBLE-GUSSET, etc. *Ibid.*, I. lii. Ill-bred louts, simple sots, or peevish TROUBLE-HOUSES.

1821. SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, xxxvii. But once more to this same TROUBLE-MIRTH, this Lady Varney.

**TROUNCE**, *verb.* (once literary: now colloquial). — To vex, trouble, punish; now to beat severely. [B. E.: 'TROUNC'D, troubled, cast in Law, Punisht; I'll TROUNCE the Rogue, I'll hamper him': GROSE: 'to punish by course of law.'] Whence TROUNCING = a drubbing.

1551. *Bible*, Judges iv. 15. The Lord TROUNSED [*Auth. Ver.* 'discomfited'] Sisara and all his charettes.'

*c.* 1614. *Faithful Friends*, i. 2. Well, sir, you'll dearly answer this: My master's constable; he'll TROUNCE you for't.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 184. By Jove, for all their bouncing, I'll give their rogueships such a TROUNCING.

1887. *Scribner's Mag.*, July, 283. We threatened to TROUNCE him roundly when he got sober.

**TROUT.** *See* NORLOCH TROUT and PECULIAR RIVER.

**TROWEL.** TO LAY ON WITH A TROWEL, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To flatter or exaggerate grossly; TO BUTTER (*q.v.*). Also (2) to lie (RAY); and (3) to use powder, paint, or the like, without stint.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, i. 2. Well said: that was LAID ON WITH A TROWEL.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double Dealer*, iii. 10. Paints, d'ye say? Why she LAYS IT ON WITH A TROWEL . . . has a great beard that bristles through it, and makes her look as if she were plastered with lime and hair.

**TRUB**, *subs.* (old colloquial). — A slattern; 'a short squat woman' (AINSWORTH). Also TRUBAGULLY = 'a short dirty ragged fellow, accustomed to performing the most menial offices' (HALLIWELL).

**TRUCK**, *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. Intercourse, dealing: *e.g.* 'I'll have no TRUCK with you.' Orig. (and still colloquial American), exchange, trading, espec. the barter of small commodities; whence (in contempt) odds and ends, rubbish, and spec. bad food, CAGMAG (*q.v.*), MULLOCK (*q.v.*). Also (now recognised) TRUCK-SYSTEM (TRUCK-SHOP), etc. = the payment of wages in kind instead of money: illegal since 1870–5. As *verb* (originally and still literary) = 'to swop, barter, or exchange' (B. E. and GROSE).

*c.* 1608. [Capt. JOHN SMITH, *Works*, I. 82.] Much other TRUCKE we had, and after two dayes he came aboord, and did eate and drinke with vs very merrily.

1622. MOURT, *Journal* [App. *New England's Memorial*, 360]. Retaining Tisquantum to send from place to place to procure TRUCK for us.

1716. CHURCH, *Indian War*. Now they passed down into Punkatees Neck; and in their march they found a large wigwam full of Indian TRUCK, which the soldiers were for loading themselves with.

1778. *Annals of Salem* [BARTLETT]. About this time family stores were usually called TRUCK. . . . She looked out of the window for the market people, to ask them if they would take TRUCK for their produce.

18[?]. *Chronicles of Pineville*, 40. They purchased homespun, calico, salt, rum, tobacco, and such other TRUCK as their necessities called for.

1844. *Major Jones's Travels*. If the people of Georgia don't take to makin' homespun and sich TRUCK for themselves, and quit their everlastin' fuss about the tariff and free trade, the first they'll know, the best part of their population will be gone to the new States.

1848. LONGSTREET, *Georgia Scenes*, 192. 'What do the doctors give for the fever and ague?' 'Oh, they give abundance o' TRUCK.'

1884. CLEMENS, *Huck. Finn.* No use to take TRUCK and leave money.

1899. WHITEING, *John Street*, xxvi. Fust time in 'er life . . . she's ever 'AD ANY TRUCK with any of them sort.

2. (common). — In *pl.* = trousers: *see* KICKS.

3. (nautical). — A hat: *see* GOLGOTHA.

**TRUCKLE-BED**, *subs. phr.* (old).— In saying, 'To stumble at the TRUCKLE- (or TRUNDLE-) BED' = (RAY) 'to mistake the chamber-maid's bed for his wife's.' [Formerly a low bed on small wheels or castors was trundled under a 'standing-bed' in the daytime, and drawn out at night for a servant to sleep on.]

1660–9. PEPYS, *Diary*, III. 269. My wife and I in the high bed in our chamber, and Willet in the TRUNDLE-BED, which she desired to lie in, by us.

**TRUE**, *adj.* (old colloquial).—Honest: usually in contrast with 'thievish,' or TRUE MAN *v.* thief. Also (proverbial) TRUE AS TRUE (AS THE GOSPEL, GOD IN HEAVEN, AS I STAND HERE, etc.) =as true as may be.

*d.* 1400. CHAUCER, *Good Women*, 464. For why a TREWE MAN, withouten drede Hath nat to parten with a theves dede.

1513–25. SKELTON, *Poems* [DYCE], ii. 321. TREWE AS THE GOSPELL.

1592. MARLOWE, *Edward II.* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), ii. 362]. We will not wrong thee so, To make away a TRUE MAN for a thief.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Venus and Adonis*, 724. Rich preys make TRUE MEN thieves. *Ibid.* (1594), *Love's Lab. Lost*, iv. 3. 187. Whither away so fast? A TRUE MAN, or a thief, that gallops thus? *Ibid.* (1598), 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 1. 98. The thieves have bound the TRUE MEN. *Ibid.*, iii. 3. Now, as I am a TRUE WOMAN, holland of eight shillings an ell. *Ibid.* (1608), *Ant. and Cleop.*, ii. 6. *En.* There is never a fair woman has a TRUE face. *M.* No slander. They steal hearts.

1610. *Mirr. for Mag.*, 277. The TRUE MAN we let hang some whiles, to save a thief.

**TRUE-BLUE**, *adj.* and *subs.* (old colloquial). — 1. Unmistakable, honest, staunch, dependable: as *subs.*, a thoroughly reliable, good fellow, a stalwart: also BLUE (*q.v.*). [Blue is regarded as the colour or emblem of constancy, but whether in reference to the blue of sky or sea (both proverbially deceitful) or the fastness of some dye (*e.g.* Coventry blue) is unknown.] Hence spec. (2) in 17th century = the Scotch Presbyterians or Whigs: the Covenanters had adopted BLUE as against the Royal *red*; in later times staunchly Liberal or Tory, according to the choice made of blue as a party-colour by either, but mostly Conservative.

[*c.* 1500. *Balade agst. Women Unconst.* [STOW, *Chaucer* (1561), 340]. To newe thinges your lust is euer kene In stede of BLEW, thus may ye were al grene.]

*d.* 1635. RANDOLPH [?], *Hey for Honesty*, ii. 3. Be merry, TRUE BLUE, be merry: thou art one of my friends too.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. i. 191. For his Religion . . . 'Twas Presbyterian TRUE BLUE.

1674. FAIRFAX, *Bulk and Selv.*, 171. It being TRUE BLEW Gotham or Hobbes ingrain'd, one of the two.

1705. HICKERINGILL, *Priest-cr.*, II. viii. 86. The old Beau is TRUE-BLEW . . . the Highflown Principles.

1762. *Gent. Mag.*, 442. Honest, TRUE BLUES, a staunch, firm, chosen band.

1785. BURNS, *Author's Earn. Cry*, xiii. Dempster, a TRUE BLUE Scot, I'se warrant.

1818. SCOTT, *Heart Mid.* (1873), 75. A tough TRUE-BLUE Presbyterian called Deans.

1860. TROLLOPE, *Framley Pars.*, i. 10. There was no part of the country more decidedly TRUE BLUE.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xvii. This gentleman . . . is one of ourselves: he is a TRUE BLUE.

**TRUE INWARDNESS,** *subs. phr.* (literary). — The real meaning, BOTTOM (*q.v.*) facts, final result or end of a matter.

**TRUEPENNY,** *subs.* (old). — A familiar address: in commendation, but sometimes loosely used (*cf.* CASAUBON, *De Quatuor Linguis Commentatio*, pars prior [1650], p. 362; TRUEPENIE is defined as 'veterator vafer,' that is, a sly, cunning fellow, an old soldier): also (as in 'old boy') OLD TRUEPENNY.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, i. 5. 150. 'Say'st thou so? art thou there, TRUEPENNY? Come on.'

1604. MARSTON, *Malcontent* [OLD TRUEPENNY].

1618. FLETCHER, *Loyal Subject*, i. 3. Go, go thy ways, OLD TRUE-PENNY! Thou hast one fault: Thou art even too valiant.

1830. FORBY, *Vocab. East Anglia.* TRUE-PENNY. 'Generally OLD-TRUE-PENNY, as it occurs in Sh. *Hamlet*, where the application of it to the ghost is unseemly and incongruous, yet it has attracted no notice from any commentator. Its present meaning is, hearty old fellow; staunch and trusty; true to his purpose or pledge' (FORBY). This appears more to the purpose than the information given by Mr. Collier, 'it is a mining term, and signifies a particular indication in the soil of the direction in which ore is to be found.'

**TRUFF,** *verb.* (Scots).—To steal: *see* PRIG.

*d.* 1758. RAMSAY, *Lucky Spence* [*Century*]. Be sure to TRUFF his pocket-book.

**TRUG (TRUGGE or TRUK),** *subs.* (old).—1. A concubine, a harlot: *see* TART; (2) 'a dirty Puzzel, an ord'nary sorry Woman (B. E., *c.* 1696); (3) a catamite. Hence TRUGGING-KEN (or HOUSE)=a brothel: *see* NANNY-SHOP.

1592. GREENE, *Quip* [Harl. Misc., v. 405]. A bowsie bawdie miser, goode for none but himself and his TRUGGE. *Ibid.*, 406. The TRUG his mistress. *Ibid.*, *Theeves Falling Out* [Harl. Misc. (PARK), viii. 401]. One of those houses of good hospitallity whereunto persons resort, commonly called a TRUGGING-HOUSE, or to be plain, a whore-house.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Five Gallants*, i. 1. A pretty middle-sized TRUG.

1608. DEKKER, *Belman of London.* The whore-house, which is called a TRUGGING-PLACE.

1620. HEALEY, *Disc. New World*, 194. Every other house keepes sale TRUGGES or Ganymedes, all which pay a yearly stipen, for the licence they have to trade.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Besides, I found a cursed catalogue of these veneriall caterpillars, who were supprest with the monasteries in England, in the time of king Henry the eight, with the number of TRUGS which each of them kept in those daies.

1648–50. BRAITHWAIT, *Barnaby's Jo.*, iv. Steepy ways by which I waded, And those TRUGS with which I traded.

**TRULL,** *subs.* (old).—A wanton, a harlot: spec. a hedge-whore, a TROLLOP (*q.v.*); 'a soldier's, beggar's, or tinker's wife or wench' (B. E. and GROSE).

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Works* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 372. There is *trowle* (TRULL) from the High German.]

*c.* 1530. RASTELL, *Four Elements.* For to satisfye your wanton lust I shall apoynt you a TRULL of trust, not a feyrer in this towne.

1567. TURBERVILLE, *Poems* [CHALMERS, ii. 618]. A filthie TRULL is yrksome to the eie.

1569. PRESTON, *Cambyses* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 181]. *Meretrix.* What, is there no lads here that hath a lust To have a passing TRULL?

1605. CHAPMAN, *All Fools*, iv. A beggar too, a TRULL, a blowse!

1610. FLETCHER, *Maid's Tragedy*, i. 2. This is no place for such youths and their TRULLS.

1611. CORYAT, *Crudities*, i. 104. I never saw in all my life such an ugly company of TRULS and sluts as their women were.

1637. DAVENANT, *Brit. Tri.* [*Dram. Rest.*, ii. 280]. Shall I grow weak as babe when ev'ry TRULL is So bold to steal my sloes?

1638. FORD, *Lady's Trial*, iii. 1. The wench is your TRULL, your blouze, your dowdie.

*d.* 1639. WOTTON [*England's Helicon*]. Be thy voyce shrill, be thy mirth scene: Heard to each swaine, scene to each TROLL.

1648–50. BRAITHWAIT, *Drunken Barnaby*, ii. 61. Thence to Holloway, Mother Redcap, Where a troop of TRULLS I did hap.

1659. MASSINGER, *City Madam*, ii. 2. Tinker's TRULL, A beggar without a smock.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1770), 126. Shall I invite to be my Spouse . . . Æneas' Leavings, or, like TRULL here Run away basely with this sculler?

1688. RAND. HOLME, *Acad. Armory*. Guteli, or trulli, are spirits like women, which show great kindness to men, and hereof it is that we call light women TRULLS.

1693. STEPNEY, *Juvenal*, viii. To make the world distinguish Julia's son, From the vile offspring of a TRULL, who sits By the town wall.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. xxviii. Buttock of a monk! . . . how plump these plaguy TRULLS, these arch semiquavering strumpets must be!

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, i. 8. These are TRULLS whom he allows coach-hire.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. ii. 15. This is the Charm that tempts rich Fools To marry worthless Jilts and TRULLS.

1727. SOMERVILE, *Fables*, etc., xiii. Leave, leave, for shame your TRULLS at Sh——er hall, And marry in good time or not at all.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xlvii. This friend is no other than a rascal who wants to palm his TRULL off upon you for a wife.

**TRULY.** *See* BY MY TRULY and YOURS TRULY.

**TRUMP,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A good fellow, a friend in need, 'one (GROSE) who displays courage on every suit': the highest measure of praise.

1774. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 26. But I, in spite of all his frumps, Shall make him know I'm king of TRUMPS.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingolds. Leg.*, 'The Execution.' What must I fork out to-night, my TRUMP, For the whole first-floor of the Magpie and Stump?

1843. DICKENS, *Chuzzlewit*, xxviii. I wish I may die if you are not a TRUMP, Pip.

*d.* 1849. POE, *Works*, IV. 211. Thingum, my boy, you're a TRUMP.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 6. Tom . . . took his three tosses without a kick or a cry, and was called a young TRUMP for his pains.

1873. CARLTON, *Farm Ballads*, 86. The editor sat in his sanctum, and brought down his fist with a thump: 'God bless that old farmer,' he muttered, 'He's a regular editor's TRUMP.'

2. (provincial).—A FART (*q.v.*): also as *verb*.

1774. BRIDGES, *Homer*, 456. To which her bum plaid double-bass And made such thund'ring as she TRUMP'D, Both Ajax and Achilles jump'd.

3. (Scots). — A Jew's harp. Whence TONGUE OF THE TRUMP =a chief, an essential: properly the steel spring or reed by which the sound is produced.

*d.* 1872. MACLEOD, *Life in a Highland Bothy*. He has two large Lochaber TRUMPS, for Lochaber trumps were to the Highlands what Cremona violins were to musical Europe. He secures the end of each with his teeth, and, grasping them with his hands so that the tiny instruments are invisible, he applies the little finger of each hand to their vibrating steel tongues.

PHRASES. — TO BE PUT TO ONE'S TRUMPS = to be in difficulties (GROSE), driven to the last shift, or full exertion of one's strength; TO TURN UP TRUMPS = to fall out fortunately: *e.g.* 'something may TURN UP TRUMPS' = something lucky may happen (GROSE): 'all his cards are TRUMPS' = he is exceedingly fortunate.

1593. PEELE, *Edward I.*, iv. Ay, there's a card which PUTS US TO OUR TRUMP.

1609. *Amm. Marc.* Upon this strange accident, and for feare of some greater mischiefe to ensue, he was PUT TO HIS TRUMPES.

1655. BRIAN, *Pisse-Prophet*, 27. Now I am like to have a hard task of it, and to be so PUT TO MY TRUMPS, that if I play not my cards sure, I shall lose the set.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double Dealer*, ii. 3. Though marriage makes man and wife one flesh, it leaves 'em still two fools. . . . 'Tis an odd game . . . [but] since we've shuffled and cut, let's even TURN UP TRUMP NOW.

**TRUMPERY**, *subs.* (old). — 'Old Ware, old Stuff, as old Hatts, Boots, Shoes, etc.' (B. E.); 'an old whore, or goods of no value, rubbish' (GROSE): also TRASH AND TRUMPERY, and (proverbial) 'For want of good Company, welcome Trumpery.' Whence (modern) generic for showy trashiness, and as *adj.* = meretricious, worthless.

*c.* 1574. *Mir. for Mag.* i. 397. Here to repeate the partes that I haue playd Were to vnrippe a trusse of TRUMPERY.

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Tempest*, iv. 1. 186. The TRUMPERY in my house go bring hither, For stale to catch these thieves.

1637. HALL, *Sermons at Exeter*, Aug. What a world of fopperies there are, of crosses, of candles, of holy water, and salt, and censings! Away with these TRUMPERIES.

*d.* 1699. STILLINGFLEET, *Sermons*, II. viii. All the TRUMPERY of the Mass and Follies of their Worship are by no means superstitions because required by the Church.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, v. iv. If I was as Mr. Jones I should look a little higher than such TRUMPERY as Molly Seagrim.

1821. LAMB, *Old Benchers.* Extinct be the fairies and fairy TRUMPERY of legendary fabling.

1835. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*, II. i. A very TRUMPERY case it is altogether, that I must admit.

1885. *Field*, 26 Dec. Through the gate on to the road, over the TRUMPERY gap staring you full in the face.

**TRUMPET.** TO BLOW (or SOUND) ONE'S OWN TRUMPET, *verb. phr.* (old). — To praise (or talk about) oneself, to brag (GROSE). Hence 'His TRUMPETER is dead' (of a braggart).

1871. *Times*, 4 Nov. When a gentleman began by BLOWING HIS OWN TRUMPET, it was not altogether jannock.

**TRUMPETER**, *subs.* (various phrases). —KING OF SPAIN'S (or SPANISH) TRUMPETER = a braying ass, *i.e.* Don Key (GROSE); 'His TRUMPETER is dead' (*see* TRUMPET); 'He would make a good TRUMPETER, for he smells strong' (GROSE): 'of one with fœtid breath.'

**TRUNDLER**, *subs.* (old). — In *pl.* = peas (B. E. and GROSE: 'obsolete').

**TRUNDLING-CHEAT**, *subs.* (Old Cant). — A wheeled vehicle; a cart or coach: *see* CHEAT.

1630. JONSON, *New Inn*, iii. 2. They'll steal to bed . . . in private . . . and pay the fiddlers . . . next morning . . . and pack away in their TRUNDLING-CHEATS like gipsies.

**TRUNK**, *subs.* (old). — 1. A blockhead, a dunce (BLOUNT, 1656).

2. (common).—In *pl.* = trunk-hose: *cf.* SMALLS, TOPS, TIGHTS, etc. Also (modern) = (1) breeches: *see* KICKS, and (2) = bathing-drawers.

1613. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Captain*, iii. 3. He look'd, in his old velvet TRUNKS And his slic'd Spanish jerkin, like Don John.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, III. 120. Red striped cotton stockings, with full TRUNKS dotted red and black.

3. (old).—A nose (B. E. and GROSE). 'How's your old TRUNK?' = a jeer at a big-nosed man; TO SHOVE A TRUNK = to poke one's nose in, 'to introduce oneself unasked into any place or company' (GROSE).

**TRUNKMAKER-LIKE,** *adj. phr.* (old).—More noise than work (GROSE).

**TRUNK-WORK,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Underhand (or secret) dealing: *cf.* BACK-DOOR WORK.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iii. 3. This has been some stair-work, some TRUNK-WORK, some behind-door work.

**TRUSTED ALONE,** *phr.* (GROSE).—'This bit of flash is made use of in speaking of any knowing or experienced person, meaning that he is so deep as to the tricks of the town that he may be "TRUSTED ALONE" in any company without danger to himself.'

**TRUSTY,** *subs.* (Irish).—1. An overcoat.

18[?]. EDGEWORTH, *Limerick Gloves*, ii. 'There was a sort of a frieze TRUSTY.' 'A TRUSTY!' said Mr Hill, 'what is that, pray?' 'A big coat, sure, plase your honour.'

2. (American).—A convict with special privileges, such as a ticket of leave.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxviii. 448. By far the greater number of criminals confined in the jails of the Far West are there for a class of offences peculiar to the country. They are men dangerous in one direction, perhaps, but generally not depraved. The TRUSTIES are often domesticated upon ranches near the town, and apparently are unwatched, and on the best of terms with the ranchman's family.

*See* TROJAN.

**TRUT,** *intj.* (old).—An exclamation of contempt; SHIT! (MANNING (1337), 317; *Prompt. Parv.* (1440), 505).

**TRUTH. TELL THE TRUTH AND SHAME THE DEVIL,** *phr.* (old).—To reveal all at any cost.

[1469. *Cov. Myst.* [HALLIWELL], 367. TREWTH DYD nevyr HIS MAYSTIR SHAME.]

1548. PATTEN, *March into Scotland* [ARBER, *Garner*, iii. 61]. SAY TRUTH AND SHAME THE DEVIL.

1632. JONSON, *Magn. Lady*, iv. 1. TELL TRUTH, AND SHAME THE she-man-DEVIL in puffed sleeves; Run any hazard.

**TRY,** *subs.* (old literary: now colloquial).—An attempt, endeavour (GROSE), trial, experiment: espec. (modern) a TRY-ON = an attempt at BESTING (*q.v.*). Hence TO TRY IT ON = to seek to outwit, get the better of, fleece, cheat, etc.: *see* GAMMON. TO TRY IT ON A DOG = to experiment at another's expense or risk; TO TRY ON (thieves') = to live by thieving: COVES WHO TRY IT ON = professed thieves (GROSE); TO TRY IT ON WITH A WOMAN = to attempt the chastity (BEE).

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Timon of Athens*, v. 1. This breaking of his has been but a TRY for his friends.

1848. GASKELL, *Mary Barton*, xxvii. Don't give it up yet. . . . Let's have a TRY for him.

18[?]. *Trying It On* [Title of a popular farce].

1874. *Siliad*, 57. We do not pardon the flagitious claims — Call them, or damages, 'TRIES-ON,' or shames.

1899. GOULD, *Racecourse and Battlefield*, vi. Owen Righton did have a TRY, but . . . Alec Medway brought him up short.

PHRASES AND COLLOQUIALISMS.—TO TRY A FALL WITH = to compete, contest; TO TRY BACK = to revert to, to retrace one's steps: as to a former position, standpoint, or statement, etc., with a view to recover something missed, or lost: hence TRYBACK (BEE).

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 7. The leading hounds . . . are TRYING BACK.

1859. LEVER, *Davenport Dunn*, xi. She was marvellously quick to discover that she was astray and TO TRY BACK.

1887. *Nineteenth Century*, xxii. 812. Would it not be well then TO TRY BACK? to bear in mind . . . that meat is suitable for grown men, that milk is suitable for babes?

**TRYNING.** *See* TRINE.

**TUB,** *subs.* (old).—1. Formerly a cure for the *lues venerea*: also SWEATING-TUB and POWDERING-TUB. [The patient was disciplined by long and severe sweating in a heated tub, combined with strict abstinence: *cf.* SPENSER, *Fairy Queene*, I. x. 25, 26.] Hence TUB-FAST = the period of salivation.

1599. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry V.* ii. 1. 78. To the spital go, And from the POWDERING-TUB of infamy Fetch forth the lazar-kite of Cressid's kind. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for Meas.*, iii. 2. 59. Troth, sir, she hath eaten up all her beef, and is herself in the TUB. *Ibid.* (1609), *Timon of Athens*, iv. 3. 87. Be a whore still; . . . bring down rose-cheeked youth To the TUB-FAST and the diet.

1639. MAYNE, *City Match* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), ix. 377]. One ten times cur'd by sweating, and the TUB. *Ibid.* And coming to this cave, This beast us caught, and put us in a TUB, Where we these two months sweat, and should have done Another month, if you had not reliev'd us.

1647. CARTWRIGHT, *Ordinary* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), x. 293]. Trust me, you will wish You had confess'd and suffer'd me in time, When you shall come to dry-burnt racks of mutton, The syringe, and the TUB.

1676. WISEMAN, *Surgery*, B. vii. 2. TUB and chair were the old way of sweating, but if the patient swoons in either of them, it will be troublesome to get him out.

1688. HOLME, *Acad. Arms and Blazon*, B. iii. 11. 441. He beareth Argent, a Doctor's TUB (otherwise called a CLEANSING TUB), Sable, Hooped, Or. In this pockified and such diseased persons, are for a certain time put into, not to boil up to an heighth, but to parboil.

2. (old).—A pulpit. Hence TUB-DRUBBER (-POUNDER, -PREACHER, -THUMPER, or TUBSTER) = a ranting divine: spec., in reproach, of Dissenters (GROSE, 'a Presbyterian parson'): also TUB-THUMPING, *subs.* and *adj.*

1661. *Merry Drollery*, 176 [EBSWORTH]. [A TUB is connected with preaching.]

1661. *Semper iidem* [Harl. Misc. vii. 401]. George Eagles, sirnamed Trudge-over-the-World, who, of a taylor, became a TUB-PREACHER, was indicted of treason.

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, ii. 165. Here are your lawful ministers present, to whom of late you do not resort, I hear, but to TUB-PREACHERS in conventicles.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 194. The TUB PREACHERS are very much dissatisfy'd that you invade their prerogative of hell. *Ibid.*, iii. 68. He (says the TUBSTER) that would be rich according to the practice of this wicked age must play the thief or the cheat. *Ibid.*, iii. 198. Business and poetry agree as ill together as faith and reason; which two latter, as has been judiciously observ'd by the fam'd TUB-DRUBBER of Covent Garden, can never be brought to set their horses together.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. v. 17. The consecrated TUB, in which The Gospel Emp'rick was to teach.

1725. HEARNE, *Reliquiæ*, 4 Sep. The doctor . . . bred a presbyterian (as his brothers were also, his elder brother Samuel Mead having been a TUB-PREACHER).

1726. POPE, *Dunciad*, ii. 2. High on a gorgeous seat, that far out-shone Henley's gilt TUB, or Flecknoe's Irish throne.

1849. BRONTÉ, *Shirley*, viii. 'The Rev. Moses Barraclough, t' TUB ORATOR.' . . . 'Ah!' said the Rector . . . 'He's a tailor by trade.'

1885. *Observer*, 27 Sep. Our thoroughfares are needed, of course, to serve a much more useful class of people than the oleagineous TUB-THUMPERS.

1889. *Contemp. Review*, liv. 253. Very modest gifts, belonging to what may be called the TUB-THUMPING school of oratory, have been known to fill a large church with eager congregations.

3. (colloquial).—A bath: spec. a sponge-bath, but also (loosely) a DIP (*q.v.*). Also as *verb.*

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, iv. 1. In your bathada, You shall be soaked, and stroked, and TUBBED, and rubbed, And scrubbed, and fubbed, dear don.

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, ii. 5. The silver bathing-TUB, the cambric rubbers.

1839. HOOD, *Black Job.* In spite of all the TUBBING, rubbing, scrubbing, The routing and the grubbing, The blacks, confound them! were as black as ever.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. 2. She had it out of him in the cold TUB before putting him to bed.

1886. *Field*, 20 Feb. A good TUB and a hearty breakfast prepared us for the work of the day.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, iii. Morning devotions and . . . morning TUB. *Ibid.*, xix. I join the hero in a peg after his cold TUB.

1900. DESART, *Herne Lodge*, xxvi. A man should [not] make love before others [or] take his TUB in Hyde Park. TUBBING and love-making are innocent, of course, but you don't want to soap or spoon before your friends.

4. (common). — A broad-bottomed, slow-sailing boat; also (loosely) a vessel of any kind. At the Universities = a boat for rowing practice. Hence TUBBING = boating, rowing practice; TO GET TUBBED = to be taught to row.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green.* So to the river he next day went, and made his first essay in a TUB.

1857. HOOD, *Pen and Pencil Pictures*, 144. Awful muff! . . . he'd upset the veriest TUB on the river.

1878. *Scribner's Mag.*, Nov., 81. I laughed, for I knew the *Osceola*—an old TUB, built in East Boston—never made more than ten knots an hour.

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sea Queen*, xvi. The name of this deep and wallowing TUB was the *Richard and Ann.*

1887. *D. Teleg.* 8 Feb. No other work in the eight was done during day, but some TUBBING was indulged in later in afternoon. *Ibid.* . . . Practice in gigs, or more technically styled TUBS (small boats to hold a pair of oarsmen, and in the stern of which the coach steers and advises the rowers).

1887. *Field*, 5 Mar. Alexander of Jesus, who has been TUBBED a good deal. *Ibid.* . . . A good deal of TUBBING has been got through in the mornings.

1889. *Morning Advertiser.* Passing our time between grinding hard and TUBBING on the river.

1898. *Stonyhurst Mag.*, Dec., 149. Every College is on the look-out for new oarsmen. . . . One is TUBBED . . . taught to row by members of the College eight in boats that are too TUB-like to be easily capsized.

1900. NISBET, *Sheep's Clothing*, I. ii. Dash me if ever I sail a TUB of his again.

1901. *Troddles*, 106. What sort of a TUB is it? It sounds good. . . . We can have no end of a lark with a boat of our own.

1903. DICKENS, *Dict. Oxford*, 17. The freshmen are put into harness in TUB-pairs or four-oars.

5. (common).—A low-wheeled and deep-welled gig (*cf.* sense 4) or village cart; a governess-car.

1849. FROUDE [CARLYLE, *Life in London*, xi.]. The brothers [Carlyle] went in a steamer from Liverpool to Bangor, and thence to Llanberis, again in a TUB-gig, or Welsh car.

6. (Winchester).—A chest in Hall into which DISPARS (*q.v.*) not taken by the boys were put. Whence PRÆFECT OF TUB=a præfect whose duty was to examine the quality of meat sent in by the butcher, and after dinner to supervise the collection and distribution of the remains: obsolete (COLLINS) *c.* 1870. Whence (also) TUB-MESS = the table at which the Senior Præfects sat in Hall (*see* FARMER, *Public School Word-Book*, s.v. TUB 2).

A TALE OF A TUB. *subs. phr.* (old).—Any kind of nonsense, fooling, or absurdity; a COCK-AND-BULL STORY (*q.v.*); ROT (*q.v.*).

1538. BALE, *Com. concern. Three Laws.* Ye say they follow your law, And vary not a shaw, Which is A TALE OF A TUB.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs.* A TALE OF A TUBBE.

1554. COVERDALE, *Exhort. to the Cross.* You shall see in us that we preached no lyes, nor TALES OF TUBS, but even the true word of God.

*c.* 1559. *Wit and Science* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), ii. 335]. What, should I make a broad tree of every little shrub, And keep her a great while with a TALE OF A TUB?

1632. CHAPMAN, *Ball*, iii. 4. *Lu.* Do not I hear how desperate some ha' been? . . . *Wi.* This is a TALE OF A TUB, lady.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, Prol. No state-affairs . . . Pretend we in our TALE here, OF A TUB; But acts of clowns and constables to-day Stuff out the scenes of our ridiculous play.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, II., Prol. These are no flim-flam stories, nor TALES OF A TUB.

1690. HOWELL, *Lex. Tetra.* A TALE OF A TUB, chose ridicule, conte de cicogne, chanson de ricoche.

1699. SWIFT, *TALE OF A TUB* [Title].

*d* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 11. What other business can a man and woman have in the dark but . . . to make the beast with two backs? not to pick straws, I hope, or to tell TALES OF A TUB.

TO THROW A TUB TO A WHALE, *verb. phr.* (old).—(1) To bait the hook, give a sop, or make capital; (2) to throw dust in the eyes, to divert attention, to emphasize small matters so that attention is distracted from essentials.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 41. He . . . expatiated on the honours I had gained in the schools . . . as if it was necessary for a prebendary's footman to be as learned as his master. However . . . it served as A TUB TO THE WHALE.

A CAT UNDER A TUB, *phr.* (nautical American).—A supposed cause of delay.

EVERY TUB (VAT, etc.) SHOULD STAND ON ITS OWN BOTTOM, *phr.* (old).—A simile of independence.

1538. LAMBERT [ELLIS, *Letters*, 533]. EVERY VAT SHALL STAND ON HIS OWN BOTTOM.

1606. HOLLAND, *Sueton.*, 97. Hee had used also before, to STAND UPON HIS OWNE BOTTOM.

1630–40. *Court and Times Chas. I.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 87. Bunyan was later to quote the proverb, 'EVERY TUB MUST STAND ON ITS OWN BOTTOM'; here men are left to do the same.]

*c.* 1656. HALL, *Cont.*, 45. Man, though he . . . STAND UPON HIS OWN BOTTOME, yet [is] he not a little wrought upon by examples.

1680. MORDEN, *Geog. Rect.* (1685), 106. Everyone endeavours to STAND ON THEIR OWN BOTTOM.

1788. REID, *Aristotle*, VI. i. 129. When reason acquires such strength as to STAND ON ITS OWN BOTTOM.

*See* TUBBY.

**TUBBING,** *subs.* (thieves').—1. Imprisonment.

2. *See* TUB.

**TUBMAN,** *subs.* (old legal).—*See* quot. [The old Exchequer Court is now merged in the High Court of Justice, but the appointments are still made.]

1765-9. BLACKSTONE, *Com.*, III. iii. Note. In the courts of exchequer, two of the most experienced barristers, called the post-man and the TUB-MAN (from the places in which they sit), have also a precedence in motions.

**TUBBY,** *subs.* (Christ's Hospital).—1. A male servant of the school: his business was the care of the latrine tubs: the name is still retained for the lavatory-man.

2. (common).—A big-bellied man; FATTY (*q.v.*); FORTY-GUTS (*q.v.*). As *adj.* (or TUBBISH)=round-bellied, swag-bellied: like a tub.

1796. WOLCOT, *Works*, 136. You look for men whose heads are rather TUBBISH, Or drum-like, better formed for sound than sense.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, 'Mr. John Dounce.' He was a short, round, large-faced, TUBBISH sort of man. *Ibid.*, 'Monmouth Street.' We had seen him coming up to Covent Garden in his green chaise-cart with the fat TUBBY little horse.

1901. *Troddles*, 36. A TUBBY and short-winded keeper.

1902. *Free Lance*, 11 Oct., 44. 1. I was particular to find out whether the double-breasted lounge was a favourite among short and 'TUBBY' men.

**TUBS,** *subs.* (common). A butterman.

**TUCK,** *subs.* (common).—1. Generic for edibles; (2)=an appetite: spec. (schools') pastry, sweet-stuff, and the like. Whence TUCK-SHOP = a pastrycook's; TUCK-PARCEL=(Charterhouse) a hamper from home: nearly obsolete. Also (Australian) TUCKER=(1) food, GRUB (*q.v.*), spec. (2) barely sufficient on which to live, 'bare bread-and-cheese.' As *verb* (or TO TUCK IN) =to eat heartily: TUCK-IN (or TUCK-OUT) = a 'square meal.' [*Cf.* TACK=generic for food, and which, at Sherborne School, =a feast in one's study].

1840. A. BUNN, *Stage*, I. 295. Nothing can stop the mouth of a TUCK-hunter.

1847-8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, v. His father . . . gave him two guineas publicly, most of which he spent in a general TUCK-OUT for the school.

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. vi. Come along down to Sally Harrowell's; that's our school-house TUCK-SHOP. She bakes such stunning murphies. *Ibid.*, I. v. The slogger looks rather sodden, as if he didn't take much exercise and ate too much TUCK.

1858. *M. Chron.*, 31 Aug. Diggers, who have great difficulty in making their TUCKER at digging.

1873. GREENWOOD, *In Strange Company*. A TUCK-OUT, which in Hale's Street is short and simple language for as much as can be eaten.

1874. GARNET WALCH, *Head over Heels*, 73. For want of more nourishing TUCKER, I believe they'd have eaten *him*.

1875. WOOD and LAPHAM, *Waiting for the Mail*, 33. We heard of big nuggets, but only made TUCKER.

1886. *D. Teleg.*, 1 Jan. They set me down to a jolly good TUCK-IN of bread and meat.

1890. *Argus*, 14 June, 14. 1. When a travelling man sees a hut ahead, he knows there's water inside, and TUCKER and tea.

1890. *St. Nicholas*, XVIII. 125. What a TUCK-OUT I had.

1891. BOLDREWOOD, *Sydney-side Saxon*, 83. I took my meal in the hut, but we'd both the same kind of TUCKER.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, iii. You get your TUCK-IN Sundays. Lord, give me a reg'lar sixpence every day for grub, and I'd warrant I'd never starve.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 39. And they were off for a day's holiday and a camp-out as long as they could run it, TUCKER being the one essential.

*Verb.* (old university).—*See* quot.

*d.* 1695. WOOD, *Life*, 45. If any of the Freshmen came off dull or not cleverly some of the . . . Seniors would TUCK them —that is set the nail of their Thumb to their chin, just under the Lipp, and by the help of their other fingers under the Chin, they would give him a mark which would sometimes produce Blood. *Ibid.*, 46. Nothing was given him but salted drink . . . with TUCKS to boot.

TO TUCK UP, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To hang: *see* LADDER. Hence TUCKED UP = hanged; TUCK-'EM FAIR = an execution (B. E. and GROSE).

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, I. 141. I never saw an execution but once, and then the hangman asked the poor creature's pardon, and . . . then calmly TUCKED UP the criminal.

1789. PARKER, *Variegated Characters*. He was knocked down for the crap the last sessions. He went off at the fall of the leaf at TUCK'EM FAIR.

*c.* 1811. MAHER, *The Night before Larry was Stretched*. He was TUCKED UP so neat and pretty.

2. (colloquial).—To perplex, to put in a fix or difficulty, to cramp.

1886. *Field*, 13 Feb. They have been playing the old game of skirting, eventually to find themselves fairly TUCKED-UP by wire-fencing.

1887. BURV and HILLIER, *Cycling*, 189. A . . . fifty-eight inch racer will be noticeably too short in the reach . . . and he will feel that he is what cyclists call TUCKED-UP.

TO TUCK ON, *verb. phr.* (American).—To unduly increase or enhance: *e.g.* 'That horse is not worth half what you gave for him; the dealer has TUCKED IT ON to you pretty well': *cf.* 'STICK IT ON.'

*See* TWOPENNY.

**TUCKER.** *See* TUCK.

**TUCKERED.** TUCKERED OUT, *phr.* (American).—Tired out.

*c.* 1840. *Story of Bee Tree* [BARTLETT]. I'm clear TUCKERED OUT with these young ones. They've had the agur this morning, and are as cross as bear cubs.

*c.* 1859. *N. York Family Comp.* [BARTLETT]. I guess the Queen don't do her eating very airly; for we sot and sot, and waited for her, till we got e'en a'most TUCKERED OUT.

18[?]. *Southern Sketches*, 123. We fought until we were completely TUCKERED OUT.

**TUCKER-IN (or TUCKER-UP),** *subs. phr.* (old).—A chamber-maid, 'a supposed mistress' (GROSE): *cf.* SCOTCH WARMING-PAN.

**TUCK-MAN,** *subs. phr.* (commercial).—A moneyed partner.

**TUEL (or TEWEL),** *subs.* (old).—The fundament (HALLIWELL).

**TUFT,** *subs.* (University).—1. A young nobleman: students of rank formerly wore a gold tuft or tassel in their cap: obsolete. Whence TUFT-HUNTER = a hanger on to a man of title, a sycophant, toady, lick-spittle; TUFT-HUNTING = SPONGING (*q.v.*) on men of title or means. *See* GOLD-HAT-BAND (GROSE).

1840. THACKERAY, *Shabby Genteel Story*, ii. The lad . . . followed with a kind of proud obsequiousness all the TUFTS of the University. *Ibid.* (1842), *Book of Snobs*, v. At Eton . . . Lord Buckram was birched with perfect impartiality. Even there, however, a select band of sucking TUFT-HUNTERS followed him. *Ibid.*, xiv. In the midst of a circle of young TUFTS.

1851. CARLYLE, *Life of Sterling*, II. iii. He was at no time the least of a TUFT-HUNTER, but rather had a marked natural indifference to TUFTS.

1852. BRISTED, *Eng. Univ.*, 176. The gold-TUFTED Cap, which at Cambridge only designates a Johnian or Small-College Fellow-Commoner is here [Oxford] the mark of nobility.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, I. vii., note. As TUFT and TUFT-HUNTERS have become household words, it is perhaps needless to tell anyone that the gold tassel is the distinguishing mark of a nobleman.

1902. *Free Lance*, 22 Nov., 169. 1. A writer in the *Sovereign*, adopting the happy pseudonym of 'Thomas TUFT-HUNT,' has commenced a series entitled 'Sovereigns I have Seen.'

2. (old colloquial). — An imperial, a goat's beard.

1842-3. THACKERAY, *Fitz-Boodle's Confessions*. Do you like those TUFTS that gentlemen sometimes wear upon their chins?

3. (venery).—The pubic hair: male or female: also (of women) TUFTED HONOURS and CLOVEN TUFT (TUFTED HONOURS also = the female *pudendum*).

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, xv., note. Why *Callibistri* should signify a woman's TUFTED HONOURS I know not.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 186. Get a good warm *Girdle* and tie round you. . . . Pox on you, how can a single girdle do me good when a *Brace* was my destruction? . . . a sacrifice to a CLOVEN TUFT.

**TUG**, *subs.* (Eton).—A Colleger; a scholar on the foundation. Hence TUGGERY = College. [*Gt. Public Schools*: from the *toga* worn by Collegers to distinguish them from the rest of the school.]

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life in our Public Schools*. The long-looked-for St. Andrew's Day arrives, when the great match of collegers, or, as the small oppidan would term it, TUGS, and oppidans is to be played.

1883. BRINSLEY RICHARDS, *Seven Years at Eton*. My interlocutor was a red-headed, freckled little boy of eleven, who had come from Aberdeen, 'to try for TUGGERY,' that is, to try and pass on to the foundation as a King's scholar.

1890. *Great Public Schools*, 52. The disrespect, almost bordering on contempt, with which the Oppidans used for many years to regard the TOGATI, or gown-wearing boys.

*Adj.* (Winchester). — Stale, ordinary, vapid, common. Whence TUGS = stale news; TUG-CLOTHES = everyday clothes; TUG-JAW = wearisome talk.

PHRASES.—TO HOLD ONE TUG = to keep busy; to task-drive; TO HOLD TUG = to stand hard work, or severe strain; TUG OF WAR (see WAR).

1667. WOOD, *Life*, 18 July, 206. There was work enough for a curious and critical Antiquary, that would HOLD HIM TUGG for a whole yeare.

**TUG-MUTTON**, *subs. phr.* (venery). —1. A whoremaster; MUTTON-MONGER (*q.v.*).

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. For though he be chaste of his body, yet his minde is onely upon flesh, he is the onely TUGMUTTON, or mutton-monger, betwixt Dover and Dunbarr.

2. (HALLIWELL).—A glutton.

**TUI**, *subs.* (Winchester).—Tuition.

**TULIP.** GO IT, MY TULIP, *phr.* (obsolete).—A characteristic street phrase: an echo of the tulipomania of 1842, itself a recrudescence of the great craze of 1634.

**TULIP-SAUCE**, *subs. phr.* (common). —A kiss; kissing.

**TUM**, *adj.* (American). — Stylish, proper, spiff, A1.

*c.* 1889. *Chicago Times* [*S. J. and C.*]. By the way, gold spoons and forks for dessert have come in again, and you get them everywhere. Indeed, no table seems to look quite TUM for a big occasion without them.

**TUMBIES,** *subs.* (University). — Ablutions; TUBBING (*q.v.*).

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green.* Our hero soon concluded his TUMBIES and his dressing.

**TUMBLE,** *verb.* (old colloquial).— To dance. [Formerly *dance* and TUMBLE were popularly synonymous; moreover, the professional dancers of mediæval times were also acrobats; and, pictorially, Herodias' daughter is often represented as walking on her hands.] Hence TUMBLER (or TUMBESTER) =a female dancer, and (modern) an acrobat. As *subs.* =(1) a dance; and (2) a CATHERINE WHEEL (*q.v.*).

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible.* The douȝtir of Herodias daunside [ether TUMBLIDE, margin] in the myddil, and pleside Heroude.

[?]. *MS. Harl.*, 1701, f. 8. Herodias douȝter, that was a TUMBESTERE and TUMBLEDE byfore him. *Ibid.*, 19. Hyt telleth that Eroud swore To here that TUMBLED yn the flore.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales,* 'Pardoner's Tale,' 15. Comen TOMBESTERES . . . the verray deueles officeres To kindle and blowe the fyr of [lecherye].

1605. JONSON, *Fox,* ii. 3. A common rogue, come fiddling in to the osteria with a TUMBLING whore.

1626. FLETCHER, *Noble Gentleman,* ii. 1. There is no TUMBLER runs through his hoop with more dexterity Than I about this business.

1801. STRUTT, *Sports and Pastimes,* 288. The TUMBLER is walking upon his hands.

1824–8. LANDOR, *Imag. Conv.,* 'General . . . Lacy and Cura Merina.' A TUMBLE of heels over head, a feat performed by beggar boys on the roads.

2. (colloquial). — To understand, perceive, assent to, accept: *cf.* 'fall in with,' 'concur,' and Fr. *tombre d'accord.*

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* i. 15. The high words in a tragedy we call jaw-breakers, and say we can't TUMBLE TO that barrikin.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes,* 12. The courtship was progressive, and you'll TUMBLE TO their bliss.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican,* 73. You're labouring under a great misapprehension. You're only here by the month —not on a ninety-nine years' lease! Do you TUMBLE?

1899. KERNAHAN, *Scoundrels & Co.,* xx. As soon as the members TUMBLE TO it . . . the chairman will spring to his feet. . . .

1899. WHITEING, *John St.,* xxi. Bill tips me the wink to pretend not to TUMBLE TO their lingo.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes,* xxiii. He didn't TUMBLE TO all the cop's nice boch.

1902. *Free Lance,* 19 July, 362. 2. So be simple, even silly, and the public, willy-nilly, Most assuredly will TUMBLE to your jokelets.

3. (Stock Exchange).—To fall rapidly in value: of prices.

4. (venery).—(*a*) To rumple, TOUZLE (*q.v.*), MESS ABOUT (*q.v.*); (*b*) to possess a woman: also TO TUMBLE IN; A TUMBLE-IN=the act of kind; TO DO A TUMBLE (of women)=to lie down to a man, TO SPREAD (*q.v.*). TO TUMBLE TO PIECES=to be brought to bed; TUMBLING-RIPE = ready for the act, wanton, COMING (*q.v.*). Whence TO TUMBLE A BED=to pile in the act; TUMBLE-A-BED =(1) chambermaid: *see* SCOTCH WARMING-PAN; and (2) a whore.

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

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer,* 4. What priest beside thyself e'er grumbl'd To have his daughter tightly TUMBL'D?

PHRASES.—TO TUMBLE IN=to go to bed; TO TUMBLE UP=(*a*) to rise from one's bed, and (*b*) to come, or move quickly: also TO TUMBLE ALONG; TO TUMBLE TO=to set to vigorously: also

see *verb* sense 2; TO TAKE A TUMBLE TO ONESELF = to take oneself to task; to KICK ONESELF (*q.v.*); TO TUMBLE TO THE RACKET (Am. pol.), *see* RACKET; TO TUMBLE ON ONE'S FEET = to escape without injury, to come out on TOP (*q.v.*).

1843. DICKENS, *Chuzzlewit*, xxviii. Mr. Bailey . . . giving Jonas a shake, cried, 'We've got home, my flower! TUMBLE UP then.'

1890. *New York Evg. Post* [*Century*], 29 Jan. To give the name of legislation to the proceedings at Albany . . . would be an abuse of language. The proper name was 'TUMBLING TO THE RACKET.' The Assembly passed the bill without debate . . . much as they might pass a bill authorising a man to change his name.

**TUMBLER**, *subs.* (old).—In various colloquial or semi-colloquial usages denoting instability or eccentric movement. Thus (1) a glass rounded or pointed at the bottom, so that it could not be set down except when empty—a silent reminder of 'no heeltaps!' and to 'pass the bottle': orig. 'a low Silver Cup to Drink out of' (B. E., *c.* 1696): nowadays applied to any glass that is cylindrical in shape, without a stem; (2) a variety of pigeon: in flight the bird often drops without wing-play; (3) a dog used in coursing rabbits, 'a Coney Dog' (B. E.): it tumbles about in a careless fashion until, within reach of its prey, it seizes it with a sudden spring; (4) a porpoise; (5) a variety of printing machine: from the rocking or tumbling movement of the cylinder towards the impression surface; etc. etc.

1616. W. BROWNE, *Britannia's Past.*, ii. 4. I have seene a nimble TUMBLER . . . Bend cleane awry his course, yet give a checke And throw himselfe upon a rabbit's necke.

1635. SWAN, *Spec. Mundi*, ix. 1. The TUMBLER and lurcher ought to be reckoned by themselves.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux's Stratagem*, iv. 2. The plate stands in the wainscot cupboard. Ay. Knives and forks, and cups and cans, and TUMBLERS and tankards.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, lii. Mr. Stiggins, walking softly across the room to a well-remembered shelf in one corner, took down a TUMBLER, and with great deliberation put four lumps of sugar in it.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xxxviii. She . . . reminds him of days which he must remember when she had a wine-glass out of poor Pa's TUMBLER.

1885. *D. Tel.*, 17 Nov. The little TUMBLER flashing downward in the sunlight is something to watch and admire.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 262. 'Arf our 'ard-earned money goes that way. It's melted inter pewter pots an' TUMBLERS.

6. (Old Cant).—A cart: properly 'tumbrel.' Whence TO NAP THE FLOG AT (or TO SHOVE) THE TUMBLER = to be whipped at the cart's-arse (B. E. and GROSE): *see* SHOVE, adding quot. 1721.

1721. *Remarkable Tryals*, 2. He was ordered to SHOVE THE TUMBLER.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, viii. Behind them followed the train of laden asses and . . . TUMBLERS.

7. (old).—'A sharper employed to draw in pigeons to game' (B. E. and GROSE).

8. (turf).—A worthless horse; a SCREW (*q.v.*).

9. (old).—A German Baptist or Dunker. [The sect was founded by Alexander Mack about A.D. 1708. Persecution drove them in 1723 to the United States, where they founded a church at a German town in Pennsylvania. They separate the sexes in worship, are vegetarians, and are

called TUMBLERS from their mode of baptism, which is by putting the person whilst kneeling head first under water.]

10. (old).—A street rowdy: early part of the eighteenth century: *see* quot.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 324. A third sort are the TUMBLERS, whose office it is to set women on their heads.

**TUMBLE-DOWN**, *adj. phr.* (colloquial). — Dilapidated, ruinous, RATTLETRAP (*q.v.*).

1839. LONGFELLOW, *Hyperion*, ii. 9. A TUMBLE-DOWN old Lutheran church.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geoffrey Hamlyn*, iii. You will be doing injustice to this boy if you hang on here in this useless TUMBLE-DOWN old palace.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, xxiv. T'oud TUMBLEDOWN place is just a heap o' brick and mortar.

1881. FREEMAN, *Venice*, 340. Dirty-looking men assemble at the door of a TUMBLE-DOWN building.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 16 Nov. They came so low as to live in a TUMBLE-DOWN old house at Peckham.

**TUMMY**, *subs.* (common). — The stomach: also TUM-TUM; hence (venery) TUMMY-TICKLING = copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

**TUMP**, *verb.* (American).—1. To pull, to draw.

2. (venery).—To copulate; to give the PUSH (*q.v.*); TO POKE (*q.v.*).

**TUMPTSNER**, *subs.* (provincial).—A settler: *e.g.* 'That'll be a TUMPTSNER for the old gentleman.'

**TUM-TUM**, *subs. phr.* (Indian and Colonial).—A dog-cart.

*See* TUMMY.

**TUN**, *subs.* (common).—1. A tippler: *see* LUSHINGTON.

2. (Oxford Univ.).—At Pembroke a small silver cup containing half a pint; sometimes with a whistle handle, which cannot be blown till the cup is empty.

**TUN-BELLY**, *subs.* (old).—A fat, round-bellied man; a pot-belly, a CORPORATION (*q.v.*). Hence TUN-BELLIED = paunchy, very corpulent, bellied like a tun: *cf.* TUN-GREAT (quot. 1383) = with a circumference of the size of a tun.

[1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Knight's Tale,' 1996. Every piler the temple to sustene was TONNE-GRET.]

1550. LEVER, *Sermons* [ARBER], 119 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 524. There are the phrases greedygut and TUNNE BELYED].

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Royall Slave*. Some drunken hymn I warrant you towards now, in the praise of their great huge, rowling, TUNBELLYED god Bacchus as they call him.

1687. SEDLEY, *Bellamira*. I must have no . . . TUN-BELLY'D rogues, that fright chair-men from the house.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 152. He has swore to her by all that is good and sacred never to forgive the presumptuous wretch that should think irreverently of a double chin and a TUN BELLY.

**TUND**, *verb.* (Winchester). — To thrash; TUNDING = a thrashing.

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life*, etc. I never heard of any case in Eton like the TUNDING which, some years ago, brought our mother-school into disagreeable notice.

1883. TROLLOPE, *What I remember*. It was the prefect of hall who ordered the infliction of a public TUNDING. . . . Some dozen or so of boys, who had the best capacities for the performance, were appointed by him for the purpose, and the whole assembly stood around the dais, while the hymn *Te de profundis* was sung. When all were thus assembled, and before the singers commenced, the culprit who had been sentenced to a TUNDING stepped

out, pulled off his gown, and received from the hands of one deputed by the 'prefect of hall,' and armed with a tough, pliant, ground-ash stick, a severe beating.

*c.* 1890. *Punch* ['Confession by a Wykehamist']. I like to be TUNDED twice a day, And swished three times a week.

**TUNE**, *verb.* (old).—To beat: also TO TUNE UP: *e.g.* 'The old man TUNED HIM UP delightfully'=He got a good thrashing: *cf.* 'I'll make you sing another TUNE'=a threat of corporal punishment. (GROSE).

THE TUNE THE COW (or OLD COW) DIED OF, *phr.* (old).—1. A grotesque or unpleasant noise; (2) a homily instead of alms. [From an old ballad.]

COLLOQUIALISMS. — TO THE TUNE OF=to the sum, amount, or measure of [a stated figure, etc.]; TO CHANGE ONE'S TUNE (or NOTE)=to alter one's way of talking, manner, or demand; to change from laughter to tears; TO SING ANOTHER TUNE (*see* SING); TO TUNE UP=to commence.

1578. *Scot. Poems 16th Cent.* (1801), II. 185. Priestes CHANGE YOUR TUNE.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. ix. I'll make him CHANGE HIS NOTE presently.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, 31. You look as if you were Don Diego'd TO THE TUNE of a thousand pounds. *Ibid.*, 230. Will Hazard has got the hipps, having lost TO THE TUNE OF five hundr'd pounds.

**TUNKER**, *subs.* (common). — A street-preacher. [? Dunker: *see* TUMBLER, 9.]

**TUNNEL**, *subs.* (old).—A nostril.

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, i. 3. It would do a man good to see the fume come forth at's TUNNELS.

**TUNNEL-GRUNTER**, *subs. phr.*—Usually in *pl.*=potatoes.

**TUP**, *verb.* (venery).—To copulate: *see* RIDE (B. E. and GROSE). [Spec. of a ram.] Hence as *subs.* (or A STRAY TUP ON THE LOOSE) =(1) a man questing for a woman; and (2) = a cuckold (GROSE).

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, i. 1. 89. Even now, now, very now, an old black ram Is TUPPING your white ewe.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, v. 3. Come on, you ewe, you have matched most sweetly, have you not? Did not I say, I would never have you TUPPED But by a dubbed boy.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 2. Latona's son, that red-fac'd TUP. *Ibid.*, 34. Before our chief could TUP her . . . send home the dame As good a virgin as she came.

2. (provincial).—To salute in drinking.

VENISON OUT OF TUP-PARK, *subs. phr.* (old). — Mutton (B. E.).

**TUPPENCE** (or **TUPPENNY**). *See* TWOPENNY.

**TUP-RUNNING**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A rural sport practised at wakes and fairs in Derbyshire; a ram whose tail is well soaped and greased, is turned out to the multitude; anyone that can take him by the tail, and hold him fast, is to have him for his own' (GROSE).

**TU QUOQUE**, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*; 'the mother of all saints' (GROSE): *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**TURD**, *subs.* (old literary: now vulgar).—1. A lump of excrement; and (2) a contemptuous address: *cf.* SHIT. Frequently in combination: *e.g.* NOT WORTH A TURD=the maximum of worth-

lessness; 'A TURD FOR YOU!'= 'Go to hell and stay there' (also A TURD IN THE MOUTH!); TO CHUCK A TURD = to evacuate, to rear; and so forth. Also PROVERBS and PROVERBIAL SAYINGS, 'Many women many words, many geese many TURDS'; 'He's fallen into a cow's TURD' (of a dirty unkempt man); 'He looks like a cow-TURD stuck with primroses'; 'There's not a TURD to choose, quoth the good wife, by her two pounds of butter'; 'There's 'struction of honey, quoth Dunkinly, when he lick'd up the hen-TURD'; 'A TURD'S as good for a sow as a pancake' (*i.e.* 'Good things are not fit for fools': *cf.* French *Truie aime mieux bran que roses*, Sp. *No es la miel para la boca del asno*); 'He that thatches his house with TURDS shall have more teachers than reachers'; 'He is all honey, or all TURD'; 'See how we apples swim, quoth the horse-TURD'; 'As rotten as a TURD'; 'A humble-bee (or a beetle) in a cow-TURD thinks himself a king'; 'Look high and fall into a cow-TURD.'

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Luke xii. And he answeringe seide to him, Lord, suffre also this yeer: til the while I delue aboute, and sende TOORDIS [Auth. Ver., till I shall dig about it and dung it].

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Bouge of Courte* [CHALMERS, ii. 253. 1]. Fye on this dyce they be NOT WORTH A TURDE.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 86. Gerry gan, the ruffian clye thee. A TORDE IN THY MOUTH, the deuyll take thee.

1575. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, i. 5. Not so much as a hen's TURD but in pieces I tare it. *Ibid.* Fie! it stinks: it is a cat's TURD. *Ibid.*, ii. 2. It is twenty pound to a goose-TURD my gammer will not tarry.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. A TURD IN YOUR little wife's TEETH, too . . . 'twill make her spit.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i., Prol. A TURD FOR HIM. *Ibid.*, xxi. Then Panurge said unto her, A TURD FOR YOU.

1660. A. BROME, *Poems*, 'The Clown.' 'Tis not a TURD to choose.

1678. COTTON, *Works* (1770), 44. The Rogues threw cow-TURDS at us. *Ibid.*, 223. Basta! no more, you wrangling TURDS.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. vi. They . . . would make us believe that a TURD is a sugar loaf. *Ibid.*, xxii. Others made chalk of cheese, and honey of a dog's TURD.

*c.* 1700. BROWN, *Works*, i. 77. Two thousand Flies attack a new-fall'n TURD.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. iv. 19. Like Dung-hill Cocks o'er Stable TURDS. *Ibid.*, II. v. 25. Concluding with, Good Night, you TURD.

1774. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 12. Nor know, for all your kick and bounce how many * * * *s will make an ounce. *Ibid.*, 213. (Which will turn out not worth a T—.)

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Sir Reverence. Human excrement, a T—D.

**TURF**, *subs.* (common).—1. Generic for horse-racing: hence THE TURF=(1) the racecourse; and (2) racing as a profession; ON THE TURF=making one's living by racing (GROSE): *cf.* 'in the City'; TURFITE (or TURFMAN)= a racing man; TURFY=sporting.

1760. FOOTE, *Minor*. [Horses are kept for THE TURF.]

1783-5. COWPER, *Task*, ii. 227. We justly boast At least superior jockeyship, and claim The honours of THE TURF as all our own.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxvi. It was a . . . horsefleshy, TURFY sort of thing to do.

*c.* 1882. LORD GEORGE BENTINCK [ANNANDALE]. All men are equal on THE TURF or under it.

1887. *Field*, 16 July. The modern TURFITE, to use a common but by no means elegant expression, has quite enough to do to keep himself posted in the most recent doings of the horses of to-day.

2. (Winchester).—The pitch: at cricket, the 'field' being 'long grass.'

3. (Felsted School). — The cricket field: always without the definite article.

1881. *Felstedian*, Nov., 75. There are (or were) six cricket pitches on TURF.

*Verb.* (Derby School). — 1. To send to bed at bedtime.

2. (Marlborough School).—To chastise.

**TURK**, *subs.* (old).—1. A sword: *cf.* ANDREW, FOX, TOLEDO.

1638. *Albino and Bellama*, 108. That he forthwith unsheath'd his trusty TURKE, Cald forth that blood which in his veines did lurk.

2. (old).—A savage fellow; 'a cruel hard-hearted man' (B. E. and GROSE); a TARTAR (*q.v.*). Also TO TURN TURK=to turn renegade, to change for the worse, to GO OFF (*q.v.*). TO TURKISE =to play the Turk; TURKISH TREATMENT = barbarous usage, 'very sharp or ill dealing in business' (B. E.); TURKISH SHORE='Lambeth, Southwark, and Rotherhithe sides of the Thames' (GROSE); TURK-A-TENPENCE=a term of contempt: *cf.* 'tenpenny infidel' (a term applied to the Turk in DEKKER'S *Westward Hoe*, 1607) and TURK, sense 1, with an eye on TENPENNY SWORD=a poor tool. In modern usage TURK has lost somewhat of its rigorous meaning, and is frequently employed as a half-jesting endearment to a mischievous, destructive boy: *e.g.* 'You young TURK!'

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 2. 287. If the rest of my fortunes TURN TURK with me. *Ibid.* (1600), *Much Ado*, iii. 4. 57. An you be not TURNED TURK.

1602. DEKKER, *Satiromastix* [NARES]. TURK-A-TENPENCE.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. He call'd thee Giaur, but thou so well didst answer (being hot and fierie, like to crabbed Cancer) That if he had a TURKE OF TEN PENCE bin, Thou toldst him plaine the errors he was in.

3. (old).—A target: a dummy made up of cloth and rags.

**TURKEY.** TO HAVE A TURKEY ON ONE'S BACK, *verb. phr.* (American). — To be drunk: *see* SCREWED.

*See* TALK.

**TURKEY-MERCHANT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. 'A driver of Turkies' (B. E.); 'a poulterer' (GROSE); a chicken-thief (tramps').

1837. DISRAELI, *Venetia*. We'll make a TURKEY-MERCHANT of you yet . . . never fear that.

2. (old).—A dealer in contraband silk.

**TURK'S-HEAD**, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A long broom: used for sweeping ceilings and the like. *See* POPE'S-HEAD.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, x. 20. Dick was all for sweeping away other cobwebs, but he certainly thought heaven and earth coming together when he saw a TURK'S-HEAD besom poked up at his own.

2. (nautical).—An ornamental knot worked on to a rope: in shape supposed to resemble a turban.

**TURN**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A trick, stratagem, device. Hence as *verb*=to trick, beguile, cheat, GET AT (*q.v.*).

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Canon Yeoman's Tale,' 160. Til he had TORNED him he coude rot blinne.

*c.* 1400. *Tale of Gamelyn*, 244. Of all the TORNES that he cowthe he schewed him but oon.

2. (Old Cant).—An execution: formerly, the criminal stood on a ladder which, at a given signal, was TURNED over (*cf.* NEW-DROP): also TO TURN OFF (*q.v. infra*) and TO TURN OVER. TURNING-TREE = the gallows: *see* NUBBING CHEAT.

1542. HALL, *Henry VIII.*, f. 224. And at the last, she and her husband, as they deserved, were apprehended, arraigned, and hanged at the foresayd TURNYNG-TREE.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.*, iv. 2. 62. For your kindness I owe you a good TURN [DYCE: Here by TURN Pompey, with a quibble, means a TURN OFF the ladder].

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, III. ii. 698. Criminals condemned to suffer Are blinded first, and then TURNED OVER. . . . And make him glad to read his lesson, Or take a TURN for't at the session.

1705. *Flying Post*, 11 Dec. Some minutes after he was TURNED OFF, a Reprieve came for him, and being immediately cut down he soon reviv'd, to the admiration of all spectators.

3. (colloquial).—A walk: spec. a short walk involving a speedy return to the starting-point: as a promenade on the deck of a vessel, round a garden, etc. [In quot. *c.* 1700 = an extended journey.]

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, v. 1. 94. You and I must walk a TURN together.

*c.* 1700. DARREL [?], *Gentlemen Instructed*, 14. Some years ago I took a TURN beyond the seas, and made a considerable stay in those parts.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 250. Last week Hippias and I were taking a TURN in the Park.

1714. ADDISON, *Spectator*, 269. His master . . . would be glad to take a TURN with me in Gray's-Inn walks.

1849. BRONTÉ, *Shirley*, xxviii. Moore left his desk . . . [for] one or two TURNS through the room.

4. (colloquial).—A spell of work or a job in rotation with others: *e.g.* (theatrical) = a public appearance on the stage, preceding or following others.

1859. LEVER, *Davenport Dunn*, v. Not able . . . to do a hand's TURN for myself.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*. 'Twas plain that ere her TURN had ceased, Her talent had, on him at least, Created a most palpable impression.

5. (conventional).—In *pl.* = menses: *see* DOMESTIC AFFLICTIONS.

6. (American).—A bonus over and above the legal rate of interest: charged by bankers on advances against stock when money is tight.

7. (colloquial). — A nervous shock, a qualm, nausea. As *verb* = to make sick, disgusted, silly: also TO TURN UP or TO TURN THE STOMACH. Whence TURNED UP = queasy, ill, sick, as from a shock, sea-sickness, drinking, smoking, etc.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, iv. 6. 23. I'll look no more Lest my brain TURN.

1709. DAMPIER, *Voyages*, II. i. 30. They have many sorts of dishes that wou'd TURN THE STOMACH of a stranger, which yet they themselves like very well.

1734. POPE, *Satires*, Epil., ii. 182. This filthy simile, this beastly line, Quite TURNS MY STOMACH.

1846. DICKENS, *Cricket on Hearth*, ii. What a hard-hearted monster you must be, John, not to have said so at once, and saved me such a TURN.

1860. ELIOT, *Mill on Floss*, i. 7. Mrs. Tulliver gave a little scream . . . and felt such a TURN that she dropped the large gravy spoon into the dish.

8. (venery).—An act of coition. Hence TO TAKE A TURN (or TO TURN A WOMAN UP) = to copulate: *see* RIDE: also TO TAKE A TURN AMONG THE CABBAGES, UP ONE'S PETTICOATS (or AMONG ONE'S FRILLS), IN ABRAHAM'S BOSOM, IN LOVE LANE, BUSHEY-PARK, COCK-ALLEY, COCK-LANE, CUPID'S-ALLEY, CUPID'S-CORNER, HAIR-COURT, ON MOUNT PLEASANT, AMONG THE PARSLEY, THROUGH THE STUBBLE, or A TURN ON ONE'S BACK (of women).

TO TURN UP, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To desist; abandon an object, pursuit, or quest; change one's habits or course of life. Thus TO TURN UP (=to forsake) A MISTRESS, to BURY A MOLL (*q.v.*); TO TURN UP (=cut) AN ACQUAINTANCE; TO TURN UP (=cease dealing with) A TRADESMAN; TO TURN UP (=quit) A CROWD; TO TURN UP A FLAT SWEET=to leave a PIGEON (*q.v.*) in good humour after fleecing him, and so forth (GROSE).

2. (Marlborough School).—To chastise: with cane, stick, or fives-bat.

A GOOD (ILL, SHREWD, etc.) TURN, *subs. phr.* (old).—A kind (spiteful or clever, etc.) act or deed: also proverbially, 'One GOOD TURN deserves another' (also ILL TURN, etc.).

14[?]. *Babees Book* [E.E.T.S.], 106. In requyting a good TOURNE, shew not thyself negligent nor contrarye.

1509. BARCLAY, *Ship of Fooles* [JAMIESON, ii. 38]. One YLL TURNE requyreth another.

1603. SHAKSPEARE, *Measure for Meas.*, iv. 2. 62. For your kindness I owe you a GOOD TURN [see same quot. *subs.* sense 2].

1635. HEYWOOD, *Hier. of Angels*, 535. It is commendable in men to forget BAD TURNES done, but to bee mindefull of courtesies receiued.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER, *Little French Lawyer*, iii. 2. One GOOD TURN requires another.

TURN occurs in a multitude of phrases, all more or less colloquial. Thus TO TURN (=to perfect or polish) A PHRASE, SENTENCE, etc.; TO TURN OVER (=mentally consider) A MATTER: also TO TURN ABOUT; TO TURN THE CORNER=to begin to mend in health, pocket, prospects, etc.; TO TURN UPSIDE DOWN (INSIDE OUT, or THE HOUSE OUT OF WINDOWS, etc.) = to cause a commotion or disturbance, to search thoroughly; TO TURN OVER A NEW LEAF=to reform, to make a fresh start; TO TURN (=distract) ONE'S ATTENTION; TO TURN ONE'S HEAD=to unbalance the judgment, make crazy, flighty, or arrogant; TO TURN (or BE TURNED OF) FIFTEEN (or any age)=to pass (or have advanced beyond) one's fifteenth birthday, to be older than; TO TURN AGAINST = to become unfriendly, hostile to; TO TURN ONE'S FLANK=to circumvent, outwit; TO TURN AWAY (or OFF)=to dismiss, SACK (*q.v.*); TO TURN (or SEND) DOWN (University)=(1) to rusticate, and (2) to snub, suppress (American); TO TURN OFF (=execute, accomplish, produce) A CONTRACT, DESIGN, or BOOK: *see subs.* 2, and TURN OUT, *infra*; TO TURN OFF (=marry) A COUPLE; TO TURN OFF (=foil, counteract, or ignore) A JOKE, SLIGHT, etc.; TO TURN ONE'S COAT (*see* TURNCOAT); TO TURN ONE'S HAND TO=to apply (or adapt) oneself; TO TURN OUT (=train) A SCHOLAR, SOLDIER,

etc.; TO TURN OUT (=produce) so much in a week, month, etc.; TO TURN OUT (=show) ONE'S HAND: spec. at cards; TO TURN OUT (or BE TURNED OUT)=to dress (or be clothed by one's tailor) with care: whence WELL TURNED OUT = WELL-GROOMED (*q.v.*): *see* TURN-OUT; TO TURN OVER (=transfer) A BUSINESS; TO TURN OVER (=sell) GOODS; TO BE TURNED OVER (thieves')= (1) to be stopped by the police and searched, (2) to be remanded, and (3) to be acquitted for lack of evidence; TO TURN ONE'S BACK ON (*see* BACK); TO TURN CAT IN THE PAN (*see* CAT); TO TURN THE COLD SHOULDER (*see* COLD SHOULDER); TO TURN THE PAUNCH = to vomit; TO TURN THE STOMACH=to cause nausea: *see subs.* 7; TO TURN THE TABLES (*see* TABLE); TO TURN AN HONEST PENNY (*see* PENNY); TO TURN RUSTY (*see* RUSTY); TO TURN TO THE RIGHT-ABOUT=to dismiss summarily: *see* RIGHT; TO TURN TURTLE (nautical) = to capsize: of a boat or vessel; TO TURN UP ONE'S NOSE=to make a gesture of contempt, to show disgust; TO TURN UP ONE'S EYES= to make a gesture of (1) surprise, and (2) of mock sanctity; TO TURN UPON=(1) to retort, and (2) to show anger, resentment, or fight, to pay back as good as sent; TO TURN UP ONE'S TOES =to die: *see* TOE; TO TURN IN =to go to bed; TO TURN OUT= (1) to rise, to get out of bed, (2) to come abroad, (3) to come out on strike (workmen's), and (4) to result, end, prove; TO TURN TO =to set to work; TO TURN TURK (*see* TURK); TO TURN UP =(1) to happen, to occur, (2) to arrest (thieves'), (3) to acquit (thieves'); TO BE TURNED OVER: *see* TO TURN UP, *supra*; NOT TO TURN A HAIR=to take things quietly; TO TURN A CARTWHEEL: *see* CARTWHEEL; TO TAKE A TURN=to join in: *see subs.* 8; TO TURN IT (or THE GAME) UP=to desist, quit, abscond, change one's tactics; TO TURN UP A TRUMP= to meet with good fortune, to improve one's chances (GROSE); TO A TURN=to a nicety: as a roasted joint cooked to a 'TURN' of the spit; TURNED-ROUND=at a loss, puzzled: spec. of that momentary mental ignorance of one's exact whereabouts which sometimes occurs in a place that is normally perfectly well known; TURN AND TURN ABOUT=in regular succession, alternate duty, one resting while the other works.

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Luke xv. 8. TURN THE HOUSE UPSODOWN [Auth. Ver., Sweep the house and seek diligently].

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. 3. 4. I must TURN AWAY some of my followers. *Ibid.* (1598), 1 *Henry IV.*, i. 11. This house is TURNED UPSIDE DOWN since Robin Ostler died.

1605. HEYWOOD, *If You Know not Me* [*Works* (1874), i. 257]. Bones a me, Ile TURN ANOTHER LEAFE.

1620. FLETCHER, *Philaster*, ii. 1. Let me be corrected . . . Rather than TURN ME OFF.

1628. EARLE, *Micro-cosm.*, 'A Shee Precise Hypocrite.' Her devotion at the Church is much in the TURNING UP OF HER EYE.

1640. HOWELL, *Letters*, i. 5. 13. TURN HIM OVER TO ME again when I come back.

1689. SELDEN, *Table Talk*, 63. The Master of the House may TURN AWAY all his servants, and take whom he please.

1695. DRYDEN, *Aurengzebe*, iv. 1. 'Tis well the debt in payment does demand, You TURN ME OVER to another hand.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 15. I mean to toss a can, and remember my sweetheart before I TURN IN.

1703. STEELE, *Tender Husband*, ii. 1. A good servant shou'd TURN HIS HAND TO everything in a family. *Ibid.* (1710), *Tatler*, 127. For the benefit of such whose heads are a little TURNED [with] . . . this dangerous distemper [pride]. *Ibid.*, *Spectator*, 264. Irus, though he is now TURNED OF fifty, has not appeared in the world in his real character since five-and-twenty.

*d.* 1719. ADDISON [*Century*]. He TURNED OFF his former wife to make room for this marriage.

1729. SWIFT, *Direct. to Servants*, 'Gen. Direct.' The master storms, the lady scolds; stripping, cudgelling, and TURNING OFF is the word.

1743–5. POCOCKE, *Descr. East*, II. ii. 227. When they are TURNED OF thirty they begin to look thin.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), III. ii. I was deeply affected . . . resolving to TURN OVER A NEW LEAF, and live honestly.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Bee*, 2. The spirit of public fanaticism TURNED their heads.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, iii. 3. How your expectations will TURN OUT is more . . . than you can tell.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 54. We can TURN HIM ROUND OUR FINGER. *Ibid.*, 91. I have already introduced to her three well-furnished gallants, but she TURNED UP HER NOSE at them. *Ibid.*, 255. Pounding Lama's fair face to a jelly, and TURNING HER whole HOUSE OUT AT WINDOW.

1813. SYDNEY SMITH, *To John Allen*, 24 Jan. Those accidental visitations of fortune are like prizes in the lottery, which must not be put into the year's income till they TURN UP.

1835. DANA, *Before Mast*, 8. I found that no time was allowed for day-dreaming, but that we must TURN TO at the first light. *Ibid.*, 57. No man can be a sailor . . . unless he has lived in the fo'castle with them, TURNED IN and OUT with them, and eaten from the common kid.

1837–8. THACKERAY, *Yellowplush Papers*, ix. I saw them TURNED OFF at igsackly a quarter past twelve.

1843. DICKENS, *David Copperfield*, xi. I shall, please Heaven, begin to be beforehand with the world . . . if—in short, if anything TURNS UP.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 353. I never had a wife, but I have had two or three broomstick marriages, though they never TURNED OUT happy.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Gables*, vii. She watched the fish . . . as if . . . her immortal happiness were involved in its being done precisely TO A TURN.

1855. GASKELL, *North and South*, xviii. 'What do you say to a strike, by way of something to talk about?' 'Have the hands actually TURNED OUT?'

1855. HOLLAND, *Sydney Smith*, viii. The struggle for his society . . . would have been quite enough to TURN any head less strong than his.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. 6. Tom felt at once that HIS FLANK WAS TURNED.

1860. HOLMES, *Professor*, viii. Here is a boy that loves to run, swim, kick foot-ball, TURN SOMERSETS.

1864. TENNYSON, *Enoch Arden*. To all things could he TURN HIS HAND. . . . 'This is my house, and this my little wife.' 'Mine too,' said Philip, 'TURN AND TURN ABOUT.'

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 406. Tina is a little TURNED OF fifteen; she is going to be very beautiful.

1871. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail*. 'What catch would it be if you was to TURN ME OVER?' So I took him into a pub which had a back way out, and called for a pint of stout, and told the reeler to wait a minute.

1872. WARNER, *Backlog Studies*, 125. Then from every house and hamlet the men TURNED OUT.

1874. FISKE, *Cosmic Philos.*, i. 54. If a black swan TURNS UP. . . .

1881. G. S. HALL, *German Culture*, 306. The German official . . . is always appalled at the quantity of work his compeer here can TURN OFF in a given time.

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. Information that TURNS OUT to be hardly correct.

1885. SIMS, *Rogues and Vagabonds*. Marston had long ago announced his intention to TURN THE GAME UP.

1887. *D. Tel.*, 28 Feb. We had not steamed two miles from that berg when it split in three portions with thunderous sounds, and every portion TURNED TURTLE.

1887. *St. James's Gazette*, 19 Dec. The doctors hope I have now TURNED THE CORNER, which has been a sharp one.

1887. *Field*, 19 Feb. [The manufacturers] TURN OUT somewhere about 5000 tons weekly.

1887. *Scribner's Mag.*, Aug., 492. We were thinking of TURNING IN for the night.

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*. 105. The schools TURNED OUT splendid scholars.

1903. *Sporting Times*, 7 Sep., 1. 3. He had given instructions, when they came to a certain point, to let go the anchor. In the meantime he had 'TURNED IN.'

**TURNABOUT**, *subs.* (old).—1. An innovator.

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, II. 36. Our modern TURNABOUTS cannot evince us but that we feel we are best affected, when the great mysteries of Christ are celebrated upon anniversary festivals.

2. (provincial).—A disease in cattle; THE STAGGERS (*q.v.*).

*d.* 1618. SYLVESTER, *The Furies*, 610. The TURNABOUT and murrain trouble cattel.

3. (common).—A merry-go-round; a run-around.

1889. *Harper's Mag.* lxxix. 560. The high swings and the TURNABOUTS, the tests of the strength of limb and lung.

**TURN-BACK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A coward.

**TURNCOAT**, *subs.* (old).—A renegade, an apostate, 'he that quits one and embraces another party' (B. E.), 'one who has changed his party from interested motives' (GROSE). Hence TO TURN COAT (or A COAT) = to change, to pervert.

1576. TOMSON, *Calvin's Serm. Tim.*, 107. 2. We shall see these backesliders whiche knowe the Gospell, reuolt and TURNE THEIR COATES.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Much Ado*, i. 1. 125. *Beat.* Courtesy itself must convert to disdain if you come in her presence. *Ben.* Then is courtesy a TURNCOAT.

*d.* 1674. MILTON, *Ans. to Salmasius*, Pref., 13. Crafty TURN-COAT! Are you not ashamed to shift hands thus in things that are sacred?

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, viii. The Chief Justice himself stood aghast at the effrontery of this venal TURNCOAT.

1871. GRENVILLE MURRAY, *Member for Paris*, xx. They blackguarded him . . . said he only wanted to get into the House to finger the salary and then TURN HIS COAT.

1888. *Westminster Rev.*, cxxviii. 526. Mr. Bright should be the last man to charge a political opponent with TURNING HIS COAT.

**TURNING-TREE.** *See* TURN, *subs.* 2.

**TURNIP**, *subs.* (old).—A watch: spec. an old-fashioned silver watch which in size approached a turnip: also FRYING-PAN (*see* WARMING-PAN).

PHRASES.—TO GIVE TURNIPS = to get rid of a person by hook or by crook; TO GET TURNIPS = to be taken in, jilted: a play on turn-up; ONE'S HEAD TO A TURNIP = a fanciful bet: *cf.* LOMBARD STREET TO A CHINA ORANGE, etc. Also *see* CRY.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v. ii. You would have laid YOUR HEAD TO A TURNIP that they had been mere men.

**TURNIP-PATED**, *adj. phr.* (old).—White or fair-haired (B. E. and GROSE).

**TURN-OUT**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. A parade. Also (2) an assembly: spec. a number of people gathered together in the open air.

1847–8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xxx. The bugles were sounding the TURN-OUT.

3. (workmen's). — A strike. Also (4) a striker (singly and collectively).

1855. GASKELL, *North and South*, xviii. All his business plans had received a check, a sudden pull-up, from this approaching TURN-OUT. *Ibid.*, xx. Those were no true friends who helped the TURN-OUTS.

5. (American).—A shunting-line, a side-track, a railway siding.

6. (common). — Production, output.

7. (colloquial).—A carriage, coach, or any vehicle with horses, harness, and other appointments; also (latterly) applied to motor-cars.

1835. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*. I rather prided myself on my TURN-OUT.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, III. 50. The best TURN-OUT of the Coaching or Four-in-hand clubs.

1903. *Bazaar and Mart*. [Sub-title s.v. *Driving*] TURN-OUTS.

8. (colloquial).—Dress, GET-UP (*q.v.*): *cf.* TO TURN OUT.

1883. GREENWOOD, *Tag, Rag, & Co.* 'What would [it] cost a girl on an average who hired a full TURN-OUT on Monday and Saturday evenings?' 'If a regular customer . . . two shillings, ostrich and all.'

9. (theatrical).—An interval.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* The 'Delphi was better than it is. I've taken 3s. at the first TURN-OUT!

**TURNPIKE-MAN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A parson: because the clergy collect their tolls at our entrance into and exit from the world' (GROSE).

**TURNPIKE-SAILOR**, *subs. phr.* (tramps').—A beggar posing as a distressed sailor.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, I. 415. I became a TURNPIKE SAILOR, as it is called, and went out as one of the Shallow Brigade.

**TURN-TAIL**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A coward, renegade, pervert. TO TURN TAIL=(1) to change sides, (2) to turn one's back upon, and (3) to run away, to shirk.

*d.* 1586. Sir P. SIDNEY (LATHAM). Would she TURN TAIL . . . and fly quite out another way.

1612. *Pasquil's Night Cap*. How brittle, fickle, wavering, false, and fraile, Like to a wethercocke, still TURNING TAILE.

*c.* 1612. CORBET, *Iter Boreale*. His mare . . . for conscience sake, unspurr'd, unbeaten, Brought us six miles, and TURN'D TAYLE at Nuneaton.

1621. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas*. 'The Furies.' Our Sire . . . TURN'D TAIL to God, and to the Fiend his face.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, v. 4. Would thou had'st a dose of pills . . . to make thee TURN TAIL t'other way.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. iii. Yet shame and honour might prevail To keep thee thus from TURNING TAIL.

1874. *Siliad*, 15. A general Hubbub all the force misled, And one, a Highland Chief, TURNED TAIL and fled.

**TURN-TIPPET**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A time-server; TURNCOAT (*q.v.*). Hence TO TURN TIPPET = to change right about.

*d.* 1556. CRANMER, *Works*, II. 15 [Parker Soc.]. The priests for the most part were double-faced, TURN-TIPPETS, and flatterers.

1562. HEYWOOD, *Epigrams* [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 561. Amongst the romance words are] TURN HIS TIPPET.

*d.* 1575. PILKINGTON, *Sermons*, 211. All TURN-TIPPETS, that turn with the world and keep their livings still, should have no office in Christ's Church.

1587. GREENE, *Morando.* No doubt he would not onely TURNE HIS TIPPET, recant his hereticall opinion, and perswade others to honor beautie.

*c.* 1600. *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, [TEMPLE], iii. 2. 137. Well, to be brief, the nun will soon at night TURN TIPPET; if I can but devise to quit her cleanly of the nunnery, she is my own.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iii. A saint, Another Bridget, one that for a face Would put down Vesta; . . . You TO TURN TIPPET!

1609. FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas*, ii. 2. Ye stand now As if y' had worried sheep. You must TURN TIPPET, And suddenly, and truly, and discreetly, Put on the shape of order and humanity.

**TURN-UP,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. 'A fight produced from a hasty quarrel, a casual boxing-match' (GROSE); a shindy; a scrimmage.

1834. WILSON, *Noctes Ambros.* Dec. I have seen many a TURN-UP and some pitched battles among the yokels.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.* I'd describe now to you as 'prime a set-to,' and 'regular TURN-UP,' as ever you knew; not inferior in 'bottom' to aught you have read of.

2. (common).—An unexpected event or result; a chance encounter, spec. a sudden piece of luck: *see* TURN, *phrases.*

1878. *Century*, xxvii. 926. The type of men [Carlyle and Emerson] are comparatively a new TURN-UP in literature.

1885. *D. Chron.*, 19 Oct. This doubtless caused the fielders to take a firm stand on the chance of a TURN-UP.

**TURPENTINE STATE,** *subs. phr.* (American). — North Carolina: its people are TARHEELS (*q.v.*).

**TURPIN,** *subs.* (old). — A kettle. [HALLIWELL: 'A cant term.']

**TURTLE.** *See* TURN.

**TURTLE DOVE,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—In *pl.* = a pair of gloves: also TURTLES.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. A long-sleeve cadi on his napper, and a pair of TURTLES on his martins finished him.

**TURVY-TOPSY.** *See* TOPSY-TURVY.

**TUSH (or TWISH).** *intj.* (old colloquial).—An expression of impatience, contempt, or rebuke: also as *verb*, and TUSHING, *subs.*: *cf.* TUT.

*c.* 1400. *York Mysteries*, 324. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 195. There is the interjection TUSSCH! which took a hundred years to reach London.]

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Works*, s.v.

1586. STANIHURST, *Descr. Ireland*, i. There is a cholerike or disdainfull interiection vsed in the Irish language called Bosgh, which is as much in English as TWISH.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Zoccoli, zoccoli*, TUSHTUSH, awaie, in faith sir, no, yea, in my other hose.

1611. *Bible, Auth. Version*, Psalm lxxiii. 11. TUSH, say they, how should God perceive it.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, v. TUSH, man; in this topsy-turvy world friendship and bosom-kindness are but made covers for mischief.

1819. SCOTT, *Ivanhoe*, ii. 387. Cedric TUSHED and pshawed more than once at the message, but he refused not obedience.

**TUSHEROON,** *subs.* (common).—A crown piece; 5s.: *see* CAROON.

**TUSSEY,** *subs.* (provincial).—A low drunken fellow: *cf.* TOSTICATED.

**TUSSICATED,** *adj.* (provincial).—Driven about, tormented (HALLIWELL).

**TUSSLE,** *subs.* (colloquial). — A struggle; a contest; a TOUSLE (*q.v.*). Also as *verb* = to scuffle, to struggle.

[?]. [PERCY, *Reliques*], 'St. George for England.' Did TUSTLE with red-eyed pole-cat.

1709. CENTLIVRE, *Busybody*, 44. Muzzle and TUZZLE and hug thee.

1818. SCOTT, *Midlothian*, li. It is some comfort when one has had a sair TUSSEL . . . that it is in a fair leddy's service.

**TUSSOCKER**, *subs.* (New Zealand). —A SUNDOWNER (*q.v.*).

1889. PYKE, *Wild Will Enderby*. Now, a 'sun-downer,' or 'TUSSOCKER' . . . is a pastoral loafer; one who loiters about till dusk, and then makes for the nearest station or hut, to beg for shelter and food.

**TUT**, *intj.* (colloquial).—TUSH (*q.v.*), PISH (*q.v.*). Also TUTS! and as *verb*. TO MAKE TUTS FOR = to make light of.

*c.* 1500. DUNBAR, *Works* (PATERSON), 97. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 363. The new interjection TUT is seen.]

*d.* 1555. BRADFORD, *Repentance*. O hard hearts that we have, which MAKE TUTS for skin.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard II.*, ii. 3. 87. TUT, TUT! Grace me no grace, nor uncle me no uncle.

1605. JONSON, *Volpone*, ii. 3. TUT, I am confident in thee, thou shalt see't.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, VIII. iii. In another moment the member of Parliament had forgotten the statist, and was pishing and TUTTING over the Globe or the Sun.

A TUT FOR A TUSH, *phr.* (old). —A TIT FOR TAT (*q.v.*): *see* TUSH.

**TUTIVILLUS**, *subs.* (old).—An old name for a celebrated demon, who is said to have collected all the fragments of words which the priests had skipped over or mutilated in the performance of the service, and carried them to hell.

**TUTTING**, *subs.* (provincial).—'A tea-drinking for women, succeeded by stronger potations in company of the other sex, and ending in ribaldry and debauchery. So called only, I believe, in Lincoln; in other places in the county it is known as a bun-feast. Now obsolete, or nearly so' (HALLIWELL).

**TUTTLE** (or **TUTTLE NASK**), *subs.* (old). — 'The Bridewell in Tuttle-Fields' (B. E.): closed in 1878.

**TUT-WORK**, *subs. phr.* (workmen's). —Piece-work.

**TUZ I**, *phr.* (Felsted School).—The same as FAINITS (*q.v.*), BAGS I (*q.v.*).

**TUZZYMUZZY**, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE (BAILEY).

**TWACHIL** (or **TWACHYLLE**), *subs.* (old).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE, and *cf.* TWAT.

**TWADDLE** (**TWATTLE**, etc.), *subs.* (old colloquial). — 1. Gabble, STUFF AND NONSENSE (*q.v.*); (2) a prosy chatterbox, babbler, driveller: also TWADDLER (TWATTLER, TWATTLE-BASKET, or TWATTLE-BRAINS). As *verb* = to clack, prate, rattle on; TWADDLING (or TWADDLEY) = (1) silly, loquacious, inane; (2) trifling, paltry, petty. Also reduplicated in TWITTLE-TWATTLE.

15[?]. *King and Miller of Mansfield* [CHILD, *Ballads*, VIII. 43]. You feed us with TWATLING dishes soe small.

1577. STANIHURST, *Descr. Ireland*, vi. Let vs in Gods name leaue lieng for varlets, berding for ruffians, facing for crakers, chatting for TWATTLERS. *Ibid.* (1582), *Æneid*, iv. [ARBER], 101. As readye forgde fittons as true tales vaynelye toe TWATTLE.

1634. WHATELEY, *Redemp. of Time*, 15. The apostle Paul finds fault with a certain sort of women who were prattlers, which would go from house to house, TWATTLING, and babbling out frothy speech that was good for nothing.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, III. xviii. They show him the short and TWATTLE verses that were written.

*c.* 1660. LESTRANGE, *Works* [*Century*]. It is not for every TWATTLING gossip to undertake.

*d.* 1691. BAXTER, *Self Denial*, xxvii. Idle persons that will spend whole hours together in TWATTLING.

1719. SWIFT, *To Dr. Sheridan*, 14 Dec. Such a TWATTLING with you and your bottling.

1785. GROSE, *Vulgar Tongue*, Pref., vii. The favourite expressions of the day . . . vanish without leaving a trace behind. Such were the late fashionable words, a BORE and a TWADDLE, among the great vulgar. *Ibid.*, s.v. BORE . . . much in fashion about the years 1780 and 1781.

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, ii. 188. The devil take the TWADDLE! . . . I must tip him the cold shoulder, or he will be pestering me eternally.

1830. GREVILLE, *Memoirs*, 4 Ap. The cardinals appeared a wretched set of old TWADDLERS.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick Papers*, li. You will perhaps be somewhat repaid by a laugh at the style of this ungrammatical TWADDLER.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, viii. Between conceit and disgust, fancying myself one day a great new poet, and the next a mere TWADDLER, I got . . . puzzled and anxious.

1853. THACKERAY, *Eng. Humourists*, v. The puny cockney bookseller, pouring endless volumes of sentimental TWADDLE. *Ibid.* (1857–9), *Virginians*, xviii. The soft youth in the good Bishop of Cambray's TWADDLING story.

1856. READE, *Never too Late*, etc. xxiii. An occasion for TWADDLING had come, and this good soul seized it, and TWADDLED into a man's ear who was fainting on the rack.

1864. LOWELL, *Fireside Travels*, 155. To be sure Cicero used to TWADDLE about Greek literature and philosophy, much as people do about ancient art now-a-days.

*d.* 1875. HELPS, *Works* [*Century*]. Their lucubrations seem to me to be TWADDLY.

3. (old). — Perplexity, confusion; 'or anything else: a fashionable term that for a while succeeded that of *bore*' (GROSE).

4. (old).—A diminutive person.

**TWANG**, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—'A smack or ill Taste' (B. E.); hence (modern) = a decided flavour.

1707. FARQUHAR, *Beaux' Stratagem*, iii. 2. Doctor, you talk very good English, but you have a mighty TWANG of the foreigner.

1769–78. TUCKER, *Light of Nature*, II. II. xxiii. Though the liquor was not at all impaired thereby in substance or virtue, it might get some TWANG of the vessel.

1831. DISRAELI, *Young Duke*, iv. 6. Hot, bilious, with a confounded TWANG in his mouth.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, xviii. They already began to have a TWANG of commerce in them.

TO GO OFF TWANGING, *verb. phr.* (old).—To go well, swimmingly: *cf.* (RAY) AS GOOD AS EVER TWANGED = as good as may be.

1629. MASSINGER, *Roman Actor*, ii. 2. Had he died . . . It had GONE OFF TWANGING.

**TWANGDILLO** (or **TRANGDILLO**). *See* TWANGLE.

**TWANGEY** (or **STANGEY**), *subs.* (old).—A tailor: north country (GROSE).

**TWANGLE**, *subs.* (colloquial). — That is 'twang': also TWANK, TWANGDILLO, TWANGLING, and as *verb.*

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, ii. 1. Rascal fidler, TWANGLING Jack. *Ibid.* (1609), *Tempest*, iii. 2. Sometimes a thousand TWANGLING instruments Will hum about mine ears, and sometimes voices.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 62. Even d'Urfey himself and such merry fellows, That put their whole trust in tunes and TRANGDILLOES, May hang up their harps and themselves on the willows.

*d.* 1719. ADDISON, *Works* [*Ency. Dict.*]. A freeman of London has the privilege of disturbing a whole street with TWANKING of a brass kettle.

1762. COLLINS, *Misc.*, viii. Pleas'd with the TWANGDILLOWS of poor Crowdero in a country fair.

1812. COLMAN, *Poet. Vag.* iii. Loud, on the heath, a TWANGLE rush'd, That rung out Supper, grand and big, From the crack'd bell of Blarneygig.

1840. THACKERAY, *Shabby Genteel Story*, ii. The young Andrea bears up gaily, however; TWANGLES his guitar.

**TWANK,** *verb.* (Durham School).—To cane [HALLIWELL: 'to give a smart slap with the flat of the hand, a stick, etc., *East*'].

**TWANKING,** *adj.* (common).—Big, unwieldy: a generic intensive.

**TWAT,** *subs.* (old).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. [HALLIWELL, s.v. TWATETH: 'A buck or doe TWATETH, *i.e.* makes a noise at rutting time.] Whence (venery) TO GO TWAT-RAKING = to copulate: *see* RIDE; TWAT-RUG = the female pubic hair: *see* FLEECE.

*d.* 1650. FLETCHER, *Poems*, 104. Give not male names then to such things as thine, But think thou hast two TWATS o' wife of mine.

1727. BAILEY, *Dict.*, s.v. TWAT. *Pudendum muliebre.*

1890. *Century Dict.*, s.v. TWAT [Found by Browning in the old royalist rimes 'Vanity of Vanities,' and on the supposition that the word denoted 'a distinctive part of a nun's attire that might fitly pair off with the cowl appropriated to a monk,' so used by him in his 'Pippa Passes'].

**TWATTERLIGHT.** *See* TWITTERLIGHT.

**TWATTLE.** *See* TWADDLE.

**TWEAGUE** (or **TWEAK**), *subs.* (old).—Passion, peevishness: also TWEAGUY, *adj.*; IN A TWEAK = 'in a heavy taking, much vext, or very angry' (B. E. and GROSE).

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *Hist. John Bull*, ii. This put the old fellow in a rare TWEAGUE.

**TWEAK,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A jerk, twinge, pinch: as *verb* = to twitch, pull, or snatch: usually in phrase TO TWEAK ONE'S NOSE (GROSE). TWEAKER (Felsted School: obsolete) = a catapult.

1420. PALLADIUS, *Husbondrie* [E.E.T.S.], 150. Voide leves puld to be . . . With fyngers lightly TWYK hem from the tree.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, iii. 4. NOW TWEAK him BY THE NOSE—hard, harder yet.

1632. BROME, *Northern Lass*, ii. 5. TWEAKS BY THE NOSE, Cuffs o' the Ear, and Trenchers at my Head in abundance.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. ii. Quoth he, TWEAKING his nose, 'you are, great sir, A self-denying conqueror.'

1724. SWIFT, *Riddle*, 25. In passion so weak, but gives it a TWEAK.

1887. WINGFIELD, *Lovely Wang*, ii. Her old toes TWEAKED with corns.

2. (old).—A dilemma (PHILLIPS, 1706): also as *verb* = to perplex (BAILEY, 1731).

3. (venery).—(*a*) A wanton, a whore: *see* TART; and (*b*) a wencher: *see* MUTTONMONGER.

[?]. *Honest Ghost*, 'Farew. to Poetry,' 110. Where now I'm more perplext than can be told, If my TWEAKE squeeze from me a peece of gold; For to my lure she is so kindely brought, I look'd that she for nought should play the nought.

1617. MIDDLETON and ROWLEY, *Fair Quarrel*, iv. 4. Your TWEAKS are like your mermaids, they have sweet voices to entice the passengers.

*c.* 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's Jl.* (1723), 101. From the Bushes . . . Rush'd a TWEAK in Gesture flanting, With a leering Eye and wanton.

*See* TWEAGUE.

**TWEEDLE,** *subs.* (thieves'). — A Brummagem ring of good appearance used for fraudulent purposes.

*See* TWIDDLE.

**TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE (THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN),** *subs. phr.* (common).—No difference at all, save in sound; a distinction without a difference. [*Ency. Dict.*: The expression arose in the eighteenth century, when there was a dispute between the admirers of Bononcini and those of Handel, as to the respective merits of those musicians. Among the first were the Duke of Marlborough and most of the nobility; among the latter the Prince of Wales, Pope, and Arbuthnot.]

*c.* 1730. BYROM, *Feuds between Handel*, etc. Some say, compared to Bononcini, That Mynheer Handel's but a ninny. Others aver that he to Handel Is scarcely fit to hold a candle. Strange all this difference should be 'Twixt TWEEDLEDUM and TWEEDLEDEE.

**TWEENIE,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A 'between-maid.'

1888. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vi. 458. In want of a girl to ease both the cook and the housemaid . . . a neighbour . . . replied, . . . 'You want a TWEENIE.'

**TWELVE. AFTER TWELVE,** *subs. phr.* (Eton).—From noon till 2 p.m.

1861. WHYTE MELVILLE, *Good for Nothing*, 39. I used to visit him regularly in the dear old college from the AFTER TWELVE.

1864. *Eton School-days*, vi. I tell you plainly if you are not in Sixpenny AFTER TWELVE, I will do my best to give you a hiding wherever I meet you.

1883. BRINSLEY-RICHARDS, *Seven Years at Eton*. One day AFTER TWELVE the three of us passed over Windsor Bridge in the same condition as the 'bold adventurers' alluded to in Gray's Ode.

**TWELVE APOSTLES,** *subs. phr.* (Cambridge University).—1. The last twelve in the Mathematical Tripos (GROSE).

2. (Stonyhurst). — The first TWELVE Stonyhurst students.

**TWELVE GODFATHERS,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A jury. [HOTTEN: they name the nature of a crime; murder or manslaughter, felony or misdemeanour.] 'You'll be christened by TWELVE GODFATHERS some day' (a taunt).

**TWELVEPENNY,** *adj.* (old). — Trifling, of small value: frequently contemptuous.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, v. 3. Thou esquire of dames, madams, and TWELVEPENNY LADIES.

1644. HEYLIN, *Hist. of the Presbyterians*, 371. That men be not excommunicated for trifles, and TWELVE-PENNY MATTERS.

*d.* 1701. DRYDEN, *Works* [*Ency. Dict.*]. I would wish no other revenge from this rhyming judge of the TWELVEPENNY gallery.

**TWELVER,** *subs.* (old).—A shilling; 1s. (B. E. and GROSE): *cf.* THIRTEENER.

1858. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, III. ii. One of the men . . . had only taken three TWELVERS.

**TWENTY**, *subs.* and *adj.* (old).—1. An indefinite number: also TWENTY AND TWENTY.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Venus and Adonis*, 575. Under TWENTY locks kept fast.

1623. BACON, *Hist. Hen. VII.*, 350. As for Maximillian, upon TWENTY respects he could not have been the man.

1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 153. The tallowchandlers such dutiful and loyal subjects that they don't care if there were TWENTY AND TWENTY birthdays in a year, to help off with their commodity.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Harlowe*, ii. 145. I have hinted it to you TWENTY AND TWENTY times by word of mouth. *Ibid.* (1753). I could satisfy myself about TWENTY AND TWENTY things that now and then I want to know.

2. (Rugby).—The Sixth Form.

**TWENTY-TWO AND TWENTY-TWO**, *subs. phr.* (Winchester).—Football: twenty-two a side.

**TWIBILL**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A street ruffian; a ROARING-BOY (*q.v.*): seventeenth century.

**TWICE.** AT TWICE, *adv. phr.* (old and still colloquial).—On a second trial; in two distinct attempts: *cf.* 'You've guessed it in once.'

1611. CORYAT, *Crudities*, i. 220. I could hardly compasse one . . . AT TWICE with both my armes.

1628. MIDDLETON, *Widow*, iv. 2. I'll undertake your man shall cure you, sir, AT TWICE i' your own chamber.

[?]. *Ballad of Goulden Vanitee* [Mrs. GORDON (quoted by), *Christopher North*, 433]. He took out an Instrument, bored thirty holes AT TWICE, As they sailed to the Lowlands low.

1860. ELIOT, *Mill on Floss*, iii. 3. 'Did Mr. Tulliver let you have all the money at once?' said Mrs. Tulliver. . . . 'No; AT TWICE,' said Mrs. Moss,

1869. TROLLOPE, *Phineas Redux*, xxv. His Grace should have . . . a glass and a half of champagne. His Grace won't drink his wine out of a tumbler, so perhaps your ladyship won't mind giving it him AT TWICE.

**TWICE-LAID**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A hash-up of fish and potatoes: *cf.* RESURRECTION-PIE.

**TWICER**, *subs.* (printers'). — A printer who works at press as well as at case.

**TWIDDLE** (or **TWEEDLE**), *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To finger idly and lightly: usually in phrase, 'to TWIDDLE one's fingers'; to FIDDLE (*q.v.*), wriggle, or twist about; to be busy about trifles; to wheedle, to coax: *e.g.* 'She can TWIDDLE him round her little finger': *cf.* TWIRL.

1540. [COLLIER, *Dramatic Poetry*, ii.]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 482. There is the verb TWYDLE, which seems to be connected with *twirl.*]

1568. *Wit and Science.* What unthryftnes therein is TWYDLYNGS?

1676. WISEMAN, *Surgery* [*Century*]. I pressed close upon it, and TWIDLED it in, first one side and then the other.

1715. ADDISON, *Freeholder*, 3. A fiddler brought in with him a body of lusty young fellows, whom he had TWEEDLED into the service.

*d.* 1800. COWPER, *Pairing Time.* Dick heard, and TWEEDLING, ogling, bridling . . .

1847–8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xiv. 'Look out,' . . . said the mustachio TWIDDLER. *Ibid.* (1848), *Snobs*, xxiv. All the bugles in her awful head-dress began to TWIDDLE and quiver. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xiv. TWIDDLING a little locket which he wore at his watch chain.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 481. Marm, I seed him a TWIDDLING with your gown.

1880. P. ROBINSON, *Under the Sun*, 72. Straw-coloured crickets that sit and TWIDDLE their long antennæ.

1886. *D. Teleg.*, 13 Jan. TWIDDLING their thumbs in front of comfortable fires.

1889. OLIPHANT, *Poor Gentleman*, ix. Then he sat silent for a moment, staring into the fire, and TWIDDLING his thumbs.

**2.** (venery).—To wanton; to TOUCH (*q.v.*); TO SLEUTHER (*q.v.*). TWIDDLE-DIDDLES=the *testes* (GROSE).

**TWIDDLEPOOP,** *subs.* (old).—An effeminate-looking fellow (GROSE).

**TWIG,** *subs.* (old). — 1. Style, fashion, method. Hence as *adj.* =stylish, handsome; IN GOOD (or PRIME) TWIG=clever, well-dressed, in good spirits (GROSE). TO PUT OUT OF TWIG=to alter, disguise, so to change as to make unrecognisable (VAUX).

1819. MOORE, *Tom Cub.* Never since the renown'd days of Brougham and Figg Was the fanciful world IN such very PRIME TWIG.

1820. EGAN, *Randall's Diary.* In search of lark, or some delicious gig, The mind delights on, when 'tis IN PRIME TWIG.

**2.** (Marlborough: obsolete).—The Headmaster [in whose authority rested the use of the birch].

*Verb.* (old).—1. To watch, observe, mark (GROSE). Also (2) to understand, SEE (*q.v.*), TUMBLE TO (*q.v.*). Whence (in humorous imitation of Fr. *comprenez-vous*) TWIGGEZ-VOUS. *See* TWUG.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii. 2. Now TWIG him; now mind him; mark how he hawls his muscles about.

1796. HOLMAN, *Abroad and at Home*, iii. 2. He TWIGS me. He knows Dicky here.

1835. T. HOOK, *Gilbert Gurney*, III, ii. Don't you TWIG?

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xx. 'They're a-TWIGGIN' you, sir,' whispered Mr. Weller. . . . All the four clerks were minutely inspecting the general appearance of the supposed trifler with female hearts.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Jackdaw of Rheims.' They can't find the ring! And the Abbot declared that, 'when nobody TWIGG'D it, Some rascal or other had popp'd in, and PRIGG'D it!'

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil*, v. 10. 'I TWIG,' said Mick.

1853. READE, *Gold*, i. 1. If he is an old hand he will TWIG.

1858. Dr. J. BROWN, *Spare Hours*, 1 S. 306. I TWIGGED at once that he didn't himself know what it meant.

1872. *Figaro*, 22 June. A nattier rig you'll hardly TWIG.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. 245. Some feller in the shop TWIGGED my old girl as one he'd a-seen before.

1890. W. JAMES, *Principles of Psychology*, 1. 253. That first instantaneous glimpse of some one's meaning which we have when in vulgar phrase we say, we TWIG it.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray. John Fordham*, III. 284. The job I 'ad to orfer yer wos to pick feathers. A fat pigeon with feathers of gold. Do yer TWIG?

1898. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 74. So her clobber, you'll TWIG, was a second-hand rig.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 40. 'Now jump up, Pussy! Say, "I think I'd better come to life!" Then we all take hands, etc. . . . TWIGGEZ-VOUS?' 'NOUS TWIGGONS.'

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 130. 'How do you know?' 'I TWIGGED it from mother's manner.'

**3.** (thieves').—To snap asunder, break off: *e.g.* 'TWIG the darbies' =knock off the irons.

TO MEASURE A TWIG, *verb. phr.* (old). — To act absurdly (RAY).

*See* HOP THE TWIG.

**TWIGGER,** *subs.* (venery). —1. A harlot; (2) a wencher. [In TUSSER, *Husb.*, 'Jan.'=a good breeder.] TWIGLE=to copulate (HALLIWELL).

1612. *Pasquil's Night Cap.* Now, Benedicite, her mother said; And hast thou beene already such a TWIGGER.

*c.* 1613. MIDDLETON, *No Wit*, etc., iv. 1. The mother of her was a good TWIGGER the whilst.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, v., 'Pant. Prog.' TWIGGERS, harlots, kept wenches.

**TWILIGHT,** *subs.* (old).—A corruption of toilet: (old) a dressing-cloth, towel, or napkin.

1684. DRYDEN, *Disappointment*, Prol., 50. A TWILLET, dressing-box, and half a crown.

*c.* 1690. *Ladies' Dict.* A toilet is a little cloth which ladies use for what purpose they think fit, and is by some corruptly called a TWYLIGHT.

1706. *Fifteen Comforts of Matrimony.* Fine TWI-LIGHTS, blankets, and the Lord knows what.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. vii. It was no use doing the downy again, so it was just as well to make one's TWILIGHT and go to chapel.

**TWINE,** *verb.* (thieves').—TO RING THE CHANGES (*q.v.*).

**TWINKLER,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. In *pl.*=the eyes. Also (2) a star, and (3) a light (thieves').

1380. WYCLIF, *Ecclus*, vii. 25. The TWYNCLERE with the e3e forgeth wicke thingus.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 267. I no sooner saw your Ladyship, but those everlasting Murderers, your TWINKLERS, prick'd and stabb'd me in a thousand Parts of my body.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, iii. 2. *Aram.* The stars have done this. *Clar.* The pretty little TWINKLERS.

1813. SHELLEY, *Queen Mab*, ix. Such tiny TWINKLERS as the planet-orbs.

1837. MARRYAT, *Snarley-yow*, I. vii. Following me up and down with those TWINKLERS of yours.

**TWINKLING.** *See* BEDPOST.

**TWINS.** TO HAVE TWINS, *verb. phr.* (American).—To take dinner and tea at one meal; TO BOX HARRY (*q.v.*).

**TWIRE (TWEER, TOUR,** and **TOWRE).**—1. To peep, to look round cautiously, to peer: *cf.* TOWER. [TOUR (the canting form: *see* TOWER) possibly originated in TWIRE being carelessly written.] Whence (2) (old)=to leer, to 'make eyes.' As *subs.*=a glance, a leer. TWIREPIPE=a peeping Tom.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *Sonnets*, 28. So flatter I the swart-complexion'd night; When sparkling stars TWIRE not, thou gildst the even.

1602. MARSTON, *Antonio and Mellida*, iv. In good sadness, I would have sworn I had seen Mellida even now; for I saw a thing stir under a hedge, and I peep'd, and I spied a thing, and I peer'd and I TWEER'D underneath.

1604. MOFFAT, *Father Hubbard's Tales.* The TWEERING constable of Finsbury.

1619. FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas*, iii. 1. You are . . . a TWIRE-PIPE, A Jeffrey John Bo-peep. *Ibid.* (*c.* 1620), *Women Pleased*, iv. 1. I saw the wench that TWIR'D and twinkled at thee The other day.

1637. JONSON, *Sad Shepherd*, ii. 1. Which maids will TWIRE at 'tween their fingers thus.

1676. ETHEREGE, *Man of Mode*, iii. 3. The silly By-words, and Amorous TWEERS in passing.

1722. STEELE, *Conscious Lovers*, i. 1. If I was rich I could TWIRE and loll as well as the best of them.

1822. SCOTT, *Fort. Nigel.* TOUR the bien mort TWIRING the gentry cove.

**TWIRL,** *subs.* (thieves').—A skeleton key: *see* JEMMY.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* He was very lucky at making TWIRLS, and used to supply them all with tools.

TO TWIRL ONE'S THUMBS, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To be idle: *cf.* 'cool one's heels': *cf.* TWIDDLE.

1889. NORRIS, *Miss Shafto*, xxiv. Upon my word, Walter, you are pretty cool! Will it amuse me, pray, to TWIRL MY THUMBS in your studio?

**TWISH,** *intj.* (colloquial).—An exclamation of contempt.

**TWISS,** *subs.* (old).—A chamber-mug; IT (*q.v.*). [GROSE: A Mr. Richard Twiss having . . . given a very unfavourable description of the Irish character some utensils were made with his portrait at the bottom, and the following, 'Let every one piss, On lying Dick Twiss.']

**TWIST,** *subs.* (old).—1. The fourchure, the crutch.

1586. HARRISON, *Desc. Britain*, v. A man of common heigth might easilie go vnder his TWIST, without stooping, a stature incredible.

1609. HEYWOOD, *Troia Britanica.* Typhon makes play, Jhove catcht him by the TWIST, Heaves him aloft.

2. (colloquial).—A bent, turn, cast: a variation from what is usually normal and proper. Thus A TWISTED VISION=a wrong or 'cussed' way of looking at things; A TWISTED (=a lying) TONGUE: whence TWISTER=a falsehood or gross exaggeration; TWISTED (=brogueish) SPEECH, etc. Also TWISTY (or TWISTICAL)=awkward, CROOKED (*q.v.*), FUNNY (*q.v.*); TWISTABLE=easily influenced.

1820. HUMPHREYS, *Yankee in England.* He may be straight-going, farzino, manwards; but, in his dealings with t'other sex, he is a leetle TWISTICAL, according to their tell. I wouldn't make a town talk of it.

1821. LAMB, *Mackery End.* Heads with some diverting TWIST in them.

1824. PEAKE, *Americans Abroad*, i. 1. Come . . . you are but an underlin', tho' you are so uppish and TWISTICAL.

1862. *New York Tribune*, 28 Mar. This amendment is TWISTABLE into an advice, an impertinent advice to a foreign nation.

1881. HUXLEY, *Science and Culture.* An exclusively scientific training will bring about a mental TWIST as surely as an exclusively literary training.

1887. *Field*, 26 Nov. The fox made his straight point, though by devious and TWISTY courses.

*d.* 1891. LOWELL, *FitzAdam's Story.* You might have called him with his humorous TWIST, A kind of human entomologist.

3. (colloquial).—An appetite; hence TO TWIST IT DOWN (or LUSTILY)='to feed like a Farmer' (B. E.), 'to eat heartily' (GROSE). Fr. *crampe au pylore.*

4. (old).—(*a*) A mixture of tea and coffee (B. E. and GROSE); also (*b*) brandy, beer, and eggs (GROSE); and (*c*) brandy and gin.

1849–50. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, xxxix. When he went to the Back Kitchen that night . . . the gin TWIST and devilled turkey had no charms for him.

5. (Winchester). — A stick spirally marked by a creeper having grown round it: also TWISTER.

*Verb.* (old).—To hang: *see* LADDER (GROSE). Hence TWISTED=hanged.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NOSE. His pall NOSED, and he was TWISTED for a crack.

6. (cricket).—A turn given to the wrist in delivery, so that the ball breaks from the straight. Whence TWISTER = a ball so delivered by the bowler (also, at billiards, a ball that SCREWS or spins along with a twist). Hence (figuratively) = anything that puzzles or staggers.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. 8. The cover-point hitter, that cunning man, goes on to bowl slow TWISTERS.

*c.* 1889. *Pop. Science Monthly* (*Century*). He has learned the trick of playing with a straight bat the examiner's most artful TWISTERS.

1898. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 61. That blow was a TWISTER.

1903. *Punch's Almanack*, 14. 1. Saunders doth next (at TWISTERS who so skilled?) slay ('Bowl' wouldn't rhyme, unfortunately) Tyldesley.

A TWIST ON THE SHORTS, *phr.* (American Stock Exchange).—A Wall Street phrase, used where the SHORTS (*q.v.*) have undersold heavily, and the market has been artificially raised, compelling them to settle at ruinous rates (MEDBURY).

TO TWIST (or WIND) ROUND ONE'S FINGER, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To control or influence completely, to make submissive: usually of women.

*See* TAIL.

**TWIT**, *verb.* (originally and still literary).—'To hit in the Teeth' (B. E.); 'to reproach a person or remind him of favours conferred' (GROSE). TWITTY (colloquial) = cross, ill-tempered.

**TWITCH.** TO TWITCH A TWELVE, *verb. phr.* (American university).—To get the highest number of marks.

**TWITCHER**, *subs.* (provincial).—1. A severe blow.

2. (common).—In *pl.* = small pincers.

**TWITCHETTY**, *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial). — Nervous, fidgety, uncertain: also TWITCHY.

**TWITTER.** ALL OF A TWITTER, *phr.* (colloquial). — Frightened, nervous, fidgety (GROSE): also IN (or ON) THE TWITTERS. TWITTERATION (or TWITTERS) = sexual desire: espec. of women.

1660. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo.* A widow which had a TWITTERING towards a second husband took a gossiping companion to manage the job.

1766. COLMAN, *Clandestine Marriage*, i. 1. I am ALL OF A TWITTER to see my old John Harrowby again.

**TWITTER-LIGHT**, *subs.* (old). — Twilight: also TWATTERLIGHT.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Five Gallants*, v. 1. Then cast she up Her pretty eye, and wink'd; the word methought was then, 'Come not 'till TWITTER-LIGHT.'

1606. *Wily Beguil'd* [HAWKINS, *Eng. Dr.*, iii. 331]. What mak'st thou here this TWATTER-LIGHT? I think thou'rt in a dream.

**TWITTLE**, *verb.* (old colloquial).—To chatter, babble, tattle. Hence TWITTLE-TWAT = a chatterbox; TWITTLE-TWATTLE = gabble, idle talk.

1582. STANIHURST, *Æneid* [ARBER], Int., xi. His hystorie . . . TWITTLED . . . tales out of school.

1619. HOLLAND, *Plutarch*, 85. All that ever he did was not worth so much as the TWITTLE-TWATTLE that he maketh.

1660. LESTRANGE, *Quevedo.* Insipid TWITTLETWATTLES, frothy jests, and jingling witticisms, inure us to a misunderstanding of things.

1660. *Rump Songs.* Next come those idle TWITTLE-TWATS, Which calls me many God-knows-whats.

**TWITTOC,** *adj.* (Old Cant).—Two (GROSE).

**TWO,** *adj.* (old colloquial).—Doubly: *e.g.* TWO FOOLS=twice foolish; TWO KNAVES=doubly knavish.

1571. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pithias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), i. 176]. A varlet died in graine, You lose money by him, if you sell him for one knave, For he serves for TWAINE.

[1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*, iii. 1. I am but a fool, look you; and yet I have the wit to think my master is a kind of knave; but that's all one, if he be but one knave.]

*c.* 1625. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, ii. 1. I grieve to find You are a fool, and an old fool, and that's TWO.

*d.* 1631. DONNE, *Works* (BELL), ii. 16. I am TWO FOOLS, I know, For loving, and for saying so In whining poetry.

TWO THIEVES BEATING A ROGUE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A man's arms when beating his sides for warmth; BEATING THE BOOBY (*q.v.*), CUFFING JONES (*q.v.*) (GROSE).

*See* BOW.

**TWO-BACKED BEAST,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—Two persons piled in the act: *see* BEAST.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. iii. These two did often do the TWO-BACKED BEAST together . . . in so far that at last she became great with child.

**TWOER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A florin; (2) a hansom cab.

**TWO-EYED STEAK,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A bloater: *see* GLASGOW MAGISTRATE.

**TWOFER,** *subs.* (common).—A wanton, a harlot: *see* TART.

**TWO FIVES (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The second battalion Border Regiment, formerly the 55th Foot.

**TWO-FOOT RULE,** *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—A fool: *see* BUFFLE.

**TWO FOURS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The first battalion Essex Regiment, late the 44th Foot.

**TWO-HANDED,** *adj. phr.* (old).—1. Great: spec. of a strapping fellow or wench (GROSE). Also (2) expert with the 'dukes' (boxing).

**TWO-HANDED GAME,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A matter in which the chances of success are equal or nearly so: *e.g.* 'I'll dust your jacket for you,' 'Well, that's a TWO-HANDED GAME.'

**TWO-HANDED PUT,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—The act of kind: *see* GREENS and RIDE (GROSE).

**TWO-LEGGED CAT (FOX,** etc.), *subs. phr.* (common).—A thief: usually as a retort to 'The cat had it,'—'A TWO-LEGGED CAT, then.'

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, v. 2. Thy neighbour's hens thou takest, and plays the TWO-LEGGED FOX.

**TWO-LEGGED TREE,** *subs. phr.* (common).—The gallows: *see* NUBBING-CHEAT.

**TWO-LEGGED TYMPANY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A baby; spec. a bastard. [TYMPANY = DROPSY (*q.v.*).] Hence to have a TWO-LEGGED TYMPANY=to be got with child (RAY).

**TWO-NICK,** *subs.* (printers').—A girl baby: *cf.* ONE-NICK.

**TWOPENCE** (or **TUPPENCE**). *See* DONKEY and PENNY.

**TWOPENNY**, *subs.* (old).—1. Beer; sold at 2d. a quart: *cf.* FOURPENNY, etc.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker*, ii. 69. When the Lowlanders want to drink a chearupping cup, they go to the public-house called the change-house, and call for a chopin of TWOPENNY, which is a thin yeasty beverage made of malt, not quite so strong as the table-beer of England.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, cxlii. There are many things in these kingdoms which are greatly undervalued; strong beer for example in the cider countries, and cider in the countries of good strong beer; bottled TWOPENNY in South Britain, sprats and herrings by the rich.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, iv. 122. [Pale ale] was principally consumed by the gentry; the victualler sold it at 4d. the quart, under the name of TWOPENNY.

2. (common).—The head: also TUPPENNY. 'Tuck in your TUPPENNY'=(1) an injunction to 'make a back' at leap-frog; and (2) to desist.

*c.* 1888. *Music Hall Song*, 'Lord Mayor's Coachman.' 'Why, you're going into Newgate Street,' the Lord Mayor bawls, But John said 'TUCK YOUR TWOPENNY IN—I'm going around St. Paul's.'

3. (London).—An intermediary between pawnbroker and client; a professional pawner: the usual fee being twopence.

*Adj.* (old).—Mean; of little value: as only costing TWOPENCE: also (modern) TWOPENNY-HALFPENNY.

*c.* 1485. *Paston Letters*, 144. [A grave-cloth] not worth IId.

1872. ELIOT, *Middlemarch*, I. iii. He thinks a whole world of which my thought is but a poor TWOPENNY mirror.

1884. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 17 July. The moderate TWOPENNY-HALFPENNY Redistribution Bill which Mr. Gladstone intends to introduce.

**TWOPENNY DAMN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A variant of RAP, STRAW, CURSE, TINKER'S CURSE (or DAMN), and many others. Tradition asserts that Wellington once said he did not care a TWOPENNY DAMN what became of the ashes of Napoleon Buonaparte.

2. (literary).—*The Twopenny Damn*=The St. James's Gazette: on account of its strong language concerning Mr. Gladstone and the 'latter-day Radicals.'

**TWOPENNY-HOP**, *subs. phr.* (? obsolete).—A cheap dance. [HOTTEN: The price of admission was formerly twopence: the clog hornpipe, the pipe dance, flash jigs, and hornpipes in fetters, *à la* Jack Sheppard, were the favourite movements, all entered into with great spirit.]

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* The girl is invited to 'raffles,' and treated to TWOPENNY HOPS and half-pints of beer.

**TWOPENNY-ROPE**, *subs. phr.* (tramps').—A lodging-house: one in which the charge is (or was) twopence: sacking stretched on ropes served as a shakedown. TO HAVE TWOPENN'ORTH OF ROPE=to 'doss down' in such a place: Fr. *coucher à la corde.*

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*. 'The TWOPENNY ROPE, sir,' replied Mr. Weller, 'is just a cheap lodgin'-house. . . . At six o'clock every mornin', they lets go the ropes at one end, and down falls all the lodgers.'

**TWOPENNY-WARD**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Part of a prison was formerly so called.

1605. JONSON, *Eastward Ho*, v. 1. He lies i' the TWOPENNY WARD.

**TWO-PIPE SCATTERGUN**, *subs. phr.* (American).—A double-barrelled rifle.

1885. PHILLIPPS-WOLLEY, *Trottings of a Tenderfoot.* 'Oh, durn your rifles!' said an old settler to me. 'Give me a TWO-PIPE SCATTER-GUN and a spike-tailed smell-damp and I'm fixed.'

**TWO SEVENS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The second battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment, late the 77th Foot.

**TWO-SHOES,** *subs. phr.* (nursery).—A little girl: an endearment, usually 'little TWO-SHOES' (*cf.* GOODY TWO-SHOES=a kind of fairy god-mother).

1858. ELIOT, *Mr Gilfil's Love Story*, i. He delighted to tell the young shavers and TWO-SHOES . . . whenever he put pennies into [his pocket] they turned into sugar-plums or gingerbread.

**TWO SIXES (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The second battalion Princess Charlotte of Wales's Royal Berkshire Regiment, late the 66th Foot.

**TWO TENS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military). — The Lancashire Fusiliers, late the 20th Foot.

**TWO-TWOS,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A moment; the shortest imaginable space of time; in a twinkling.

THE TWO TWOS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Cheshire Regiment, late the 22nd Foot.

**TWOSTER.** *See* TWIST.

**TWO-TO-ONE SHOP,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A pawnbroker's; UNCLE'S (*q.v.*). [GROSE: 'alluding to the three blue balls, the sign of that trade; or perhaps to its being TWO TO ONE that the goods pledged are never redeemed.']

**TWO UPON TEN (or TWO PUN' TEN),** *phr.* (HOTTEN).—An expression used by assistants to each other, in shops, when a customer of suspected honesty makes his appearance. The phrase refers to 'two eyes upon ten fingers,' shortened as a money term to TWO PUN' TEN. When a supposed thief is present, one shopman asks the other if that TWO PUN' (pound) TEN matter was ever settled. The man knows at once what is meant, and keeps a careful watch upon the person being served. If it is not convenient to speak, a piece of paper is handed to the same assistant, bearing the, to him, very significant amount of £2, 10s. *Cf.* SHARP, JOHN ORDERLY.

**TWUG,** *ppl. adj.* (Harrow).—Caught: *i.e.* the past ppl. of TWIG (*q.v.*).

**TWYFORD.** MY NAME IS TWYFORD, *phr.* (old). — 'I know nothing of the matter' (RAY): *cf.* Sp. *No se nada, de me vinas vengo* (a reply to an inconvenient question, or when nothing is wished to be known of a matter: lit. 'I have been absent at my vineyard).'

**TYBURN,** *subs.* (old).—The place of execution for Middlesex to 1783: after which the death penalty was enforced at Newgate till the demolition of the prison in 1903. The Tyburn gallows stood in the angle formed by the Edgware Road and Oxford Street. In 1778 this was two miles out of London. Hence TYBURN-BLOSSOM=a young thief: 'who in time will ripen into fruit borne by the deadly never-green' (GROSE); TYBURN-CHECK (PICKADILL, TIFFANY, or TIPPET)=a rope, a halter: TYBURN-TIPPET, 'rather obsolete in 1822' (EGAN); TYBURN-FAIR (-JIG, -SHOW, or

-STRETCH) = a hanging; TYBURN-FACE = a hangdog look; TYBURN-TICKET = an exemption (under 10 & 11 Will. III., c. 23, § 2) to prosecutors who had secured a capital conviction: it released 'from all manner of parish and ward offices within the parish wherein such felony was committed': the Act was repealed in 1818: TYBURN-TICKETS were transferable, and often sold for a high price [*see Notes and Queries* (2nd ser., xi. 395, 437)]; TYBURN-TREE = the gallows; TO PREACH AT TYBURN-CROSS (FETCH A TYBURN STRETCH, DANCE A TYBURN HORNPIPE ON NOTHING, THE PADDINGTON-FRISK, etc.) = to be hanged; TYBURN-SPECTACLES = the cap pulled over the face of a criminal before execution; and so forth. *See* LADDER and TREE.

[1377. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, [E.E.T.S.], 115. Here occurs a reference to the hangman of TYBORNE.]

*c.* 1515. *Cocke Lorell's B.* (Percy Soc.), 11. TYBURNE COLLOPES and penny pryckers.

1549. LATIMER, *Sermons before Edward VI.*, ii. He should have had a TYBURN TIPPET, a halfpenny halter, and all such proud prelates. *Ibid.*, 5 f. 63 b. There lacks a fourth thing to make up the messe which, so God help me, if I were judge, should be hangum tuum, a TYBURNE TIPPET to take with him.

1557. TUSSER, *Husbandrie*, 214. Where cocking dads make sawsie lads, In youth so rage to begin age, Or else to fetch a TIBOURNE STRETCH, Among the rest.

1576. GASCOIGNE, *Steele Glas*, 55 That soldiours sterve or PRECHE AT TIBORNE CROSSE.

1613. ROWLANDS, *Knave of Hearts*. Never regarding hangman's feare, Till TYBURN-TIFFANY he weare.

1630. TAYLOR, *Praise of Hempseed*. Till they put on a TYBURNE-PICKADILL.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, ii. vii. Has he not a rogue's face . . . a damned TYBURN FACE without the benefit o' the clergy?

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, ii. 2. Which is best, Mr. Nimblewrist, an easy minuet, or a TYBURN-JIG?

1727. GAY, *Beggar's Opera*. Since laws were made for every degree, To curb vice in others as well as in me, I wonder we ha'nt better company 'Neath TYBURN TREE.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxxii. The cove . . . is as pretty a TYBURN BLOSSOM as ever was brought up to ride a horse foaled by an acorn.

1861. *Notes and Queries*, 2 S. xi. 395. Last week, says the *Stamford Mercury* of March 27, 1818, a TYBURN-TICKET was sold in Manchester for 280*l.*

1892. SYDNEY, *England and English*, ii. 285. An execution-day at Tyburn was considered, to all intents and purposes, by the lower classes, as a holiday. TYBURN FAIR was one of the designations by which [it] was known. A 'hanging-match' was another.

1903. HYNE, *Filibusters*, i. There's no consolation prize to look for, except a platoon, or a cable of hempen tow, and a TREE.

**TYBURNIA**, *subs.* (obsolete). — A name given, about the middle of the nineteenth century, to the district lying between Edgware Road and Westbourne and Gloucester Terraces and Craven Hill, and bounded on the south by the Bayswater Road, and subsequently including (HOTTEN) the Portman and Grosvenor Square district: facetiously divided by Londoners into 'Tyburnia Felix,' 'Tyburnia Deserta,' and 'Tyburnia Snobbica': it soon fell into disuse. [From a brook called *Tyburn* (properly The Eye bourn), which flowed down from Hampstead into the Thames.]

**TYE** (or **TIE**), *subs.* (old: now recognised).—A neckcloth (GROSE). [HOTTEN (1864): Proper hosiers' term now, but slang thirty years ago, and as early as 1718.]

**TYG,** *subs.* (old and University).—A three-handled TYG, a drinking cup so handled that three different persons, drinking out of it, and each using a separate handle, brought their mouths to different parts of the rim. The name is still applied in Oxford to an ordinary round pot with three handles, much used for cups, etc.

**TYKE.** *See* **TIKE.**

**TYLER.** *See* ADAM TILER.

**TYMPANY,** *subs.* (colloquial).—Conceit, bombast; properly a species of dropsy in which the belly is stretched tight like a drum.

1610. HALL, *Short Answer*, Pref. In the first leaf of my defence, I foretold you so much; as finding nothing in that swollen bulk, but a meer unsound TYMPANIE, instead of a truly solid conception.

TWO-LEGGED TYMPANY, *subs. phr.* (old).—A baby; spec. a bastard: *see* supra. Hence TO BE CURED OF A TYMPANY WITH TWO HEELS=to be brought to bed; *cf.* 'a dropsy that will drop into the lap.'

**TYPO,** *subs.* (printers').—A compositor. Also TYPE-LIFTER (or -SLINGER) = an expert comp.: sometimes in contempt = a slovenly workman.

**TZING-TZING,** *adj.* (common).—Excellent, A1: obsolete.

# 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

JOHN S. FARMER & W. E. HENLEY

VOL. VII.—PART III.

[COMPLETING THE DICTIONARY.]

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MCMIV.

GLY, *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. An ugly person: also in contemptuous address, 'Hallo, UGLY!' MR. UGLY, etc.

*d.* 1797. WALPOLE, *Letters*, II. 422. There were all the beauties and all the diamonds, and not a few of the UGLIES of London.

2. (old). — A bonnet shade: worn by women as an extra protection from the sun: middle 19th century.

1851. THACKERAY, *Kickleburys on the Rhine.* She and her sisters wore a couple of those blue silk over-bonnets, which have lately become the fashion. . . . 'We call those hoods UGLIES.'

3. (common). — In *pl.* = delirium tremens; the HORRORS (*q.v.*).

4. (provincial).—A beating, a round of abuse (HALLIWELL).

*Adj.* (colloquial).—Generic for disquiet or unpleasantness: *e.g.* an UGLY (=threatening) TONE; an UGLY (=dangerous) WOUND; an UGLY (=unpleasant) RUMOUR; an UGLY (=wrong) TURN; UGLY (=stormy) WEATHER; an UGLY (=awkward or malicious) CUSTOMER, OPPONENT; a source of danger, etc.; an UGLY (=troublesome) COUGH; an UGLY (=ill-natured) TEMPER; an UGLY (=quarrelsome) ATTITUDE. Hence TO COME THE UGLY=to threaten; TO CUT UP (or LOOK) UGLY=to show anger or resentment; TO CALL BY UGLY NAMES=to revile or abuse. Also UGLINESS (American) = ill-nature, crossness, perversity.

*c.* 1360. *Alliterative Poems* [E.E.T.S.], 64. Thay wern wakened al wrank that therein won lenged, Of on the VGLOKEST vnhap that euer on erd suffred.

1859. KENDALL, *Santa Fé*, I. 133. The questions of the spies were answered in a sullen, swaggering manner; so much so that Captain Caldwell at once remarked to his men, in a low tone and in English, that these fellows LOOKED UGLY and fighty.

*c.* 1865. HOLMES, *At the Pantomime.* The grisly story Chaucer told, And many an UGLY TALE beside.

1867. *Harper's Mag.*, XXXV. 341. It was as UGLY a little promenade as I ever undertook.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 196. He was jest the crossest, UGLIEST critter that ever ye see, an' he was UGLY jest for the sake o' UGLINESS.

1870. WEATHERLEY, *Lamplighter*, 110. I'll not answer her back when she's UGLY to me.

1880. STEVENSON, *Will o' the Mill.* An UGLY THRILL spread from the spot he touched.

1887. *Field*, 24 Sep. There is an UGLY RUMOUR afloat that certain bookmakers who had laid heavily are directly responsible for Monday's outbreak.

18[?]. J. BROWN, *Rab and His Friends*, 6. He must have been a hard hitter if he boxed as he preached—what 'The Fancy' would call an UGLY CUSTOMER.

*See* PLUG-UGLY.

**UGLYMAN,** *subs. phr.* (thieves'). In garrotting the actual perpetrator of the outrage: his operations are covered in front by the FORESTALL (*q.v.*), and in the rear by the BACKSTALL (*q.v.*): also NASTY-MAN: *see* STALE.

**UHLAN,** *subs.* (tailors').—A tramp.

**ULLAGE,** *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* =drainings, dregs of glasses or casks. [Properly the wantage in a cask of liquor.]

**ULTIMATE FAVOUR (THE),** *subs. phr.* (venery).—The surrender, by a woman, of her person; also THE LAST FAVOUR.

1694. CROWNE, *Married Beau*, ii. I own common favours: that's no matter, But if she ever grants me the LAST FAVOUR,—I give her leave to cast me off for ever.

**ULTRAMARINE,** *adj.* (common).—BLUE (*q.v.*).

**ULTRAY,** *adv.* (colloquial).—Very: a corruption of 'ultra.'

**UMPIRE.** HOW'S THAT, UMPIRE? *phr.* (common).—What do you say to that? How's that for high? What price? [An echo of football and cricket.]

**UMBLE-PIE.** *See* HUMBLE-PIE.

**UN-,** *prefix* (old). *See* BETTY; DUB; PAL; SLOUR; THIMBLE, etc. [A negation.]

**UNBAKED,** *adj.* (old).—Immature: *cf.* HARD-BAKED.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, iv. 5. All the UNBAKED and doughy youth of a nation.

1625. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, ii. 2. Songs she may have, And read a little UNBAK'D poetry.

**UNBEKNOWN (or UNBEKNOWNST),** *adj.* (once literary: now colloquial or vulgar).—Unknown.

*d.* 1665. GODWIN, *Works*, III. 372. The same secret instinct . . . to sympathize . . . in praying for such a thing UNBEKNOWN to one another.

1800. PEGGE, *Anec. Eng. Lang.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 199. There are wrong forms in London use, as UNBEKNOWN . . . he knowed . . . they cotch].

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxiv. I was there UNBEKNOWN to Mrs. Bardell.

1879. PHELPS, *Sealed Orders* [*Century*]. So by and by I creep up softly to my own little room . . . UNBEKNOWNST to most.

**UNBLEACHED AMERICAN,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A negro; SNOWBALL (*q.v.*). [An echo of mock Northern sentiment during the War of the Secession.]

**UNCERTAINTY,** *subs.* (printers').—A girl baby: *cf.* CERTAINTY=a boy.

**UNCLE,** *subs.* (common).—1. A pawnbroker (GROSE): Fr. *tante.* [*Cf.* UNCLE=a mythical rich relative.]

[1607. DEKKER, *Northward Ho*, i. 2. Fourscore pounds draws deep . . . I'll step to my UNCLE not far off . . . and he shall bail me.]

1828. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg*. Brothers, wardens of City Halls, And UNCLES, rich as three golden balls From taking pledges of nations.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, i. We find him making constant reference to an UNCLE, in respect of whom he would seem to have entertained great expectations, as he was in the habit of seeking to propitiate his favour by presents of plate, jewels, books, watches, and other valuable articles.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xii. 'Dine in your frock, my good friend, and welcome, if your dress-coat is in the country.' 'It is at present at an UNCLE's,' Mr. Bayham said with great gravity.

1891. *Harry Fludyer at Cambridge*, iii. For instance, when your aunt Sophia was with us last week it kept on yelling something about 'the pop-shop round the corner, and paying your UNCLE a visit.'

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 37. It's cold enough to freeze the golden balls off UNCLE'S door.

1901. *D. Telegraph*, 28 Oct., 11. 5. A pawnbroker stated that his name was 'Uncle.' *Mr. Fordham:* Baptismal or paternal? *Witness:* It is my surname. *Mr. Fordham:* And it could not have been more appropriate to your calling.

2. (American).—A familiar address: spec. of an old worthy negro: *cf.* AUNT. [PEGGE: the Cornish apply aunt and UNCLE to all elderly persons (p. 301).]

1852. STOWE, UNCLE *Tom's Cabin* [Title].

1876. BONNER, *Dialect Tales*, 121. From the darkey settlement . . . queer old aunties and UNCLES hobbled out to milk them.

YOUR UNCLE, *phr.* (common).—Myself: *e.g.* Your UNCLE'S the man to do it, *i.e.* 'I'll do it for you.'

PHRASE. 'If my aunt had been a man she'd have been my UNCLE' (RAY), in derision of those who make ridiculous surmises: *see* MAN.

*See* DUTCH UNCLE.

**UNCLE SAM**, *phr.* (American).—A humorous personification of the Government or people of the U[nited] S[tates]: *cf.* JOHN BULL. [Usually supposed to date back to the war of 1812.]

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, 127. She was called the Catalina, and like all the other vessels in that trade . . . her papers and colours were from UNCLE SAM.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*. For I have loved my country since My eye-teeth filled their sockets, And UNCLE SAM I reverence, Partic'larly his pockets.

**UNCOMMON**, *adv.* (vulgar).—Very; exceedingly: *e.g.* UNCOMMON bitter; UNCOMMON cheap, etc.

**UNCONSCIONABLE**, *adv.* (old colloquial).—Enormous, vast, very. [JOHNSON: 'a low word.']

1849. ROBB, *Squatter Life* [BARTLETT]. 'That's an UNCONSCIONABLE slick gal of your'n,' says I; and it did tickle his fancy to have her cracked up, 'cause he thought her creation's finishin' touch,—so did I!

**UNCORK**, *verb.* (American).—To expose to view, to set forth, to cause to flow out: as when a cork is removed from a bottle: *e.g.* 'UNCORK the swag' (thieves')='Unlock the bag'; 'UNCORK your clack'=speak out!

**UNCOUTH, UNKISSED**, *phr.* (old).—A proverbial allusion to the custom of saluting friends and acquaintances at meeting, but not unintroduced strangers (NARES): also (HEYWOOD) UNKNOWN, UNKISSED.

1566. HEYWOOD, *Poems*, D4. UNKNOWNE, UNKIST; it is lost that is unsought.

1588–90. *Mar. Martine* [*Cens. Lit.*, ix. 59]. Thou caytif kerne, UNCOUTH thou art, UNKIST thou eke sal bee.

1627. HAWKINS, *Apollo Shroving*, D. 6b. He cannot be so uncivill as to intrude, unbid, UNCOOTH, UNKIST.

**UNCTION.** *See* BLUE-UNCTION.

**UNCULAR**, *adj.* (old).—Of or relating to an uncle: *cf.* AVUNCULAR.

*d.* 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Spanish Nun*, vi. His UNCULAR and rather angular breast.

**UNDER**, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* =the female privities. TO LIE UNDER (of women)=to SPREAD (*q.v.*).

TO GO UNDER, *verb. phr.* (common).—1. To die: whence the UNDER-SIDE = the grave.

18[?]. *Hawkeye, the Iowa Chief*, 210. Poor Hawkeye felt, says one of his biographers, that his time had come, and knowing that he must GO UNDER sooner or later, he determined to sell his life dearly.

1849. RUXTON, *Far West*, 2. Them three's all GONE UNDER.

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, Mar. All . . . vowed to see that the mine should be worked . . . for the benefit of the girl whether Jim lived or had GONE UNDER.

1899. HYNE, *Furth. Adv. Captain Kettle*, vi. As sure as you are living now, you'll finish out on the UNDER SIDE then.

1902. HUME, *Crime of the Crystal*, i. Mother Bunch's GONE UNDER, I s'pose. She was making fast for Golden Jerusalem when I was a bud.

2. (common).—To become submerged in difficulty or debt, to be ruined, to disappear from society.

1879. PAYN, *High Spirits*, 'Finding his Level.' Poor John Weybridge, Esq., became as friendless as penniless, and eventually WENT UNDER and was heard of no more.

1890. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 29 May, 5. 1. He asks us further to state that the strike is completely at an end, the society having GONE UNDER.

UNDER A CLOUD, *adv. phr.* (old).—In difficulties or disgrace.

*c.* 1520. *Old Song of the Lady Bessy* [*Percy Soc.*], xx. 79. [A man in disgrace] comes UNDER A CLOWDE.

UNDER THE BELT, *phr.* (common).—In the stomach.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, xxxix. They got me down to Clerihugh's, and there we sat birling, till I had a fair tappit UNDER MY BELT.

*See* BELOW.

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 remayn UNDER THE ROSSE, 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.* 1707. *Old Song*, 'Praise of the Dairy Maid' [DURFEY, *Pills, etc.* (1707), 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.

1762. SNELLING, *Coins*, 2. The rose . . . symbol of secrecy . . . [was] used with great propriety on privy seals, which came into use about the middle of the twelfth century.

1821. LAMB, *Elia* (*Mrs. Battle*). All people have their blind side—their superstitions; and I have heard her declare, UNDER THE ROSE, that Hearts was her favourite suit.

1868. OUIDA, *Under Two Flags*, iv. All great ladies gamble in stock nowadays UNDER THE ROSE.

1892. NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, 37. I no longer wondered that he should have quitted England UNDER THE ROSE.

**UNDER-DUBBER (or -DUBSMAN).**—A warder other than a chief in command (GROSE): *see* DUBBER and DUBSMAN.

**UNDERFELLOW,** *subs.* (old).—A mean wretch; SNIDE (*q.v.*): *see* SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, ii.

**UNDERGEAR,** *subs.* (American).—Underclothing.

**UNDERGRAD,** *subs.* (University).—1. An undergraduate.

2. (racing).—A horse in training for steeplechasing or hunting.

**UNDERGROUND-RAILWAY,** *subs. phr.* (American).—An organization for assisting fugitive slaves to the free states and Canada. Many expedients and devices for the purpose were in vogue during the agitation for the abolition of slavery in the United States.

1856. STOWE *Dred*, ii. 302. It is probable that nothing has awakened more bitterly the animosity of the slave-holding community than the existence, in the Northern States, of an indefinite yet very energetic institution, known as the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.

1857. *Albany Ev. Jo.*, Dec. And now, if we may believe the promises made by the Democrats for two years past, we are on the eve of a political millennium. . . . There is to be no more 'agitation' of the slavery question. The UNDERGROUND RAILROAD is to suspend running, and rejoicing hosts of Negroes are to return from the bleak wilds of Canada to the luxurious delights of life on the plantation.

1858. *New York Tribune*, June. He [Connelly] regarded the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD as a peculiarly Southern institution, taking away from the South every year thousands of the most intelligent, restless, and desperate Negroes, who would do infinitely more mischief if kept there.

**UNDERGROUNDER,** *subs.* (cricket).—A ball bowled without pitch, a DAISY-CUTTER (or -TRIMMER), SNEAK (*q.v.*).

**UNDER-PETTICOATING** (TO GO), *verb. phr.* (venery).—To whore, to quest for women, to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

**UNDERPINNER,** *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = the legs: *cf.* PINS.

**UNDER-SHELL,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A waistcoat: *cf.* UPPER-SHELL and UPPER-STOCKS.

**UNDER-SPUR-LEATHER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An underling, a subservient person.

*d.* 1725. J. JOHNSON, *Unbl. Sacr.*, Pref. xxx. A design was publickly set on foot, to dissolve the Catholic church into numberless clans and clubs; and to degrade priests into meer tenders, or UNDER-SPUR-LEATHERS to those clans and clubs.

**UNDER-STAIR,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Subordinate, low, mean: *cf.* BACK-DOOR.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, i. 500. Living in some UNDER-STAIR office, when he would visit the country, he borrows some gallant's cast suit of his servant, and therein, player-like, acts that part among his besotted neighbours.

**UNDERSTANDING,** *subs.* (common).—(1) In *pl.* = the legs: *cf.* UNDERPINNERS. Also (2) = boots or shoes.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, iii. 1. 80. *Sir To.* Taste your legs, sir; put them to motion. *Vio.* My legs do better UNDERSTAND me, sir, than I UNDERSTAND what you mean by bidding me taste my legs.

1886. *Field*, 20 Mar. Economy's UNDERSTANDINGS having given way soon after, he knew the silk no more.

**UNDERSTUMBLE,** *verb.* (old).—To understand: also UNDERCOME-STUMBLE.

*c.* 1710. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, i. *Miss.* I UNDERSTUMBLE you, gentlemen, *Nev.* Madam, your humblecumdumble.

**UNDISGRUNTLED.** *See* DISGRUNTLED.

**UNFORTUNATE,** *subs.* (conventional).—A prostitute: spec. a homeless street-walker (GROSE). [Probably, in the first place, the popular usage arose from a misreading of Hood's lines.]

[1827. HOOD, *Bridge of Sighs.* One more UNFORTUNATE, Weary of breath, Rashly importunate, Gone to her death.]

1877. MALLOCK, *New Republic*, III. ii. Hoping I might see some UNFORTUNATE cast herself from the Bridge of Sighs.

**UNGUENTUM-AURUM,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A bribe, PALM-GREASE (*q.v.*).—GROSE.

**UNHINTABLES.** *See* UNMENTIONABLES.

**UNICORN,** *subs.* (orig. University).—1. A team of horses: two wheelers abreast with a leader in front (GROSE); and (2) such a TURNOUT (*q.v.*), a SPIKE-TEAM (American): *cf.* FOUR-IN-HAND, MANCHESTER, SUDDEN DEATH, TANDEM, etc.

1803. EDGEWORTH, *Belinda*, xvii. 'Let me drive you out some day in my UNICORN. . . . Bid my blockhead bring my UNICORN.' She, her UNICORN, and her blockhead were out of sight in a few minutes.

2. (old Scots).—A gold coin, value 23 shillings Scotch: *temp.* James III., IV. and V.: a unicorn figured on the obverse.

3. (thieves').—Two men and a woman (or *vice versâ*), working together.

**UNIV,** *subs.* (Oxford University).—University College.

**UNIVERSAL-STAIRCASE,** *subs. phr.* (thieves'). — The treadmill, WHEEL OF LIFE (*q.v.*): also EVERLASTING-STAIRCASE (*q.v.*).

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* Well, the beaks got up to the dodge, and all the Spanish lurksmen in their turns got to work the UNIVERSAL STAIRCASE.

**UNLICKED CUB** (or **CUB**), *subs. phr.* (common).—A raw, unmannerly youth; an uncultivated boor; also an awkward, sulky girl (GROSE). As *adj.* = ungainly, rough, rude. [A popular notion was that a bear gave birth to shapeless lumps of flesh which she licked into shape.] Also UNLICKED BEAR.

[1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. 167. O thou dissembling CUB what wilt thou be When time has sow'd a grizzle on thy case.]

1626. FLETCHER, *Fair Maid of the Inn*, iii. Thou UNLICKT BEAR, dar'st thou yet stand by my fury.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, iv. 8. A country squire, with . . . a wife and two daughters . . . oh, Gad! two such UNLICKED CUBS.

1762. FOOTE, *Liar*, II. ii. I don't reckon much upon him: for you know, my dear, what can I do with an awkward, raw, college CUB?

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, iv. 1. 'A poor contemptible booby that would but disgrace correction.' . . . 'An insensible CUB.'

1880. TROLLOPE, *Duke's Children*, ix. And Tommy, you are an uncivil young,—young,—young,—I should say CUB if I dared, to tell me that you don't like dining with me any day of the week.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxix. I don't see why that infernal young CUB of a Clive is always meddling in our affairs.

**UNLOAD,** *verb.* (American commercial).—To sell stocks, shares, goods, etc., that have been held on speculation. Also to empty one's pockets.

1888. *D. Teleg.*, 6 Jan. There being some pressure to UNLOAD.

**UNLOCK.** UNLOCK THE LANDS, *verb. phr.* (Victorian).—A political cry calling for the opening up for free-selection of lands held by squatters on lease.

1887. J. F. HOGAN, *The Irish in Australia*, 290. The democratic party, that had for its watchword the expressive phrase, 'UNLOCK THE LANDS.'

**UNLOCKED.** TO HAVE BEEN SITTING IN THE GARDEN WITH THE GATE UNLOCKED, *verb. phr.* (venery). — 1. To be got with child: spec. of a bastard; and (2) to have 'caught cold.'

**UNMENTIONABLE,** *subs.* (common). —In *pl.* = trousers, breeches. Variants, mostly introduced by Dickens, are—INEFFABLES; INEXPRESSIBLES; INDESCRIBABLES; INEXPLICABLES; UNHINTABLES; UNUTTERABLES; UNWHISPERABLES, etc.

1837. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz* (Shabby-Genteel People). The knees of the UNMENTIONABLES, and the elbows of the coat, and the seams generally, soon began to get alarmingly white.

1885. *Field*, 19 Dec. Fishing stockings full of water, UNMENTIONABLES ditto.

[1903. *Globe*, 24 Oct., 1. 3. Bifurcated UNWHISPERABLES offer no resistance to the wind. To the woman, the skirt is not only a hampering garment; it is a sail against which the wind blows.]

**UNPALLED,** *adj.* (old). — A thief whose associates are all apprehended, or taken from him by other means, is said to be UNPALLED, and he is then obliged to work single-handed.

**UNPARLIAMENTARY,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Abusive, obscene, unfit for ordinary conversation.

**UNPAVED,** *adj.* (venery).—1. Castrated; STONED (*see* STONES).

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Cymbeline*, ii. 3. 34. The voice of UNPAVED eunuch.

2. (common). — Rough; inflamed: spec. from excessive drinking.

**UNREADY,** *verb.* (old colloquial).—To undress: as *adj.* = undressed, naked.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, 379. Hee remayned with his daughter, to give his wife time of UNREADYING herself.

1589. PUTTENHAM, *Art Eng. Poesie*, B. iii. 18. A young gentlewoman, who was in her chamber, MAKING HERSELF UNREADY.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry VI.*, ii. 1. [*Enter, several ways, Bastard, Alencon, Reignier, half*-READY, *and half*-UNREADY.] . . . How now, my lords, what all UNREADY so?

1606. CHAPMAN, *Mons. d'Olive*, v. Why I hope you are not going to bed; I see you are not yet UNREADY. *Ibid.* (1607), *Bussy D'Ambois* [*Anc. Dr.*, iii. 277]. *Mont.* Good day, my love: what, up, and ready too? *Tam.* Both, my dear lord, not all this night made I Myself UNREADY, or could sleep a wink.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch*, iii. Take this warm napkin about your neck, sir, while I help to make you UNREADY.

1609. ARMIN, *Two Maids*, etc. 'Stage Direction.' [*Enter James*, UNREADY, in his night-cap, garterless.]

1621. FLETCHER, *Island Princess*, iii. Come, where have you been, wench? make me UNREADY, I slept but ill last night.

**UNREGENERATE CHICKEN-LIFTER,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A petty thief: *see* THIEF.

**UNRIG,** *verb.* (old colloquial).—To strip: *e.g.* 'UNRIG the drab' = pull the whore's clothes off (B. E. and GROSE); whence UNRIGGED = naked. Also (2) to plunder; and (3) 'of ships that are laid up' (B. E.).

1692. DRYDEN, *Juvenal*, xiv. Lest he should be stolen, or UNRIGG'D as Mars was.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, v. 1. *Bell* (in fanatic habit). I would UNRIG. *Set.* I attend you, sir.

**UNROVE.** UNROVE HIS LIFE LINE, *phr.* (nautical).—Said of a man who has died (CLARK RUSSELL).

**UNSLOUR,** *verb.* (old).—To unlock, unfasten, or unbutton: *see* SLOUR. [Speaking of a person whose coat is buttoned, so as to obstruct the access to his pockets,

the knucks will say to each other, the cove is SLOUR'D UP, we must UNSLOUR HIM to get at his kickseys.—GROSE.]

**UNSPEAKABLE,** *adj.* (colloquial).—A general intensive: extremely bad. Thus an UNSPEAKABLE (=outrageous) FOOL; an UNSPEAKABLE (='rotten') PLAY; the UNSPEAKABLE (=cruel) TURK. [A Carlyleism.]

1831. CARLYLE, *Miscell.* 'Nibelungen Lied.' That UNSPEAKABLE TURK, King Machabol. *Ibid.*, Letter to George Howard (24 Nov. 1876). The UNSPEAKABLE TURK should immediately be struck out of the question and the country left to honest European guidance.

**UNSWEETENED,** *subs.* (common).—Gin: *i.e.* unsweetened gin.

**UNTHIMBLE,** *verb.* (old).—TO UNTHIMBLE, to rob, or otherwise deprive a man of his watch. UNTHIMBLED, robbed of one's watch.

**UNTHRIFT,** *subs.* (old).—A prodigal, spendthrift, WASTEGOOD (*q.v.*).

1590. GOLDINGE, *Cæsar*, fol. 76. A great multitude of UNTHRIFTS and cut throtes.

. . . TAVERNER, *Adagies*, A. 8b. UNTHRYFTES do gather together with UNTHRIFTES, and good fellowes, with such as be good fellowes, and so forthe.

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in His Humour*, iii. 7. If he were an UNTHRIFT, a ruffian, a drunkard, or a licentious liver, then you had reason.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard II.*, ii. 3. My rights and royalties Pluck'd from my arms perforce, and given away To upstart UNTHRIFTS. *Ibid.* (1598), *Sonnets*, ix. Look, what an UNTHRIFT in the world doth spend, Shifts but his place, for still the world enjoys it.

**UNTO.** TO GO IN UNTO, *verb. phr.* (conventional). — To copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

**UNTRIMMED.** *See* TRIM.

**UNTWISTED,** *adj.* (old).—Undone, ruined (B. E. and GROSE).

**UNWASHED** (or **GREAT-UNWASHED**), *subs.* (common). — The mob, the rabble: orig. the artisan class. [First used by Burke, popularised by Scott.]

1889. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 18 Oct., 6. 2. Was it not time . . . that THE GREAT UNWASHED should declare that the great unpaid were no longer at liberty to oppress them?

1892. WATSON, *Wops the Waif*, III. iv. It is only when we have paid our 'tuppence' and ascended to the gallery just under the roof . . . that we begin to understand what is meant by the lowest classes, THE GREAT UNWASHED.

*Adj.* (old colloquial).—Vulgar, filthy. UNWASHED BAWDRY (B. E.)=rant, errant, fulsome, bawdry.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iv. 2. 201. Another lean, UNWASH'D artificer.

1605. JONSON, *Volpone*, Ded. Such foul and UNWASHED BAWDRY as is now made the food of the scene.

**UP,** *verb*, *adv.*, *prep.*, and *subs.* (old).—1. In various elliptical and colloquial senses. As *verb*, generic for action: *cf.* DOWN. Thus TO UP with one's fist, a stick, etc. = to raise the hand, etc., for striking a blow; TO UP with the standard=to bear aloft the flag; 'UP guards, and at 'em'= 'Stand and charge the enemy,' and so on. *Adverbially* in many connections: as (1) out of bed; (2) on one's legs (ready to speak); in the saddle; under repair (of streets); advanced in rank, position, value, etc.; in revolt, a commotion, or the like; in progress or taking place (as a hunt); adjourned, at an end (as a sitting

of the House), etc. Also a scoring-limit at billiards (500 or 1000 UP); recorded on the 'telegraph' at cricket (Grace 100 UP=a century of runs made). Also in numerous phrases and combinations, 'What's UP'?=What's the matter, or What's going on; UP TO (or IN)=well-equipped, equal to, conversant with (the law, mathematics, tricks of trade, etc.); ALL'S UP (or UP WITH)=everything is lost, ruin stares one in the face: frequently UP is spelt as, it's all 'U-P'; TO GO UP=(1) to travel to London, Paris, etc. (as the centre and focus of national life): specifically (University) to return to Oxford or Cambridge, the antithesis in this case being 'going down' to London, home, etc.; (2) to offer oneself for examination; TO HAVE (or PULL UP)=(1) to summons, arrest, or bring before a magistrate; and (2) to check a downward course (as of drink, dissipation, or the like); UP AND DOWN (*See* UP-AND-DOWN); TO COME UP WITH =to overtake, catch up; TO LOOK UP=to improve in health, credit, value; UP TO=about to do, occur, or in preparation; UP A TREE (or TREED)=(1) done for, ruined, (2)=in a difficulty, CORNERED (*q.v.*), and (3) drunk; also UP IN ONE'S HAT: *see* SCREWED; TO UP JIB (THE STICKS, or THE STAKES)=to pack up and go, to be off: *see* BUNK; TO UP AND DUST=to hurry up, move fast; UP TO SNUFF (SCENT, or THE ROPES)=KNOWING (*q.v.*), WIDE-AWAKE (*q.v.*), cunning, sharp (GROSE); UP TO THE KNOCKER (DOOR, NINES, A THING OR TWO, etc.)=good, capital, excellent; UP THE SPOUT=(1) in pawn, (2) imprisoned (GROSE); UP TO ONE'S EARS (ELBOWS, THE HILT, etc.)=overwhelmed; UP TO THE HUB=to the extreme point; TO LIVE UP TO BLUE CHINA=to spend up to, or more than, one's income; UP TO SAMPLE=of good quality, O.K. (*q.v.*); UP TO DICK =rich, generous, wise, quick, in good health, jolly, well-dressed: generic for the best; UP TO DICTIONARY=learned, UP TO THE GOSSIP (CACKLE, TRY-ON, etc.)=prepared for any attempt at imposition, roguery, or trickery (GROSE); UP TO SLUM (GROSE)= proficient in roguery, good as a TRADESMAN (*q.v.*); THAT'S UP AGAINST YOU=What do you say to that? That will knock the stuffing out of you; UP IN THE STIRRUPS=with plenty of money (GROSE).

1340. *Gamelyn* [SKEAT], 20. He UP WITH his staf.

1360. *Allit. Poems.* [E.E.T.S.]. [The excitement at Sodom is described, it is said that the] borough was all UP. *Ibid.*, 67. [Abraham was] UP in the morning.

1387. TREVISA [HIGDEN, *Lat. Chronicle*], iii. 297. He UP with a staf and smoot.

1399. LANGLAND, *Richard the Redeles* [E.E.T.S.], 474. Mysheff was UP.

1401. *Townley Myst.* (Camden Soc.), 221. UP with the tymbre.

*c.* 1430. *Destr. Troy* [E.E.T.S.], 7207. The tru VP, Agamynon the Grekys gedrit in the fild.

1528-37. *Letters on Suppression of the Monasteries* [Camden Soc.], 245. [An abbot talks of coming UPWARDS; that is UP to London.]

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Fran.*, 417. [Palsgrave says that] is my lorde UP [is a peculiar English phrase].

1550. UDAL, *Roister Doister* [ARBER], 13. UP to the harde eares in love

1592. MARLOWE, *Edward II.*, i. 4. 'Tis treason to be UP against the King.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Titus Andron.*, ii. 2. The hunt is UP. *Ibid.* (1594), *Lucrece*, 1277. When went . . . Tarquin from hence? Madame, ere I was UP, replied the maid. *Ibid.* (1597), *Richard III.*, v. 3, 7. UP with my tent there! Here will I lie to-night.

*c.* 1605. HEYWOOD, *If You Know not Me*, ii. You are all larkes this morning, VP with the sun: You are stirring earely.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Ho*, i. 3. *May.* Where is your mistress, villain? when went she abroad? *Pren.* . . . Why, as soon as she was UP, sir.

1608. ARMIN, *Nest of Ninnies* (1842), 43. He UPS and tels [him].

1611. *Bible*, Psalm xii. 6 (Psalter). I will UP, saith the Lord.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER, *Double Marriage*, v. 1. *Duke.* What, is the city UP?

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, ii. 14. The true bred-gamester UPS afresh, and then Falls to't again.

1639. MASSINGER, *Un. Combat*, ii. 1. Now my anger's UP.

*c.* 1650. COWLEY, *Chronicle*, iii. Till UP in Arms my Passions rose, And cast away her Yoke.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 61. UP with it, if it be but a gallon; it will ease your stomach.

1766. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, i. 82. She UPS with her brawny arm, and gave Susy a douse on the side of the head.

1799. SCOTT, *Gray Brother.* UP, UP, unhappy! haste, arise.

[?]. *Farmer's Old Wife* [CHILD, *Ballads*, viii. 258]. She UPS with her pattens and beat out their brains.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, II. 199. The Saint made a pause As uncertain, because He knew Nick is pretty well UP in the laws.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxvi. What are you UP to, old feller?

1848. THACKERAY, *Snobs*, xxi. He will scrape acquaintance with old Carabas before they make Ostend. . . . See, he is UP TO old Carabas already! I told you he would.

1849–61. MACAULAY, *History Eng.*, xvi. In twenty-four hours all Devonshire was UP.

1849. ROBB, *Squatter Life*, 31. 'Well, hoss, we expect you to be right co-chunk UP TO THE HUB on them thar questions, and pour it into the enemy in slashergaff style.'

1853. HALIBURTON, *Wise Saws*, 34. You mustn't wander away, and you mustn't declaim: if you do, their attention is off, the public see it, and you are UP A TREE.

1856. STOWE, *Dred*, I. 311. 'For my part,' said Abijah, grimly, 'if things was managed my way, I shouldn't commune with nobody that didn't believe in election UP TO THE HUB.'

1857. MACAULAY, *Goldsmith.* In his seventeenth year Oliver went UP to Trinity College, Dublin, as a sizar.

1863. JEAFFRESON, *Live it Down*, xxiv. I'll finish my cigar in the betting room and hear what's UP.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, xix. It was late, it is true, but on a May evening even country people keep UP till eight or nine o'clock.

1865. KINGSLEY, *Hillyars and Burtons*, xxviii. I made them UP STICK and take me home.

1866. BAKER, *Heart of Africa*, 259. I saw that it was ALL UP WITH our animals.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, Int. It was not so well for a lawyer to be over-honest, else he might not be UP TO other people's tricks.

1868. OUIDA, *Under two Flags*, v. UP TO every dodge on the cross that this iniquitous world could unfold.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 124. 'Here you are, you little minx. . . . What are you UP TO now?'

1869. BLACKMORE, *Lorna Doone*, lxviii. Before I knew what he was UP TO, [he] said, 'Arise, Sir John Rudd.'

1870. LE FANU, *Dragon Volant*, i. I was posting UP to Paris.

*d.* 1878. BRYANT, *Song of Marion's Men.* The woodland rings with laugh and shout, As if a hunt were UP.

*d.* 1879. CLIFFORD, *Lectures*, II. 137. If an astronomer, observing the sun, were to record the fact that at the moment when a sun-spot began to shrink there was a rap at his front-door, we should know that he was not UP TO his work.

1885. *Field*, 25 Sep. M'Lawlay . . . got down with a fine put, and stood again one UP. *Ibid.* (1886), 20 Feb. Having found it and used it, you must UP STICKS and away in a day or two.

1886. MACDONALD *What's Mine's Mine*, 283. Come, Mercy, you are UP TO a climb I'm sure.

1886. *Daily News*, 14 Oct. Streets that are UP.

1887. *Standard*, 18 Oct. When Fordham was UP those who were interested in a horse's success felt confident.

1892. KIPLING, *Barrack-room Ballads*. 'Tommy.' The publican 'e UP an' sez, 'We serve no Red-coats here.'

1898. WHITEING, *John Street*, viii. You don't know! You shouldn't argue if you ain't UP TO things like that. *Ibid.*, xxiii. 'WHAT'S UP now?' says my myte as was standing guard over me with a cutlash.

2. (Harrow).—In school. TO BE UP AT SECOND SCHOOL = to go to any one for work at 10 or 11 o'clock.

TO TIE UP, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To get with child, impregnate, SEW UP (*q.v.*). Also TO BE UP (or UP ONE'S FRILLS, or PETTICOATS) = to be piled in the act.

**UP-A-DAISA** (or **UPS-A-DAISY**), *intj.* (nursery).—Used in 'baby-jumping.'

**UP-AND-DOWN**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. Usually in *pl.* = the events of life, vicissitudes of fortune, alternate good and bad luck. As *adj.* = plain, downright, positive. As *adv.* = (1) thorough, completely, in every respect, DOWN TO THE GROUND (*q.v.*); (2) = bluntly, BRUTALLY (*q.v.*); and (3) = without favour, justly.

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus's Apophth.*, 324. He [Phocion] was euen Socrates VP AND DOWNE in this pointe and behalfe, that no man euer sawe hym either laughe or weepe.

1620. MIDDLETON, *Chaste Maid*, iii. 2. The mother's month, UP AND DOWN, UP AND DOWN.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Bee*, No. 3. Every man who . . . has had his UPS AND DOWNS in life . . . must have frequently experienced the truth of this doctrine.

*d.* 1797. WALPOLE, *Letters*, II. 464. A mixture . . . all UPS that should be DOWNS.

1857. LOCKER, *Piccadilly*. Life is chequer'd; a patchwork of smiles and of frowns; We value its UPS, let us muse on its DOWNS.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 240. Talk about coddling! it's little we get o' that, the way the Lord fixes things in this world. . . . He's pretty UP AND DOWN with us by all they tell us. *Ibid.*, 291. Miss Debby was a well-preserved, UP-AND-DOWN, positive, cheery, sprightly lady.

1884. MILLIKEN [*Punch*, 11 Oct.]. ''Arry at a Political Picnic.' Went to one on 'em yesterday, Charlie; a regular old UP AND DOWN lark.

UP AND DOWN PLACE, *subs. phr.* (tailors').—A shop where a cutter-out is expected to fill up his time sewing.

*See* UPS AND DOWNS, *post.*

**UPHILL**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—In *pl.* = dice loaded to cast high numbers: *cf.* LOWMEN (B. E. and GROSE).

*Adj.* (old colloquial).—Difficult, severe, AGAINST COLLAR (*q.v.*).—GROSE. Hence (2) = hampered.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*. What an UPHILL labour must it be to be a learner.

1881. STEVENSON, *Virginibus Puerisque*, iv. These will be UPHILL intimacies, without charm or freedom to the end.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 1 Sep. Our Government is engaged in a very UPHILL task.

**UPON**. *See* CROSS; SAY-SO; SIVVY; SQUARE; SNIB.

**UPPER**. DOWN ON ONE'S UPPERS, *phr.* (common).—Poor, HARD-UP (*q.v.*), BROKE (*q.v.*).

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 117. I'se been a moocher, an' now I's skatin' ON ME UPPERS.

1903. *Judy*, 9 Dec., 577. 1. 'Yes, that's bad enough! But what would you do if you were in my shoes?' 'Eh? Oh, then I should be fairly DOWN ON MY UPPERS.'

**UPPER-BEN (or UPPER-BENJAMIN),** *subs. phr.* (old).—A great coat (GROSE); also BENJY: orig. JOSEPH, but (HOTTEN) 'because of the preponderance of tailors named BENJAMIN, altered in deference to them.'

**UPPER-CRUST,** *subs. phr.* (pugilists').—The skin.

1832. EGAN, *Book of Sports.* Sam's nob had been in pepper alley, and his UPPER CRUST was rather changed.

2. *See* UPPER-TEN.

3. (common). — A hat: *see* GOLGOTHA.

**UPPER-HAND.** TO HAVE (HOLD, or GET) THE UPPER-HAND (FORTUNE, or WHIP-HAND), *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—To have (hold or get) at one's command, in one's power, lead, or under control; to have the day as one's own; to have full play or advantage.

1525. TYNDALE, *New Test*, [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 413. Orrmin's *oferrhannd* now becomes THE UPPER HANDE].

1613. FLETCHER, *Honest Man's Fortune*, i. 2. You HAVE THE UPPER FORTUNE of him.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 106. He challenged them to drink, and in every respect TOOK THE UPPER HAND.

1857–61. BUCKLE, *Hist. Civilization*, II. iii. The nobles thus attained THE UPPER HAND.

1886. STEVENSON, *Kidnapped*, 175. I was growing impatient to get back and have THE UPPER HAND of my uncle.

**UPPER-LIP.** TO KEEP A STIFF UPPER-LIP, *verb. phr.* (common).—To be courageous, self-reliant under difficulties, unflinching in quest.

1833. NEAL, *Down Easters*, ii. 15. KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP; no bones broke—don't I know?

1835. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 1st S. xxxii. He was well to do in the world once, CARRIED A STIFF UPPER LIP, and keered for no one.

1847. *Chronicles of Pineville*, 150. Tut, tut, major, KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP, and you'll bring him this time.

1850. STOWE, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, xii. I hope you keep up good heart, and are cheerful. Now, no sulks, ye see; KEEP A STIFF UPPER LIP, boys; do well by me, and I'll do well by you.

1899. WESTCOTT, *David Harum*, xvi. He's got a pretty STIFF UPPER LIP of his own, I reckon.

**UPPER-SHELL,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A coat: whence UNDER-SHELL=a waistcoat: *cf.* UPPER-STOCKS.

**UPPER - SIXPENNY,** *subs. phr.* (Eton). — A playing field: *see* SIXPENNY.

**UPPER - STOCK,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant). — In *pl.* = trunk hose, breeches: *see* KICKS.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Epigrams.* The UPPER-STOCKS be they stuft with silk or flocks.

**UPPER-STOREY (-LOFT, -WORKS,** etc.), *subs. phr.* (common).—The head, brain (GROSE). Hence UNFURNISHED (SOMETHING WRONG, or RATS) IN THE UPPER-STOREY =crazy, demented, ignorant, OFF ONE'S CHUMP (*q.v.*), drunk.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, vi. I'd have you take care of your UPPER WORKS. *Ibid.* (1771), *Humphry Clinker* (1900), i. 180. Which you imagine to be the new light of grace . . . I take to be a deceitful vapour glimmering through a CRACK IN YOUR UPPER STOREY.

1773. FOOTE, *Bankrupt.* [A man's head is called] his UPPER STOREY.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 50. We drank hard, and returned . . . in a pretty pickle, that is to say, so-so in THE UPPER STOREY. *Ibid.*, 87. Arsenia and Florimonde are not strong in their UPPER WORKS.

1890. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxx. 348. It knocked everything topsy-turvy in my UPPER STOREY.

**UPPER-TEN**, *subs. phr.* (common). —The aristocracy, landed gentry, world of fashion: also UPPER TEN THOUSAND, UPPER-TENDOM, and UPPER-CRUST. [Usually referred to N. P. Willis, and originally applied to the wealthy classes of New York as approximating that member.]

*c.* 1835. WILLIS, *Ephemera.* At present there is no distinction among the UPPER TEN THOUSAND of the city.

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché.* I want you to see Peel, Stanley, Graham, Shiel, Russell, Macaulay, old Joe, and so on. They are all UPPER CRUST here.

1848. LOWELL, *Fable for Critics.* Caring naught for what vengeance the mob has in store, Let that mob be the UPPER TEN THOUSAND or lower.

18[?]. *Doesticks*, 131 [BARTLETT]. At a ball for the benefit of the poor was a commingling of UPPERTENDOM with lower twentydom,—an avalanche of exclusiveness in a torrent of mobocracy.

18[?]. BUTLER, *Nothing to Wear.* Researches in some of the UPPER TEN districts Reveal the most painful and startling statistics.

1868. *Athenæum*, Nov., 719. To provide for the well-being of the children of affluent parents, our social reformers urge that the mothers of the UPPER TEN THOUSAND should put their nurseries under the control of a superior nurse.

1874. *Siliad*, viii. Yet much remains that stigmatize we must, And in our Siliad THE UPPER CRUST Will find some words to ponder carefully.

1877. DAVITT, *Prison Diary.* Most of these pseudo-aristocratic impostors had succeeded in obtaining admission to the stocking-knitting party, which, in consequence, became known among the rest of the prisoners as the 'UPPER TEN PUSH.'

1884. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii. 568. The favourite promenade of the UPPER TEN.

**UPPISH**, *adj.* (colloquial). — 1. Proud, arrogant, STUCK-UP (*q.v.*); 'rampant, crowing, full of money' (B. E. and GROSE); also (B. E.) = brisk. Whence UPPISHLY and UPPISHNESS. [JOHNSON: 'a low word.']

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, i. 154. Half-pay officers at the parade very UPPISH upon the death of the King of Spain.

1710. *Tatler*, 230. Other of that kidney are very UPPISH and alert upon't.

1710-13. SWIFT, *Jour. to Stella* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 150. Among the Adjectives is UPPISH, a new word objected to by Swift. *Ibid.*, ii. 151. He turns an Adjective into a verb; I'll UPPISH you, for he disliked this new phrase].

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 48. It seems daring to rail at informers, projectors, and officers was not UPPISH enough, but his Lordship must rise so high as daring to limit the power and revenue of the Crown.

1824. PEAKE, *Americans Abroad*, i. 1. You are but an underlin', tho' you are so UPPISH and twistical.

1839. MRS TROLLOPE, *Michael Armstrong*, iii. She is a bedridden woman, and ought to be in the workhouse; but she's UPISH, and can't abide it.

1880. STOCKTON, *Merry Chanter*, xvii. Americans are too UPPISH; but when you get hold of a man who is accustomed to being downtrodden, it's easy to keep him so.

1882. LOWELL, [*Century*, xxxv. 512]. I sometimes question whether that quality in [Landor] which we cannot but recognise and admire. his loftiness of mind, should not, sometimes, rather be called UPPISHNESS.

2. (old). —Tipsy: *see* SCREWED.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Jour. to London*, iii. 1. *Lady Head.* Not so drunk, I hope, but that he can drive us? *Sew.* Yes, yes, madam, he drives best when he's a little UPPISH.

**UPRIGHT**, *subs.* (American).—1. A leg.

2. (venery).—An act of coition taken standing; a KNEE-TREMBLER (*q.v.*).

GO UPRIGHT, *phr.* (Old Cant).—'Said by Taylers and Shoemakers, to their Servants, when any Money is given to make them Drink, and signifies, bring it all out in Drink, tho' the Donor intended less, and expects Change, or some return of Money' (B. E., 1696).

**UPRIGHT-MAN,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—The leader of a gang of mendicants or thieves (*see* quot. 1561); 'the second rank of the Canting Tribes, having sole right to the first night's Lodging with the Dells' (B. E.); 'a thorough-paced and determined thief' (GROSE): *see* CURTAIL.

1561. AWDELEY, *Fraternitye of Vacabondes.* An VPRIGHT MAN is one that goeth wyth the trunchion of a staffe, which staffe they cal a Fellchman. This man is of so much authority that, meeting with any of his profession, he may cal them to accompt, and commaund a share or snap vnto him selfe of al that they haue gained by their trade in one moneth.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 75. A dell is a yonge wenche, able for generation, and not yet knowen or broken by the VPRIGHT MAN.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), vi. 108]. Brother to this UPRIGHT MAN, flesh and blood, ruffling Tear-cat is my name.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, ii. 1. Come, princes of the ragged regiment, You of the blood,—Prigg, my most UPRIGHT LORD.

**UPROAR,** *subs.* (old).—An opera: *cf.* ROARATORIO = oratorio.

1762. STEVENS, *Bartholomew Fair.* We poor folk . . . old English ballads can sing-o, As they at their OPPERORES outlandish ling-o.

**UPS AND DOWNS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The second battalion of The Welsh Regiment, formerly the 69th Foot, the number being read in position or upside-down.

**UPSEE-DUTCH (UPSEE-ENGLISH, UPSEE-FREESE),** *subs. phr.* (old).—Conjecturally a kind of heady beer qualified by the name of the brew. Hence UPSEE-FREESY, etc. = drunk: *see* SCREWED; TO DRINK UPSEE-DUTCH (ENGLISH, etc.) = to drink deeply, or in true toper fashion according to the custom of the country named. Also UPSEES.

1600. *Letting of Humours Blood in the Head-vaine.* Tom is no more like thee then chalks like cheese, To pledge a health or to drinke UP-SE FREESE.

1606. DEKKER, *Seven Deadly Sins* [ARBER], 12. Were drunke according to all the learned rules of drunkenness, as UPSY FREEZE, crambo, etc. *Ibid.* (1608), *Belman of London*, 26. Teach me—how to take the German's UPSY-FREEZE, the Danish rowsa, etc.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, iv. 4. I do not like the dulness of your eye. It hath a heavy cast, 'tis UPSEE DUTCH.

[?]. *The Shrift* [ELLIS, *Spec.*, iii. 121]. For UPSE FREEZE he drank from four to nine, So as each sense was steeped well in wine.

1616. *Times Whistle* [E.E.T.S.], 60. He with his companions George and Rafe, Doe meet together to drink VPSE-FREEZE Till they have made themselves as wise as geese.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, ii. 1. Bacchus, the god of brew'd wine and sugar, grand patron of rob-pots, UPSY-FREESY tipplers, and super-naculum topers.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, iv. 4. The bowl, —— which must be UPSEY ENGLISH, strong, lusty, London beer. *Ibid.*, iii. 1. So, sit down, lads, And drink me UPSEY DUTCH.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. This valiant pot-leach that upon his knees Has drunke a thousand pottles UP-SE-FREESE.

1635. HEYWOOD, *Philocothonista*, 45. One that drinks UPSE-FREEZE.

1809. SCOTT, *Lady of the Lake*, vi. 5. Yet whoop, Barnaby! off with thy liquor, Drink UPSEES out, and a fig for the vicar.

**UPSET.** *See* APPLE-CART.

**UPSIDES.** TO BE UPSIDES WITH, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To be even with, quits with, a match for.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xxi. I'se be UPSIDES wi' him ae day.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xxxix. Nay, 'twarn't altogether spite, tho' I won't say but what I might ha' thought o' BEIN' UPSIDES WI' them.

**UPSITTING,** *subs.* (old).—The sitting up of a woman to see her friends after her confinement; the feast held on such an occasion.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*. The jest shall be a stock to maintain us and our pewfellows in laughing at christenings, cryings out, and UPSITTINGS this twelve month.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. We will have such a lying-in, and such a christening; such UPSITTING and gossiping.

**UPSKIP,** *subs.* (old).—An UPSTART (*q.v.*).

1549. LATIMER, *Serm. Bef. Ed. VI.*, ii. Put it not to the hearing of these velvet coats, these UPSKIPS.

**UPSODOWN,** *adv.* (colloquial).—TOPSY-TURVY (*q.v.*), upside-down: also UPSET-DOWN. [SMYTH-PALMER: *Upside-down* is no doubt . . . a false light of old Eng. UP-SO-DOWN, *i.e.* UP *what* (was) DOWN, SO being the old relative pronoun]. *Cf.* BACK-SEVORE.

1340. HAMPOLE, *Prick of Conscience*, 673. What es man in shap bot a tre, Turned UP ÞET ES DOUN, als men may se. *Ibid.*, 7230. Þafor it es ryght and resoune þat þai be turned UP-SWA-DOUNE.

*c.* 1360. *Allit. Poems*, 99. 362. Truly þis ilk toun schal tylte to grounde, VP-SO-DOUN schal 3e dumpe depe to þe abyme.

[?]. *Apology for Lollards* [Camden Soc., 19]. Þat þe kirk performe it solemply, candel slekennid, bell ro[n]gun, and þe cros turnid VP SO DOUN.

1378. WYCLIFFE, *Bible*, Job xxx. 12. Thei turneden VPSEDOUN my feet. *Ibid.*, *Unpub. Works* [E.E.T.S.], 119. Proude clerkis and coueitouse, thei clepen holy chirche to turnen alle þing VPSODOUN as anticristis disciplis.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 1379. 'Knight's Tale.' Shortly turned was al UP-SO-DOUN, Bothe habit and eek dispositioun Of him, this woful lovere, daun Arcite.

1481. CAXTON, *Reynard the Fox* [ARBER], 74. Me thynketh this court is al torned VP SO DOUN.

1483. *Cath. Ang.*, 397. To turne VP SO DOWN; *euertere*.

1493. GOWER, *Confessio Amantis*, ii. The londe was tourned UPSO DOWNE.

[?]. *Ancient Ballads* [LILLY], 235. Turne their hartes quite VPSIDOWNE, To become true subjects.

1611. *Bible*, Authorised Version, Acts xvii. 6. These that haue turned the world VPSIDE DOWNE, are come hither also.

**UPSTAIRS,** *subs.* (London).—A special brand of spirits: a bottle usually kept on a shelf: *e.g.* 'a drop of UPSTAIRS.' The particular brand varies with the house.

TO GO UPSTAIRS OUT OF THE WORLD, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be hanged: *see* LADDER.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, ii. 7. By your looks you should GO UPSTAIRS OUT OF THE WORLD.

**UPSTART,** *subs.* (B. E. and GROSE).—1. A person suddenly raised from poverty to wealth, from a humble position to consequence, or from servitude to power: now recognised.

1592. GREENE, *Quip for Upstart Courtier* [Harl. Misc., v. 402]. In faith, goodman goosecap, you that are come from the startups, and therefore is called ad UP-START, *quasi* START UP from clouted shoone.

**UPSYTURVY,** *adv.* (old).—TOPSY-TURVY (*q.v.*).

*d.* 1594. GREENE, *James IV.*, iii. 3. There found I all was UPSY-TURVY turned.

**UPTAILS-ALL,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. Confusion, riot, high jinks; (2) revellers, good fellows, boon companions. Hence (3) wantonness, and spec. the act of kind; whence TO PLAY AT UPTAILS ALL = to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE: a play on this sense and the old card game of uptails all was frequent.

1602. DEKKER, *Satiromastrix* [HAWKINS, *Eng. Drama*, iii. 170]. Feel, my UPTAILS-ALL, feel my weapon.

1647–8. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 265. Love he doth call For his UPTAILES ALL.

**UP-TO-DATE,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Of the latest: in fashion, fact, or philosophy; abreast of the times.

1888. *Academy*, 4 Feb., 822. A good UP-TO-DATE English work on the islands.

**UPWAYS,** *adv.* (colloquial).—Upward.

**URCHIN,** *subs.* (old and still colloquial).—1. A mischievous child; a half-chiding endearment; 'a little sorry Fellow' (B. E. and GROSE): also (2) an elf, fairy, or sprite: popularly supposed to take the form of a hedgehog, the original meaning. Hence as *adj.* = (1) roguish, mischievous; and (2) trifling, foolish, trumpery.

1528. ROY and BARLOW, *Rede Me*, etc. [ARBER, 43]. I trowe the VRCHYN will clyme To some promocion hastily.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, iv. 4. Like URCHINS, ouphes and fairies. *Ibid.* (1609), *Tempest*, i. 2. 326. URCHINS shall . . . all exercise on thee.

1634. MILTON, *Comus*, 845. URCHIN blasts and ill-luck signs.

1692. HACKET, *Williams*, ii. 91. Our Bishop . . . made himself merry with the conceit how easie it was to stride over such URCHIN articles. No man would find leisure to read the whole 36, they are so frivolous.

*d.* 1721. PRIOR, *Venus Mistaken.* 'And who's blind now, mamma?' the URCHIN cried.

*d.* 1850. WORDSWORTH, *Michael.* There stood the URCHIN as you will divine.

**URINAL,** *subs.* (old). — 1. 'A chamber-pot, or glass' (B. E.). URINAL OF THE PLANETS = Ireland: 'because of its frequent and great rains, as Heidelberg and Cologn, in Germany, have the same Name upon the same Account' (B. E.).

**U.S.-COVE,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A soldier. U.S.-PLATE = handcuffs: *cf.* GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

**USE,** *subs.* (American).—Liking.

*c.* 1889. *Trans. Am. Phil. Ass.* [*Century*]. I have no USE for him—don't like him.

*Verb* (old). — To copulate (CHAUCER): *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law-case*, i. 2. *Waiting woman.* Very well, sir, You may USE me at your pleasure. *Rom.* By no means, Winifred; that were the way to make thee travail again.

TO USE AT (or ROUND) A PLACE, *verb. phr.* (thieves').—To haunt, frequent.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* I got in company with some of the widest people in London. They used TO USE AT a pub. in Shoreditch.

**To use up**, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To exhaust, wear out, DO FOR (*q.v.*): whence USED UP = broken-hearted, bankrupt, fatigued, vanquished, killed, etc. (GROSE).

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xxviii. Such a sight I never saw before . . . 'cleaned out' to the last real, and completely USED UP.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, i. Half were USED-UP . . . with the scurvy.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 192. Well, being out night arter night, she got kinder USED UP and beat out, and unbeknownest to me used to take opium.

1856. KANE, *Arctic Exped.*, II. 100. Hans has been really ill; five days down with severe pains of the limbs have left him a 'little weak,' which with him means well USED UP.

1865. DOWNING, *May-day in New York*. Moving on the first day in May in New York has USED ME UP worse than building forty acres of stone wall.

1871. CALVERLEY, *Fly Leaves*. 'Beer.' But what is coffee but a noxious berry Born to keep USED-UP Londoners awake?

1876. GRANT, *One of the Six Hundred*, iii. His whole air had the USED-UP bearing of those miserable dundrearys who affect to act as if youth, wealth, and luxury were the greatest calamities that flesh is heir to.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 5 Mar. We have USED UP no fewer than six Irish Secretaries in little more than as many years.

**Usher**, *intj.* (thieves').—Yes: *cf.* Yiddish *user*=it is so.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail*. When I got into Shoreditch I met one or two of the mob, who said, 'Hallo, been out to-day? Did you touch?' So I said USHER.

**Usual**, *subs.* (colloquial). — The custom. AS PER USUAL = as usual: pleonastic.

1589. PUTTENHAM, *Art of Eng. Poesy*, 72. The staffe of seuen verses hath seuen proportions, whereof one onely is THE VSUALL of our vulgar.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*. 'At a Political Picnic.' Bin playing some dark little game? I'm keeping mine hup as PER USUAL.

**Utter**, *subs.* (old and colloquial).—The extreme; the utmost: also (modern) QUITE TOO UTTERLY UTTER=very; THE BLOOMING UTTER=the utmost. As *adj.*= excellent, A1: a supreme intensive.

*d.* 1697. AUBREY, *Lives*. 'Walter Raleigh.' I take my leave readie to countervaile all your courtesies to THE UTTER of my power.

1887. HENLEY, *Culture in the Slums*, iii. I likes a merry little flutter, I keeps a Dado on the sly, In fact my form's THE BLOOMING UTTER.

**Uzzard**, *subs.* (provincial).—The letter Z.

(old).—1. A symbol of cuckoldry, the letter being occasionally printed in that connection. Hence TO MAKE V = to make HORNS (*q.v.*): the first and second fingers are derisively forked out: *cf.* CUNNY-THUMB.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, iv. As often as he turns his back to me, I shall be here V with him.

2. (American).—A five-dollar note: v is marked prominently to indicate its value.

**VAC**, *subs.* (University and schools). —Vacation.

1891. *Harry Fludyer at Cambridge*, 2. The pater . . . told me every day last VAC he wouldn't have his house over-run with dogs.

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 18. Fork out . . . I'll pay you back in the VAC.

**VAG**, *subs.* (American).—A vagabond. Whence VAG-ACT (police) = the Vagabond Act.

**VAGARIES**, *subs.* (old—B. E.).—'Wild rambles, extravagant Frolicks' (1696); to gad, to range; *see* VAGRANT. Hence VAGARIAN = a CRANK (*q.v.*); VAGARIOUS (or VAGARIST) = whimsical, capricious, irregular.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Vaguer*, to wander, VAGARIE, stray, gad, roame, raunge, flit, remoue from place to place.

*d.* 1622. RICH, *Heroditus*. The people called Phœnices gave themselves to long VAGARIES, and continual viages by sea.

1640. BROME, *Sparagus Garden*, ii. 2. You have not dealt well with me to put this FAGARY into her foolish fancy.

*c.* 1796. WOLCOT, *Peter Pindar*, 305. His eyes are oft VAGARISH.

**VAGRANT**, *subs.* (old: now recognised). —'A wandering Rogue, a strolling Vagabond' (B. E., *c.* 1696): also VAGANT. [*Century*: sometimes VAGARANT, apparently simulating VAGARY.] Whence VAGRANCY (or VAGANCY) = wandering, strolling; also VAGRANT, *adj.* = roving, erratic, vagabond.

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Gen. iv. 14. Fro thi face I shal be hid, and I shal be VAGAUNT.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, v. Fie! Canst not yet leave off those VAGANCIES.

1685. BARROW, *Sermons*, xxxvi. Therefore did he spend his days in continual labour, in restless travel, in endless VAGRANCY, going about doing good.

1770. GOLDSMITH, *Deserted Village*, 149. His house was known to all the VAGRANT train.

**VAIN.** TO TAKE ONE'S NAME IN VAIN, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To name: a common dovetail on hearing one's name mentioned; *e.g.* 'Who's TAKING MY NAME IN VAIN?'

**VAIN-GLORIOUS MAN**, *subs. phr.* (B. E.).—'One that Pisses more than he drinks' (*c.* 1696).

**VALLEY.** *See* CASCADE, 2.

**VALLEY-TAN,** *subs. phr.* (American). A special manufacture of whiskey sold in Utah.

**VAMOSE (VAMOS** or **VAMPOOSE),** *verb* (American). — To go, decamp, CLEAR OUT (*q.v.*): also (Western) TO VAMOSE THE RANCH. [Spanish.]

1840. *Southern Sketches*, 141. The Camanches came within a league of us, but VAMOSED THE RANCH when they learned that the rangers were here.

1844. SELBY, *London by Night*, ii. 1. VAMOOSE—scarper—fly!

1848. *Amer. Jour. Commerce*, June. Yankee Sullivan's house, corner of Frankfort and Chatham Streets, is in a dangerous condition. . . . Its occupants received some very ominous premonitions of a downfall, and forthwith VAMOSED with their baggage.

1848. *New York Mirror*, May. I couldn't stand more than this stanza, . . . and I accordingly VAMOSED.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, i. Has he VAMPOOSED with the contents of a till?

*c.* 1861. *Parody on Leigh Hunt's "Abou Ben Adhem."* The devil wrote, and VAMOSED. The next night He came again, —this time a little tight.

1876. WOOLSON, *Jupiter Lights*, xxxi. He was sincerely sorry that Hollis had VAMOSED in that way.

1878. *Scribner's Mag.*, Nov. 82. My precious partners had VAMOSED THE RANCH.

1880. *Scribner's Mag.*, Aug., 610. I finished the sign and then VAMOOSED.

**VAMP,** *subs.* (thieves'). — 1. A robbery. Hence IN FOR A VAMP = QUODDED (*q.v.*) for PRIGGING (*q.v.*); VAMPER (*q.v.*) = a thief.

2. (common). — In *pl.* = re-footed stockings (B. E.): *see* VAMPER.

*Verb.* (American colloquial). — 1. To improvise a musical accompaniment: the key and time being known, a passable accompaniment is playable at sight by a system which, in America, is 'taught in eight lessons for $10.' Also as *subs.*, and VAMPER.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, iii. 201. As soon as I could get in to VAMP the tunes on the banjo a little.

1888. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 31 Jan. [Advt.]. How to VAMP to songs, chords, etc.

2. (common). — To pawn, SPOUT (*q.v.*) (B. E. and GROSE).

**VAMPER,** *subs.* (veterinary). — 1. A swindling horse-dealer; a FAKER (*q.v.*) of unsound horses: also *see* VAMP, *subs.* and *verb.*

1876. GREENWOOD, *Undercur. London Life.* It is beyond dispute that in the hands of the experienced horse-VAMPER the most wretched used-up screw in existence may, for a brief hour or so, be made to exhibit an amount of fire and spirit that if persisted in for a longer period would inevitably shake its ramshackle carcass all to pieces.

2. (old). — In *pl.* = stockings (B. E).

**VAMPIRE,** *subs.* (Punch and Judy). — 1. The ghost: *see* SWATCHEL.

2. (American). — A black-mailer: Fr. *chanteur.*

**VAMPO,** *subs.* (theatrical). — The clown: *see* SWATCHEL.

**VANDEMONIANISM,** *subs.* (obsolete Australian). — Rowdyism: *i.e.* pertaining to Van Diemen's Land, the old name of Tasmania when a convict settlement, with a glance at 'demon.' Also VANDEMONIAN, *adj.*

1852. MUNDY, *Our Antipodes* (1855), 533. The VAN DIEMONIANS, as they unpleasingly call themselves, or permit themselves to be called, are justly proud of their horse-flesh.

1853. SIDNEY, *Three Colonies of Australia* (2nd edit.), 171. One of the first acts of the Legislative Assemblies reated by the Australian Reform Bill of 1850 was to pass . . . acts levelled against VAN DIEMONIAN expirees.

1855. HOWITT, *Two Years in Victoria*, i. 367. Unquestionably some of the VAN DIEMENIAN convicts.

1863. *Victorian Hansard*, 22 April, ix. 701. Mr. Houston looked upon the conduct of hon. gentlemen opposite as ranging from the extreme of VANDEMONIANISM to the extreme of nambypambyism.

1867. *Cassell's Magazine*, 440. 'I never wanted to leave England,' I have heard an old VANDEMONIAN observe boastfully. 'I wasn't like one of these "Jemmy Grants" (cant term for 'emigrants'); I could always earn a good living; it was the Government as took and sent me out.'

**VAN JOHN,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial). —A corruption of *Vingt-et-un.*

**VANNER,** *subs.* (trade).—A van horse: *cf.* BUSSER, CABBER, WHEELER, etc.

1888. *Referee*, 8 Ap. [Advt.]. Twenty-five Welsh cobs, cabbers, and VANNERS.

**VANTAGE,** *subs.* (old printers').—Good paying work, FAT (*q.v.*): a spec. colloquial usage of a recognised word.

**VANTAGE-LOAF,** *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—The thirteenth loaf in a BAKER'S-DOZEN (*q.v.*).

**VAPOUR,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. In *pl.* = bluster, ostentatious or windy talk, SWAGGER (*q.v.*). [The ROARING BOYS (*q.v.*) of Elizabethan times, to provoke a quarrel, were wont flatly and swaggeringly to contradict everything said, even that to which a bully had previously assented (*see* JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, iv. 3).] Hence as *verb* = to boast, swagger, bully, with such derivatives as VAPOURED, VAPOURER, VAPOURISING, VAPOURISE, etc. Also (2), in the eighteenth century, a fashionable term for AIRS (*q.v.*), SIDE (*q.v.*): spec. an exaggerated affectation of 'nerves' or BLUES (*q.v.*): also (3) whims, fancies, MAGGOTS (*q.v.*), and as *verb* = to fuss, fidget, make TO DO (*q.v.*).

1552. STRYPE, *Eccles. Mem.* A VAPOURING sort (which that nation was then much addicted to).

1570. CAMDEN, *Hist. Elizabeth.* A ruffian, a riotous spendthrift and a notable VAPOURER.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, ii. Nay, then, pardon me my VAPOUR. I have a foolish VAPOUR, gentlemen: Any man that does VAPOUR me the ass—I do VAPOUR him the lie. *Ibid.* (1630), *New Inn*, iii. 1. *Pierce.* He's Barst's protection. *Fly.* Fights and VAPOURS for him.

1628. FORD, *Lover's Melancholy*, iv. 2. He VAPOURS like a tinker, and struts like a juggler.

1641. MILTON, *Apology for Smectymnus.* His designe was, if he could not refute them, yet at least with quips and snapping adagies to VAPOUR them out.

1660–9. PEPYS, *Diary*, II. 331. My Lord Berkeley hath all along been . . . one that is the greatest VAPOURER in the world.

1706. VANBRUGH, *Mistake*, iv. 1. Here, take thy satin pincushion, with thy curious half hundred of pins in't, thou madest such a VAPOURING about yesterday.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, II. xcvii. You will not wonder that the VAPOURISHNESS which has laid hold of my heart should rise to my pen.

1749. WHISTON, *Memoirs*, 18. I was become so VAPOURED and timorous at home that I was ready to faint away if I did but go a few stones'-cast from our own house.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, iii. 7. A man had better be plagued with all the curses of Egypt than with a VAPOURISH wife.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, ix. 3. The corporal gave a slight flourish with his stick—but not VAPOURINGLY.

1796. D'ARBLAY, *Camilla*, v. vi. She VAPOURS me but to look at her.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 355. All these valourous VAPOURINGS had a considerable effect.

1819. CRABBE, *Tales of the Hall* [*Works*, vii. 63]. Nor to be fretful, VAPOURISH, or give way To spleen and anger as the wealthy may.

1886. *D. Teleg.*, 7 Ap. Despite the VAPOURING of the Minister of War.

1888. *D. Teleg.*, 7 Feb. He VAPOURED considerably.

**VARDO,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A waggon. VARDO-GILL=a waggoner (GROSE).

*Verb* (streets and circus).—To look, see, observe: *e.g.* VARDO THE CARSEY=look at the house.

**VARDY,** *subs.* (common). — An opinion: *e.g.* 'That's my VARDY on the matter'=That's what I think. [A corruption of *verdict*.]

**VARLET,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—A generic reproach: a rogue, scoundrel, low fellow. Whence VARLETRY=the mob, rabble, crowd (B. E.). [Properly=a page, groom, or serving-man.]

1549. LATIMER, *Serm. Bef. Edward VI.*, iii. Was not this a seditious VARLET, to tell them this to their beards.

1608. SHAKSPEARE, *Antony and Cleop.*, v. 2. 56. The shouting VARLETRY of censuring Rome.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER, *Women Pleas'd*, ii. 4. 'There's money for thee: thou art a precious VARLET, Be fat, be fat, and blow thy master backward.'

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, ii. 1. Ananias . . . the VARLET That cozened the apostles!

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, iv. 2. Well, I am glad you are not the dull, insensible VARLET you pretended to be.

1840. BROWNING, *Sordello*, vi. Gay swarms of VARLETRY that come and go.

**VARMINT,** *subs.* (common).—Anything troublesome or mischievous: also a half-jocular endearment to a child: *e.g.* 'You young VARMINT' [that is, *vermin*].

1826. COOPER, *Last of the Mohicans*, viii. Uncas, we have need of all our we'pons to bring the cunning VARMENT from his roost.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, i. All regarded in the light of mean kidnappers and spies—VARMENT as the common people esteemed them.

2. (hunting).—A fox.

1888. *Field*, 4 Feb. Decided the hound in question to go for the VARMINT he had found.

*Adj.* (University). — Spruce, natty, good-all-round.

1823. *Gradus ad Cantab.* A VARMINT man spurns a scholarship, would consider it a degradation to be a fellow.

1827. *Alma Mater.* . . . The handsome man, my friend and pupil, was naturally enough a bit of a swell, or VARMINT man.

**VARMINT-MAN,** *subs. phr.* (University). — A hack or GHOST (*q.v.*): 'one who, like Jemmy Gordon, wrote themes for idle undergrads': *see* VARMINT, *adj.*

**VARNISHER,** *subs.* (thieves').—One who utters base money, a SNIDE-PITCHER (*q.v.*).

**VARSAL,** *adj.* (old colloquial).—Universal: frequently as an intensive.

1710. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, ii. I believe there is not such another in the VARSAL world.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker*, i. 125. Here was flying without any broom-sticks or thing in the VARSAL world.

[?]. SCOTT [*Century*]. Every VARSAL soul in the library were gone to bed.

**VARSITY,** *subs.* and *adj.* (collegiate). —University; and spec. University College, Oxford: the reduction is also affected by American students.

1864. TENNYSON, *Northern Farmer*, New Style. 'E coom'd to the parish wi lots o' VARSITY debt.

1886. *D. Tel.*, 8 May. The parson —possibly an old 'VARSITY MAN.

**VARSITY-TIT,** *subs. phr.* (University). — A student of Durham University: in contempt.

**VARYING,** *subs.* (Winchester).—A VULGUS (*q.v.*) when done 'up to BOOKS' (*q.v.*).

**VASELINE,** *subs.* (Royal Military Academy). — Butter, CART-GREASE (*q.v.*).

**VAUGHAN (THE),** *subs. phr.* (Harrow).—The school library: named after Dr. Vaughan.

**VAULTING-HOUSE (or -SCHOOL),** *subs. phr.* (venery).—A brothel: *see* NANNY-SHOP. Hence VAULT, *verb*=to copulate, LEAP (*q.v.*); and VAULTER=a PERFORMER (*q.v.*): *see* GREENS and RIDE (B. E. and GROSE).

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, p. 97, s.v.

[1599. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry V.*, v. 2. 145. If I could win a lady . . . by VAULTING into my saddle . . . I should quickly leap into a wife.] *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, i. 6. 133. Should he make me Live, like Diana's priests, betwixt cold sheets, Whiles he is VAULTING variable ramps.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, iii. 2. Now were I in an excellent humour to go to a VAULTING-HOUSE, I would break down all their glass windows, . . . tear their silk petticoats. . . . O the Gods, what I could do. *Ibid.*, v. 3. She has tricks to keep a VAULTING HOUSE under the law's nose. *Ibid.* (1607), *Northward Hoe*, iii. 1. How many VAULTERS have I entertained.

1639. MASSINGER, *Un. Combat*, iv. 2. A . . . VAULTING HOUSE . . . Where I used to spend my afternoons, among suburb she-gamesters . . . I have cracked a ring or two there.

**VEAL,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—A calf: *cf.* MUTTON, BEEF: in English these terms are now restricted to the dead carcase and not applied to the living animal, as in French and other languages.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. Veël, A calfe or VEALE.

PHRASES. 'VEAL will be cheap, calves fall' (a jeer at those with spindly legs); 'In a shoulder of VEAL, there are twenty and two good bits' (RAY: a piece of country wit—there are twenty [others say forty] bits in a shoulder of veal, and but two good ones).

**VEALY,** *adj.* (colloquial). — Immature, calfish, GREEN (*q.v.*).

1864. LOWELL, *Fireside Travels*, 248. Their VEALY faces mezzotinted with soot.

**VECK,** *subs.* (old).—An old woman.

1360. [CHAUCER], *Romaunt of the Rose*, 4495. A rympled VEKKE, ferre ronne in age.

**VEGETABLE-BREAKFAST,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A hanging, execution: *i.e.* an artichoke (hearty choke) and caper sauce: *see* LADDER.

**VEIN-OPENERS,** *subs. phr.* (military).—The first battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, late the 29th Foot.

**VELVET,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—The tongue (B. E. and GROSE): 'especially the tongue of a magsman' (HOTTEN).

TO STAND ON VELVET, *verb. phr.* (racing).—To arrange one's bets so that loss is impossible.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray. John Fordham*, III. 289. I'd won a matter of five thousand quid. 'Now I'm on welvet,' said I, grinnin' and rubbin' my 'ands. 'Fortune o' war,' sed Maxwell.

TO PLAY ON VELVET, *verb. phr.* (gaming).—To gamble with winnings.

TO TIP THE VELVET, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To tongue a woman (B. E. and GROSE).

**VELVET-CAP,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A physician: a velvet-cap formed a distinctive part of a doctor's garb.

1606. *Ret. from Parnassus. Theod.* O monsier, I have a singular care of your valetudo. It is requisite that the French phisitions be learned and carefull; your English VELVET-CAP is malignant and envious.

**VELVETEEN,** *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = a gamekeeper.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 29 Dec. Were the English VELVETEENS less conservative and orthodox in his views of what the limits of his duties are, he might take a hint from the foreigner in trapping blue rocks.

**VELVET-JACKET,** *subs. phr.* (old colloquial). — A steward in a nobleman's family, a man in the King's service: in quot. = the mayor of a city.

1600. HEYWOOD, 1 *Edward IV.* [PEARSON, *Works* (1874), I. 17]. Spoken like a man, and true VELUET-IACKET, And we will enter and strike by the way.

**VELVET-PEE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A velvet pea-jacket.

1607-8. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Love's Cure*, ii. 1. Though now your blockhead be covered with a Spanish block, and your lashed shoulders with a VELVET-PEE.

**VENTILATOR,** *subs.* (theatrical).—A play, player, or management that empties a house.

**VENTURE.** As in the proverbial saying, 'I'll VENTURE it as Johnson did his wife, and she did well' (RAY).

**VENTURER,** *subs.* (old).—A harlot: *see* TART.

**VENUS,** *subs.* (venery).—Generic for sexuality: thus, VENUS'S-CURSE = syphilis: *see* LADIES'-FEVER; VENUS'S-CELL (or-MARK) = the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; also VENUS'S SECRET CELL (HIGHWAY or HONYPOT), VENUS'S-GAME (or RITES OF VENUS) = copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

*c.* 1508. *Colin Blowbol's Testament* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet*, i. 94]. He gaf me many a good certacion, With right and holsome predicacion, That he had laboured in VENUS' SECRETE CELLE.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills*, i. 16. I've no SCARS OF VENUS there, Twiddle come Tweedle twee. *Ibid.*, iii. 342 [HOTTEN]. For when you have possession got Of VENUS'S MARK, or HONYPOT.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 256. You whoring rascal, leave this job, And come along and bear a bob: Why can't you run the risk of SCAKS In Mars' as well as VENUS' wars?

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 147. He could not stomach these beauties who call a spade a spade. Such were not for his market; the RITES OF VENUS must be consummated in the temple of Vesta.

**VERB- (or GERUND-) GRINDER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A schoolmaster or tutor: spec. a pedantic pedagogue (GROSE). Also GERUND-GRINDING = the study of grammar.

1759-67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, IV. 112. Tutors, governors, GERUND-GRINDERS, and bear-leaders.

1788. KNOX, *Winter Evenings*, 59. A pedant, a mere plodder, a petty tyrant, a GERUND-GRINDER.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 168. The VERB-GRINDER engendered in his noddle a most ingenious device, by which to keep this troublesome young lordling in awe, without trenching on his foolish father's instructions.

1825–7. HONE, *Ev. Day Book*, II. 33. GERUND-GRINDING and parsing are usually prepared for at the last moment.

**VERDANT,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Simple, inexperienced, 'easily TAKEN IN' (*q.v.*), GREEN (*q.v.*). Whence VERDANCY = rawness, inexperience.

1853. BRADLEY, *Adv. of* VERDANT *Green* [Title].

1878. *Scribner's Mag.*, Oct., 790. Forget his VERDANCY and grotesque appearance.

**VERGE,** *subs.* (thieves').—A gold watch.

**VERITES** (Charterhouse).—A boarding-house. [A corruption of OLIVERITES, after Dr. Oliver Walford, 1838–55.]

**VERT,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A pervert or con-VERT: spec. one leaving the Church of England for the Roman Communion, or *vice versâ*. Also as *verb.*

1864. *Exper. of a* VERT [*Union Rev.*, May]. Old friends call me a pervert, new acquaintance a convert, the other day I was addressed as a VERT.

1888. *Echo*, 17 Mar. As a man he is welcome to VERT and re-VERT as often as he pleases.

**VERTICAL - CAREGRINDER,** *subs. phr.* (prison).—The tread-mill, HORIZONTAL-STAIRCASE (*q.v.*), WHEEL OF LIFE (*q.v.*).

**VESSEL,** *subs.* (Winchester College).—The half-quarter of a sheet of foolscap. [*Voc. East Anglia*: VESSEL was used for theme-papers formerly at Bury School.]

THE WEAKER VESSEL, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — A woman: *see* 1 Peter iii. 7.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 4. I must comfort THE WEAKER VESSEL, as doublet and hose ought to show itself courageous to petticoat.

**VEST.** PULL DOWN YOUR VEST, *verb. phr.* (American).—A street catch-phrase of no special meaning.

1875–6. RICHMOND, *Burton's Events* [BARTLETT]. But the latest flash saying with which we are blest Is to tell a man quietly, 'PULL DOWN YOUR VEST.'

TO LOSE ONE'S VEST, *verb. phr.* (common).—To get angry, lose one's temper: *cf.* 'KEEP YOUR HAIR ON!'

**VESTA,** *subs.* (Stock Exchange).—In *pl.* = Railway Investment Company Deferred Stock.

**VET,** *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A veterinary surgeon. Also 2. (American) = a VETERAN (*q.v.*).

1888. *Field*, 4 Feb. Show his horse's feet to a VET, and ask his opinion.

1890. *Atlantic*, lxvi. 114. Great pains are taken with the shoeing, which is under the direct charge of the accomplished VET employed by that department.

**VETERAN,** *subs.* (American). — A soldier listing for a second term of service: also VET. Whence VETERAN (or VETERANIZE), *verb* = to re-enlist.

**VEX,** *adv.* (Christ's Hospital).—So much the worse for: *e.g.* 'Vex for you': *cf.* CHAFF.

**VIC,** *intj.* (Felsted School).—1. A warning of a master's approach; Cave! Hence TO KEEP VIC = to be on the look-out.

2. (London). — The Victoria Theatre.

**VICTUAL.** IN ONE'S VICTUALS, *phr.* (provincial). — In favour, petted, cossetted: spec. of a mother and child.

**VICTUALLER,** *subs.* (old). — A pander: the legitimate trade of a tavern-keeper was frequently but a cloak for intrigue and bawdry; hence many equivocal allusions. Also VICTUALLING HOUSE = a house of accommodation.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *2 Henry IV.*, ii. 4. Marry, there's another indictment upon thee, for suffering flesh to be eaten in thy house, contrary to the law —— *Hostess.* All VICTUALLERS do so. What's a joint of mutton or two in a whole Lent.

1661. WEBSTER, *Cure for a Cuckold*, iv. 1. This informer comes into Turnbull street, to a VICTUALLING HOUSE, and there falls in league with a wench.

**VICTUALLING-DEPARTMENT (or -OFFICE),** *subs. phr.* (common). — The stomach, the BREAD-BASKET (*q.v.*), the DUMPLING-DEPÔT (*q.v.*). *Fr. panier au pain;* Ital. *fagiana* (= bean-box).

**VIEWPOINT,** *subs.* (colloquial). — A point of view.

1877. *Edin. Rev.*, cxlv. 499. The manner in which the details of a history are presented should be judged from the standpoint of the writer, from the general VIEWPOINT of the time.

**VIEWY,** *adj.* (colloquial). — 1. Visionary, KINKY (*q.v.*), FUNNY (*q.v.*).

1848. NEWMAN, *Loss and Gain*, i. 3. He was VIEWY, in a bad sense of the word.

18[?]. *American* [*Century*]. A man's identification with the movement was taken as proof that he was VIEWY and unfit for leadership.

2. (colloquial). — Showy, calculated to 'catch the eye.'

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, III. 230. [The chests of drawers] would hold together for a time . . . and that was all; but the slaughterers cared only to have them VIEWY and cheap.

**VIGILANCE-COMMITTEE,** *subs. phr.* (American). — Orig. Californian: a self-constituted body of men ostensibly for the purpose of administering justice or protecting the public interests in places where the regular authorities were either unable or unwilling to execute the laws: *cf.* LYNCH-LAW. Hence VIGILANT = a member of such a committee.

1858. *Baltimore Sun*, 1 July. A hand-bill calling a meeting to form a VIGILANCE COMMITTEE to suppress certain secret movements among the coloured population, and to stop outrages on private property, Governor Wise addressed a letter to Mayor Mayo, adding that he would use force in prohibiting such meeting from being held on the Capitol square. The Mayor in reply states that he considers himself a 'VIGILANCE COMMITTEE' enough for him and his comrades, and therefore deems it unnecessary to adopt any unusual measures against the proposed movement.

1858. *New York Tribune*, 30 Sep. A Protestant congregation was broken up and a part of its members marched on a Sunday from their place of worship to the town jail. The final proceedings of the civil authorities in the case were, according to our American notions of right and law, as gross a violation of justice as VIGILANCE COMMITTEE or lynching mob was ever guilty of.

*c.* 1859. *Annals of San Francisco*, 562 [BARTLETT]. Few people abroad, who had been trained from infancy to revere 'the majesty of the law,' and who had never seen any crime but what their own strong legal institutions and efficient police could detect and punish, could possibly conceive such a state of things as would justify the formation and independent action of an association which set itself above all formal law, and which openly administered summary justice, or what they called justice, in armed opposition and defiance to the regularly constituted tribunals of the country. Therefore, in other lands, it happened that the VIGILANCE COMMITTEE became often a term of

reproach, and people pointed to it as a sign that society in California was utterly and perhaps irredeemably impure and disorganised.

1885. PALMER, *New and Old*, 73. The first man hung by the San Francisco VIGILANCE COMMITTEE was dead before he was swung up, and the second was alive after he was cut down.

1882. ROOSEVELT [*Century*, XXXV. 505]. A little over a year ago one committee of VIGILANTES in Eastern Montana shot or hung nearly sixty [horse-thieves] —not, however, with the best judgment in all cases.

**VILE,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A town: *cf.* Fr. *ville*. Hence ROME-VILE = London (*see* RUM, *adj.* 1): DEUCE-A-VILE = the country: also DEAUSEAVILLE and DAISY-VILLE.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 86. Byng we to ROME-VYLE.

1612. DEKKER, *O per se O*. 'Bing out, Bien morts.' Bing out bien morts, and toure and toure, bing out of the ROME-VILE.

1622. HEAD, *Eng. Rogue*. And prig and cloy so benshiply All the DEUCE-A-VILE within.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* (1864), 199. I want a little ready cash in RUM-VILLE—beg pardon, ma'am, London, I mean.

1891. CAREW, *Auto. of a Gipsy*, 416. We made a long round back to VILE. *Ibid.*, 417. The VILE'S readered all hover with these 'ere stiffs.

**VILL,** *subs.* (Felsted School).—Felsted village.

**VILLADOM,** *subs.* (colloquial).—The world of suburban residents; spec. the middle classes.

1886. *Fort. Rev.*, N.S., xl. 254. VILLADOM of the suburbs votes for the internal divisions of London, and again in the suburban boroughs.

1888. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 29 Feb. The outlying districts are not sacred to VILLADOM.

**VILLAGE (THE),** *subs. phr.* (common).—London. Also the HARDWARE VILLAGE = Birmingham.

**VILLAGE-BUSTLER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An active petty thief: a picker-up of trifles, unconsidered or the reverse.

**VILLAIN,** *subs.* (common). — A jocular self-reproach: *e.g.* 'I'm a bit of a VILLAIN myself, but ——'; or 'I'm as mild a VILLAIN as ever scuttled a ship.' Also as an endearment.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, i. 2. Sweet VILLAIN! most dearest! my collop.

**VIM,** *subs.* (common). — Spirit, activity, energy: orig. University slang [Latin].

1869. MCCLURE, *Tour through Rocky Mountains*. Virginia City is sobering down with the ebbing tide into substantial, legitimate business; but Helena has all the VIM, recklessness, extravagance, and jolly progress of a new camp.

1875. *New York Herald*, 17 Ap. Mr. Fullerton figuratively jumped into the ring, rolled up his sleeves, and squared off with a VIM and determination that sometimes makes victory half assured.

1876. *Providence Press*, 8 Jan. We are of those who believe that our system of school management can be improved, and made more efficient. We believe that more of VIM, snap, or activity can be infused into it, to the manifest advantage of every interest.

*d.* 1878. S. BOWLES [MERRIAM, *Life*, x. II. 7]. The men . . . have . . . a wide practical reach, a boldness, a sagacity, a VIM, that I do not believe can be matched anywhere in the world.

**VINCENT'S-LAW,** *subs. phr.* (gaming).—Cheating at cards.

**VINEGAR,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A cloak (B. E.). Also *see* PEPPER.

**VIOLET (or GARDEN-VIOLET),** *subs.* (common).—1. An onion: spec. in *pl.* = spring onions used as a salad. Also (2), in *pl.* = sage-and-onion stuffing.

**VIOLENTO,** *subs.* (old).—A violent man: *cf.* FURIOSO, GLORIOSO, etc.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Cumberland,' i. 236. In the Raign of Queen Mary he fled beyond the Seas, and was no VIOLENTO in the Troubles of Francford, but, with all meekness, to his might, endeavoured a pacification.

**VIRAGO,** *subs.* (B. E., *c.* 1696).—'A masculine woman, or a great two-handed female.'

**VIRGIN,** *subs.* (Stock Exchange).—In *pl.* = Virginia New Funded Stock.

**VIRGINHEAD,** *subs.* (old).—Virginity, the maidenhead.

1605. SYLVESTER, *Eden*, 662. Unlike it is Such blessed state the noble flowr should miss Of VIRGIN-HEAD.

1607. BEAUMONT, *Woman Hater*, i. 3. Thither must I To see my love's face, the chaste VIRGIN-HEAD Of a dear fish, yet pure and undeflower'd, Not known of man.

1611. DAVIES, *Scourge of Folly*, 23. Two foes of honord name in Honor's bed (The field) desirde (like virgins newly wiues) To lose their valour's lusty VIRGIN-HEAD.

**VIRGINIA-FENCE,** *subs. phr.* (American). — A zig-zag rail fence; a WORM-FENCE (*q.v.*). TO WALK A VIRGINIA FENCE = to reel: of drunken men.

**VIRGIN-KNOT,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—The maiden-head, virginity, chastity. [In allusion to the girdle worn by Greek and Roman maidens when of marriageable age.]

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Tempest*, iv. 1. Take my daughter: but If thou dost break her VIRGIN-KNOT before All sanctimonious ceremonies may With full and holy rite be minister'd.

**VIRGIN MARY'S BODY-GUARD,** *subs. phr.* (military).—The 7th Dragoon Guards. [They served under Maria Theresa of Austria, *temp.* George II.]

**VIRGIN-TREASURE,** *subs. phr.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*; *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

*d.* 1638. CAREW, '*A Rapture.*' There my enfranchised hand on every side Shall o'er thy naked polish'd ivory slide. No curtain there, though of transparent lawn, Shall be before thy VIRGIN-TREASURE drawn.

**VIRTUE,** *subs.* (common).—Smoking, drinking, whoring. When a man confesses to abstention from tobacco and intoxicating liquors he is perversely said to have no virtues.

**VISH,** *adj.* (Christ's Hospital).—Cross, 'vicious': formerly PASSY (*q.v.*).

**VISOR-MASK,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A harlot: *see* TART.

1682. J. BANKS, *Virtue Betrayed.* Epilogue The VISOR-MASK that ventured her half-crown.

**VIXEN (or FIXEN),** *subs.* (colloquial).—An ill-natured, snarling man or woman, a termagant, a scold. Also VIXENISH (or VIXENLY) = ill-tempered, snappish, snarling, turbulent.

1563. *Appius and Virginia* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 120]. By the gods, how ungraciously the VIXEN she chatteth.

1590. PEELE, *Old Wives' Tale.* I think this be the curstest quean in the world; you see what she is, a little fair, but as proud as the devil, and the veriest VIXEN that lives upon God's earth.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, iii. 2. 325. She was a VIXEN when she went to school; And, though she be but little, she is fierce.

*d.* 1677. BARROW, *Sermons*, I. xvii. These fiery VIXENS . . . really do themselves embroil things, and raise miserable combustions in the world. *Ibid.*, *Pope's Supremacy*. A VIXENLY pope.

1709. CONGREVE, *Ovid's Art of Love*. I hate a VIXON, that her Maid assails, And scratches with her Bodkin, or her Nails.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xxii. His VIXEN brawls, and breaking God's peace and the King's.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xiv. So Tom Smart and his clay-coloured gig with the red wheels, and the VIXENISH mare with the fast pace, went on together.

1849–61. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, xv. 'That may be very honourable in you,' said the pertinacious VIXEN.

1850. HAWTHORNE, *Scarlet Letter*, Int. p. 4. VIXENLY as she looks many people are seeking . . . to shelter themselves under the wing of the federal eagle.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xi. The shrill biting talk of a VIXENISH wife.

**VOCAB**, *subs.* (Charterhouse). — A dictionary, 'VOCABulary.'

**VOCALIER**, *subs.* (American).—A singer.

1876. BESANT and RICE, *Golden Butterfly*. Let things alone, and presently that young lady discovers that she is not likely to get cracked up as a VOCALIER.

**VOL**, *adj.* (Harrow School).—Voluntary: *e.g.* VOL-GYM.

**VOLANT**, *subs.* (old).—A Jack-of-both-sides, a trimmer. As *adj.* = giddy, flighty.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 63. And so they kept the VOLANT a good while, and did not declare on which side they would fall. *Ibid.*, 474. The Dutch had acted the VOLANT, and done enough on the one side or the other to have kept the fire alive.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, i. 274. Yes, my VOLANT, my self-conducted quill, begin with the sister.

1801. *Poetry of Anti-Jacobin*, 129. The eddying smoke, quick flame, and VOLANT spark.

**VOLUNTARY**, *subs.* (Winchester).—A copy of verses written occasionally by some in Sixth Book and Senior Part *ex proprio motu* (MANSFIELD, *c.* 1840).

**VOUCHER**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A man or woman 'that passes off False Money for sham coyners' (B. E.); a SNIDE-PITCHER (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1680. '*Black Procession*' [FARMER, MUSA PEDESTRIS). The first was a Coiner, that stampt in a mould; The second a VOUCHER, to put off his gold.

**VOWEL**, *verb.* (common).—To give an I.O.U.: *e.g.* TO VOWEL a debt.

**VOWEL-MAULER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—An indistinct speaker.

**VOYAGE.** HOBBE'S-VOYAGE, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The act of kind, copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, v. 3. *Bel.* Matrimony's the spot where I expect you. *Heart.* 'Tis enough, I'll not fail. (*Aside*) So now I am in for HOBBE'S VOYAGE; a great leap in the dark.

**VROW-CASE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A brothel: *see* NANNY-SHOP.

**VULGUS**, *subs.* (Winchester: obsolete).—A Latin epigram: four or six lines long. Hence VULGUS-BOOK = a CRIB (*q.v.*). [*See* FARMER, *Public School Word-book*.]

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, II. iii. The VULGUS (commonly supposed to have been established by William of Wykeham at Winchester, and

imported to Rugby by Arnold, more for the sake of the lines which were learnt by heart with it than for its own intrinsic value, as I've always understood) . . . is a short exercise in Greek or Latin verse, on a given subject, the minimum number of lines being fixed for each form.

1883. TROLLOPE, *What I Remember*. The mention of a VULGUS requires some explanation. Every inferior, *i.e.* non-prefect, in the school was required every night to produce a copy of verses of from two to six lines on a given theme—four or six lines for the upper classes, two for the lowest. This was independent of a weekly verse task of greater length, and was called a VULGUS, I suppose, because everybody—the VULGUS—had to do it.

**VUM.** I VUM, *phr.* (American).—A mild expletive or oath, 'I vow': *cf.* SWAN.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, III. 265. What though, instead of saying, 'I swear to God,' you say, 'I declare to goodness?' It is as much the same thing as a bobolink with a new coat of feathers. I VUM is just the same in spirit as I vow, and a 'diabolical falsehood' is synonymous with a devilish lie.

1865. HOLMES, *Deacon's Masterpiece*. The Deacon swore (as Deacons do) With an 'I dew VUM,' or an 'I tell yeou.'

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, 86. 'I VUM,' said he, 'I'm sorry; what's the matter?'

**WABASH**, *verb* (American).—To cheat, swindle, victimise.

**WABBLE** (or **WOBBLE**), *verb* (old, and still colloquial). — 1. To rock from side to side, move unsteadily, sway unevenly. Hence (2) to vacillate, play 'fast and loose,' 'blow hot and cold.' Whence as *subs.* = unsteady movement, fickleness, vacillation; WABBLY = unsteady, shaky, ROCKY (*q.v.*); WABBLER = a waverer, shuffler, trimmer. Also WIBBLE-WABBLE (a reduplication). [JOHNSON: 'a low barbarous word.']

1862. SPENCER, *First Principles*, 170. When . . . the top falls on the table . . . it falls into a certain oscillation, described by the expressive though inelegant word—WOBBLING.

1876. *Times*, 21 Oct. The WABBLING of the shot, owing to the imperfect fit, has been the great drawback.

1879-89. GROVE, *Dict. Music*, III. 509. Ferri . . . made use of the tremolo upon every note, to such an extent that his whole singing was a bad WOBBLING trill.

1883. GURNEY [*Nineteenth Century*, xiii. 446]. Dismal sounds may express dismal emotions, and soft sounds soft emotions, and WABBLY sounds uncertain emotions.

1898. CLARK RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xx. The wind had raised a middling stiff WOBBLE on the water.

3. (Western American).—To make free use of one's tongue, to be ready of LIP (*q.v.*). Hence WABBLER = a fluent speaker, a chattering fool.

**WABBLER**, *subs.* (provincial).—1. A boiled leg of mutton.

2. *See* WABBLE.

**WACK.** *See* WHACK.

**WAD**, *subs.* (American).—A roll of bank-notes; hence generic for money: *see* RHINO.

1887. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Mocassin*. Many scores of these philanthropists, who have spent their lives in looking for men to enrich, whilst anxious only to make a small WAD for themselves, have I encountered.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 102. Even in these days I knew a thing or two about poker, and it would have required George Appo himself to have touched me for my WAD.

**WADDLE**, *verb* (old).—'To go like a duck' (B. E.), to toddle, shamble, slouch. Hence, as *subs.* (or WADDLING) = an ungainly walk, a WABBLING (*q.v.*) gait. Also derivatives: WADDLER, WADDLY, WADDLINGLY, etc.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, i. 3. 37. Then she could stand alone; nay, by the rood, She could have run and WADDLED all about.

1605. DRAYTON, *Mooncalf*. 'They tread and WADDLE all the goodly grass, That in the field there scarce a corner was Left free by them.'

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 437. Every member WADDLED home as fast as his short legs could carry him, wheezing as he went with corpulency and terror.

1885. *D. Tel.*, 29 Sep. It knows it cannot move fast . . . and scorns to do more than WADDLE away moderately.

TO WADDLE OUT OF THE ALLEY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To make default on the Stock Exchange: *cf.* LAME DUCK.

1771. GARRICK, *Prologue to The Maid of Bath*. The gaming fools are doves, the knaves are rooks, Change-alley bankrupts WADDLE OUT lame ducks.

1787. *Whitehall Evening News* [quoted in FRANCIS, *Stock Exchange*]. There were no less than 25 lame ducks who WADDLED OUT OF THE ALLEY.

1846. MARRYAT, *Peter Simple*, III. XXV. 458. He was obliged to WADDLE: if I didn't know much about bulls and bears, I know very well what a lame duck is to my cost.

1860. PEACOCK, *Gryll Grange*, xviii. In Stock Exchange slang, Bulls are speculators for a rise, Bears for a fall. A lame duck is a man who cannot pay his differences, and is said to WADDLE OFF.

**WADDLER,** *subs.* (common).—A duck.

**WADDY,** *subs.* (Australian).—A walking-stick: properly a war-club.

1874. STEPHENS, *Poems* (*The Headless Trooper*). Thanks, generous colonial, Thou art very, very kind; Now pick a thickish WADDY up And plug my wound behind.

**WADE,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A ford; and (2) the act of wading. Also WADERS = long water-proof boots: used by sportsmen for wading through water.

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. It was a WADE of nearly a mile, and every now and then the water just touched the ponies' bellies. *Ibid.*, 11 Sep. WADERS are of as much service on the swampy ground round the pool as for actually reaching fish rising some way out.

1888. *Fort. Rev.*, xliii. 632. An ardent votary of fly and bank-fishing, with WADERS and a two-handed rod.

**WAFER-WOMAN,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A bawd; procuress, go-between. Also WAFERER = a pander, a male bawd.

1607. BEAUMONT, *Woman-hater*, ii. 1. 'Twas no set meeting, Certainly, for there was no WAFER-WOMAN with her These three days, on my knowledge.

1765. BICKERSTAFF, *Maid of the Mill*, i. 3. Do you think me a babe? Am I not able, cousin, At my years and discretion, to deliver A letter handsomely? is that such a hard thing? Why, every WAFER-WOMAN will undertake it.

**WAFFLE,** *verb* (printers').—To talk incessantly, CLACK (*q.v.*), JAW (*q.v.*): at Durham School = to talk nonsense. [*Cf.* prov. Eng. WAFFLE = to bark, to yelp.]

1888. *D. Teleg.*, 3 Mar. Out they went into the bleak bitterness, the dogs running before them, and, as the people say, WAFFLING—that is, snuffing and whining—in their eagerness to get on.

**WAFFLES,** *subs.* (common).—A loafer, an idle sauntering person.

**WAFRICAN,** *subs.* (Stock Exchange).—In *pl.* = generic for West African stocks and shares: *cf.* WESTRALIAN.

1901. *West. Gaz.*, 7 Feb., 9. 1. WAFRICANS. One thing beloved in the Stock Exchange is abbreviation; and another is nickname. Kaffirs have been far too long established to lay any claim to the title Safricans, so that there is no danger of the use of the term to clash with WAFRICANS. There is already a WAFRICANA Syndicate, or something of the sort. Thus is the language murdered to the disgust of the purist.

**WAG,** *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A buffoon, droll, practical joker. [Probably WAG-HALTER (*q.v.*) = a ROGUE (*q.v.*): *cf.* 'mad wag,' 'mad wag-halter,' etc.]. Also as a half-jocular, half-affectionate

slur. As *adj.* = 'Arch, Gamesome, Pleasant' (B. E.). As *verb* (or WAGGLE) = generic for (1) playful or sportive, and (2) mocking, scornful, or derisive motion. Hence WAGGERY, WAGGISHNESS, WAGGISH, etc.

*c.* 1550. UDAL, *Roister Doister* [K. O., i. 492].

1592. G. HARVEY, *Foure Letters*, Pref. But mildly and calmly shew how discredit reboundeth upon the anthors, as dust flyeth back into the WAG's eyes that will needs be puffing it up.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Much Ado*, ii. 1. 119. I know you by the WAGGLING of your head. *Ibid.* (1601), *Henry VIII.*, v. 3. Let me see the proudest He, that dares most, but WAG his finger at thee.

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, ii. 1. A wanton WAGGING of your head. *Ibid.* (1609), *Epicœne*, v. 1. Let's wanton it a little and talk WAGGISHLY.

1607. HEYWOOD, *Fair Maid of the Exchange* [*Works*, II. 66]. And with the Nymphes that haunt the silver streames, Learne to entice the affable young WAGGE.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, iii. 2. WAG . . . WILT be secret?

1611. *Bible*, Matthew xxvii. 39. And they that passed by reviled him, WAGGING their heads.

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, ii. 12. Let ditch-bred wealth henceforth forget to WAG Her base though golden tail.

*d.* 1654. SELDEN, *Table Talk*, 97. He did by the Parliament as an Ape when he hath done some WAGGERY.

1655. *Com. Hist. Francion*, iv. 22. He said to the three buffles who stood with their hats in their hands, Tell me, you WAGGS, etc.

1677. WYCHERLEY, *Plain Dealer*, i. 1. Jack, thou thinkest thyself in the Forecastle, thou'rt so WAGGISH.

1710. STEELE, *Tatler*, 184. A WAG is the last order even of pretenders to wit and humour.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Journey to London*, iii. 1. *Sir Fran.* A prodigious civil gentleman, uncle; and yet as bold as Alexander upon occasion. *Unc. Rich.* Upon a lady's occasion. *Sir Fran.* Ha, ha, you are a WAG, uncle.

1820. IRVING, *Sketch-book*, 434. It left Brom no alternative but to draw upon the funds of rustic WAGGERY in his disposition.

1828. *Eng. Spy*, I. 189. The man upon that half-starved nag Is an ex-S——ff, a strange WAG, Half flash and half a clown.

1848. THACKERAY, *Book of Snobs*, xviii. She . . . WAGGLES her little hand before her face, as if to blow you a kiss, as the phrase is.

1851. LONGFELLOW, *Golden Legend*, vi. Let us see what the learned WAG maintains With such a prodigal waste of brains.

**2.** (school). — THE WAG = truancy. As *verb* (or TO PLAY, or HOP, THE WAG) = to be truant: also CHARLEY-WAG (*q.v.*).

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, III. 207. They often persuaded me to HOP THE WAG.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 59. Readier TO PLAY THE CHARLEY-WAG than to be . . . in any prominent position in his class or form.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 13. They had WAGGED it from school, as they termed it, which was an unvarying practice of theirs, and meant truancy in all its forms.

*Verb* (old). — 1. *See* subs. *supra.*

**2.** (colloquial).—To stir, move, make way, progress.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*. Let the world WAGGE and take mine ease in mine inne.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 7. Thus may we see, quoth he, how the world WAGS.

**3.** (colloquial).—To go, be off, depart, begone.

1589. PUTTENHAM, *Art of Eng. Poesie*, 194. It is said by maner of a prouerbial speach that he who findes himselfe well should not WAGGE.

1684. BUNYAN, *Pilgrim's Progress*, ii. They made a pretty good shift to WAG ALONG.

*d.* 1800. COWPER, *Yearly Distress.* Come, neighbours, we must WAG.

*See* AFRAID.

**WAG-FEATHER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A silly swaggerer.

**WAGGED-OUT,** *adv.* (American).—Tired, worn out.

**WAGGLE,** *verb* (common).—1. To overcome, BEAT (*q.v.*), 'GET THE BETTER OF' (*q.v.*).

2. *See* WAG.

**WAGGONER,** *subs.* (old nautical).—A book of sea-charts: *cf.* LIDDEL AND SCOTT = a dictionary; CRUDEN = a concordance. [From Baron von Waegenaar's *Speculum Nauticum*, etc.]

1580. [EVANS, *Life Frampton*, 30.] The Captain . . . called for the WAGONER to enquire whether any rock had been observed by others that had formerly used those seas.

**WAG-HALTER,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A rogue, gallows-bird: *i.e.* one likely or deserving to wag in a halter; *cf.* CRACK-ROPE, HALTER-SACK, etc.

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, ii. v. I'le teach my WAG-HALTER to know grapes from barley.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Babouin.* A craftie knave, a crack-rope, WAG-HALTER, unhappie rogue.

1611. TARLETON, *Jests.* A WAG-HALTER boy met Tarlton in the street, and said, Master Tarlton who lives longest?

1613. MARSTON, *Insatiate Countess*, i. I can tell you I am a mad WAG-HALTER.

1629. *Schoole of Good Manners.* To mocke anybody by blabboring out the tongue is the part of WAGHALTERS and lewd boyes, not of well mannered children.

1638. FORD, *Fancies*, ii. 2. Not so terrible as a cross-tree that never grows, to a WAG-HALTER page.

**WAGON,** *subs.* (American). — A bicycle.

**WAG-PASTIE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A ROGUE, URCHIN, RASCAL (all of which *see*); an endearment.

1534. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, iii. 2. *M. Mery.* Maide, with whom are ye so hastie? *Tib.* Not with you, sir, but with a little WAGPASTIE, A deceiuer of folkes by subtill craft and guile.

**WAGTAIL,** *subs.* (old).—A term of familiarity or contempt: spec. a harlot (B. E. and GROSE): *see* TART. Hence, TO WAG THE TAIL (of women) = to wanton, to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 2. Spare my grey beard, you WAGTAIL.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Michaelmas Term*, iii. 1. WAGTAIL, salute them all; they are friends.

**WAG-WIT,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A wag: in contempt.

1712. STEELE, *Spectator*, 354. All the WAGWITS in the highway are grinning in applause of the ingenious rogue.

**WAISTCOAT.** FŒTID WAISTCOAT, *subs. phr.* (obsolete—*c.* 1859).—A waistcoat of a flaunting and vulgar pattern.

**WAISTCOATEER,** *subs.* (old).—A harlot: *see* TART. [The waistcoat was formerly in use by both sexes: when worn by women without a gown or upper dress it was considered the mark of a mad, low, or profligate woman.]

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iii. 291]. You'd best come like a mad-woman, without a band in your WAISTCOAT, and the linings of your kirtle outward.

*c.* 1614. FLETCHER, *Wit Without Money*, iv. 4. D'ye think you're here, sir, Among your WAST-COATEERS, your base wenches, That scratch at such occasions? you're deluded. *Ibid.* (1619), *Hum. Lieut.*, i. 1. Who keeps the outward door there? here's fine shuffling. You WASTCOATEER, you must go back.

1659. MASSINGER, *City Madam*, iii. 1. I knew you a WAISTCOATEER in the garden alleys, And would come to a sailor's whistle.

1712. HERRICK, *Poor Robin.* Some shall be so incentive to lust, that every woman shall be devil enough to tempt him, from the Covent Garden silk gowns, to the Wapping WASTCOATIERS.

**WAISTER,** *subs.* (obsolete nautical).—A seaman or boy of little use, a GREEN (*q.v.*) hand: if inexperienced or broken-down, such as these were placed in the waist of a man-of-war for duties not requiring much exertion or seamanship. Also (modern) = a new whaling hand.

**WAIT.** TO WAIT FOR DEAD MEN'S SHOES, *verb. phr.* (common).—To look forward to an inheritance.

*d.* 1660. FLETCHER, *Poems*, 256. And 'tis a general shrift, that most men use, But yet 'tis tedious WAITING DEAD MEN'S SHOES.

1758. MURPHY, *Upholsterer*, i. I grant ye, ma'am, you have very good pretensions; but then it's WAITING FOR DEAD MEN'S SHOES.

1764. WILKES [FITZGERALD'S *Life* (1888), i. 244]. As they have no other relation but Miss Wilkes, I therefore suppose they will leave everything to her, independent of me. Yet this is, after all, WAITING FOR DEAD MEN'S SHOES.

1878. WALL, *Molière*, ii. 218. Death is not always ready to indulge the heir's wishes and prayers, and we may starve while WAITING FOR DEAD MEN'S SHOES.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 26 July, 2. 3. WAITING FOR DEAD MEN'S SHOES is a tedious business, especially when the shoes in question are a pair of Turkish slippers.

TO WAIT ON ONE, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To seek a chance of retaliation, revenge, or spite; to try and get one's own back.

**WAITER.** MINORITY-WAITER, *subs. phr.* (old).—A waiter out of employment: *i.e.* as one out of (political) office.

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, ii. 1. I told Thomas that your Honour had already inlisted five disbanded chairmen, seven MINORITY WAITERS, and thirteen billiard markers.

**WAKE.** TO WAKE SNAKES, *verb. phr.* (American).—1. To rouse oneself, to be up and doing; and (2) to get into trouble.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers.* This goin' where glory awaits ye hain't one agreeable featur'; And, if it warn't for WAKIN' SNAKES, I'd be home agin short metre.

1850. *Southern Sketches*, 119. Well, here I be: WAKE SNAKES, the day's a-breaking.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 164. Come, WAKE SNAKES, and push off with the captain, and get the fish on board.

1863. *Punch*, Aug. 'Mexico and Monroe-Land.' So then, as Mexico's gone goose And WAKIN' SNAKES, it ain't no use; Agin old Bull let's vengeance vow, And take no action else just now.

TO WAKE UP THE WRONG PASSENGER, *verb. phr.* (American).—To make a mistake, 'get the wrong sow by the ear': *see* WRONG PASSENGER.

**WALER,** *subs.* (colonial).—Orig. a cavalry horse imported into India from New South Wales; now applied to all 'cattle' brought from Australia.

1863. HEYWOOD, *Vacation Tour at the Antipodes*, 134. Horses are exported largely from Australia to India even. I have heard men from Bengal talk of the WALERS, meaning horses from New South Wales.

1866. TREVELYAN, *Dawk Bungalow*, 223. Well, young Shaver, have you seen the horses? How is the WALER'S off foreleg?

1873. *Madras Mail*, 25 June. For sale. A brown WALER gelding (*Advt.*).

1888. KIPLING, *Plain Tales from the Hills*, 224. The soul of the Regiment lives in the Drum-Horse who carries the silver kettle-drums. He is nearly always a big piebald WALER.

1896. *Melburnian*, 28 Aug., 62. Gaunt won the Regimental Cup Steeplechase this year on an Australian mare of his own. Australian horses are called WALERS in India, from the circumstance of their being generally imported from New South Wales.

**WALK**, *subs.* (colloquial). — A special haunt, place of resort, or ROUND (*q.v.*): an extension of the ordinary usage. Thus a MILKMAN'S (CAT'S-MEAT-MAN'S, POSTMAN'S, etc.) WALK = the district habitually served by a salesman (postman, etc.); a BANK-WALK = the round of a banker's collecting clerk; THE WALK (Royal Exchange) = that portion of the promenade frequented by some particular clique or set of merchants.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. He had thoughts at one time of trying to establish himself in a CAT'S-MEAT WALK.

COCK (or HEN) OF THE WALK (club, school, etc.), *subs. phr.* (common). — A man (or woman) of parts, a worthy, a leader.

1711. *Spectator*, 131. Service to the knight. Sir Andrew is grown the COCK OF THE CLUB since he left us, and if he does not return quickly will make every mother's son of us commonwealth's men.

1729. SWIFT, *Grand Question Debated*. But at cuffs I was always the COCK OF THE SCHOOL.

1764. O'HARA, *Midas*, i. 1. COCK OF THE SCHOOL. He bears despotic rule.

1862. WOOD, *Channings*, xxix. Were I going in for the seniorship, and one below me were suddenly hoisted above my head, and made a COCK OF THE WALK, I'd know the reason why.

*d.* 1863. THACKERAY, *Miscellanies*, II. 275. There is no more dangerous or stultifying position for a man in life than to be a COCK OF SMALL SOCIETY.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxiii. This HEN OF THE WALK of our slum is really herself. . . . Who can jaw a copper like Tilda, or carney a Covent Garden salesman . . . or take the size out of a chaffing swell?

LADIES' (or GENTLEMEN'S) WALK, *subs. phr.* (American).—A W.C.: a euphemism (hotel-proprietors').

TO WALK THE STREETS, *verb. phr.* (common).—To frequent the streets for the purpose of prostitution; to make public quest for men.

1887. *St. James's Gazette*, 2 July. The other prisoner was in the habit of WALKING the Quadrant.

TO WALK INTO, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — 1. To attack, assault, drub: also TO WALK INTO THE AFFECTIONS; (2) = to scold, RAG (*q.v.*), SLANG (*q.v.*); (3) = to demolish, overcome, get the best of; and (4) to eat heartily, to WOLF (*q.v.*).

1840. DICKENS, *Old Curiosity Shop*, lxviii. There is little Jacob, WALKING . . . INTO a home-made plum-cake, at a most surprising pace.

1840. HALIBURTON, *Sam Slick*, III. 122. TO WALK INTO a Down-East land-jobber requires great skill, and a very considerable knowledge of human nature.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*. When he told Verdant that . . . his bread-basket WALKED INTO, his day-lights darkened.

1858 *New York Herald*, 16 Sept. The way in which the *Courier* and *Enquirer* WALK INTO the character and reputation of some of their old associates in the Clay movement is a caution to respectable blackguards.

*c.* 1859. HIRAM BIGELOW [*Letter* in *Fam. Comp.*]. [BARTLETT]. I went into the dining-room, and sot down afore a plate that had my name writ on a card onto it, and I did WALK INTO the beef, and taters, and things, about east.

TO WALK THE CHALK, *verb. phr.* (orig. American).—1. To walk along a chalk line as a test of sobriety. Hence (2) to go straight in conduct, manners, or morals, to keep up to the mark.

1840. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 3 S., xi. The way she WALKS HER CHALKS ain't no matter. She is a regular fore-and-after.

1843. *Comic Almanack*, 366. And since my future walk's chalk'd out—at once I'll WALK MY CHALKS.

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, 318. The President, in whom he is disappointed for one reason or another, does not come up to chalk; when he dismisses an official. he is made to WALK THE CHALK.

18[?]. *Simon Suggs* [BARTLETT], 89. 'The Tallapoosa volunteers,' said Captain Suggs; 'so let everybody look out and WALK THE CHALK.'

TO WALK ONE'S CHALKS (or TO WALK), *verb. phr.* (common).—To decamp, move on, go about one's business: *see* CHALK for suggested origin.

[*d.* 1599. SPENSER, *State of Ireland.* When he comes foorth, he will make theyr cowes and garrans to WALKE.]

1853. READE, *Gold*, iv. 2. There are riflemen among them that will bring you down like squirrels if you don't WALK YOUR CHALKS in good time.

1873. TROLLOPE, *Phineas Redux*, i. Browborough has sat for the place now for three Parliaments. . . . I am told that he must WALK if anybody would go down who could talk to the colliers every night for a week or two.

THE GHOST WALKS (or DOESN'T WALK), *phr.* (theatrical).—There is (or is not) money in the treasury.

1853. *Household Words*, 183. When no salaries are forthcoming the GHOST DOESN'T WALK.

1883. *Referee*, 24 June, 3, 2. An Actors' Benevolent Fund box placed on the treasurer's desk every day when THE GHOST WALKS would get many an odd shilling or sixpence put into it.

1885. *The Stage*, 112. The rogues seldom appear at a loss for a plausible story when it is time for the GHOST TO WALK. *Ibid.* The next day THE GHOST DECLINES TO WALK.

1889. J. C. COLMAN (in *Slang, Jargon, and Cant*), 405. GHOST-WALKING, a term originally applied by an impecunious stroller in a sharing company to the operation of 'holding the treasury,' or paying the salaries, which has become a stock facetiæ among all kinds and descriptions of actors. Instead of inquiring whether the treasury is open, they generally say—'Has the GHOST WALKED?' or 'What, has this thing appeared again?' (Shakspeare).

1890. *Illustrated Bits*, 29 Mar., 11. 1. And a few nights with empty benches LAID THE GHOST completely. It could not even WALK to the tune of quarter salaries.

TO WALK THE PLANK, *verb. phr.* (nautical).—To walk overboard, to die: formerly an old method of execution or vengeance, the victim being forced to walk blindfolded along a plank over the ship's side.

TO WALK INTO ONE'S AFFECTIONS, *verb. phr.* (common).—1. TO WALK INTO (*q.v. supra*); and (2) to get into debt.

TO WALK OVER, *verb. phr.* (racing).—To win a race without opposition; hence to win easily. WALK-OVER = an unopposed success, complete triumph. [Spec. of a horse, coming alone, of all the entries, to the scratch; it has consequently but to WALK OVER the course at leisure to be entitled to the stake.]

*c.* 1859. *Vicksburg Herald* [BARTLETT]. What a difference it makes to a candidate, when he knows he is offered a WALK-OVER instead of a forlorn hope.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxviii. 403. That's the bay stallion there . . . and he's never been beaten. It's his WALK-OVER.

1887. *Field*, 13 Aug. He then proceeded to WALK OVER the imaginary course for the imaginary plate. *Ibid.*, 25 June. In cases where no second horse exists in racing law, either for want of placing or by reason of a WALK-OVER.

WALK, KNAVE, WALK, *phr.* (old).—'A rude phrase which parrots were taught to use' (FAIRHOLT).

1592. LYLY, *Mydas*, i. 2. *Pet.* That's a leaden dagger in a velvet sheath, to have a blacke tongue in a faire mouth. *Lecio.* Tush, it is not for the blacknesse, but for the babling, for every hour she will cry, WALKE, KNAVE, WALKE.

1663–78. BUTLER, *Hudibras.* [Who] could tell what subtlest parrots mean, That speak and think contrary clean; What member 'tis of whom they talk, When they cry *rope*, and WALK, KNAVE, WALK.

Also in VARIOUS PHRASES: Thus TO WALK ALONE = to be an outcast, forsaken, shunned; TO WALK THE HOSPITALS = to attend the medical and surgical practice of hospitals as a student under one of the qualified staff; TO WALK SPANISH = to be seized by the scruff and the seat and thus forced along, to act under compulsion; TO WALK ABOUT (military) = an occasional instruction from officers to sentinels for the purpose of waiving the ceremony of the salute; TO WALK THE PEGS (gaming) = to 'sharp' one's pegs forward or those of one's antagonist backward (cribbage); TO WALK (or JUMP) DOWN ONE'S THROAT = to rate, scold, abuse; TO WALK UP LADDER-LANE AND DOWN HEMP-STREET = to be hanged at the yardarm: *see* LADDER; TO WALK ROUND ONE = to get an advantage, or the bulge over.

1853. HALIBURTON, *Wise Saws*, 20. My ambassadors, said the President, may not dance as elegantly as European courtiers, but they can WALK ROUND them in a treaty, that's a fact.

**WALKER,** *subs.* (old). — 1. A prowler, MOUCHER (*q.v.*): spec. one questing for opportunities of theft or harlotry: also (later) NIGHT-WALKER and STREET-WALKER.

*c.* 1380. *P. Plowman's Crede* [E.E.T.S.], 90. Wepyng, y warne ȝow of WALKERS aboute; It beth enemyes of the cros that crist upon tholede.

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus.* Men that hunt so be privy stealers, or NIGHT WALKERS.

1620. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Chances*, ii. 1. Sure these fellows Were NIGHT SNAPS. *Ibid. The* NIGHT WALKER, *or the Little Thief* [Title].

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, v. 2. *Ador.* You have been, Before your lady gave you entertainment, A NIGHT-WALKER in the streets. *Mirt.* How, my good lord! *Ador.* Traded in picking pockets.

1664. ETHEREGE, *Comical Revenge*, iv. 2. *Grace.* Do you take me for a NIGHT-WALKER, Sir?

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Batchelor*, i. 5. The knight was alone, and had fallen into the hands of some NIGHT-WALKERS, who, I suppose, would have pillaged him.

1708. HATTON, *New View of London* [quoted in ASHTON'S *Soc. Life in Reign of Q. Anne*], vii. 238. Loose and disorderly Servants, NIGHT-WALKERS, Strumpets.

*c.* 1707. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, iii. 99. Now Miss turn NIGHT-WALKER.

2. (old).—In *pl.* = the feet.

1603. CHAPMAN, *Iliad*, xx. 36. And with them halted down (Proud of his strength) lame Mulciber, his WALKERS quite misgrown.

3. (colloquial). — A postman [HOTTEN: from an old song called, 'WALKER, the twopenny postman.']

HOOKEY WALKER (or WALKER), *intj.* (common).—1. An ironical expression of incredulity, BENDER (*q.v.*), GAMMON (*q.v.*); also (2) Be off! Clear out! (GROSE, VAUX, *Lex. Bal.*).

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Old Woman Clothed in Gray.' Her senses were wandering—she seem'd not to hear, Or, at least, understand—for mere unmeaning talk her Parch'd lips babbled now, such as 'Hookey,' and WALKER!

1843. DICKENS, *Christmas Carol* [1843], 169. 'Buy it,' said Scrooge. 'WALKER!' said the boy.

1840. 'Characters of Freshmen' (WHIBLEY, *Cap and Gown*, 183). The pestilent freshman . . . is very pugnacious, and walking in the streets suddenly turneth and asketh a huge snob 'what the deuce he meant by that?' Whereat the snob (having done nothing at all) coolly answereth (as the Pestilent Freshman intended he should) HOOKY WALKER, provocative of a combat.

**WALKING-MORT,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant). — A tramp or gypsy's woman: *see* MORT.

**WALKING-PAPERS (or -TICKET),** *subs. pl.* (American).—Dismissal. Thus, TO GET ONE'S WALKING-PAPERS = to get the SACK (*q.v.*), to be sent about one's business, 'with (spec.) a flea in one's ear.'

1840. CROCKETT, *Tour Down East*, 30. Mr. Duane was ordered to remove the deposits. He answered that his duty did not require it. In a few hours, he got his WALKING TICKET that his services were no longer wanted.

1843. *Kingston Whig* (Canada), Dec. We can announce with certainty that the Honourable Mr. D—— has received his WALKING TICKET, accompanied with some correspondence with his Excellency that has given him offence.

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers*, 307. 'If you ever question me again,' said Mrs. Samsom Savage, 'you'll get your WALKING TICKET in short order.'

*c.* 1859. *New York Herald*, Letter from Washington [BARTLETT]. It is probable that WALKING PAPERS will be forwarded to a large proportion of the *corps diplomatique* during the session of Congress. B—— and B—— are already admonished to return, and the invitation will be pretty general.

**WALL,** *subs.* (Eton).—Two football games are played at Eton—one at the WALL, the other in the FIELD. The first is only played by a very limited number of boys, for there is but one wall; the game is of an intricate nature, and the uninitiated spectator cannot, as a rule, even see how a point, called a Shy, is obtained. Indeed, were it not for the time-honoured match between Collegers and Oppidans on St. Andrew's Day the game would probably become obsolete. The Eton FIELD game has many merits as a game for boys superior to those of any other kind of football. In it speed, and skilful dribbling, and accurate kicking have their due success, but strength and dogged perseverance are not left out in the cold (*Great Public Schools*).

*Verb.* (Oxford).—To confine to College bounds: *cf.* GATE.

1860. *Macmillan's Mag.*, II. 222. To gate or WALL a refractory student.

GO-BY-THE-WALL, *subs. phr.* (old).—Strong ale.

PHRASES. AT (or TO) THE WALL = in difficulties; TO GO TO THE WALL = to be slighted, ousted, put on one side, to succumb to force of circumstances, to go UNDER (*q.v.*); LAID BY THE WALL = dead, but unburied; TO DRIVE TO THE WALL = to force to give way, to crush; TO TAKE THE WALL = to walk nearest the

wall in passing; hence TO GET THE BETTER OF (or the advantage): *cf.* 'to get to WINDWARD' (*q.v.*): THE WALL (=the right of choice of way) was in olden times the safest and cleanest; TO HANG BY THE WALL=to be neglected, remain disused; TO SEE AS FAR INTO A BRICK WALL (MILLSTONE or MILESTONE) as . . .=to be as able (or as cute) as . . .; 'Look on the WALL, and it will not bite you' (a jeer to one whose tongue has been bitten by mustard); 'WALLS have ears' ='Be careful, someone may be listening.'

1530. TYNDALE, *Works*, i. 329. HOLD heretics TO THE WALL [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 431. . . . the first hint of the place whither the weakest go].

1533. *Thersites* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), i. 401]. They GIVE me THE WALL.

[1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, II. v. Fieldes have eies, and woodes have eares.] *Ibid.* She had seene far IN A MILSTONE. *Ibid.* DRIVE him TO THE WALL.

1579-80. LYLY, *Euphues*, 53. The weakest must still TO THE WALL. *Ibid.* (1594), *Mother Bombie*, ii. 1. *Lucio.* I see not yet what you goe about. *Dro.* Lucio, that can PIERCE A MUD WALL of twentie foot thicke, would make us beleeve hee cannot see a candle through a paper lanthorne.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo*, i. 1. That shews thee a weak slave; for the weakest goes TO THE WALL. *Ibid.* Women being the weaker vessels are ever THRUST TO THE WALL. *Ibid.* I will TAKE THE WALL of any man or maid. *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, iii. 4. I am richer than to HANG BY THE WALLS.

1605. HEYWOOD, *If You Know not Me*, i. Since you will needs HAUE THE WALL, Ile take the pains to thrust you into the kennel.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood.* WALLS HAVE EARS.

**WALLABY.** ON THE WALLABY (or WALLABY-TRACK), *phr.* (Australian).—Tramping the country on foot looking for work. [MORRIS: WALLABY = a small kangaroo. Often in the bush the only perceptible tracks, and sometimes the only tracks by which the scrub can be penetrated, are the tracks worn down by the WALLABY, as a hare tramples its 'form.' These tracks may lead to water or they may be aimless and rambling. Thus the man ON THE WALLABY may be looking for food or for work, or aimlessly wandering by day and getting food and shelter as a SUNDOWNER (*q.v.*) at night.]

1869. CLARKE, *Peripatetic Philosopher* (Reprint), 41. The Wimmera district is noted for the hordes of vagabond 'loafers' that it supports, and has earned for itself the name of 'The Feeding Track.' I remember an old bush ditty, which I have heard sung when *I* was ON THE WALLABY. . . . At the station where I worked for some time (as 'knock-about man') three cooks were kept during the WALLABY season—one for the house, one for the men, and one for the travellers.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Colonial Reformer*, 82. 'What is the meaning of OUT ON THE WALLABY?' asked Ernest. 'Well, it's bush slang, sir, for men just as you or I might be now, looking for work or something to eat; if we can't get work, living on the country, till things turn round a little.'

1893. GILBERT PARKER, *Pierre and his People*, 242. The WALLABY TRACK? That's the name in Australia for trampin' west, through the plains of the Never Never Country, lookin' for the luck o' the world.

1894. LONGMANS, *Notes on Books* (31 May), 206. 'ON THE WALLABY: a Book of Travel and Adventure.'

1894. CARMICHAEL [*Australasian*, 22 Dec., 1127. 5]. A WALLABY Christmas, Jack, old man!—Well, a worse fate might befall us! The bush must do for our church to-day, And birds be the bells to call us.

1896. LAWSON, *When the World was Wide*. 134. Though joys of which the poet rhymes Was not for Bill an' me: I think we had some good old times Out ON THE WALLABY.

**WALLAH.** *See* COMPETITION WALLAH.

**WALL-EYED,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial). —1. Having eyes with an undue proportion of white; 'all white like a plastered wall' (GROSE): hence (2)=glaring, fierce, threatening. Any work irregularly or ill done is called a WALL-EYED job. It is applied also to any very irregular action.

1580. BARET, *Alvearie.* A horse with a WALL-EYE, glauciolus.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *King John*, iv. 3. 49. This is . . . the vilest stroke That ever WALL-EYED wrath, or staring rage, Presented to the tears of soft remorse.

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, v. 2. A pair of WALL-EYES in a face forced.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar*, x. Blackberry was WALL-EYED, and the colt wanted a tail.

**WALLFLOWER,** *subs.* (common).—1. Orig. a lady unable to obtain a partner in a dance; now applied to anyone of either sex who goes to a ball but does not dance, whether from inability, choice, or neglect. As *adj.*=neglected, *passé.*

*d.* 1830. PRAED, *County Ball.* The maiden WALLFLOWERS of the room Admire the freshness of his bloom.

1860. HOLMES, *Professor*, vi. Men . . . have shown as much self-devotion in carrying a lone WALLFLOWER down to the supper-table as ever saint or martyr in the act that has canonized his name.

1881. BRADDON, *Asphodel*, xx. Whom he had incontinently left to her own reflections, or to such conversation as she might be able to find among sundry other dowagers arrived at the same WALLFLOWER stage of existence.

1902. *Free Lance*, 22 Nov., 192. 1. When the old formula of 'Ladies first' In good society will be reversed, And male WALL-FLOWERS sitting out at dances Will reckon up their matrimonial chances.

2. (common).—In *pl.*=second-hand garments exposed for sale: *cf.* HAND-ME-DOWNS, REACH-ME-DOWNS, etc.

**WALLOP,** *verb* (common). — To beat, flog, thrash. Also as *subs.* =a severe blow; WALLOPING= a good trouncing. Also WALLOPER.

1838. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches.* All I know was WALLOPPING into me; I took larnin' through the skin. *Ibid.* (1850), *Orson Dabbs.* There's nothing like WALLOPPING for taking the conceit out of fellows who think they know more than their betters.

1843–4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, xviii. I grabs right hold of the cow's tail, and yelled and screamed like mad, and WALLOPED away at her like anything.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, i. 468. He kept me without grub and WALLOPED me.

1861. *Times*, 'On American Affairs.' Let us WALLOP great Doodle now when he is down, If we WALLOPS him well we will do him up brown.

1888. *Scribner's Mag.*, Nov., 79. Trying to get at a good place to WALLOP you with his ferule.

2. (provincial). — Generic for great effort or agitation: *e.g.* (*a*) to boil and bubble: *see* POT-WALLOPER; (*b*) move or gallop quickly; (*c*) to tumble about. Also as *subs.*, with the usual derivatives.

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E.E.T.S], 1770. Or he wiste, he was war of the white beres, Thei went a-wai a WALLOP as thei wod semed.

*c.* 1400. *Generydes* [E.E.T.S.], 3325 And he anon to hym com WALOPING.

*c.* 1440. *Merlin* [E.E.T.S.], ii. 233. Than the Kynge rode formest hym-self a grete WALOP, for sore hym longed to wite how the Kynge Tradilynaunt hym contened.

*c.* 1440. *Morte Arthure* [E.E.T.S.], 2147. Swerdez swangene in two, Swel-tand Knyghtez Lyes wyde opyne welter-ande one WALOPANDE stedes.

*d.* 1691. BARLOW, *Hasty Pudding*, i. The yellow flour . . . Swells in the flood and thickens to a paste, Then puffs and WALLOPS.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xxx. She WALLOPPED away with all the grace of triumph.

**WALLOPING,** *adj.* (common). — Great, bouncing. Also WALLOPER = anything superlative: *see* WHOPPER.

1903. HYNE, *Filibusters*, xix. One day I got a bit of a cheerer. I came upon a WALLOPPING great stone, which I found that with a bit of a push would move.

**WALLYFORD,** *subs.* (Loretto).—The usual run on a wet whole school-day: about 3½ miles.

**WALTHAM'S-CALF.** AS WISE AS WALTHAM'S CALF, *phr.* (old).—Very foolish.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Colin Clout*. . . . AS WYSE AS WALTHAM'S CALF . . . He can nothing smatter Of logicke nor scole matter.

1567. *Disclosing of the great Bull* [*Harl. Misc.*, vii. 535]. Some running and gadding calves, WISER than WALTHAM'S CALFE that ranne nine miles to sucke a bull.

**WALTZ.** TO WALTZ ABOUT (or ROUND), *verb. phr.* (common).—To move in a sprightly fashion, to buzz round. Also to fuss about, make oneself a nuisance.

**WAMBLE-CROPPED,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Wretched, humiliated: also WOMBLE-CROPPED.

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers*, 284. The Captain looked so awful WOMBLE-CROPT that I pitied him. I never saw such an uncomfortable-looking countenance.

1848. MAJOR DOWNING, *Letter from Baton Rouge*, June 15. I never saw Captain Jumper so wilted down before, and that made me feel so WAMBLE-CROPT I could not say a word.

**WAME.** TO NAIL TWA WAMES THEGITHER, *verb. phr.* (Scots venery). — To copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE. [WAME = belly.] Hence TO GET THE WAME UP = to be got with child, to be LUMPY (*q.v.*).

1568. *Bannatyne MSS.*, 'The Use o. Court' (Hunt. Club), 765. VP GETTIS HER WAME, Scho thinkis no schame For to bring hame The laird ane herne.

**WAND,** *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK (DUNELM).

**WANGER.** *See* WHANGER.

**WANION,** *subs.* (old).—Misfortune, calamity, mischief, a curse. Thus WITH (or IN) A WANION = (1) 'Mischief take you,' 'Blast you'; with a vengeance; and hence (2) summarily, emphatically: also WANIONS ON YOU! [*Cf.* M. E. WANIAND (with quots.) = the waning of the moon, and spec. regarded as presaging ill-luck.]

[1362. *York Plays*, 124. Be they kyngis or knyghtis, in care ȝe thaim cast; ȝaa, and welde tham in woo to wonne, IN THE WANYAND.]

[*c.* 1401. *Townley Mysteries*, 241. OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 202. There is the strange phrase IN THE WENYANDE; in the unlucky time when the moon wanes; hence the curse, 'with a wanion.']

1549. LATIMER, *Sermons*, 36b. Was not this a good prelate? He should have beene at home preaching in his dioces WITH A WANNION.

1570. FOX, *Eccles. Hist.*, II. 457. 1. The pope—sent into France Hildebrand, his cardinal chaplaine (as meet a mate for such a feat, as was in all Satan's court), and made him WITH A WANIE to come againe *coram nobis*.

1605. JONSON, *Eastward Ho*, iii. 2. Marry, hang you, westward, WITH A WANION to you. *Ibid.* (1625), *Staple of News*, iii. 5. Act fables of false news, in this manner, to the super vexation of town and country, WITH A WANION.

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Pericles*, ii. 1. 17. Come away, or I'll fetch thee WITH A WANNION.

1611. BEAUMONT, *Kn. of Burn. Pestle*, ii. 1. I'll tell Ralph a tale in his ear, shall fetch him again WITH A WANION, I'll warrant him.

1663. DRYDEN, *Wild Gallant*, iii. I'll teach you to take place of tradesmen's wives, WITH A WANNION to you.

1694. MOTTEUX, *Rabelais*, IV. xlvii. Ho, clod-pate, where art thou? Come out with a vengeance, come out WITH A WANNION.

1820. SCOTT, *Abbot*. I sent him out of my company WITH A WANION. *Ibid.* (1822), *Fort. of Nigel*. Bide down with a mischief to you—bide down WITH A WANION.

**WANKER**, *subs.* (Felsted School).—A bloater. [A master supplies: 'From stinker—stwanker—wanker.']

1892. *Felstedian*, Oct., 105. My name it is WANKER; a leaner or lanker, Salter or ranker fish never swam. *Ibid.* (1897), June, 100. He sniffs. 'Eugh, WANKERS again.

**WANKY**, *adj.* (printers').—Spurious, bad, wrong: *e.g.* a WANKY tanner =a SNIDE (*q.v.*) sixpence.

**WANT.** *See* KNOW.

**WA'N'T**, *verb* (colloquial).—Was not: also WARNT.

1699. VANBRUGH, *False Friend*. WA'N'T.

**WANTAGE**, *subs.* (American).—A deficiency; a shortage.

1888-9. *New York Prod. Exch. Rept.*, 256. Inspectors and gaugers should make a detailed return of . . . the gauge, WANTAGE, proof, and number of proof gallons.

**WANTED**, *ppl. adj.* (euphemistic).—'WANTED' by the police. (GROSE).

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 19 Dec. Two men supposed to be on board of a vessel which was loading at Hebburn Coal staithes, were WANTED in Germany for murder.

1883. GREENWOOD, *Tag, Rag, & Co.* The police, on their part, caused it to be understood that until he was really WANTED on a specific charge, a thief should in no case be interfered with.

**WANTER**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A person in need of anything: *cf.* HAVES and HAVE-NOTS. Also (2) spec. =an unmarried person, 'one in want of a mate' (HALLIWELL).

1611. DAVIES, *Scourge of Folly*, 21. The WANTERS are despised of God and men.

**WANT-GRACE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A reprobate.

1603. DAVIES, *Microcosmos*, 57. And rather than they should not die by force, Or want a WANT-GRACE to performe the deede, Their Vncle and Protector must perforce Their crowne from head, and head from life diuorce.

**WAP**, *verb* (Old Cant).—1. To copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE. Hence WAPPING-MORT (or DELL) =a harlot: *see* TART; WAPPENED =(1) deflowered, (2) wanton, and (3) foundered. [The uncertainty on the part of Shakspearean editors as to 'wappened' and 'wappered' would seem to be elucidated by the canting use of WAP and its obvious popularity as instanced by the quotations.—J.S.F.]

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Timon of Athens*, iv. 3. [Gold] makes the WAPPEN'D widow wed again: She, whom the spital-house and ulcerous sores Would cast the gorge at, this embalms and spices To the April day again.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*, 39 (H. Club's Rept., 1874). Nigling, company keeping with a woman: this word is not used now, but WAPPING, and thereof comes the name WAPPING MORTS, Whoores.

*c.* 1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Two Noble Kinsmen*, v. 4. We come towards the gods Young and UNWAPPER'D, not halting under crimes.

1612. DEKKER, '*Bingout, bien Morts*,' v. [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 11]. And WAPPING DELL that niggles well, and takes loure for her hire.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. WAP C., to Lie with a Man. If she won't WAP for a Winne, let her trine for a Make, If she won't Lie with a Man for a Penny, let her Hang for a Half-penny. MORT WAPAPACE, a Woman of Experience, or very expert at the sport.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*, 'Maunder's Praise of Strowling Most.' WAPPING thou I know does love . . . then remove, Thy drawers, and let's prig in sport.

1725. *Canting Songs*. This doxy dell can cut been whids, And WAP well for a win, And prig and cloy so benshiply Each deuseavile within.

2. *See* WHOP.

**WAPPER.** *See* WHOPPER.

**WAPPER-EYED,** *adj. phr.* (B. E.).—'That has sore or running eyes.'

*d.* 1627. MIDDLETON, *Black Book*, 528. A little WAPPER-EYED constable, to wink and blink at small faults.

**WAPS,** *subs.* (common).—A wasp.

**WAR.** TUG-OF-WAR, *subs. phr.* (common). — A severe and laborious contest.

1671. LEE, *Alexander the Great*, iv. 2. When Greeks join'd Greeks, then was THE TUG OF WAR.

*See* BEFORE THE WAR.

**WARDROBE,** *subs.* (old).—A privy.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Prioress' Tale,' 120. I seye that in a WARDROBE they him threwe, Wher as thes Jewes purgen his entraille.

**WARE,** *subs.* (venery). — 1. The female privities; also LADY-WARE: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; (2) the *penis* and *testes*: *see* PRICK and CODS: hence STANDING WARE=an *erectio penis*; also occasionally (3) the paps. Hence TO HAWK ONE'S WARES = (1) to quest for men, and (2) to expose one's charms (of women).

1705. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, I. ix. 6. Till she had burnt with Claps and Poxes, More STANDING WARE than Sampson's Foxes.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 4. Had well examined all her WARE. *Ibid.*, 60. Our money spent, and breeks so torn, That for my own part, I declare, I'm d——d hard switch'd to hide my WARE. *Ibid.*, 64. He huffd thy WARE as well as mine, And tho' in every part he'd seen us, He gave the prize to Madam Venus.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 148. As Beatrice was one of those ladies who was obliged to hawk their WARES . . . I was . . . shielded from any temptation to break the commandments.

**WAREHOUSE,** *verb* (society). — To pawn. Hence as *subs.* = a fashionable UNCLE (*q.v.*).

**WAR-HAT.** *See* WAR-POT.

**WAR-HORSE,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A veteran: soldier or politician.

**WARLING,** *subs.* (old).—Apparently =slave, drudge: only occurring in proverbial saying, 'It is better to be an old man's derling, than an old man's werling' (HEYWOOD, 1542; CAMDEN, 1605).

**WARM,** *adj.* (old and still colloquial).—Generic for *extra*-ordinary: *e.g.* a WARM (= intimate FRIEND; WARM (= sincere) THANKS; a WARM (= hearty) WELCOME; a WARM (= fresh) TRAIL: *cf.* 'hot,' 'warm,' and 'cold' in children's play of guessing or 'hide-and-seek'; WARM (=easy) CIRCUMSTANCES: whence TO CUT UP WARM=to

leave a good estate, to die rich; a WARM (=rich) MAN: 'well-lined or flush in the pocket' (B. E. and GROSE); WARM (in one's position, duty, etc.) = at home, conversant with, well adapted to: hence TO KEEP A PLACE, etc., WARM = to occupy it; a WARM (= unpleasant) POSITION: *e.g.* 'He's in a WARM corner'; a WARM (= zealous) OPINION; a WARM (= brisk) ENGAGEMENT; a WARM (=enthusiastic) PARTISAN; WARM (= quick) WORK; a WARM (=hasty) TEMPER: espec. when contradicted; WARM (=wanton) DESIRE: a WARM (=lecherous) MEMBER (or WARM-'UN): a harlot or whoremonger: *cf.* HOT-UN, SCORCHER (*q.v.*); also (2) WARM-MEMBER = an energetic, pushful, self-advertising person; WARM (=strong) LANGUAGE; a WARM (= hostile) RECEPTION: hence the place gets too WARM (= unpleasant) because of unpopularity or antagonism to authority, and so forth.

1377. CHAUCER, *Troilus* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 114. A prosperous man is said to sit WARM; hence our WARM (thriving) MAN, and our tenants sit at so much rent].

1551. TYTLER, *Edward VI.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 528. The adjective WARM is employed for *iratus*].

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, ii. 1. A gentleman newly WARM in his land, sir.

1613. PURCHAS, *Pilgrimage*, 84. His brother . . . had a while WARMED the throne.

1662. MIDDLETON, *Anything for a Quiet Life*, i. 1. *Water Camlet.* Believe it, I am a poor commoner. *Sir F. Cres.* Come, you are WARM and blest with a fair wife.

1680. DRYDEN, *Spanish Friar*, i. 1. We shall have WARM WORK on't.

*c.* 1693. CONGREVE, *Juvenal*, xi. Their small stock of credit gone, Lest Rome should grow too WARM, from thence they run.

1728. SWIFT, *Death of Stella.* When she saw any of the company very WARM in a wrong opinion, she was more inclined to confirm them in it than oppose them.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar*, xvi. We have been thinking of marrying her to one of your tenants . . . a WARM man . . . able to give her good bread.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 409. Scarcely had the worthy Mynheer Beekman got WARM in the seat of authority . . . than enemies began to spring up all around him.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 85. This WARM old gentleman has the moderation to lend me money at twenty per cent. *Ibid.*, 192. I was a WARM widow with a comfortable jointure, and a person little, if anything, the worse for wear. *Ibid.*, 216. We feathered our nests pretty WARMLY.

1814. AUSTEN, *Mansfield Park*, xvi. I do not know the play; but . . . if there is anything a little too WARM . . . it can be easily left out.

*c.* 1827. MACAULAY, *Hallam's Constit. Hist.* The conduct of Hampden in the affair of the ship-money met with the WARM approbation of every respectable royalist in England.

1834. EDGEWORTH, *Helen*, xxvi. When people are WARM they cannot stand picking terms.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, III. vi. He's WARM—he's getting cold—he's getting colder and colder—he's freezing.

*c.* 1875. *Music Hall Song*, 'Keep it Dark.' Dr. Kenealy, that popular bloke, That extremely WARM member, the member for Stoke.

*c.* 1889. *Music Hall Song*, 'Salvation Sarah.' They call me Salvation Sarah, A WARM-'UN I have been; But now I am converted, I'll never go wrong again.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 124. And, in a monetary sense, He looked on her as 'WARM.'

1901. *Sporting Times*, 27 April, 1. 4. 'I suppose . . . the pretty bird should be placed in a warm room, eh?' 'Oh, it don't siggernify, lady, . . . any room'll be WARM enough once he starts a-talkin'!'

1902. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, 122. Perry ran to earth . . . the fellow . . . who drove Bradish . . . It means that we are getting WARM.

PHRASES: TO WARM A HOUSE =to celebrate incoming by a feast: hence HOUSE-WARMING; TO WARM TO (a thing, one's work, etc.)=to become enthusiastic, to do vigorously; WARM WITH='WARM WITH sugar': *cf.* COLD WITHOUT; 'Out of God's blessing into the WARM SUN'=from better to worse. Also *see* WARMING.

1581. LYLY, *Euphues*, Z. 3. b. Therefore if thou wilt follow my advice, and prosecute thine owne determination, THOU SHALT COME OUT OF A WARME SUNNE INTO God's BLESSING.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 2. Good King! that must approve the common saw, Thou OUT OF HEAVEN'S BENEDICTION COM'ST To THE WARM SUN.

1608. HARINGTON, *Catal. of Bishops, Carlyle*. Marks—removed from Carlisle to Lamos in Greece; viz. OUT OF GOD'S BLESSING INTO A WARME SUNNE, as the saying is. *Ibid.* (1615); *Epigrams*, ii. 56. Pray God they bring us not, when all is done, OUT OF GOD'S BLESSING INTO THIS WARM SUN.

1616–25. *Court and Times James I.*, s.v. [We see] WARM A HOUSE [with a feast].

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*. Two glasses of rum-and-water WARM WITH.

1894. BAKER, *New Timothy*, 73. As the minister WARMS TO his sermon, there come through these cracks frequent exclamations.

1885. *Home Tidings*, 369. The two contestants put up their dukes and soon WARMED UP to their work.

**WARMING**, *subs.* (common).—A beating, flogging, thrashing. Hence TO WARM (or WARM ONE'S JACKET, *q.v.*) = (1) to beat, drub, TAN (*q.v.*); and (2) to rate, abuse roundly, 'call over the coals.' TO WARM THE WAX OF ONE'S EAR=to box the ears.

**WARMING-PAN**, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A substitute; a *locum tenens*; a person occupying another's office, situation or post during absence or while qualifying for it. Also W. P.: spec. a clergyman holding a living under a bond of resignation; also as *adj.*, *e.g.* a WARMING-PAN rector: *see* WARM.

1883. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 21 Jan. It is not usual to inform a man that you propose to use him as a WARMING-PAN, however excellently suited he may be for such a purpose.

2. (old).—A large, old-fashioned gold watch: *cf.* FRYING-PAN (*q.v.*) or TURNIP (*q.v.*)=a large silver watch (B. E. and GROSE).

3. (old).—A female bed-fellow (B. E. and GROSE); a NIGHT-PIECE (*q.v.*). Also SCOTCH WARMING-PAN=a wench: spec. a chambermaid.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 61. The story is well-known of the gentleman travelling in Scotland, who desiring to have his bed warmed, the servant-maid doffs her clothes, and lays herself down in it a while. In Scotland they have neither bellows, warming-pans, nor houses of office.

**WARM-SIDED**, *adj. phr.* (naval).—Said of a fort or ship mounting heavy batteries.

**WAR-PAINT**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Official costume, evening dress, or (theatrical) MAKE-UP (*q.v.*).

1884. HAGGARD, *Dawn. She.* 'Have you seen the hero of the evening?' *He.* 'Who? Do you mean the Portuguese governor in his WAR-PAINT?'

1888. *St. James's Gaz.*, 9 Ap. Sir William Jenner in his WAR-PAINT as president of the Royal College of Physicians.

**WARPATH.** ON THE WARPATH, *phr.* (colloquial). — In hostile mood or attitude; 'making fur and feathers fly'; angry.

**WAR-POT (or WAR-HAT),** *subs. phr.* (military).—A spiked helmet.

**WARREN,** *subs.* (venery).—1. A brothel: also CUNNY (cony) WARREN (B. E. and GROSE): *see* NANNY-SHOP. Also (2) a boarding-school (B. E. and GROSE).

3. (Old Cant).—'He that is Security for goods taken up on Credit by Extravagant young Gentlemen' (B. E.).

**WARWICKSHIRE LADS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military). — The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, late the 6th Foot.

**WASH,** *subs.* (Stock Exchange).—1. A fictitious bargain or sale: a broker gets instructions from one client to buy, and from another to sell, a particular stock; instead of making separate transactions of the two commissions to the best advantage of each principal, he merely transfers from one to the other, putting the difference in his own pocket: the practice is against the rules. Hence WASHED as applied to stock sold or bought in this way. Also a bogus deal made for the sake of a fictitious quotation: one broker arranges with another to buy a certain stock when he offers it for sale, the effect, when not detected, being to keep it quoted, and, if the plotters buy and sell the stock to a high figure, to afford a basis for *bona fide* sales.

1870. MEDBERY, *Men and Mysteries of Wall St.*, 327 From the spring of '58 to '60, the Stock Board slowly recovered its old tone. The bear element was in its glory. Brokers had become fearful of forced quotations. WASHING had become a constant trick before the panic, and bids were now closely scrutinized.

1888-9. *New York Produce Exchange Report*, 265. WASHED or fictitious sales are positively forbidden, and will render the parties concerned liable to suspension or expulsion from the Produce Exchange.

2. (B. E.).—'Paint for faces.'

3. (common).—Very weak LAP (*q.v.*): spec. (Durham School)=school tea or coffee: *see* ROCK.

*Verb* (colloquial).—1. To bear investigation; stand testing; prove genuine, reliable or trustworthy: as good fabrics and fast dyes stand the operation of washing.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. 2. He's got pluck somewhere in him. That's the only thing after all that'l WASH, ain't it?

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*. The conversation, as a rule, ended in Charley's giving them an order too. Of course this little caper would only WASH once.

2. (craftsmen's).—To signify doubt of an assertion, or disapproval of conduct by language or action more forcible than pleasant: *e.g.* printers bang and knock on the cases; tailors indulge in strong language, etc. *See* JERRY and WHACK!

TO WASH ONE'S HEAD, *verb. phr.* (old).—To insult, to put indignity on one. Hence WASHING-BLOW=a box on the ears, a blow on the head; and TO GIVE ONE'S HEAD FOR WASHING=to submit to overbearing insult.

1612. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Cupid's Revenge*, iv. 3. So am I, and forty more good fellows, that will not GIVE THEIR HEADS FOR the WASHING, I take it.

1621. FLETCHER, *Wild Goose Chase*, v. 4. And give her but a WASHING blow.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, I. iii. 255. For my part, it shall ne'er be said, I for the WASHING GAVE MY HEAD.

1710. WARD, *Hudibras Rediv.*, 14. Some of the laundry were (no flashing) That would not GIVE THEIR HEADS FOR WASHING.

TO WASH (or SLUICE) THE IVORIES, *verb. phr.* (common).—To drink: Fr. *se rincer la dent.* Also TO WASH ONE'S NECK.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, ii. 6. *Mr. J.* VASH YOUR IVORIES, will you? *Green.* I've got no HIVERIES TO WASH. *Mr. J.* Drink, vill you? don't you understand Hinglish.

1882. *Punch*, lxxxii. 185. 2. I never heard of him SLUICING HIS IVORIES with what you call S. and B.

TO WASH ONE'S SHEEP WITH SCALDING WATER, *verb. phr.* (old). — To do the absurd: a simile of folly (RAY). Also TO WASH THE CROW (THE ETHIOPIAN, A BLACKAMORE, etc.), WHITE.

**WASHICAL,** *phr.* (old). — WHAT-D'-YE-CALL-IT (*q.v.*).

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), ii. 67]. Geve my gammer again her WASHICAL [meaning her needle] thou stole away.

**WASHING.** TO GIVE ONE'S HEAD FOR A WASHING. *See* WASH.

**WASHMAN,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A beggar 'faked out' with sores; 'a WASHMAN is called a PALLIARD [*q.v.*], but not of the right making. He vseth to lye in the hye way with lame or sore legs or armes to beg. These men ye right Palliards wil often times spoile, but they dare not complayn. They be bitten with spickworts, and sometime with rats bane' (AWDELEY, *Frat. Vacabondes*, 1561).

**WASH-POT,** *subs. phr.* (Collegiate and University).—A hat, a MOAB (*q.v.*): *see* GOLGOTHA.

**WASP.** AS QUIET AS A WASP IN ONE'S NOSE, *phr.* (old).—Very much alive.

**WASPISH,** *adj.* (B. E.).—'Peevish.'

**WASTE-BUTT,** *subs. phr.* (thieves').—An eating-house, GRUBBING-KEN (*q.v.*), MUNGARLY-CASA (*q.v.*).

**WASTER,** *subs.* (once literary: now colloquial). — 1. A prodigal, a spendthrift; also WASTREL, WASTE-GOOD, WASTE-THRIFT. Also 2 (modern)=a generic form of contempt, a ne'er-do-well, BAD-EGG (*q.v.*), ROTTER (*q.v.*); 'a useless, clumsy, or ill-made person' (HOTTEN). WASTREL (*q.v.*) (modern) = a neglected child, street-ARAB.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Merchant's Tale,' 231. A cludestere or WASTOUR of thy good.

1534. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, i. 1. Sometime Lewis Loiterer biddeth us come near; Somewhiles Watkin WASTER maketh us good cheer.

1592. NASHE, *Pierce Pennilesse*, 18. A young . . . cockney, that . . . have playde the WASTE-GOOD at the Innes of the Court.

1592. GREENE, *Quip for Upstart Courtier* [*Harl. Misc.*, v. 420]. This first . . . is a WAST-GOOD and an unthrift.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch*, ii. 1. A WASTETHRIFT, a common surfeiter, and, to conclude, a beggar.

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, i. 4. Thou art a WASTETHRIFT, and art run away.

1611. *Bible*, 'Authorised Version,' Prov. xviii. 9. He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great WASTER.

1619. HOLLAND, *Plutarch*, 36. If Lucullus were not a WASTER and a delicate given to belly-cheare.

*d.* 1697. AUBREY, *Lives*, 'John Popham.' He left a vast estate to his son Sr Francis (I think ten thousand pounds per annum), he lived like a hog, but his son John was a great WASTER.

1818. SCOTT, *Heart of Midlothian*, xxviii. Ye will think I am turned WASTER for I wear clean hose and shoon every day.

1886. *D. Telegraph*, 20 Mar. Sending out not WASTRELS, paupers, and ne'er-do-wells, but capable mechanics and labourers, to Australia.

*d.* 1895. HUXLEY, *Technical Education* [*Century*]. The veriest waifs and WASTRELS of society.

3. (old).—A lawless thieving vagabond.

1342. *Statue Edward III.*, an. reg. 5, c. xiv. Divers manslaughters, felonies, and robberies done by people that he called Roberdsmen, WASTOURS, and Drawbacches.

4. (common).—An imperfection in the wick of a candle, causing it to gutter or 'waste': also THIEF (*q.v.*): *cf.* sense 3, *supra.*

5. (old).—A cudgel: spec. a wooden sword used for practice.

1593. CHURCHYARD, *Challenge*, 84. And suddainly a stout cobler will lay down the WASTER, and yeeld to him that hath more practise.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, 95. WASTERS or cudgels used in fence-schooles.

1598. STOWE, *London*, 70. The youthes of this citie also have used on holy dayes after evening prayer, at their maysters dores, to exercise their WASTERS and bucklers.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iii. 410]. If o'er husbands their wives will needs be masters, We men will have a law to win 't at WASTERS.

1608. HARINGTON, *Brief View of the Church*, 22. With a good WASTER he so mortified this old Adam of his son-in-law squire that he needed no other penance than this. *Ibid.*, *Epigrams*, i. 16. A man and wife strove cant who should be masters, And having chang'd between them houshold speeches, The man in wrath brought forth a pair of WASTERS, And swore that these should prove who wore the breeches.

1619. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Philaster*, iv. Thou wouldst be loth to play half a dozen of venies at WASTERS, with a good fellow, for a broken head.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, 348. Or as they that play at WASTERS exercise themselves by a few cudgells to avoid an enemies blows.

. . . *Mad Men of Gotham*, 19. Then one took a WASTER in his hand, and gave him a dozen stripes, saying at every blow, Here, sirrah, take this for a reward, and hereafter mock us no more.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, i. 42. As with wooden WASTERS men learn to play at the sharp, so practice in times of peace makes ready for the time of war.

6. (common). — A damaged manufactured article: also WASTREL.

1863. EDE [CAMPIN, *Mechan. Engin.*, 355[. Had I not taken these precautions, which some are apt to think too much trouble, I should have had many a WASTER.

7. *See* WAISTER.

**WASTE-TIME**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Idle, useless, or trivial employment: a play on pastime.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Lincoln,' ii. 6. 'As mad as the Baiting Bull of Stamford.' . . . Some think that the Men must be mad as well as the Bull, who can take delight in so dangerous a WAST-TIME.

**WAT**, *subs.* (old sporting).—1. A hare: *cf.* PHILIP = sparrow, TOM = cat, NED = donkey, etc.

*c.* 1470. *Babees Book* [E.E.T.S], 404. I wold my master were a WATT & my boke a wyld Catt, & a brase of grehowndis in his toppe. I wold be glad for to se that!

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Venus and Adonis*, 697. Poor WAT, far off upon a hill Stands on his hinder legs with listening ear.

1622. DRAYTON, *Polyolbion*, xxiii. 1115. The man whose vacant mind prepares him for the sport, The finder sendeth out, to seek the nimble WAT, which crosseth in each field, each furlong, every flat, Till he this pretty beast upon the form hath found.

*d.* 1635. RANDOLPH, *Poems* (1668), 94. WATT, though he fled for life, yet joy'd withall So brave a dirge sung forth his funeral.

*d.* 1650. R. FLETCHER, *Epigr.*, 139. Thus once concluded out the teazers run, All in full cry and speed 'till WAT's undone.

2. (old).—A fellow; 'a wily, cautious man' (HALLIWELL).

*c.* 1400. *Coventry Mysteries*, 294. Ffor be my thryfte I dare sweryn at this seyl, ȝe xal fynde hym a strawnge WATT!

**WATCH,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. Self: the ancient equivalent of NIBS (*q.v.*). Thus HIS WATCH = the person referred to; MY WATCH = myself; YOUR WATCH = yourself; OUR WATCH = ourselves, us, etc.

*c.* 1530. COPLAND, *Hye Way to the Spyttel Hous*. The patryng coue in the darkman cace Docked the dell for a coper meke HIS WATCH shall feng a prounces nobchete.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1869), 86. The vpright man canteth to the Roge; Man! That is beneshyp to OUR WATCHE.

1622. HEAD, *English Rogue*, 'Canting Song.' I met a Dell, I viewed her well, She was benship to MY WATCH.

2. (Westminster).—A junior who has to remain in College during play-hours to answer inquiries, receive messages, and so forth, performing, in fact, the duties of a servant.

TO WATCH OUT, *verb. phr.* (Winchester, cricket).—To field.

*c.* 1840. MANSFIELD, *School Life*, 138. Football wasn't all beer and skittles to the Fags. There was an institution called 'Kicking in,' which, while it lasted, was much worse than WATCHING OUT at cricket.

PADDY'S WATCH. *See* PADDY-WHACK.

**WATCH-AND-SEALS,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A sheep's head and pluck.

**WATCH-BIRTH,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A midwife.

1605. SYLVESTER, *Du Bartas*, ii., 'Magnificence.' Th' eternall WATCH-BIRTHS of thy sacred Wit.

**WATCHER,** *subs.* (venery).—A person set to watch a DRESS-LODGER (*q.v.*).

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London*. Not alone. Dress lodgers are never allowed to do that, sir. I haven't been one long, but long enough to find that out. There's always a WATCHER. Sometimes it's a woman—an old woman, who isn't fit for anything else—but in general it's a man. He watches you always, walking behind you, or on the opposite side of the way. He never loses sight of you, never fear.

**WATCHMAKER,** *subs.* (thieves').—A thief whose speciality is stealing watches: also 'WATCHMAKER IN A CROWD' (HOTTEN).

**WATER,** *subs.* (Westminster School).—Boating; aquatics; the Eton WET-BOBBING (*q.v.*).

1881. PASCOE, *Everyday Life in our Public Schools*. WATER, as it is called at Westminster, is in a very flourishing condition.

*Verb* (old).—1. To drink: *see* LUSH.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. When you breathe in your WATERINGS, they cry 'hem!'

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, ii. 1. A certain well where all the Muses WATERED.

2. (old). — To urinate; PISS (*q.v.*); also TO MAKE WATER, TO WATER THE DRAGON, and TO WATER ONE'S NAG. Whence (venery) WATERWORKS = the urinary organs male or female: also WATER-ENGINE (*see* WATER-DROP); WATER-BOX (GAP, COURSE, GATE, etc.) = the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE; WATER-CASTER (-DOCTOR or WATEROLOGER) = a urine-inspecting physician: spec. a quack; TO CAST WATER = to diagnose by means of the urine.

*c.* 1350. *Tale of the Basyn* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poetry*, iii. 47]. ȝif thu myȝ with any gynne The vessell owt of the chaumber wynne, The same that thei MAKE WATER in, And bryng it me, I the pray.

1598. MARSTON, *Satires*, iv. 125. Well, I have CAST THY WATER, and I see Th' art fall'n to wit's extremest poverty.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes* (1611), 185. [WATER-BOX = female *pudendum*.]

1606. SHAKSPEARE, *Macbeth*, v. 3. If thou could'st, doctor, CAST THE WATER of my land, find her disease.

1607. *Puritan*, iv. 1. There's physicians enough to CAST HIS WATER: is that any matter to us?

1630. TAYLOR, *Workes*. A face like rubies mix'd with alabaster, Wastes much in physicke and her WATER-CASTER. *Ibid.* Which was the fare of quack salvers, mountebankes, ratcatching WATER-CASTERS, and also for all botching artificers and cobling tradesmen.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. 20. I might have cleft her WATER-GAP, And joined it close with my FLIP-FLAP.

1678. *Quack's Academy* [*Harl. Misc.*, ii. 34]. You must either pretend to be WATEROLOGERS . . . or star-wizards.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 39. He is acquainted with the Nature and Depths of all Soundings but that of his Wife's WATER-COURSE.

CANTERBURY-WATER, *subs. phr.* (old). — The blood of Thomas à Becket diluted with water: Archbishop of Canterbury, murdered in 1170, canonised as a saint and martyr.

1849-54. ROCK, *Church of our Fathers*, iii. i. 424. To satisfy these cravings, so as to hinder an uneasy feeling at the thought of tasting human blood, a tiny drop was mixed with a chalice-full of water, and in this manner given to those who begged a sip. This was the far-famed CANTERBURY-WATER.

BURNING-WATER (*q.v.*, vol. i. *ante*).

3. (commercial). — To increase nominal capital by the issue of shares for which, though they rank for interest, no additional increase in the actual capital has been provided: the practice, it is urged, is justified by profits already earned, or by a supposed enhancement of the value of the property, franchises, etc.; but watering is usually only resorted to by companies on the down grade. Hence as *subs.* = additional shares created in this way.

1878. *Scribner's Mag.*, Oct., 896. Those which relate to the betrayal of trusts, the WATERING of stocks.

1887. *North Am. Rev.*, cxliii. 92. By the much-abused word 'property' he referred, of course, to the fictitious capital, or WATER, which the gas companies had added to their real capital.

1888. *St. James's Gaz.*, 14 June. But it is said by the chairman of the Committee on Public Finance, that 'more than half of this stock is WATER, and could not have come into existence had not this business been superior to the control of competition.'

1888. *Fort. Rev.*, xliii. 857. The stock of some of the railways has been WATERED to an enormous extent by the issue of fictitious capital, existing only on paper, though ranking equally for dividend, when money for this is forthcoming. Usually the paper stock has been sold to unwary customers.

PHRASES. ABOVE WATER = unembarrassed, untroubled, in (or of) easy circumstances, mind, or the like: whence TO KEEP ONE'S HEAD ABOVE WATER = to struggle through (or overcome) financial difficulties; BETWEEN WIND AND WATER (*see* WIND); IN DEEP WATER = (1) in trial, trouble, distress; (2) impecunious, reduced in circumstances: hence DEEP WATERS = tribulation of sorts; OF THE FIRST WATER = the highest, A1: properly of a diamond free of blemish, flaw, colour, or any imperfection; TO MAKE A HOLE IN THE WATER = to fall in it: spec. to commit suicide by drowning: *cf.* 'to make a hole in the silence' = to speak; OIL ON TROUBLED WATERS = anything to allay, assuage: the practice is ancient, being known to the Greeks and Romans, and its efficacy is frequently tested by modern seamen; TO BE IN HOT WATER = to be in trouble, difficulties, or disgrace; TO SHOW WATER = to bribe, to produce a fee; TO CAST ONE'S WATER (*see verb.* 2); TO CAST WATER INTO THE THAMES = to do the unnecessary or useless (*see* THAMES); TO HOLD WATER = to prove serviceable or adequate; TO TAKE WATER = to back out (or down), to WEAKEN (*q.v.*): as a boat when allowed to fall in the wake of another in a race; TO DRAW WATER WITH A SIEVE = to act absurdly; TO THROW COLD WATER ON = to discourage, damp one's ardour, interest, or chances; WATER IN ONE'S SHOES = a cause of annoyance or discomfort; TO WATER ONE'S PLANTS = to shed tears. Also proverbially: 'My mouth WATERS' = a simile of strong appetite or longing desire: also said of the teeth; 'That's where the WATER sticks' = That's the point in dispute; 'All WATER runs to his mill' = 'Fortune smiles on him,' 'Everything goes his way'; 'No safe wading in an unknown WATER'; 'Often to the WATER, often to the tatter'; 'Foul WATER will quench fire'; 'Where the WATER is shallow no vessel will ride'; 'WATER breeds frogs in the belly, and wine cures the worms'; 'I'll make him WATER his horse at Highgate' (*i.e.* 'I'll sue him and make him take a journey up to London'—RAY); 'The malt's above the WATER' = He's drunk (*see* SCREWED).

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse.* My TETHE WATERS to see.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, 69. It is to give him (quoth I) as much almes or neede As CAST WATER IN TEMS, or as good a deede As it is to helpe a dogge over a stile.

1555. PETER MARTYR [EDEN, *First Books on America* (ARBER), 181]. In theyr mindes they conceaued a hope of a dainty banquet, And espying their enemies a farre of beganne to swalowe theyr spettle as their MOUTHES WATERED for gredines of theyr pray.

1581. LYLY, *Euphues*, 'To Philuntus,' M4. Neither WATER THOU THY PLANTS, in that thou departest from thy pigges nie, neither stand in a mammering, whether it bee best to depart or not.

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Pericles*, iv. 2. A Spaniard's mouth so WATERED.

1611. *Bible*, Authorised Version, Psalm lxix. 14. Let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the DEEP WATERS.

1623. MABBE, *Guzman* (1630), ii. 79. [It] WILL NOT HOLD WATER.

1632. MASSINGER, *Maid of Honour*, i. 1. *F.* If you've a suit, SHEW WATER, I am blind else. *A.* A suit; yet of a nature not to prove The quarry that you hawk for. . . . One poor syllable Cannot deserve a fee.

1650. WELDON, *Court of King James* (1817), 19. All THE WATER RUNS TO THEIR MILLS [applied to the Howards, who got everything at Court].

*d.* 1663. BRAMHALL, *Works*, ii. 366. That the reader may see clearly WHERE THE WATER STICKS between us.

1698. FARQUHAR, *Love and a Bottle*, v. 1. O, my little green gooseberry; my TEETH WATERS at thee.

1742–4. NORTH, *Lord Guildford*, i. 295. They caressed his lordship very much as a new comer, whom they were glad of the honour to meet, and talked about a time to dine with him; all which (as they say) was WATER IN HIS SHOES.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 104. You have made my MOUTH WATER to serve such a worshipful fraternity. *Ibid.*, 254. The brilliants . . . made her eyes sparkle and her MOUTH WATER.

1846. *Punch's Almanack*, 29 Nov. The *Times* first printed by steam, 1814, and has kept the country IN HOT WATER ever since.

1864. MARK LEMON, *Jest Book*, 238. Show me the blade that is *not out of temper* when plunged into HOT WATER.

18[?]. W. S. GILBERT, *Etiquette*. For the thought of Peter's oysters brought the WATER TO HIS MOUTH.

*d.* 1884. C. READE (DIXON). One comfort, folk are beginning to take an interest in us. I see nobs OF THE FIRST WATER looking with a fatherly eye into our affairs.

1885. *Field*, 3 Oct. A number of struggling men, who have managed TO KEEP ABOVE WATER during the bad seasons, must now go under.

1886. WARD [*Ency. Brit.*, xx. 57]. The dog's MOUTH WATERS only at the sight of food, but the gourmand's MOUTH will also WATER at the thought of it.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 76. I should just make a HOLE IN THE WATER, if 'tworn't for the wife and the kids.

**WATER-BEWITCHED,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Weak LAP (*q.v.*) of any kind: spec. (modern) tea very much watered down, but orig. (RAY, 1672) very thin beer: also WATER-DAMAGED: *cf.* HUSBAND'S-TEA.

1709–10. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, i. Your ladyship is very sparing of your tea; I protest the last dish I took was no more than WATER BEWITCHT.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 376. As for the broth, it was nothing but a little WATER BEWITCHED (*mera aqua*).

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, 10 Nov. A tin pot full of hot tea (or as the sailors significantly call it, 'WATER BEWITCHED') sweetened with molasses. *Ibid.* Our common beverage—'WATER BEWITCHED, and tea begrudged,' as it was.

1845. CARLYLE, *Cromwell*, i. 13. Another book of Noble's called *Lives of the Regicides* . . . is of much more stupid character; nearly meaningless indeed, mere WATER BEWITCHED.

**WATER-BUTT** (or **-BARREL**), *subs. phr.* (common).—The stomach: spec. a CORPORATION (*q.v.*).

**WATER-CAN,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—In saying 'Jupiter Pluvius has got out (or put on) his WATER-CAN'=It is raining: spec. of a heavy shower.

**WATER-COLOUR.** *See* WIFE IN WATER-COLOURS.

**WATER-DOCTOR,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. A hydropathist. Also (2) a WATER-CASTER (*q.v.*, WATER, *verb* 2).

**WATER-DOG,** *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A sailor: spec. an old SALT (*q.v.*). Also (2) anyone completely 'at home' in, or on, the water.

1835. DANA, *Before the Mast*, 94. The Sandwich Islanders are complete WATER-DOGS, and therefore very good in boating.

3. (common).—A Norfolk dumpling.

**WATER-DROP,** *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—A tear. Also WATER-WORKS = the eyes, the TEAR-PUMP: whence TO TURN ON THE WATERWORKS = to cry: also *see* WATER, *verb* 2.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 4. 280. Let not women's weapons, WATER-DROPS, Stain my man's cheeks.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. 5. Sneaking little brute . . . clapping on the WATERWORKS just in the hardest place.

**WATERFALL,** *subs.* (various).—1. A neckcloth, scarf, or tie with long pendant ends. Also (2) a chignon: spec. a fringe of hair falling down the neck under the chignon.

1824. FERRIER, *Inheritance*, i. xi. A drooping FALL of Foyers-looking neck-cloth.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, ii. iii. A gaudy figured satin waistcoat, and WATERFALL of the same material.

1880. WHITNEY, *Leslie Goldthwaite*, iii. The brown silk net . . . had given way all at once into a great hole under the WATERFALL, and the soft hair would fret itself through, and threaten to stray untidily.

**WATER-FUNK,** *subs. phr.* (school).—A boy shy of water: either in the way of personal cleanliness or aquatics.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky and Co.*, 68. King scowled. 'One of you was that thing called a WATER-FUNK. So now you wish to wash? It is well. Cleanliness never injured a boy, or—a house.'

**WATER-GUNNERS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military). — The Royal Marines.

**WATERIES (THE),** *subs. phr.* (common).—The Naval Exhibition at South Kensington: *cf.* FISHERIES, COLINDERIES, etc.

**WATERINGS.** ST. THOMAS À WATERINGS (old).—A place of execution (for Surrey as TYBURN (*q.v.*) for Middlesex) situated at the second milestone on the road from London to Canterbury. Like BEGGAR'S-BUSH, WEEPING-CROSS, CLAPHAM, etc., the place-name was the basis of many a quibbling allusion and much conventional wit. [At this point is a brook, probably a place for WATERING horses, whence its name; dedicated, of course, to St. Thomas à Becket, being the first place of any note in the pilgrimage to his shrine.]

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Prol. v. 827. And forth we riden a litel more than pas [little more than a foot's pace]. Unto the WATERING OF SEINT THOMAS, And ther our hoste began his hors arest.

. . . *Hycke Scorner* [HAWKINS, *Orig. of Drama*, i. 105]. For at SAYNT THOMAS OF WATRYNGE an they stryke a sayle, Than they must ryde in the haven of hepe [hempe] without fayle.

1607. *Puritan*, i. 1. Alas! a small matter bucks a handkerchief! and sometimes the 'spital stands too nigh ST. THOMAS À WATERINGS. [That is, 'A little matter will serve to wet a handkerchief; and sometimes shedding too many tears will bring a person to the hospital'; that is, 'will produce sickness.']

16[?]. *Owle's Almanacke*, 55. A faire paire of gallowes is kept at Tiburne, from yeares end to yeares end: and the like faire (but not so much resort of chapmen and crack-ropes) is at ST. THOMAS À WATERINGS.

1630. JONSON, *New Inn*, i. 3. To which, if he apply him, He may perhaps take a degree at Tyburn, A year the earlier, come to read a lecture Upon Aquinas, at ST. THOMAS À WATERING'S, And so go forth a laureat in hemp circle.

1786. [CAREY, *Map of 15 miles round London*. We have at the two mile-stone on the Kent road, WATERING'S Bridge, a remnant of the old name.]

**WATER-LANGUAGE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Jocose abuse, CHAFF (*q.v.*).

1721. AMHERST, *Terræ Filius*, I. 'Twas all WATER LANGUAGE at these times, and no exceptions were to be taken.

**WATERLOO-DAY,** *subs. phr.* (military).—Pay-day: *cf.* BALACLAVA-DAY.

**WATERMAN,** *subs.* (old).—A blue silk handkerchief: *cf.* FOGLE. [HOTTEN: 'The friends of the Oxford and Cambridge boats' crews always wear these—light blue for Cambridge, and a darker shade for Oxford.'] Also WATERSMAN.

**WATEROLOGER.** *See* WATER, *verb* 2.

**WATER-PAD** (or **-RAT**).—A thief working on the water: spec. 'one that Robbs Ships in the Thames' (B. E., GROSE, and CLARK RUSSELL): *cf.* WATER-SNEAK.

**WATER-PUSHER** (or **-TREADER**), *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A ship: sail or steam.

1614. CHAPMAN, *Odyssey*, XIV. 477. When the WATER TREADER far away Had left the land.

1899. HYNE, *Furth. Adv. Capt. Kettle*, xi. I've had enough of your airs and graces. I've paid for my passage on this rubbishy old WATER-PUSHER of yours.

**WATER-SNEAK (THE),** *subs. phr.* (old).—'Robbing ships or vessels on a navigable river or canal, by getting on board unperceived, generally in the night. The WATER-SNEAK is lately made a capital offence' (GROSE).

**WATERWORKS.** *See* WATER-DROP and WATER, *verb* 2.

**WATLYNGE-STRETE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—The Milky Way.

1373. CHAUCER, *House of Fame*, 939. Se yonder, lo the Galaxye, The which men clepe the Milky Weye, For hit ys white; and somme parfeye, Callen hyt WATLYNGE STRETE.

**WATTLE,** *subs.* (B. E.).—In *pl.* = 'Ears; also Sheep-folds.'

**WAVE.** TO WAVE A FLAG OF DEFIANCE, *verb. phr.* (common).—to be drunk: *see* SCREWED.

TO NUMBER THE WAVES, *verb. phr.* (old).—To do the unneedful, act foolishly (RAY).

**WAVY.** WAVY IN THE SYLS, *phr.* (theatrical).—Imperfect in one's lines.

**WAVY-RULE.** TO MAKE WAVY RULE, *verb. phr.* (printers').—To be staggering drunk. [~~~~~]

**WAX,** *subs.* (common).—A rage, a passion, a TEAR (*q.v.*); also WAXINESS = vexation, and WAXY = angry: *cf.* Lowland Scotch *wex* = vex.

*c.* 1490. *Lancelot of the Laik*, 156. And mak thi self als mery as yhoue may, It helpith not thus fore to WEX al way.

1648. BELLENDEN, *Letter*, 9 July [*Hamilton Papers*, 229]. They wowld place such persons in inferior commandis as ar to deboch the affections of the salers, from which being discouerid be him makes him the moir WAXY.

1853. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xxiv. It would cheer him up more than anything if I could make him a little WAXY with me: he's welcome to drop into me right and left, if he likes.

1861. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, v. She's in a terrible WAX, but she'll be all right by the time he comes back from his holidays.

*Verb* (American).—To overcome, surmount a difficulty, get the better of: by stratagem or NOUS (*q.v.*).

1876. *New York Herald*, 16 Mar. The trader at Fort Lincoln, fearing removal, Orville Grant's clerk at Standing Rock advised him to tell Grant, 'he can WAX you.'

A LAD (or MAN) OF WAX, *subs. phr.* (old).—A smart lad, a clever man.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*. A man of WAX.

CLOSE AS WAX, *phr.* (common).—As miserly, niggardly, or secretive as may be.

1863. READE, *Hard Cash*, I. 231. Then commenced a long and steady struggle, conducted with a Spartan dignity and self-command, and a countenance as CLOSE AS WAX.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, v. Not much chance of drawing Sim Sharples when he's alone. He's AS CLOSE AS WAX, and so is Sam Rogers.

NEAT AS WAX. *See* NEAT.

**WAXED**, *adj.* (tailors').—Well-known: *e.g.* So-and-so has been well WAXED, *i.e.* We know all about him.

**WAY**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Health, condition, state, calling; *e.g.* IN A BAD WAY=shaky in health, pocket, or manner; ONLY HIS WAY = characteristic: *cf.* 'PRETTY FANNY'S WAY.' Also in PHRASES: 'To look BOTH (or NINE) WAYS for Sundays'=to squint; 'There are no TWO WAYS about it'=the fact is as stated, there's no mistake; OUT OF THE WAY (thieves': *see* quot. 1819); 'to note THE WAY THE CAT JUMPS=to watch the course of events; TO GO THE WAY OF NATURE (or ALL FLESH)=(1) to be fond of BELLY CHEER, and (2) to die: *see* HOP THE TWIG; TO KNOW ONE'S WAY ABOUT=to be well informed, experienced: *see* KNOW; WAY TO ST. JAMES' (or WALSINGHAM WAY)=the Milky way (FULKE, *Meteors*, 1670, p. 81). 'The LONGEST WAY ROUND is the shortest way there'=a warning to the unwary or ignorant that short cuts are proverbial pitfalls: *cf.* 'Better go about than fall into the ditch.'

1350. *Tale of the Basyn* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, III. 45]. After a ȝere or two his wyfe he myȝt not pleese; Mycall of his lande lay to the preests ese Eche tawȝt hym euer amang HOW THE KATTE DID SNEESE.

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, i. 3. 61. Men of his WAY should be most liberal.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, ii. 2. I saw him even now going the WAY OF ALL FLESH, that is to say, towards the kitchen.

1698. COLLIER, *Short View* (1698), 211. Whenever you see a thorough Libertine, you may always swear he is in a rising WAY, and that the poet intends to make him a great man.

*d.* 1717. PARNELL, *Elegy to a Beauty*. And all that's madly wild and oddly gay We call it only PRETTY FANNY'S WAY.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, i. 1. Thinking that this would prove a busy day in the justicing WAY, I am come, Sir Jacob, to lend you a hand.

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, i. 1. You must tell him to keep up his spirits; almost everybody is in the same WAY.

*c.* 1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 13. I heard that Don Rodrigo had gone the WAY OF ALL FLESH.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 194. OUT OF THE WAY, a thief who knows that he is sought after by the traps on some information and consequently goes out of town, or otherwise conceals himself, is said by his pals to be OUT OF THE WAY FOR SO AND SO, naming the particular offence he stands charged with. [*See* WANTED.]

1825. *Universal Songster*, i. ('The Dog's-Meat Man'). He soon saw WHICH WAY THE CAT DID JUMP, And his company he offered plump.

1827. SCOTT, in *Croker Pap.* (1884), I. xi. 319. Had I time, I believe I would come to London merely TO SEE HOW THE CAT JUMPED.

1841. THACKERAY, *Great Hoggarty Diamond*, xiii. Is not Gus Hoskins, my brother-in-law, partner with his excellent father in the leather WAY?

1853. BULWER LYTTON, *My Novel*, IV. 228. 'But I rely equally on your friendly promise.' 'Promise! No—I don't promise. I must first SEE HOW THE CAT JUMPS.'

1855. HALIBURTON, *Human Nature*, 3 S. vii. Jist so, jist so, stranger: you are just about half right, and there's NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT.

1856. HOFFMAN, *Winter in the West* [BARTLETT]. THERE'S NO TWO WAYS ABOUT THAT, sir; but ar'n't you surprised to see such a fine population?

1859. LEVER, *Davenport Dunn*, III. 229. You'll see with half an eye HOW THE CAT JUMPS.

1874. *Sat. Rev.*, 139. This dismays the humble Liberal of the faint Southern type, who thinks that there are subjects as to which the heads of his party need not wait to see HOW THE CAT JUMPS.

1887. 'Pol. Slang,' in *Cornhill Mag.*, June, 626. Those who sit on the fence—men with impartial minds, who wait to SEE, as another pretty phrase has it, HOW THE CAT WILL JUMP.

1867. *All the Year Round*, 13 July, 56. The tramp who KNOWS HIS WAY ABOUT knows what to do.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 36. KNOWS HER WAY ABOUT well, I can tell yer.

**WAY-BIT (WEABIT or WEBIT),** *subs.* (provincial).—A considerable though indefinite addition to a mile; a BITTOCK (*q.v.*).

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Huquée. It n'y a qu'vne huquée* (Much like our Northern WEE-BIT) You have but a little (saies the clown, when you have a great) way thither.

1617–30. HOWELL, *Letters*, iv. 28. In the North parts . . . there is a WEA-BIT to every mile.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Yorkshire,' II. 494. 'An Yorkshire WAY-BIT.' That is, an Over-plus not accounted in the reckoning, which sometimes proveth as much as all the rest. *Ibid.*, II. 535. General Leslie, with his Scottish, ran away more than a Yorkshire mile and a WEE BIT.

1692. HACKET, *Life of Williams*, i. 59. I have heard him prefer divers, and very seriously, before himself, who came short a mile and a WAY-BIT.

**WAY-GOOSE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An entertainment given by an apprentice to his fellow-workmen: spec. (printers') an annual dinner; *cf.* BEANFEAST (*q.v.*). [A corruption of WAYZ-GOOSE = stubble goose, a favourite dish at such festivals: nowadays, among printers, the funds are collected by stewards appointed by the CHAPEL (*q.v.*)]

1677–9. MOXON, *Mechanic Exercises.* The Master Printer gives them a WAY-GOOSE; that is, he makes them a good feast.

1839. C. H. TIMPERLEY, *Printers and Printing*, 516. The WAY-GOOSES were always kept about Bartholomew-tide; and till the master-printer have given this WAY-GOOSE the journeymen do not use to work by candle-light.

**WEAK-BROTHER (or - SISTER),** *subs. phr.* (religious cant).—An unreliable man (or woman). *Cf.* also (colloquial) WEAKLING (a diminutive), which, as *adj.* = puny, weak; WEAK-KNEED = uncertain, vacillating, purposeless.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, 3 *Henry VI.*, v. 1. 37. Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight: And, WEAKLING, Warwick takes his gift again.

1740. NORTH, *Plutarch*, 700. He was but WEAKLING and very tender.

1847. BRONTÉ, *Jane Eyre*, xxxiv. Jane is not such a WEAKLING as you would make her.

1861. *New York Tribune*, Dec. The rebels assert that the Union has no friends at the South. The assertion is false. There are white Unionists there, but they are WEAK SISTERS,—overawed, terrorized, silenced.

1885. *Field*, 4 April. This was a feat not to be attempted by a WEAKLING.

1888. *St. James's Gazette*, 14 Jan. Such another WEAK-KNEED effort . . . will lead to no good result.

1893. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxxvi. 570. The WEAKLING cry of children.

**WEAKER-SEX**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Womankind: also (in singular) THE WEAKER VESSEL [*See* 1 Peter iii. 7].

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 4. 6. I must comfort THE WEAKER VESSEL, as doublet and hose ought to show itself courageous to petticoat.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, v. 259.

**WEANIE.** *See* WEENIE.

**WEAPON**, *subs.* (venery). — The *penis*: *see* PRICK (HALLIWELL): *cf.* SHEATH = female *pudendum*.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 132. She guides his WEAPON where she lists Knowing a touch of her soft hand . . . will make him stand. *Ibid.*, 178. If you meet the whoring goddess, Drive your stiff WEAPON through her boddice, But take great care the gypsy's eyes, Don't guide to where her mousetrap lies. *Ibid.* When she appears don't gasping stand, But use the WEAPON in your hand, If you exhibit any other Don't think that I my rage will smother.

**WEAR.** TO WEAR IT, *verb. phr.* (old). —'TO WEAR IT UPON a person (meaning to wear a nose, or a conk) is synonymous with nosing, conking, splitting, or coming it, and is merely one of those fanciful variations so much admired by FLASH PEOPLE' (GROSE).

PHRASES. TO WEAR THE HEART UPON THE SLEEVE (*see* SLEEVE); TO WEAR THE BREECHES (*see* BREECHES); TO WEAR THE WILLOW (*see* WILLOW); TO WEAR YELLOW STOCKINGS or HOSE (*see* YELLOW); TO WEAR THE COLLAR = to be subject to control, or under the direction of another (chiefly political); TO WEAR THE BANDS (*see* BAND); TO WEAR ILL (or WELL) = to look older (or younger) than one's years. Also PROVERBIAL, 'Let every cuckold WEAR his own horns'; 'to wear Pannier-alley on one's back' (*see* PANNIER-MAN).

**WEARY**, *adj.* (common).—Drunk: *see* SCREWED.

**WEASEL**, *subs.* (old). — A mean, greedy, or sneaking fellow. Also as *adj.*

1599. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry V.*, i. 2. 170. To her unguarded nest the WEASEL Scot Comes sneaking.

*See* WHISTLE.

**WEATHER.** PHRASES: TO MAKE FAIR WEATHER = to flatter, coax, conciliate, make the best of things; TO KEEP THE WEATHER EYE OPEN = to be on one's guard, alert, watchful: *see* 'Keep one's eyes skinned'; UNDER THE WEATHER = seedy, ill, indisposed; THE CLERK OF THE WEATHER = an imaginary controller of temperature, rainfall, etc.

. . . *Cheeke to King Edward* [*Nugæ Ant.*, i. 20]. And if anye suche shall be, that shall of all things MAKE FAIR WEATHER, and, whatsoever they shall see to the contrarye, shall tell you all is well; beware of them, they serve themselves, not you.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry VI.*, v. 1. But I must MAKE FAIR WEATHER yet awhile, 'Till Henry be more weak, and I more strong. *Ibid.* (1600), *Much Ado*, i. 3. He hath ta'en you newly into his grace; where it is impossible you should take root, but by the FAIR WEATHER THAT YOU MAKE yourself.

1598. MARSTON, *Scourge of Villanie*, i. And by an holy semblance bleare men's eyes When he intends some damned villanies. Ixion MAKES FAIRE WEATHER unto Jove, That he might make foule worke with his faire love, And is right sober in his outward semblance, Demure and modest in his countenance.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, II. v. KEEP YOUR WEATHER EYE AWAKE, and don't make any more acquaintances, however handsome.

*d.* 1878. BOWLES [*Merriam*, II. 49]. Since I went to Washington . . . I have been quite UNDER THE WEATHER, and have had to neglect everything.

1903. HYNE, *Filibusters*, iv. By way of being on the safe side I am going to KEEP MY WEATHER-EYE LIFTING for everything that's unpleasant.

**WEATHER-BREEDER,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A hot day: which often precedes and 'prepares' a storm.

1888. EGGLESTON, *Roxy*, xiii. 'It's a . . . nice day,' growled Adam, 'but a WEATHER-BREEDER.'

**WEATHERCOCK,** *subs.* (old colloquial). — A fickle, inconstant, vacillating person.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iii. 2. Where had you this pretty WEATHERCOCK?

1638. RANDOLPH, *Amyntas*, i. 1. What pretty WEATHERCOCKS these women are.

1672. DRYDEN, *Conquest of Granada*, I. iii. 1. The word which I have given shall stand like fate, Not like the King's, that WEATHER-COCK of State.

*c.* 1709. WARD, *London Spy* [*Century*]. They are Men whose Conditions are subject to more Revolutions than a WEATHER-COCK, or the Uncertain Mind of a Fantastical Woman.

**WEATHERDOG,** *subs.* (provincial). —A rainbow, fragmentary and only partly visible: regarded as a presage instead of a concomitant of rain.

**WEATHERGAGE,** *subs.* (old).—Advantage, the upper hand: *cf.* WINDWARD. Whence TO GET THE WEATHERGAGE = to command, control, have the best of.

1813. SCOTT, *Rokeby*, vi. 24. The line of Rokeby once combined with mine I gain the WEATHER-GAGE of fate. *Ibid.* (1819), *Ivanhoe*, i. 13. Take a turn round the back o' the hill to gain the wind on them; and when thou'st got the WEATHER-GAGE thou mayst drive them before thee.

**WEATHER-HEADED.** *See* WETHER-HEADED.

**WEATHER-SCUPPER,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—'It is an old joke at sea to advise a greenhorn to get a handspike and hold it down hard in the WEATHER-SCUPPERS to steady the ship's wild motions' (CLARK RUSSELL).

**WEATHER-SPY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A weather-prophet: spec. an astrologer.

*d.* 1631. DONNE, *Satires*, i. A gulling WEATHER-SPY.

**WEAVE** (HOTTEN).—1. When a knowing blade is asked what he has been doing lately, and does not choose to tell, he replies, 'WEAVING LEATHER APRONS.' (From the reports of a celebrated trial for gold robbery on the South-Western Railway.) Similar replies are, 'Making a trundle for a goose's eye,' or a 'whim-wham to bridle a goose.' Sometimes a man will describe himself as 'a doll's-eye WEAVER.'

*Verb* (common).—To roll the neck and body from side to side: of horses. Also (American)=to walk unsteadily, TO MAKE SNAKES (*q.v.*): as a shuttle in a loom: spec. of drunken men: usually with *along*, *about*, etc.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huckleberry Finn*. He began in earnest too; and went WEAVING first to one side of the platform and then the other.

**WEAVING,** *subs.* (gaming).—A card-sharping trick: cards are kept on the knee, or between the knee and the under side of the table, and used when required by changing them for cards held in the hand (HOTTEN).

**WEB-FOOT STATE,** *subs. phr.* (American).—Oregon.

**WEDDING,** *subs.* (old).—Cesspool emptying: 'because always done in the night' (GROSE).

**WEDGE,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. Generic for money: spec. silver, money or plate: *see* RHINO (GROSE). Hence WEDGE-FEEDER=a silver spoon; WEDGE-LOBB=a silver snuff-box; WEDGE-YACK=a silver watch; WEDGE-HUNTER=a thief, spec. one devoting attention to silver plate, watches, etc.; TO FLASH THE WEDGE=to FENCE (*q.v.*) the SWAG (*q.v.*).

1832. EGAN, *Book of Sports*. He valued neither cove nor swell, for he had WEDGE snug in his clie.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* [1889], 70. Near to these hopeful youths sat a fence, or receiver, bargaining with a clouter, or pickpocket, for a 'suit,' . . . two 'cloaks,' . . . and a WEDGE-LOBB.

1879. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail* [*Macm.*, xl. 500]. They told me all about the WEDGE, how I should know it by the ramp.

1891. CAREW, *Auto. of a Gypsy*, 417. Nat swore I must'er been scammered and 'ad made a mistake in sampling the WEDGE.

2. (Cambridge University).—The last in the classical TRIPOS (*q.v.*) list: also WOODEN WEDGE: in 1824, on the publication of the first list the position was occupied by a T. H. Wedgewood.

TO KNOCK OUT THE WEDGES, *verb. phr.* (American).—To desert, 'leave in the LURCH' (*q.v.*), abandon one in a difficulty.

THE THIN (or SMALL) END OF THE WEDGE, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A first move (or a beginning), seemingly trivial, but calculated to lead to important results, 'a finger in the pie,' a manœuvre, shift, artifice.

**WEDLOCK,** *subs.* (old).—A wife.

1601. JONSON, *Poetaster*, iv. 1. Which of these is thy WEDLOCK, Menelaus? thy Helen, thy Lucrece? that we may do her honour, mad boy.

**WEE,** *adj.* (colloquial).—Small, little, tiny: also WEENY (which also *see*).

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. 4. 22. No, forsooth: he hath but a little WEE face, with a little yellow beard, a Cain-coloured beard.

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, lxxi. I made up a WEE bit minute of an ante-nuptial contract.

**WEED,** *subs.* (common).—1. A cigar, a NEWTOWN PIPPIN (*q.v.*). Also THE WEED=tobacco: *cf.* CABBAGE.

1844. *Puck*, 14. With his WEED in his cheek and his glass on his eye, His cut-away neat, and knowing tie, The milliners' hearts he did trepan My spicy swell small-college man.

1856. Dow, *Sermons*, iii. By the appearance of the shirt-bosoms of some inveterate chewers of the WEED, I should judge they had been squirting their juice in the face of a north-easter.

1879. *Mysteries of New York*, 89. Those who were not dancing were seated around the room, some smoking, others chewing the WEED, still others drinking.

1888. H. James [*Harper's Mag.*, lxxvii. 88]. Sir Rufus puffed his own WEED in solitude, strolling up and down the terrace.

1889. *Ally Sloper*, 6 July. Last week he offered me a WEED—A worse one no man's lips e'er soiled.

1901. *Troddles*, 77. He was fourteen . . . and produced his cigarette case and asked me to 'have a WEED.'

**2.** (colloquial). — Generic for sorryness or worthlessness: spec. a horse, unfit for stock, a SCREW (*q.v.*): *i.e.* (racing) an animal lacking the points of a thoroughbred. Whence WEEDY, *adj.* = worthless, unfit for stock purposes.

1859. Lever, *Davenport Dunn*, ii. He bore the same relation to a man of fashion that a WEED does to a winner of the Derby.

1888. Boldrewood, *Squatter's Dream*, 28. She pointed to her steed, a small violent WEED.

1888. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxvi. 625. A gypsy hostler would trot out a succession of the WEEDIEST of old screws.

**3.** (once literary: now colloquial in surviving sense).—In *pl.* = generic for clothes: spec. an outer garment: now only in phrase WIDOWS' WEEDS = mourning. Whence WEEDY = clad in mourning garments.

1320. Grosseteste, *Castel of Loue*, 658. Vnder vre WEDE vre kynde nom, And al sop-fast mon bi-com [Under our garb he took our nature, and became very man].

. . . *Rom. of Partenay* [E.E.T.S.], 3416. The gret dispite which in hert he had Off Fromont, that in monkes WEDE was clade.

1369. Chaucer, *Troilus*, iii. 1719. He spendeth, justeth, and maketh feastings, He geveth freely oft, and chaungeth WEDE.

1503. Dunbar, *Thistle and Rose*, sub. init. Methocht freshe May befoir my bed upstude, In WEID depaynt of mony diverse hew.

1588. Greene, *Friar Bacon*, 153. Tell me, Ned Lacy, didst thou mark the maid, How lovely in her country-WEEDS she look'd. *Ibid.* (1594), *Orlando Furioso* [Grosart], 1130 O sir, know that vnder simple WEEDS The gods haue maskt.

1590. Spenser, *Faery Queen*, I. vii. 21. The woful dwarfe.—When all was past, took up his forlorne WEED.

*d.* 1634. Chapman [Johnson]. Her own hands putting on both shirt and WEEDE.

1671. Milton, *Paradise Regained*, i. 314. They who, to be sure of Paradise, Dying put on the WEEDS of Dominic.

1766. Brooke, *Fool of Quality*, i. 191. I gave her twopence, reassumed my former garb, and left my WEEDS in her custody.

*d.* 1870. Dickens [Annandale]. She was as WEEDY as in the earlier days of her mourning.

*Verb* (old).—'To pilfer or purloin a small portion from a large quantity of any thing; often done by young or timid depredators, in the hope of escaping detection, as, an apprentice or shopman will WEED his master's lob, that is, take small sums out of the till when opportunity offers, which sort of peculation may be carried on with impunity for a length of time; but experienced thieves sometimes think it good judgment to WEED a place, in order that it may be good again, perhaps for a considerable length of time, as in the instance of a warehouse, or other depôt, for goods, to which they may possess the means of access by means of a false key; in this case, by taking too great a swag, at first, the proprietors

would discover the deficiency, and take measures to prevent future depredation. To WEED THE SWAG is to embezzle part of the booty, unknown to your palls, before a division takes place, a temptation against which very few of the family are proof, if they can find an opportunity. A flash-cove, on discovering a deficiency in his purse or property, which he cannot account for, will declare that he (or it, naming the article) has been wedded to the ruffian' (GROSE). Hence WEEDING-DUES: in speaking of any person, place, or property that has been weeded, it is said WEEDING DUES have been concerned.

**WEE-JEE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A chimney-pot. Hence (2) a hat: *see* GOLGOTHA.

3. (common).—Anything superlatively good of its kind: spec. a clever invention: *e.g.* 'That's a regular WEE-JEE.'

**WEEK.** PHRASES, etc.: A WEEK OF SUNDAYS = an indefinite time: spec. seven Sundays, hence seven weeks: also MONTH OF SUNDAYS; THE INSIDE OF A WEEK = from Monday till Saturday; A PARSON'S WEEK = from Saturday to Monday; TO KNOCK ONE INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK = to punish severely, knock out of time, DO FOR (*q.v.*); AN ATTACK OF THE WEEK'S (or MONTH'S) END = impecuniosity, hard uppishness; WHEN TWO SUNDAYS COME IN A WEEK = never: a left-handed assent.

1800. PRICE, *Life of H. F. Carey*, i. 144. Get my duty done for a Sunday, so that I may be out a PARSON'S WEEK.

1850. *Southern Sketches* [BARTLETT]. Arch would fetch him a side-wipe on the head, and KNOCK HIM INTO THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

1850. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, xxvii. I haven't heard more fluent or passionate English this MONTH OF SUNDAYS.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, XL. 'I ain't been out of this blessed hole,' he says, 'for a MONTH OF SUNDAYS.'

1892. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, Sc. 2. p. 7. A MONTH OF SUNDAYS.

**WEEKENDER**, *subs.* (common).—1. A week-end mistress, a Saturday-to-Monday girl.

2. (common). — A week-end holiday.

**WEENIE**, *intj.* (telegraph clerks').—A warning that an inspector is coming.

**WEEPER**, *subs.* (colloquial). — A conventional badge of mourning: *e.g.* a white border of linen or muslin worn at the end of a sleeve, a long crape hatband as worn by men at a funeral, or the long veil of WIDOWS'-WEEDS (*q.v.*).

1759–62. GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*, xcv. Mourners clap bits of muslin on their sleeves, and these are called WEEPERS. Weeping muslin; alas, alas, very sorrowful truly! These WEEPERS then it seems are to bear the whole burthen of the distress.

1760–62. SMOLLETT, *Sir L. Greaves*, iii. The young squire was even then very handsome, and looked remarkably well in his WEEPERS.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, ii. It is a funereal street . . . the carriages which drive there ought to have feathers on the roof, and the butlers who open the doors should wear WEEPERS. *Ibid.*, *Bluebeard's Ghost*. She had her beautiful hair confined in crimped caps, and her WEEPERS came over her elbows.

1871–2. ELIOT, *Middlemarch*, lxxx. If anybody was to marry me, flattering himself as I should wear those hijeous WEEPERS two years for him, he'd be deceived by his own vanity, that's all.

TO WEEP IRISH, *verb. phr.* (old).—To lament prodigally, to wail: spec. without sincerity, to shed crocodile's tears.

1650. FULLER, *Pisgah Sight*, II. xii. 15. Surely the Egyptians did not WEEP-IRISH with faigned and mercenary tears.

1710. CENTLIVRE, *Bickerstaff's Burying*. What the devil can be the matter? why all this noise? here's none but friends; I don't apprehend that anybody can overhear you; this is something like the IRISH CRY.

**WEEPING-CROSS.** TO RETURN BY WEEPING-CROSS, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To fail, suffer defeat, meet with repulse. Hence (2) to repent, to lament: *cf.* LOTHBURY. [NARES: Of the three places now retaining the name, one is between Oxford and Banbury; another very near Stafford, where the road turns off to Walsall; the third near Shrewsbury: these crosses being, doubtless, places where penitents particularly offered their devotions.]

1580. LYLY, *Euphues and his England*, D. ii. b. But the time will come when, comming home by WEEPING CROSSE, thou shalt confesse that it is better to be at home.

1605. DEKKER, *Eastward Hoe* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iv. 266]. Since they have all FOUND THE WAY BACK AGAIN BY WEEPING CROSS. But I'll not see them.

1605. HEYWOOD, *If You Know not Me* [*Works* (1874), i. 267]. Had you before the law foreseen the losse, You had not now COME HOME BY WEEPING CROSSE.

1612. WITHERS, *Prince Henrie's Obseq.* For here I mourne for your, our publike losse, And doe my pennance at the WEEPING CROSSE.

1614. FLETCHER, *Night Walker*, i. 1. One is a kind of WEEPING CROSS, Jack, A gentle purgatory.

1629. *Young Gallant's Whirligig*. For if hee straggle from his limits farre (Except the guidance of some happy starre Doe rectifie his steps, restore his losse), He may perhaps COME HOME BY WEEPING CROSSE.

1655. FANSHAWE, *Lusiad*, x. 64. The pagan king of Calicut take short, That would have past him; with no little loss SENDING HIM HOME AGAIN BY WEEPING CROSS.

1660. HOWELL, *Proverbs*, P. 3. b. He that goes out with often losse, At last COMES HOME BY WEEPING CROSSE.

**WEGOTISM,** *subs.* (literary).—The incessant use of 'WE' in journalism: *cf.* WEISM.

1881. JENNINGS, *Curiosities of Criticism*, 156. Individual merit would no longer be merged, as it is now, in what is called the WEGOTISM of the press.

**WEIGHT,** *subs.* (old).—1. The end of one's tether: 'it is often customary with the TRAPS (*q.v.*) to wink at depredations of a petty nature, and for which no reward would attach, and to let a thief go unmolested till he commits a capital crime; they then grab him and share a reward of 40*l.*, or upwards: therefore these gentry will say, Let him alone . . . till he weighs his WEIGHT' (GROSE).

2. (old).—Lust, wantonness, HEAT (*q.v.*).

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 2. I'm certain ne'er a parson's daughter (Though you went round the world to get her) Would carry WEIGHT, for inches, better.

**WEIRD SISTERS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (literary). — The Fates: also THREE WEIRD SISTERS.

1512–3. DOUGLAS, *Æneid*, iii. The remanant hereof, quhat euer be it, The WEIRD SISTERIS defendis that suld be wit.

1606. SHAKSPEARE, *Macbeth*, ii. 1. 20. I dreamt last night of the three WEIRD SISTERS.

**WEISM**, *subs.* (literary).—The excessive use of 'WE' in journalism: *cf.* WEGOTISM.

**WELL**, *adv.* (American).—An elliptical use of well is peculiar to American speech, especially at the beginning of sentences, as a mere expletive or in answer to questions. [LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, Int.: 'Put before such a phrase as "How d'e do?" it is commonly short, and has the sound of *wul*; but, in reply, it is deliberative, and the various shades of meaning which can be conveyed by difference of intonation, and by prolonging or abbreviating, I should vainly attempt to describe. I have heard *ooa-ahl*, *wahl*, *ahl*, *wăl*, and something nearly approaching the sound of *le* in *able*. Sometimes before "I" it dwindles to a mere *l*; as, "l *I* dunno." A friend told me that he once heard five "WELLS," like pioneers, precede the answer to an inquiry about the price of land. The first was the ordinary *wul*, in deference to custom; the second, the long, perpending *ooahl*, with a falling inflection of the voice; the third, the same, but with the voice rising, as if in despair of a conclusion, into a plaintive, nasal whine; the fourth, *wulh*, ending in the aspirate of a sigh; and then, fifth, came a short, sharp *wal*, showing that a conclusion had been reached.']

TO DIG A WELL AT A RIVER, *verb. phr.* (old).—To act the fool, do the unnecessary (RAY).

TO PUT ONE IN A WELL (IN THE GARDEN, or IN A HOLE), *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To defraud an accomplice of his share of booty: also TO WELL ONE (GROSE).

2. (common).—To inconvenience, nonplus, or get the better of.

**WELL-IN**, *adj. phr.* (Australian).—Well-off, well-to-do, wealthy.

1891. BOLDREWOOD, *A Sydney-side Saxon*, 1. He's a WELL-IN squatter that took up runs or bought them cheap before free-selection, and land-boards, and rabbits, and all the other bothers that turn a chap's hair grey before his time.

**WELLINGTON**, *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = (1) long-legged boots largely worn in the early part of the last century: they came well up the leg, high enough in front to cover the knee and to the bend of the knee behind. Also (2) shorter boots of similar pattern covering the calf of the leg, and worn (usually) under the trousers: *cf.* BLUCHER, ALBERT, GLADSTONE, etc. [A favourite campaigning foot-gear of the Duke of Wellington.]

*d.* 1821. KEATS, *Modern Love*. Miss's comb is made a pearl tiara, And common WELLINGTONS turn Romeo boots.

1821. COOMBE, *Dr Syntax*, III. v. His gaiters, with dust covered o'er, Were seen upon his legs no more, But when he rode his top-boots shone, Or hussar'd *à la* WELLINGTON.

1884. YATES, *Fifty Years London Life*, 1. ii. No gentleman could wear anything in the daytime but WELLINGTON boots, high up the leg, over which the trousers fitted tightly, covering most of the foot, and secured underneath by a broad strap.

**WELSH,** *verb* (racing and common).—To cheat: spec. to run away without settling. Hence WELSHER=an absconding bookmaker, a common cheat: also WELCHER.

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London.* Does the reader know what is a WELSHER, the creature against whose malpractices the sporting public are so emphatically warned? Probably he does not. It is still more unlikely that he ever witnessed a WELSHER hurt.

1883. *Punch*, 26 May, 252. 1. 'Look 'ere, this hinnocent cove has been trying a ramp on!' *Crowd.* WELSHER! kill him! WELSHER!

18[?]. *All Year Round* [*Century*]. The WELCHER, properly so called, takes the money offered him to back a horse, but when he has taken money enough from his dupes departs from the scene of his labours, and trusts to his luck, a dyed wig or a pair of false whiskers, not to be recognised.

1887. *St. James's Gazette*, 2 June. The public has always understood that the law cannot be made to touch a 'WELSHER'; and hence it is that forcible measures are often taken to inflict private vengeance.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 12 Mar. He stakes his money with one of the book-makers whom he has seen at his stand for many years, with the certainty that he will receive his winnings, and run no risk of being 'WELSHED'—which would probably be his fate on an English racecourse—if he be astute or lucky enough to spot the right horse.

1889. *Nineteenth Century*, XXVI. 850. WELSHING was decided to be an indictable offence.

**WELSH-AMBASSADOR,** *subs. phr.* (old).—The cuckoo.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch*, iv. Thy sound is like the cuckoo, the WELCH AMBASSADOR.

**WELSH-CRICKET,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A louse: and (2)=a tailor: *cf.* PRICK-LOUSE: *see* next entry.

1592. GREENE, *Quip for Upst. Court.* [*Harl. Misc.*, v. 404]. Before he [the taylor] had no other cognizance but a plaine Spanish needle with a WELCH-CRICKET at top.

**WELSH-FIDDLE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—The itch (B. E. and GROSE): *cf.* SCOTCH-FIDDLE (s.v. SCOTCH).

**WELSHMAN'S-HOSE. TO TURN A THING TO A WELSHMAN'S-HOSE,** *verb. phr.* (old).—To suit to one's purpose.

*d.* 1529. SKELTON, *Boke of Colin Clout.* And MAKE A WALSHMAN'S HOSE Of the text and of the glose.

1606. *Mirr. for Mag.*, 278. The laws we did interpret, and statutes of the land, Not truly by the text, but newly by a glose: And words that were most plaine, when they by us were skan'd, We turned by construction TO A WELCH-MAN'S HOSE.

**WELSH-RABBIT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A dish of toasted cheese. [SMYTH-PALMER: 'One of a numerous class of slang expressions—the mock-heroic of the eating-house—in which some common dish or product for which any place or people has a special reputation is called by the name of some more dainty article of food which it is supposed humorously to supersede or equal.'] *Cf.* GERMAN-DUCK, COBBLER'S-LOBSTER, NORFOLK-CAPON, BILLINGSGATE-PHEASANT, and many others (GROSE).

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, VII. ix. Go to the tavern, and call for your bottle, and your pipe, and your WELSH RABBIT.

1854-5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, i. The goes of stout, the Chough and Crow, the WELSH RABBIT, the Red Cross Knight . . . the song and the cup, in a word, passed round merrily.

**WELSH-WIG,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A worsted cap.

**WELSH-PARSLEY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—Hemp: hence a hangman's rope.

1625–35. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, i. 2. In tough WELCH-PARSLY, which our vulgar tongue is Strong hempen halters.

1638. RANDOLPH, *Hey for Honesty*, iv. 1. This is a rascal deserves . . . to dance in hemp Derrick's coranto; let's choke him with WELSH PARSLEY.

**WELT**, *verb* (colloquial).—To beat severely. Hence WELTER = a stinging blow; and WELTING = a sound thrashing.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 49. He gave us eight cuts apiece—WELTERS—for—takin' unheard-of liberties with a new master.

**WENCH**, *subs.* (once literary: now colloquial).—Orig. a child of either sex: *cf.* girl, harlot, etc.; subsequently a young woman without any idea of bold familiarity or wantonness long afterwards and still frequently associated with the term. [*See* quot. 1363.] WENCH = a wanton, mistress, or harlot early came into vogue: nowadays a working girl or woman of humble station in life is usually implied, while in America the word (save in vulgar use) is confined to coloured women, especially those in service. As *verb* = to whore; WENCHER = a whoremonger, MUTTON MONGER (*q.v.*), WENCHLESS = harlot-free; WENCHING = whoring; and as *adj.* = lecherous.

*c.* 1280. *Ancren Riwle*, 334. He biscinte Sodome & Gomorre, were, & wif, & WENCHEL. [He sank Sodom and Gomorrah, man, woman, and child.]

*c.* 1360. *William of Palerne* [E.E.T.S.], 1901. William & his worthi WENCHE [of a princess].

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman* [E.E.T.S.]. [Goddes WENCH = Virgin Mary, s.v. 336. WENCH = harlot, s.v. 422].

1380. WYCLIF, *Bible*, Matthew ix. 24. Go ȝe awey, for the WENCHE is nat dead but slepith.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Merl chauntes Tale,' 10076. I am a gentiwoman, and no WENCHE. *Ibid.* 'Manciples Tale.' For that other is a powre woman, She shal be cleped his WENCHE and his lemman.

1530. PALSGRAVE. I iape a WENCH, *ie fout* and *ie bistocque*, it is better to iape a WENCH than to do worse.

*c.* 1561. *Nar. of Reform*, (Camden Soc.), 171. Before I removed from the sayde howse in London I hadde two chyldearne borne ther, a boy and a WHENCH.

1578. WHETSTONE, *Promos and Cassandra*. Therefore, sweet WENCH, help me to rue my woe.

1588–93. TARLETON, *Jests* [OLIPHANT, *New. Eng.*, ii. 13. Among the Verbs are, TO WENCH, *miss the likeness*, . . .].

1591. HARINGTON, *Ariost.*, v. 20. For Ariodant so lov'd the princely WENCH.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Titus Andron.*, iii. 1. Bear thou my hand, sweet WENCH, between thy teeth. *Ibid.* (1598), 1 *Henry IV.*, i. 2. A fair hot WENCH in flame-coloured taffeta. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, v. 2. Now, how dost thou look now? O, ill-starr'd WENCH, Pale as thy smock. *Ibid.* (1602), *Troilus and Cressida*, v. 4. 35. What's become of the WENCHING rogues? *Ibid.* (1605), *Cymbeline*, iv. 2. Do not play in WENCH-like words with that Which is so serious. *Ibid.* (1609), *Pericles*, iv. 2. Mytilene is full of gallants. We lost too much money this mart by being too WENCHLESS. We have but poor three.

1590. SPENSER, *Faery Queen*, I. iii. 11. But the rude WENCH her answerd not at all; She could not heare, nor speake, nor understand.

1597. HALL, *Satires*, iv. 5. An horse-leech, barren WENCH, or gaping grave.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*. *Biondella* . . . a golden-lockt WENCH, as we say a goldilocks.

1599. JONSON, *Every Man out of His Humour*, iv. 4. Let a man sweat once a week in a hot-house, and be well rubbed and froted with a plump juicy WENCH and clean linen. *Ibid.* (1605), *Eastward Hoe* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, iv. 221]. Thou art pandar to me for my WENCH, and I to thee for thy cousenage.

1601. HOLLAND, *Plinie*, XXXV. x. Given he was exceedingly to WENCHING.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, i. 2. A lodging of your providing! to be called a lieutenant's or a captain's WENCH.

1607. *How a Man May Choose a Good Wife*, etc., iv. 3 (DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, 4th ed., 1875, ix. 78). A huffing WENCH i' faith.

1611. *Bible*, 2 Samuel xvii. 17. A WENCH went and told them.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*. But yet, me thinkes, he gives thee but a frumpe, In telling how thee kist a WENCHES rumpe.

1651. RANDOLPH, *Hey for Honesty*, iii. 3. The WENCHES will tumble and merrily jumble.

*d.* 1654. SELDEN, *Table Talk*, 'Clergy.' The fellow that was a great WENCHER.

1660–69. PEPYS, *Diary*, III. 207. My cozen Roger told us . . . that the Archbishop of Canterbury . . . is as very a WENCHER as can be.

1663. KILLIGREW, *Parson's Wedding* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1875), xiv. 438]. Rather than marry, keep a WENCH.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, ii. 1. A man . . . may bring his bashful WENCH, and not have her put out of countenance by the impudent honest women of the town. *Ibid.*, v. 6. *Dap.* Why she was my WENCH. *Gripe.* I'll make her honest then.

1686–7. AUBREY, *Gentilisme* (1881), 163. The towne is full of wanton WENCHES, and . . . (they say) scarce three honest women in the town.

1686. DURFEY, *Commonw. of Wordes*, i. 1. I hate your young WENCHES, Skitish Colts—they are so hard mouth'd, there's no dealing with 'em.

1702. STEELE, *The Funeral, or Grief à la Mode*, Act. i. This WENCH I know has played me false, and horned me in my gallants. [NOTE.—That the speaker is a female shows the word to have been transferable to the other sex.]

1711. STEELE, *Tatler*, 242. The WENCH in the kitchen sings and scours from morning till night. *Ibid.* (1711), *Spectator*, 2. He . . . can inform you from which of the French kings's WENCHES our wives and daughters had this manner of curling their hair.

1109. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 311. Is he fond of play? Does he WENCH?

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, III. 111. The blushing morn at length came travelling up from the oriental clime, and sowed the earth with pearls and diamonds, that glittered upon the dark bosom of night like jewels upon the brow of an Ethiopian WENCH.

**WEST-CENTRAL,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A water-closet: *i.e.* W.C.

**WESTMINSTER-WEDDING,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'A Whore and a Rogue Married together' (B. E. and GROSE).

**WESTPHALIA,** *subs.* (trade).—The backside; the BUM (*q.v.*): an allusion to Westphalia hams.

**WEST-POINTER,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A student, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

**WESTRALIA,** *subs.* (commercial).—Western Australia. [MORRIS: The word was coined to meet the necessities of the submarine cable regulations, which confine messages to words containing not more than ten letters.]

1896. *Studio*, Oct., 151. The latest example is the El Dorado of Western Australia, or as she is beginning to be more generally called 'Westralia.'

1896. *Nineteenth Century*, Nov., 711. The WESTRALIAN Mining Boom [Title].

1901. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 15 May, 4. 3. WESTRALIANS continue decidedly firm, notwithstanding the troubles of the markets and the slackness of business.

**WESTY-HEAD,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Dizzy, giddy (HALL, *Satires*).

**WET,** *subs.* (common).—Generic for drink, BOOZE (*q.v.*): spec. 'drink demanded or expected of anyone wearing new clothes' (GROSE). Whence TO WET A COAT (BARGAIN, DEAL, etc.)=to

TREAT (*q.v.*), to ratify by drinking success. As *verb*=to drink, LUSH (*q.v.*): also TO WET ONE'S WHISTLE (CLAY, SWALLOW, THE RED LANE, etc.): Fr. *se mouiller*: *see* WHISTLE and WHISTLE-DRUNK; TO WET THE OTHER EYE=to take one drink after another. As *adj.* (or WET-HANDED) =(1) addicted to drinking, (2)= drunk: *see* SCREWED; and 3 (American) = anti-prohibition; *e.g.* a WET-TOWN=a town opposed to prohibition in the sale of intoxicants: *cf.* 'dry': whence A WET=one opposed to prohibition. Also HEAVY-WET=porter; TWOPENNY-WET (*see* TWOPENNY); A WET-HAND (WHETTER or WET-'UN)=a toper: *see* LUSHINGTON; WET-BARGAIN (*see* BARGAIN); WET-NIGHT = an evening carousal; WET-GOODS= drink: *cf.* 'dry-goods'; WET-QUAKER=(1) a secret drinker, and spec. (2)='a Drunkard of that Sect' (B. E.); TO WET THE SICKLE=to drink out earnest money at harvest-time; WETTING THE BLOCK=a custom among shoemakers on the first Monday in March, when they cease from working by candlelight, and have a supper so called (HALLIWELL).

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Reeves Tale.' As any jay she light was and jolyf So was his joly WHISTLE WEL ywet.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Franc.*, 780. I WETE MY WHYSTELL, as good drinkers do. *Je crocque la pie.* Wyll you WETE YOUR WHYSTELL.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, iii. 1. Give the boy some drink there! Piper, WHET YOUR WHISTLE.

1653. WALTON, *Compleat Angler*, 86. I have not yet WETTED my line Since we met together.

*d.* 1692. SHADWELL, *Humours of the Navy*, ii. 3. Then we should have commissions to WET.

*c.* 1700. WARD, *England's Reformation*, ii. 175. Socinians and Presbyterians, Quakers, and WET-QUAKERS or Merry-ones.

1703. STEELE, *Tender Husband*, i. Then, harkye! brother; we'll go take a WET, and settle the whole affair. *Ibid.* (1710), *Tatler*, No. 141. The WHETTER is obliged to refresh himself every moment with a liquor, as the Snuff-taker with a powder. *Ibid.*, *Tatler*, 138. People . . . known by the name of WHETTERS who drink themselves into an intermediate state of being neither drunk nor sober before the hours of Exchange or business. *Ibid.* (1714), *Spectator*, No. 88. Three quarts to my new Lord for WETTING his title.

*d.* 1704. BROWN, *Works*, iii. 26. Would you buy any naked truth, or light in a dark lanthorn? Look in the WET-QUAKER'S walk.

*d* 1721. PRIOR, *Celia to Damon.* When my lost lover the tall ship ascends, With music gay, and WET with jovial friends, The tender accents of a woman's cry Will pass unheard, will unregarded die.

1731. FIELDING, *Letter Writers*, ii. 2. A soph, he is immortal, And never can decay; For how should he return to dust Who daily WETS HIS CLAY?

1847–8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xi. As he knew he should have a WET NIGHT, it was agreed that he might gallop back again in time for church on Sunday morning.

1864. LOWELL, *Fireside Trav.*, 119. When his poor old CLAY WAS WET with gin.

1871. *Echo*, 16 March. 'Are you going to have a WET, old boy?' one familiarly remarked.

1874. *Siliad*, 16. Bacchus is in an awful vinous sweat; His hot brow laves he with all sorts of WET.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 268. I shall be back again shortly, when we will WET THE DEAL.

1879. BRUNLEES PATTERSON, *Life in the Ranks.* Many are the schemes, contrivances, and devices of some of the old topers to obtain a WET or reviver, first thing in the morning.

1881. GRANT, *Bush-life in Queensland*, i. 30. No bargain could be completed without a WET, and no friendship or enmity forgotten without recourse to the bottle.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 76. For no hot summer sun ever dried up the WET Like the lads did—why, some of 'em ain't sober yet.

*Adj.* (venery).—Spec. of women when secreting LETCH-WATER (*q.v.*). Also TO HAVE (DO or PERFORM) a BOTTOM-WETTER (WET-'UN or GET A WET BOTTOM)=to copulate: of women only: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 123. There's ne'er a rake in all the town Would tip you half of half a crown, Then you'll with aldermen be willing To earn a sixpence or a shilling, Or else in midnight cellars ply For twopence WET and twopence dry.

**WET-BLANKET.** *See* BLANKET.

**WET BOAT,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A boat that is crank and ships water readily.

1859. READE, *Love me Little*, xvii. 'Why don't you go forward, sir? She is sure to wet us abaft.' . . . Thank you, but . . . (with an heroic attempt at sea slang) I like a WET BOAT.

**WET-BOB.** *See* BOB.

**WET-FINGER.** WITH A WET FINGER, *phr.* (old).—Easily, readily: as easy as turning over the leaf of a book, or rubbing out writing on a slate.

1561. *Burnynge of Paules Church.* There is to manye suche, though ye laugh, and beleve it not, and not hard to shewe them WITH A WET FINGER.

1593. HARVEY, *Pierces Superog.*, 21. I hate brawls with my heart, and can turn over a volume of wrongs WITH A WET FINGER.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iii. 255]. If ever I stand in need of a wench that will come WITH A WET FINGER, porter thou shalt earn my money. *Ibid.* (1609), *Guls Hornebook* [NOTT], 160. What gentlewomen or citizen's wives you can WITH A WET FINGER have at any time to sup with you.

1615. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Cupid's Revenge*, iv. Take a good heart, man; all the low ward is ours WITH A WET-FINGER.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. As bookes are leafe by leafe oft turn'd and tost, So are the garments of a whore (almost): For both of them, WITH A WET FINGER may Be folded or unfolded, night or day.

Also in proverbial wheeze (amongst children), 'See my finger WET (*licking the finger*), see my finger dry (*wiping it dry*), I'll cut my throat (*drawing finger across throat*) before I tell a lie' (a strong assurance of veracity).

**WET-GOOSE,** *subs. phr.* (provincial).—A poor simple fellow.

**WETHERALL.** GENERAL WETHERALL'S IN COMMAND, *phr.* (military).—Used when a parade is abandoned through inclement weather.

**WETHER-HEADED,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Silly, superstitious, a bit off: also WEATHER-HEADED. As *subs.* = a dolt, simpleton, fool: *cf.* MUTTON-HEAD.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, II. 7. Sir, is this usage for your son?—for that old WEATHER-HEADED fool, I know how to laugh at him; but you, Sir——.

**WET-NURSED,** *adj. phr.*—1. Coddled, SHEPHERDED (*q.v.*), BACKED (*q.v.*); *see* NURSE.

1874. *Siliad*, 109. Who, ere his whiskers had completely grown, Possessed a comic paper of his own; But though WET-NURSED by someone in Debrett, It died quite young.

18[?]. *Elec. Rev.* (*Century*). The system of WET-NURSING adopted by the Post-office authorities in the case of the telegraph service has not been one of uniform success.

**WET-UN**, *subs. phr.* (slaughterers'). —1. A diseased beast: *cf.* STAGGERING-BOB.

2. *See* WET, *adj.*

**WE-UNS**, *pr.* (American). — We, us: *i.e.* we ones: *cf.* YOU-UNS.

1885. MURFREE, *Prophet Great Smoky Mountains*, ix. Grind some fur WEE-UNS ter-morrer.

**W. F.'S**, *subs. phr.* (old Tasmanian). —Wild cattle.

1891. FENTON, *Bush Life in Tasmania Fifty Years Ago*, 24. Round up a mob of the wildest W.F.'s that ever had their ears slit. [Note]: This was the brand on Mr. William Field's wild cattle.

**WHACK** (or **WACK**), *subs.* (old).—1. A heavy, smart, sounding blow. As *verb* = to beat, thwack. Also a heavy fall, and as *verb* = to fall.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.*, 'Lady Rohesia.' A blow descended, such as we must borrow a term from the Sister Island adequately to describe—it was a WHACK.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 564. Sometimes a chap will give me a lick with a stick just as I'm going over; sometimes a reg'lar good hard WHACK.

1888. CLOUSTON, *Book of Noodles*, ii. A traveller, coming up, finds the missing man by WHACKING each of them over the shoulder.

1886. *D. Teleg.*, 21 Feb. Yet the Flannigans and the Murphys paid no heed to him, but WHACKED away at each other with increasing vigour.

1887. *Field*, 24 Sep. Father WHACKS her and the children in turns.

2. (common). — A share; piece; spec. an equal portion (GROSE): also WHACKING. As *verb* (or GO WHACKS) = (1) to divide, to share; and (2) to settle, pay up: *e.g.* WHACK the blunt = share the money; Give me my WHACK = Hand me my due. Also TO WHACK UP.

1840. THACKERAY, *Shabby Genteel Story*, v. This gay young bachelor had taken his share (what he called 'his WHACK') of pleasure.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, II. 152. They then, as they term it, WHACK the whole lot. *Ibid.*, II. 172. At last Long J—— and I got to quarrel about the WHACKING; there was cheatin' a-goin' on.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail.* So when we got there, there was some reelers there what knew me, and my pals said, 'You had better get away from us; if we touch you will take your WHACK just the same.'

1888. GREENWOOD, *Little Ragamuffin.* 'You agreed that we should GO WHACKS in everything,' I pleaded, appealing to his sense of justice. *Ibid.*, *A Converted Burglar.* The sound, old-fashioned principle of 'sharing the danger and WHACKING THE SWAG.'

1890. WALCH, *Australian Song*, 509. My word! he did more than his WHACK; He was never a cove as would shirk.

1891. *Elect. Rev.* (*Century*). The city has never WHACKED UP with the gas company.

3. (colloquial). —An attempt, a trial, a stroke.

4. (provincial). — Appetite, TWIST (*q.v.*).

TO WHACK IT UP, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

WHACK! *adj.* (printers'). —An emphatic expression of doubt; a polite way of giving the lie direct.

**WHACKER**, *subs.* (common). —Anything very large, a big thing, a WHOPPER (*q.v.*). Whence WHACKING = very large.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, XXX. 'Look what WHACKERS, Cousin Tom,' said Charley, holding out one of his prizes by its back towards Tom, while the indignant cray-fish flapped its tail.

1871. ATKINS, *House Scraps.* 'How kind of them,' says he, 'to gi'e me 'em, Since they're at such a WHACKING premium.'

1887. *Field*, 14 Nov. Good half-pounders every one, with an occasional WHACKER of ten ounces.

**WHACKY**, *subs.* (tailors').—A term applied to anyone doing anything ridiculous or FOOLING ABOUT (*q.v.*).

**WHALE**, *subs.* (Cheltenham College).—1. Codfish.

2. (Royal Military Academy).—A sardine.

3. (common). — In *pl.* = anchovies on toast.

*Verb* (common)—1. To beat, thrash, lash vigorously. Hence WHALING = a trouncing, WALLOPING (*q.v.*).

1847. *New York Tribune*, Aug. But it is possible that we may, at some future time, go to war with England, her writers and speakers having spoken disparagingly of us, while her actors, half-pay officers, and other travelling gentry, carry their heads rather high in passing through our country,—for which 'arrogant' demeanour we are bound to give her a WHALING!

1870. WINTHROP, *Canoe and Saddle*, xii. I have whipped you . . . but have I WHALED you?

1884. BRET HARTE, *Society on the Stanislaus.* But first I would remark, that it is not a proper plan For any scientific gent to WHALE his fellow man.

2. (American).—To talk vehemently, harangue, SPOUT (*q.v.*): also TO WHALE AWAY.

18[?]. *Widow Bedott Papers*, 289. Professor Stubbins is always a WHALIN' AWAY about the dignity of labor, and has been deliverin' a course o' lectures on the subject. *Ibid.*, 105. I went to Baptist meeting. The elder, as usual, WHALED AWAY through his nose, thumped the desk, and went over and over the same thing.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, I. 13. Their masters can cuss 'em, and kick 'em, and WALE 'em, An' they notice it less 'an the ass did to Balaam.

TO FISH FOR HERRING AND CATCH A WHALE (or SPRAT), *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To get a result other than that expected. Hence (2) to 'catch a TARTAR' (*q.v.*), fail miserably.

IT'S VERY LIKE A WHALE, *phr.* (old).—Ironical assent to a preposterous assertion: *see* quot.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 2. 392. *Ham.* Do you see yonder cloud that's almost like a camel? *Pol.* By the mass and 'tis a camel, indeed. *Ham.* Methinks it is like a weasel. *Pol.* It is backed like a weasel. *Ham.* Or like a WHALE. *Pol.* VERY LIKE A WHALE.

TO GO AHEAD LIKE A WHALE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To forge ahead, to act, speak, or write vigorously.

*See* TUB and WHALER.

**WHALEBONE.** AS WHITE AS WHALEBONE, *phr.* (old).—A common simile for whiteness. [HALLIWELL: Some writers imagined ivory, formerly made from the teeth of the walrus, to be formed from the bones of the whale.]

*c.* 1430. *Destruction of Troy* [E.E.T.S.], 3055. To telle of hir tethe that tryelly were set, Alse QWYTE & qwem AS ANY QWALLE BON.

1567. TURBERVILLE, *Poems*, S. 8 b. A little mouth, with decent chin, A corall lip of hue, With teeth AS WHITE AS WHALE HIS BONE, Ech one in order due.

1590. SPENSER, *Faery Queen*, III. i. 15. Whose face did seem as clear as crystal stone, And eke, through fear AS WHITE AS WHALE'S BONE.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, v. 2. This is the flower that smiles on every one, To shew his teeth AS WHITE AS WHALE HIS BONE.

**WHALER**, *subs.* (American).—1. Anything extraordinary of its kind, also WHALE, *e.g.* 'a regular WHALE': *see* WHOPPER. Hence WHALING = overwhelming.

1848. LONGSTREET, *Georgia Scenes*, 184. 'He's a WHALER!' said Rory; 'but his face is mighty little for his body and legs.'

2. (Australian).—A SUNDOWNER (*q.v.*): *i.e.* one who cruises about.

1893. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 Aug., 8. 8. The nomad, the WHALER, it is who will find the new order hostile to his vested interest of doing nothing.

**WHANG**, *subs.* (common).—1. A blow, a whack; a beating, a banging. As *verb* = to flog, thrash. Also (2) a banging noise, and as *verb* = to clatter, throw with violence.

*d.* 1889. BROWNING, *Up at a Villa*. Bang, WHANG, WHANG, goes the drum.

1890. WARNER, *Pilgrimage*, 317. The WHANG of the bass drum.

3. (colloquial). — A slice, chunk, DOLLOP (*q.v.*). Also as *verb* = to cut in large strips, slices, or chunks.

1678. RAY, *Proverbs*, 386. Of other men's lether, men take large WHANGES.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Holy Fair*. Wi' sweet-milk cheese in mony a WHANG.

*d.* 1803. BEATTIE, *Tales*, 8. My uncle set it to his breast, And WHANG'D it down.

4. (American). — Formerly, in Maine and some other parts of New England, a house-cleaning party; a gathering of neighbours to aid one of their number in cleaning a house (*Century*).

*See* WHANGER.

**WHANGBY**, *subs.* (provincial). — Very hard cheese made of old or skimmed milk (HALLIWELL).

**WHANGAM (WHANGDOODLE, etc.)**, *subs.* (? nonce words).—An imaginary animal: its precise nature, form, and attributes are seemingly left to individual fancy.

1759–62. GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*, xcviii. A WHANGAM that eats grasshoppers had marked [one] for its prey.

1856. *Harp of a Thousand Strings*. 'Where the lion roareth, and the WHANGDOODLE mourneth for her first-born.' It was subsequently applied to political subjects, such as the Free Trade, Decompton Democracy, etc.

**WHANGER** (or **WHANG**), *subs.* (common). — Anything big or unusual of its kind: *see* WHOPPER. As *adj.* (or WHANGING) = large, strapping.

**WHAP.** *See* WHOP.

**WHARF-RAT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A thief prowling about wharves; *cf.* WATER-RAT.

**WHARL**, *verb* (old).—To be unable to pronounce the letter R. Also as *subs.*

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, II. 225. All that are born therein have a harsh and rattling kind of uttering their words with much difficulty and WHARLING in their throats.

1724–7. DEFOE, *Tour Thro' Great Britain*, iii. 233. The natives of [Northumberland] of the antient original Race or families are distinguished by a Shibboleth upon their Tongues in pronouncing the letter R, which they cannot utter without a hollow Jairing in the Throat, by which they are as plainly known as a Foreigner is by pronouncing the Th; this they call the Northumberland R or WHARLE; and the Natives value themselves on that Imperfection, because, forsooth, it shows the Antiquity of their Blood.

**WHAT**, *rel. pro.* (old).—1. That, or that which: still a vulgarism: *e.g.* I had a donkey WHAT wouldn't go.

1570. ASCHAM, *The Scholemaster*, 142. The matter WHAT other men wrote.

1593 PEELE, *Edward I.* (*Old Plays*), II. 37. Offer them peace or aught WHAT is beside.

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, v. 1. 126. I fear nothing WHAT can be said against me.

2. (colloquial).—How much.

1867. TROLLOPE, *Last Chronicle of Barsett*, xxxvii. When a man bets he does not well know WHAT money he uses.

*Indef. pro.* (old).—(*a*) A something, anything: *e.g.* I'll tell you WHAT (it is). Also a bit, portion, a thing: *e.g.* It's a WHANGAM (*q.v.*); It's WHAT?

1373. CHAUCER, *House of Fame*, 1741. Al was us never broche ne rynge, Ne ellis WHAT fro women sent. *Ibid.*, *Boethius*, iv. prose 6. Thanne she a lytel WHAT smylynge seyde.

*d.* 1513. FABYAN, *Chronicle*, clxxii. Then the kynge anone called his seruante that had but one lofe and a little WHATTE of wyne.

1596. SPENSER, *Faery Queene*, VI. ix. 7. They prayd him sit, and gave him for to feed Such homely WHAT as serves the simple clowne.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, iii. 2. 92. Wot you WHAT, my lord? To-day the lords you talk of are beheaded.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, iii. 3. I'll tell you WHAT now of the devil.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 518. I tell you WHAT—Ellery Davenport lays out to marry a real angel. He's to swear, and she's to pray.

WHAT'S-HIS-NAME, etc., *phr.* (old colloquial).—1. A locution in speaking of what one has either forgotten, thinks so trivial, or does not wish to mention. Also WHAT-D'YE-CALL-IT, WHAT-D'YE-CALL-'EM, LORD KNOW'S WHAT, WASHICAL, etc.: *cf.* THINGUMY.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, iii. 3. 74. Good even, good Master WHAT-YE-CALL'T; how do you, sir?

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, 75. Where once your WHAT SHALS' CAL' UMS —(rot um! It makes me mad I have forgot 'um).

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 31. The ship's crew . . . often call his Words to account, and too often count his Sunday labour a Sham, and himself a sacred WHAT-YE-CALL-'EM.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), I. xv. Mr. WHAT-D'YE-CALL-'UM, I never exact too much.

1759–67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, VIII. 19. There is no part of the body, an' please your honour [with] . . . so many tendons and WHAT-D'YE-CALL-EMS all about it.

1801. DIBDIN, *Il Bondocani*, ii. 2. I wouldn't keep signior WHAT-D'YE-CALL-HIM waiting for the world.

1811. HAWKINS, *Countess and Gertrude*, iii. 97. [An inferior is addressed as] MRS. WHAT'S-YOUR-NAME.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, 8 Dec. 'Won't it be rather hard at first to give up all the pink suppers and kettledrums and afternoon WHAT-DO-YOU-CALL-'EMS?' with a suspicion of a grin on his face.

2. (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. WHAT'S-HER-NAME= the female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE: also WHAT'S-ITS-NAME, THE LORD KNOWS WHAT, etc.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 42. E'er since I saw that . . . Thetis stroking your knees, as on the ground you sat, And rubbing up, THE LORD KNOWS WHAT. *Ibid.*, 117. I wish I'd never touch'd her WHAT-D'YE-CALLUM, But gone where damsels in the Park Watch to earn sixpence in the dark.

TO KNOW WHAT'S WHAT (WHAT'S O'CLOCK, etc.), *verb. phr.* (common).—To have knowledge, taste, judgment, or experience; TO BE WIDE-AWAKE (*q.v.*), equal to any emergency, FLY (*q.v.*).

1513–25. SKELTON, *Works* [DYCE], ii. 132. TO KNOW WHAT YS A CLOCKE.

*c.* 1520. *Chaucer's Dream*, 216. [There occurs] to KNOW WHAT WAS WHAT.

1534. N. UDALL, *Roister Doister*, i. 2, p. 17 (ARBER). Have ye spied out that? Ah sir, mary nowe I see you KNOW WHAT IS WHAT.

1563. GOOGE, *Eclogues*, vii. Our wyts be not so base, But what we KNOW as well as you WHAT'S WHAT in every case.

1609. JONSON, *Silent Woman*, v. *Daw*. O, it pleases him to say so, sir; but Sir Amorous KNOWS WHAT'S WHAT as well.

1679. W. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, iii. 1. But you, gossip, KNOW WHAT'S WHAT.

1711. *Spectator*, No. 132. This sly saint, who, I will warrant, UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS WHAT as well as you or I, widow, shall give the bride as father.

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, v. 'Come, boy, I'm an old fellow, and KNOW WHAT'S WHAT as well as you that are younger.'

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 330. As soon as we get settled we must stock our cellar, and establish a respectable larder, like people who KNOW WHAT IS WHAT.

1835. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*. Our governor's wide awake, he is. I'll never say nothin' agin him, nor no man; but he KNOWS WHAT'S O'CLOCK, he does, uncommon. *Ibid.* (1836), *Pickwick*, 364 (1857). 'Never mind, Sir,' said Mr. Weller with dignity, 'I KNOW WOT'S O'CLOCK.'

1849. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, x. I'm not clever, p'raps; but I *am* rather downy; and partial friends say I know WHAT'S O'CLOCK tolerably well.

1874. *Siliad*, 172. And KNOW WHAT'S WHAT in England, and who's who.

1887. BAUMANN, *Londinismen, Slang u. Cant*, pref. vi. So from hartful young dodgers From waxy old codgers, From the blowens we got Soon to KNOW VOT IS VOT.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxvii. As for old Mullockson, he used to take a drive to Sawpit Gully, or Ten-Mile, as soon as ever he saw WHAT O'CLOCK it was—and glad to clear out, too.

WHAT NOT, *phr.* (colloquial).—Elliptical for 'What may I not say'; also as *subs.* = no matter what, what you please, 'etcetera.'

1592. HARVEY, *Four Letters*. If Mother Hubbard, in the vein of Chaucer, happened to tell one canicular tale, father Elderton and his son Greene, in the vein of Skelton or Scoggin, will counterfeit a hundred dogged fables, libels, calumnies, slanders, lies for the whetstone, WHAT NOT.

1602. COOKE, *How a Man may Choose a Good Wife*, etc. [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ix. 78]. Why, you Jack-sauce! you cuckold! you WHAT-NOT.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, 150. Such air is unwholesome and engenders melancholy, plagues, and WHAT NOT.

1678. BUNYAN, *Pilgrim's Progress*, i. Lions, dragons, darkness, and in a word, death and WHAT NOT.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, ix. I profess to be an impartial chronicler of poor Philip's fortunes, misfortunes, friendships, and WHAT-NOTS.

1887. *Contemp. Rev.*, li. 617. College A cannot compete with College B unless it has more scholarships, unless it changes the time of election to scholarships, or WHAT NOT.

1903. *D. Tel.*, 28 Dec., 5. 1. British, Italian, French, Russians, and natives . . . and WHAT-NOT.

TO GIVE WHAT FOR, *verb. phr.* (common).—To reprimand, call over the coals, castigate, PUNISH (*q.v.*).

THE LORD KNOWS WHAT, *phr.* (colloquial).—1. 'Heaps'; plenty more; all sorts of things.

1691–2. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Mar., p. 3. Here's novels, and new-town adventures . . . and the LORD KNOWS WHAT not.

2. *See* WHAT'S-HIS-NAME, 2.

**WHAT HO!** *phr.* (old).—A summons or call: once the recognised formula: long disused save in melodrama and burlesque, but latterly recrudescent in vulgar salutation and expletive.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 1. 52. *Gads.* WHAT HO! chamberlain! *Chamb.* [*Within*] At hand, quoth pickpurse.

1898. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, ii. Where 'e let me in for drinks all round, and as I'd but a bob, I thought, 'WHAT HO! 'Ow am *I* a-going on?'

**WHAT PRICE——?** *phr.* (racing and common). — How's that? What do *you* think? How much? What odds?

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. What PRICE you, when you fell off the scaffold?

1895. POCOCK, *Rules of the Game*, II. 10. WHAT PRICE Mr. Jack Hayles, eh, boys? That proves he's a thief.

1898. *Cigarette*, 26 Nov., 13. 1. Ain't he gone on saucy colours, Eh? WHAT PRICE the green and red?

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, 1. ix. WHAT PRICE grammar? It don't seem to teach people to keep a civil tongue in their head.

1901. *Free Lance*, 13 Ap., 28. 2. 'It is all very well,' writes a traveller, 'to legislate with regard to pure beer, but WHAT PRICE pure wine?'

**WHAT (WHO, WHEN, WHERE, or HOW) THE DEVIL,** *phr.* (common).—An expletive of wonder, vexation, etc.

*c.* 1360. *Alliterative Poems* [MORRIS], 97. [Jonah is asked by his shipmates] WHAT ÞE DEVEL hatȝ þou don?

*b.* 1688, *d.* 1744. POPE [quoted in ANNANDALE]. The things we know are neither rich nor rare; But wonder HOW THE DEVIL they got there.

1776. DAVID GARRICK, *Bon Ton, or High Life Above Stairs*, ii. 1. *Sir T.* Why, WHAT THE DEVIL do you make one at these masqueradings?

1780. MRS. COWLEY, *The Belle's Stratagem*, i. 3. *Har.* WHO THE DEVIL could have foreseen that?

1827. R. B. PEAKE, *Comfortable Lodgings*, i. 3. WHAT THE DEVIL is all this about?

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, *Cruise of the Midge* [Ry. ed. 1860], 134. HOW THE DEVIL can you get anything out of an empty vessel?

**WHATABOUTS,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A matter in hand, something under consideration.

1830. SOUTHEY, *To G. C. Bedford*, 3 Mar. You might know of all my goings-on and WHATABOUTS and whereabouts from Henry Taylor.

**WHAT-LIKE,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Of what kind.

1865. DICKENS, *Mutual Friend*, iii. 2. She knows Miss Abbey of old, remind her, and she knows WHAT-LIKE the home, and WHAT-LIKE the friend is likely to turn out.

**WHAT-NOSED,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Drunk, hot-nosed from drinking: *see* SCREWED.

**WHATSOMEVER,** *adv.* and *pro.* (once literary: now vulgar).—Whatsoever: also WHATSOMDEVER.

1360. CHAUCER, *Rom. of the Rose*, 5041. WHATSOMEVER woo they fele They wol not pleyne, but concele.

14[?]. *Babees Book* [E.E.T.S.], 45. Doughtir, loke that thou be waare, WHATSUMEUERE thee bitide, Mak not thin husbonde poore with spendinge ne with pride.

**WHAY-WORM** (or **WHEY-WORM**), *subs. phr.* (old).—A whim, crotchet, MAGGOT (*q.v.*).—SKELTON.

1542. HALL, *Edward IV.*, 33. And so marched toward London where the Essex men, havinge wylde WHAY-WORMES in their heddes joined them with him.

**WHEAT.** *See* CLEAN WHEAT.

**WHEATON.** TO WHEATON IT, *verb. phr.* (American: West Point).—To play sick. [BARTLETT: The term is derived from the name of old Dr. Wheaton, U.S.A., long stationed at West Point.]

**WHEEDLE,** *verb* (old: now recognised). — To coax, cajole, fawn on, TAKE IN (*q.v.*) [SKEAT: fr. Ger. *wedeln*. *Century*: It is not clear how a German word of this kind could get into English; but the German wars of the 17th century brought in a number of words, and this may have been taken up as a slang term. FARMER: in B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, 1696, to cut a WHEADLE = 'to decoy by Fawning and Insinuation.'] As *subs.* = (1) cajolery, a hoax; (2) = a flatterer, cajoler; and (3) a SHARPER (*q.v.*): WHEEDLER, WHEEDLESOME, WHEEDLING, and other derivatives follow as a matter of course.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. iii. 335. His business was to pump and WHEEDLE.

1667. HEAD, *Porteus Redivivus, or the Art of* WHEEDLING [Title]. *Ibid.* (1678), *Madam* WHEEDLE [Title].

1668. ETHEREGE, *She Would*, etc., i. 1. Don't thou think to pass these gross WHEADLES on me too? . . . I could never have had the face to have WHEADL'D the poor knight so.

1673. WYCHERLEY, *Gentleman Dancing-Master*, iv. 1. So young a WHEEDLE. *Ibid.* (1675), *Country Wife*, ii. 1. WHEEDLE her, jest with her, and be better acquainted one with another.

1692. LESTRANGE, *Fables*. A fox stood licking of his lips at the cock, and WHEEDLING him to get him down.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, iii. I have a deed of settlement . . . which I WHEEDLED out of her. *Ibid.*, iii. 4. If that WHEADLING Villain has wrought upon Foible to detect me, I'm ruined. *Ibid.*, v. 1. I am not the first that he has WHEADLED with his dissembling Tongue.

1713. ROWE, *Jane Shore*, i. A laughing, toying, WHEEDLING, whimp'ring she.

1849–61. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, xviii. He WHEEDLED Tillotson out of some money.

1853. KINGSLEY, *Hypatia*, iv. In a fawning, WHEEDLING tone.

1876. ALCOTT, *Hospital Sketches*, 88. Anything more irresistibly WHEEDLESOME I never saw.

1885. CLEMENT SCOTT [*Ill. Lon. News*, 3 Oct., 339. 2]. The change from the carneying, WHEEDLING sneak to the cowardly bully, is extremely clever.

**WHEEL,** *subs.* (old).—1. A five-shilling piece; 5s.: *see* CART-WHEEL (GROSE). Also (*Tufts*) = a dollar.

2. (colloquial).—A bicycle, or tricycle; as *verb* = to ride a bicycle or tricycle. Hence WHEELMAN (or -WOMAN) = a cyclist: also KNIGHT OF THE WHEEL; WHEELING = cycling: also THE WHEELING WORLD (generic for 'cycledom').

1874. *Century*, xix. 496. In the parlors the costumes of the wheelmen seemed not so much out of place. *Ibid.* (1884), Sep., 643. One young girl . . . was attended by a youth on a bicycle, who WHEELED attentively at her side. *Ibid.*, 646. As WHEELMEN nowadays so greatly abound, the landlords profit by this arrangement.

1890. PENNELL, *Cant. Pilgrimage*. The ugly barracks and pretty cottages by which we WHEELED.

TO BREAK A FLY (or BUTTERFLY) ON A WHEEL, *verb. phr.* (common).—To punish unduly, without regard to the gravity of the crime, or the standing of the

offender; whence to use means altogether out of proportion to the end in view; to 'crack a nut with a Nasmyth hammer.'

1734. POPE, *Satires*, Prol., 308. Satire or sense, alas! can Sporus feel, Who BREAKS A BUTTERFLY UPON A WHEEL?

1857. DICKENS, *Little Dorrit*, II. 21. He was sorry . . . for the excellent people, and deplored the necessity of BREAKING mere house-FLIES ON THE WHEEL.

TO GREASE THE WHEELS, *verb. phr.* (common).—1. To furnish money for a specific object: *see* GREASE.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 74. Your uncle . . . regaled us yesterday . . . and paid the piper. . . . To-day the WHEELS ARE GREASED by your humble servant.

2. (venery). — In *sing.* = to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

TO GO (or RUN) ON WHEELS, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To do with ease, expedition, without exertion.

2. (old).—Said of one suffering from the after-effects of drunkenness.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 114. Strong liquor don't agree with me; My head's too heavy for my heels, And all the world RUNS ROUND ON WHEELS.

TO PUT ONE'S SHOULDER TO THE WHEEL, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To put one's heart into a matter, to buckle to, to do with spirit, resolution, or courage.

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Complication, intricacies, something other than that which is apparent at first sight. [*Cf.* Ezekiel i. 16.]

1730. NORTH, *Lord Guildford*, ii. 144. It was notorious that after this secretary retired the king's affairs went backwards; WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS took place; the ministers turned formalisers, and the court mysterious.

1760. JOHNSTON, *Chrysal*, II. 196. But, sir, is there not danger of their being provoked by such an attack to say something improper, and that they who made the contracts with them may do you an ill office on another occasion? They are WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick Papers*, xl. 'And a birdcage, sir,' said Sam; 'VEELS VITHIN VEELS, a prison in a prison.'

TO STEER A TRICK AT THE WHEEL. *See* TRICK.

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* [EBSWORTH, 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.*, 1030. 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.

WHEEL-HAND IN THE NICK, *phr.* (old).—'Regular Drinking over the left Thumb' (B. E.).

**WHEELBARROW.** AS DRUNK AS A WHEELBARROW (or AS THE DRUM OF A WHEELBARROW), *phr.* (old).—Very drunk indeed: *see* SCREWED (RAY).

1675. COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, 243. Besides, if he such things can do, When DRUNK AS DRUM OF WHEELBARROW, What would not this God of October Perform, I prithee, when he's sober.

TO GO TO HEAVEN IN A WHEELBARROW, *verb. phr.* (old).—To go to hell. [In the painted glass at Fairford, Gloucestershire, the devil is represented as wheeling off a scolding wife in a barrow.]

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, I. 144. This oppressor must needs GO TO HEAVEN! what shall hinder him? But it will be, as the by-word is, IN A WHEELBARROW; the fiends, and not the angels, will take hold on him.

**WHEELER,** *subs.* (coaching).—A horse driven in shafts or next to the wheels: *cf.* LEADER. Also OFF-WHEELER = a horse driven on the right-hand side, *i.e.* the side on which a postillion never rides; NEAR-WHEELER = the horse on the left-hand side.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xiii. We saw the vehicle turn over altogether, one of the WHEELERS down with its rider, and the leaders kicking.

**WHEEL-HORSE,** *subs. phr.* (American).—An intimate friend; one's right-hand man; a leading man (BARTLETT).

1877. *New York Tribune*, 26 Feb. It is probable that the only man put forward by the republican's WHEEL-HORSES of Illinois for high appointment under President Hayes will be the Honorable John A. Logan.

**WHEEL-OF-LIFE,** *subs. phr.* (prison).—The treadmill, the EVERLASTING-STAIRCASE (*q.v.*).

1883. *Echo*, Jan. 25, p. 2, col. 4. The treadmill, again, is more politely called . . . the WHEEL OF LIFE, or the vertical care-grinder.

**WHEEZE,** *subs.* (common).—Generic for a GAG (*q.v.*) of any description: *e.g.* interpolated lines (usually comic) in a play, a bit of BUSINESS (*q.v.*), a sidesman's PATTER (*q.v.*), a bon-mot, joke, and so forth. TO CRACK A WHEEZE = to originate (or adapt) a smart saying at a 'psychological' moment.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 24. What laughter fills the Court, At the counsel's ribald attitude and tone! But each WHEEZE from legal throats, When to Parkinson it floats Is a groan.

1887. *Referee*, 1 May. The man who propounds conundrums to puzzle 'Brudder Bones,' and puts on the most solemn air of attention while the comic men spin out their 'WHEEZES.'

*Verb* (thieves').—To say, inform, PEACH (*q.v.*).

**WHEEZY,** *subs.* (journalists').—The first month of the French Republican year: a free translation of *Vindémiare*.

**WHELK,** *subs.* (common).—1. The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE, and note the veiledly obscene street catch-phrase of the seventies, 'I'll have your WHELK.'

2. (provincial).—A blow (also WHELKER), fall, blister, mark, or stripe.

3. (provincial).—A large number, a quantity: whence WHELKING = very large, big, numerous.

**WHELP,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A youth, UNLICKED CUB (*q.v.*); PUPPY (*q.v.*): in contempt. As *verb* (vulgar) = to be brought to bed, to PUP (*q.v.*).

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Titus Andron.*, ii. 3. Two of thy WHELPS, fell curs of bloody kind.

1854. DICKENS, *Hard Times*, iii. 7. On one of the back benches . . . sat the villainous WHELP, sulky to the last, whom he had the misery to call his son.

2. (old).—A ship of some kind.

1630–40. *Court and Times Chas. I.*, II. 186. Captain Plumley was sent thither with one of the ships royal and two WHELPS to seek out Nutt the pirate.

1635. [BRERETON, *Travels*, 164.] Aboard one of the king's ships called the ninth WHELP.

**WHEN.** SAY WHEN! *phr.* (common).—That is, 'Say when I shall stop': the dovetail reply is 'Bob!'

1889. *Modern Society*, 6 June. 'SAY WHEN,' said Bonko, taking up a flagon of whiskey and commencing to pour out the spirit into my glass. 'BOB!' replied I.

**WHENNYMEG,** *subs.* (provincial).—In *pl.* = the *testes*, CODS (*q.v.*): properly TRINKETS (*q.v.*).

**WHERE.** *See* YOU.

**WHEREFORE.** *See* WHY.

**WHEREWITH (or WHEREWITHAL),** *subs.* (colloquial).—The necessary, requisites: spec. money (generic): *see* RHINO.

[1390. MANDEVILLE, *Travels* [HALLIWELL], 3. A man that hath WHEROF (*opes*).]

1659. MILTON, *Touching Hirelings*. We ourselves have not WHEREWITHAL; who shall bear the charges of our Journey?

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 260. How the devil doos she mean that I should get the WHEREWITHAL? . . . Does she take me for . . . treasurer to a charity?

1855. SPENSER, *Prin. of Sociology*, 15. Heavily taxed in providing the WHEREWITHAL to meet excessive loss.

1864. TENNYSON, *Enoch Arden*. The WHEREWITHAL to give his babes a better bringing-up.

1887. *D. Teleg.*, 8 Dec. M. ——, however, had not the WHEREWITHAL to furnish a marriage portion of seven camels.

**WHERRET.** *See* WHIRRIT.

**WHERRY-GO-NIMBLE,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A looseness of the bowels, a BACK-DOOR TROT (*q.v.*): *cf.* JERRY-GO-NIMBLE.

**WHETING-CORNE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—The female *pudendum* (HALLIWELL): *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

**WHETSTONE.** TO GIVE (DESERVE, WIN, LIE FOR, etc.) THE WHETSTONE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To give (get, or compete for) the prize for lying: a WHETSTONE, *i.e.* a wit-sharpener, regarded as a satirical premium for what nowadays would be called 'naked' (or 'monumental') lying. [NARES: There were, in some places, jocular games, in which the prize given for the greatest lie was a WHETSTONE. HALLIWELL: The liar was sometimes publicly exhibited with the whetstone fastened to him.]

. . . BULLEYN, *Prose Morality* [WALDRON, *Sad Sheph.*, 162. 220]. My name is Mendax, a younger brother, linially descended of an auncient house before the Conquest We geve three WHETSTONES in gules, with no difference.

1570. ASCHAM, *Scholemaster*, 26. I assure you there is no such WHETSTONE to sharpen a good witte and encourage a will to learnynge as is praise.

1580. LYLY, *Euphues and His England*, C. 4. If I met with one of Crete, I was readie to LIE with him FOR THE WHETSTONE.

1580. LUPTON, *Too Good to be True*, 80. Lying with us is so loved and allowed, that there are many tymes gamings and prizes therefore purposely, to encourage one to outlye another. *O.* And what shall he gaine that gets the victorie in lying? *S.* He shall have a silver WHETSTONE for his labour.

1591. HARINGTON, *Ariosto*, xviii. 36. Well might Martano beare away the bell, Or else a WHETSTONE challenge for his dew, That on the sodaine such a tale could tell, And not a word of all his tale was true. *Ibid.* [*Nugæ Antiquæ* (PARK), ii. 240]. Part whereof [*i.e.* of his sentence] being that the knight should publicklie acknowledge how he had slandered the archbishop, which he did in words conceived to that purpose accordingly; yet his friends gave out, that all the while he carried a long WHETSTON hanging out at the pocket of his sleeve, so conspicuous as men understood his meaning was to give himselfe the lye.

1592. HARVEY, *Four Letters*. If Mother Hubbard, in the vein of Chaucer, happened to tell one canicular tale, father Elderton and his son Greene, in the vein of Skelton or Scoggin, will counterfeit a hundred dogged fables, libels, calumnies, slanders, LIES FOR THE WHETSTONE, what not.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, iv. 6. The brain-sicke youth that feeds his tickled eare With sweet-sauc'd lies of some false traveller; Which hath the Spanish decades red awhile, Or WHETSTONE leasings of old Mandevile.

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, i. 5. Cos? how happily hath Fortune furnish'd him with a WHETSTONE. *Ibid.* (1614), *Barthol. Fair*, i. Good Lord! how sharp you are, with being at Bedlam yesterday! WHETSTONE has set an edge upon you.

*c.* 1603. BACON [Z. GREY, *Hudibras*, Note to II. i. 5. 60]. [NARES: Sir K. Digby boasted before King James of having seen the philosopher's stone in his travels, but was puzzled to describe it, when Sir Francis Bacon interrupted him, saying, 'Perhaps it was a WHETSTONE.']

*d.* 1634. RANDOLPH, *Works*, 330. I thought it not the worst traffique to sell WHETSTONES. This WHETSTONE [he continues] will set such an edge upon your inventions, that it will make your rusty iron brains purer metal than your brazen faces. Whet but the knife of your capacities on this WHETSTONE, and you may presume to dine at the Muses' Ordinarie, or sup at the Oracle of Apollo.

1792. BUDWORTH, *Ramble to the Lakes*, vi. It is a custom in the north, when a man tells the greatest lye in the company, to reward him with a WHETSTONE; which is called LYING FOR THE WHETSTONE.

*d.* 1822. SHELLEY, *To his Genius*. Let them read Shakspeare's sonnets, taking thence A WHETSTONE for their dull intelligence.

**WHETSTONE-PARK**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A Lane betwixt Holborn and Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, fam'd for a Nest of Wenches, now (B. E., *c.* 1696) de-park'd.' Whence many allusions in the old dramatists: *e.g.* WHETSTONE-PARK DEER (MUTTON, etc.)=a whore.

**WHETTER.** *See* WET.

**WHEW**, *subs.* (old).—Influenza, the FLUE (*q. v.*): *see* quot.

1420. [SIR H. MAXWELL, *Notes and Queries*, 10 Dec. 1901.] It is well known that the influenza is not an exclusively modern complaint, but I am not sure whether a curious reference to it by Bower, the continuator of Fordun's chronicle, has been noted. Writing of the year 1420 he says that among those who died in Scotland were Sir Henry St. Clair, Earl of Orkney, Sir James Douglas of Dalkeith, Sir William de Abernethy, Sir William de St. Clair, Sir William Cockburn, and many others, all by 'that infirmity whereby not only great men, but innumerable quantity of the commonalty perished, which was vulgarly termed le QUHEW.' Now 'quh' in Scottish texts usually represents the sound of 'wh' (properly aspirated); therefore it seems that in the fifteenth century the influenza was known as 'the WHEW,' just as it is known in the twentieth century as 'the Flue.' There seems little doubt that the disease was identical with that with which we are so grievously familiar.

**WHEYWORM.** *See* WHAYWORM.

**WHIBLIN**, *subs.* (old).—1. A eunuch.

1602. DEKKER, *Honest Whore* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), iii. 257]. God's my life, he's a very mandrake; or else (God bless us) one of these WHIBLINS, and that's worse.

2. (old).—A sword.

1653. BROME, *Lovesick Court*, v. 1. Come, sir, let go your WHIBLIN [*snatcheth his sword from him*].

**WHID,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A word (HARMAN, B. E., and GROSE): in *pl.* (modern) = patter, talk, jocular speech. Also (2) (Scotch) = a lie, fib; (3) (provincial) = a dispute or quarrel. As *verb* (Scots) = to lie. Also TO CUT WHIDS = to talk, to speak; TO CUT BIEN WHIDS = to talk fairly, softly, kindly; TO CUT QUEER WHIDS = to abuse, swear, BULLYRAG (*q.v.*); also WHIDDLE = to talk, tell or discover (B. E. and GROSE): spec. to reveal secrets, or give the game away: hence WHIDDLER = an informer.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 116. What! stowe your bene, cofe, and CUT BENAT WYDDS.

1622. HEAD, *English Rogue*. This doxie dell can CUT BIEN WHIDS, And drill well for a win.

1787. BURNS, *Death and Doctor Hornbook*. Even ministers they have been kenn'd In holy rapture, A rousin' WHID at times to vend, And nail 't wi' Scripture.

1821. SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, x. Credit me, the swaggering vein will not pass here; you must CUT BOON WHIDS.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* (1864), 230. Here I am, pal Peter; and here are my two chums, Rust and Wilder. CUT THE WHID.

1876. HINDLEY, *Life of a Cheap Jack*. The WHIDS we used to crack over them.

**WHIDDLE.** *See* WHID and OLIVER.

**WHIFF,** *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A smell; as *verb* = to smell: *e.g.* How it WHIFFS.

[1783. COWPER, *Task*, iv. 459. A WHIFF Of stale debauch, forth issuing from the sties That Law has licensed.]

2. (old).—A draught, a drink, a GO (*q.v.*): as *verb* = to drink: also WHIFFLE.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. vi. I will yet go drink one WHIFF more. *Ibid.*, i. xxvii. In this season we might press and make the wine, and in winter, WHIFF it up. *Ibid.*, i. xxxix. Gargantua WHIFFED the great draught. *Ibid.*, iii. Prol. Constrain an easy, good-natured fellow to WHIFFLE, quaff, carouse.

**WHIFFET,** *subs.* (American).—Anything or anybody worthless or insignificant, a WHIPPER-SNAPPER (*q.v.*).

1883. *Philadelphia Times*, 1 Aug. The sneaks, WHIFFETS, and surface rats.

**WHIFFLE,** *verb* (old).—1. Generic for trifling: to hesitate, talk idly, prevaricate, waver. Hence WHIFFLER = a trifler, a fickle or unsteady person; WHIFFLERY (WHIFFLING or WHIFFLE-WHAFFLE) = levity, nonsense; WHIFFLING, *adj.* = uncertain.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 1. Your right WHIFFLER indeed hangs himself in St. Martin's, and not in Cheapside.

1671-94. TILLOTSON, *Sermons*, xlv. Every man ought to be stedfast . . . and not suffer himself to be WHIFFLED . . . by an insignificant noise.

*d.* 1745. SWIFT, *Works* [*Century*]. Every WHIFFLER in a laced coat . . . shall talk of the constitution.

1741. WATTS, *Improvement of the Mind*, i. ix. 27. A person of a WHIFFLING and unsteady turn of mind.

*c.* 1834. CARLYLE [FROUDE, *Life in London*, iii.]. Life is no frivolity, or hypothetical coquetry or WHIFFLING.

2. (old).—To drink.

**WHIG**, *subs.* (old : long recognised). —1. Orig. (middle 17th century) a Presbyterian zealot, a conventicler : in contempt. Whence (2) the Country party (the successors of the Roundheads of the Civil War) as opposed to the Court party or TORIES (*q.v.*). of the Restoration. Both WHIG and Tory were first applied, about 1680, in contempt, and both were ultimately assumed with pride. The WHIGS favoured the Revolution of 1688–9, and were in power during a large portion of the eighteenth century. The Whigs may be regarded as the party of experimental progress. The curious similarity in the historical development of both WHIG and Tory is further accentuated by the fact that at the same time (Reform Bill, 1832) as the term 'Tory' began to be superseded by 'Conservative,' so likewise the WHIGS began to be called Liberals. Also WHIGLAND =Scotland (B. E.) ; the WHIG COLLEGE = the Reform Club ; WHIGGISH (*see* quot. 1696), and the usual derivatives and combinations.

1680. [PINNOCK, *Goldsmith's Hist. Eng.* (1873), 252. The year 1680 is remarkable for the introduction of the well-known epithets WHIG and Tory. The former was given to the popular party, from their pretended affinity to the fanatical conventiclers of Scotland, who were known by the name of WHIGS. The latter was given to the courtiers, from a supposed resemblance between them and the Popish banditti in Ireland, to whom the appellation of Tories was affixed. Thus these two ridiculous words came into general use, and have continued ever since to mark rival parties, though with very different meanings.]

1681. DRYDEN, *Absalom and Achit.*, 'To Reader.' Wit and fool are consequents of WHIG and Tory ; and every man is a knave or an ass to the contrary side.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. WHIGGS, the Republicans or Commonwealths-men, under the name of Patriots, and Lovers of Property ; originally the Field-conventiclers in the West of Scotland. *Ibid.* WHIGGISH, Factious, Seditious, Restless, Uneasy.

1712. HEARNE, *Reliquiæ*, Mar. 30. Young, lewd, debauched sparks [Mohawks], all of the WHIGGISH gang, and the WHIGGS are now so much ashamed of this great scandal (provided WHIGGS can be ashamed) that . . .

*d.* 1715. BURNET, *Own Times*, I. The south-west counties of Scotland have seldom corn enough to serve them all the year round, and the northern parts producing more than they used, those in the west went in summer to buy at Leith the stores that came from the north. From the word WHIGGAM, used in driving their horses, all that drove were called the WHIGGAMORS, contracted into WHIGS. Now in the year before the news came down of duke Hamilton's defeat, the ministers animated their people to rise and march to Edinburgh ; and they came up, marching on the head of their parishes, with an unheard-of fury, praying and preaching all the way as the came. The marquis of Argyle and his party came and headed them, they being about 6000. This was called the 'Whiggamors' Inroad' ; and ever after that all who opposed the court came in contempt to be called WHIGS.

1712. SWIFT, *Conduct of the Allies*, Appen. They will not recognise any government in Great Britain but WHIGGARCHY only.

1714. HEARNE, *Diary*, 25 Sep. King George hath begun to change all the ministers, and to put in the WHIGGS . . . to the grievous mortification of that party called Tories.

1719. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, etc., i. 43. To oagle there a Tory tall, or a little WHIG, Defying the Pretender.

1725. SWIFT, *Letter*, 11 Sep. There is hardly a WHIG in Ireland who would allow a potato and butter-milk to a reputed Tory.

1791. BURKE, *Appeal from New to Old* WHIGS. Attached to the WHIG party.

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, XXV. It isna good for my health to come in the gate o' the WHIGAMORE bailie bodies.

1848. *John Bull*, 29 Ap. Among . . . good things . . . is to be reckoned a new sauce from the laboratory of Professor Soyer, of THE WHIG COLLEGE, commonly called the Reform Club.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, ii. At this time were first heard two nicknames which, though originally given in insult, were soon assumed with pride. . . . It is a curious circumstance that one . . . was of Scotch, and the other of Irish, origin. Both in Scotland and in Ireland, misgovernment had called into existence bands of desperate men, whose ferocity was heightened by religious enthusiasm. . . . Thus the appellation of WHIG was fastened on the Presbyterian zealots of Scotland, and was transferred to those English politicians who showed a disposition to oppose the court, and to treat Protestant nonconformists with indulgence. The bogs of Ireland, at the same time, afforded a refuge to Popish Outlaws, much resembling those who were afterwards known as Whiteboys. These men were then called Tories. The name of Tory was therefore given to Englishmen who refused to concur in excluding a Roman Catholic prince from the throne.

3. (American).—During the war of the American Revolution, the terms WHIG and Tory were applied,—the former to those who supported the Revolutionary movement, the latter to the royalists, or those who adhered to the British government (BARTLETT).

**WHIM**, *subs.* (B. E.). — 1. 'A Maggot.' Hence 'WHIMSICAL' = 'Maggotish': *see* BEE IN BONNET and MAGGOT.

2. (old). *See* JIGGUMBOB, spec. quot. 1678 s.v.

3. (venery). — The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE: also WHIM-WHAM.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. iii. 26. When I had view'd the Ladies Limbs, And all these Members, but their WHIMS. *Ibid.*, II. iv. 18. Let me know whether your WHIM be high or low. . . . The Fro believing from my Joaks, I fancy'd not her Butter-box, Cock'd up her Head, took leave in scorn.

**WHIMLING**, *subs.* (common).—A person childish, weak, or full of whims, a CROTCHETEER. WHIMMY = whimsical.

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Coxcomb*, iv. 7. Go, WHIMLING, and fetch two or three grating-loaves out of the kitchen.

**WHIMPER.** ON THE WHIMPER, *phr.* (colloquial).—Peevish, whining, crying. Also (B. E.) 'WHIMPER, a low or small cry. What a WHIMPERING you keep.'

1857-9. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, xii. Mrs. Mountain is constantly ON THE WHIMPER when George's name is mentioned.

**WHIM-WHAM**, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A trinket, trifle, fal-lal. Hence (2) generic for rubbish, nonsense.

1500-13. SKELTON, *Poems* (DYCE), iii. With a WHYM WHAM, Knyt with a trym tram.

1604. MARSTON and WEBSTER, *Malcontent*, i. 3. Sir Tristam Tristam come aloft, jacke-a-napes, with a WHIM-WHAM.

1608. *Cobler of Canterburie.* Her kercher hung from under her cap, With a taile like a flie flap. And tyed it fast with a WHIM WHAM, Knit up againe with a trim tram.

1614. FLETCHER, *Night Walker*, i. Nay not that way, They'll pull ye all to pieces for your WHIM-WHAMS, Your garters, and your gloves.

1619. MASSINGER [?], *City Madam*, iv. 3. 'Tis more comely, I wis, than their other WHIM-WHAMS.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. His Alkaron, his Moskyes are WHIM-WHAMS, False bug-beare bables, fables all that dams. *Ibid.* When with her flesh mans stomack she hath fed, She gives him ease and comfort in his bed; She yeelds no WHIM-WHAMS wavering on his crest, But she relieves him with repose and rest.

3. *See* WHIM, *subs.* 3.

**WHINDLE**, *subs.* (B. E.).—'A low or feigned crying.'

**WHINE**, *verb* (B. E.).—'To cry squeekingly, as at Conventicles.'

**WHINER**, *subs.* (common).—A word; in *pl.* = speech, talk, GAB (*q.v.*); spec. (thieves') prayers. TO CHOP THE WHINERS = to talk, to say prayers.

1830. BULWER LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, p. 2, ed. 1854. I tell you, I vent first to Mother Bussblour's, who, I knows, CHOPS THE WHINERS morning and evening to the young ladies.

1857. *Punch*, 31 Jan. For them coves in Guildhall and that blessed Lord Mayor, Prigs on their four bones should CHOP WHINERS I swear.

**WHIP**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A driver, a coachman: also KNIGHT OF THE WHIP.

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, i. 1. None of the London WHIPS . . . wear wigs now.

1809-12. EDGEWORTH, *Absentee*, viii. Major Benson, who was a famous WHIP, took his seat on the box of the barouche.

1828. JON BEE, *Picture of London*, 27. To the practices and necessities of the coachmen and guard's *private trade*, we owe the increasing number and fresh supply of hangers-on, whose first business has been the performing fetch-and-carry services for those KNIGHTS OF THE WHIP.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xiii. You're a wery good WHIP, and can do what you like with your horses.

1874. COLLINS, *Frances*, xlii. Julian Orchard proved his skill as a WHIP by making four screws do six miles in twenty-five minutes.

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*, 50. This is the famous coaching baronet than whom no better WHIP has ever been seen upon the road.

2. (parliamentary).—A member who (unofficially) looks after the interests of his party; prob. from WHIPPER-IN [BRYCE: The WHIP's duties are (*a*) to inform every member belonging to the party when an important division may be expected, and, if he sees the member in or about the House, to keep him there until the division is called; (*b*) to direct the members of his own party how to vote; (*c*) to obtain 'pairs' for them if they cannot be present to vote; (*d*) to 'tell,' *i.e.* count the members in every party division; (*e*) to 'keep touch' of opinion within the party, and convey to the leader a faithful impression of that opinion, from which the latter may judge how far he may count on the support of his whole party in any course he proposes to take.] Also (3) the call made for attendance at a division, etc.; and as *verb* (or TO WHIP IN, or UP).

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*. Sir Somebody Something, when he was WHIPPER-IN for the Government, brought four men out of their beds to vote in the majority, three of whom died on their way home again.

1882. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 9 Nov. The Liberal WHIPS have issued a somewhat similar invitation. *Ibid.* Urgent WHIPS have been issued by both sides.

*c.* 1888. *Standard* [S. J. and C.]. A four-line WHIP has been issued by the Government in opposition to the second reading of Lord Dunraven's Bill for the reform of the House of Lords.

4. (printers').—A compositor quick in setting type; a TYPE-SLINGER (which also *see*).

*Verb* (common).—1. To surpass, beat, defeat, overcome; hence WHIPPING = defeat: *e.g.* to WHIP the enemy (or give them a WHIPPING), to WHIP creation, etc.

*d.* 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Heroditus*. A man without a particle of Greek WHIPPED . . . whole crowds of sleeping drones who had more than they could turn to any good account.

1892. W. WILSON, *Cong. Govt.* The only bond of cohesion is the caucus, which occasionally WHIPS a party together for co-operative action.

2. (thieves').—To swindle.

3. (colloquial). — Generic for quick, smart action: *e.g.* to WHIP ON (UP, OFF, OUT, etc.): frequently with an idea of stealth. Also WHIP, *adv.* = quickly, instanter.

1360. *Sir Gawayn* [E.E.T.S.]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 59. The words akin to the Dutch and German are . . . blubber . . . WHIP OFF.]

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* (CATTLEY), viii. 336. [I will] WHIP ON my clothes.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. WHIP OFF, c. to steal, to Drink cleaverly, to snatch, and to run away. WHIPT THROUGH the Lungs, run through the Body with a Sword. WHIPT IN at the Glaze, c. got in at the window.

1700. FARQUHAR, *Constant Couple*, iii. 2. He WHIPS OUT his stiletto, and I whips out my bull-dog.

1715. CENTLIVRE, *Gotham Election*, i. 4. You all talk it well affore you get in, but you are no sooner chose in but WHIP! you are as proud as the devil.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, VIII. 267. When I came, WHIP was the key turned upon the girls.

1837. MARRYAT, *Dog Fiend*, xiii. [He] may . . . WHIP the whole boiling of US OFF to the Ingees.

TO DRINK (or LICK) ON THE WHIP, *verb. phr.* (common).—To get a thrashing, to taste the whip.

*c.* 1401. *Townley Mysteries*, 30. In fayth and for youre long tarying Ye shal LIK ON THE WHYP.

1576. GASCOIGNE, *Steel Glas* [ARBER], 68. Comes naked neede? and chance to do amisse? He shal be sure, to DRINKE VPON THE WHIPPE.

TO WHIP THE CAT, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. To pinch, to be parsimonious, mean, stingy.

2. (old).—To go from house to house to work: chiefly tailors', but the practice was more or less common to all trades. Hence WHIP-CAT=a tailor: *see* quot. 1871.

18[?]. GOODRICH, *Remin.*, i. 74. Twice a year, the tailor came to the house and fabricated the semi-annual stock of clothes for the male members, this being called WHIPPING THE CAT.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, iii. Mr. Hart made shoes, a trade he prosecuted in an itinerating manner from house to house, 'WHIPPING THE CAT,' as it was termed.

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, 648. WHIPPING THE CAT: an old English phrase, used only by tailors and carpenters, has maintained its existence in New England, Pennsylvania, and a few other States, where it denotes the annual visit of a tailor to repair the clothes of a household. It is said to have originated in a very rough practical joke, which bears the same name in Hampshire, England, and of which, it is surmised, the tailor may have been the victim (J. R. Lowell). The simple tailors of former days liked thus to go from house to house in the rural districts, providing the families with clothing. The chief romance for the happy 'Schneider' was in the abundant and wholesome cheer of the farmer who employed him, and as his annual visits fell in the pudding and sausage season, he was usually crammed with that kind of 'vegetables,' as he facetiously called them, to his heart's content. The only objection made to CATWHIPPING, was that it afforded no opportunity to 'cabbage,' and in former days this was a serious grievance. The introduction of large manufacturing establishments, low-priced ready-made clothing, and the advent of the sewing-machine, have now nearly made an end to this itinerant occupation. The terms CATWHIPPER and CATWHIPPING were often facetiously, and sometimes very irreverently, applied to other itinerant professions: even 'Schoolmasters'—there were no 'teachers,' much less 'educators,' in those benighted days—were called CATWHIPPERS, when they boarded, as was

quite usual, in turns with the parents of their scholars. Itinerating preachers also were, by the initiated, included in this category.

1888. *St. James's Gazette*, 2 May. Mr. Hugh Haliburton dilates upon the custom of 'WHIPPING THE CAT'—*i.e.* working for people at their houses, as was once the wont of Scottish tailors. A minister who fills another's pulpit (for a consideration) is equally said to 'flog pouss.'

3. (modern).—To idle on Monday; to keep St. Monday.

3. (common).—(*a*) To get tipsy: *see* SCREWED: also TO WHIP (JERK or SHOOT THE CAT, or TO CAT): also (*b*)=to vomit. Hence WHIPCAT, *adj.*=drunken (FLORIO), WHIPCAN (which *see*) =a toper: *cf. verb*, sense 3.

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, iii. 367. With WHIPCAT bowling they kept a myrry carousing.

1609. ARMIN, *Maids of More-cl.* (1880), 70. Ile baste their bellies and their lippes till we haue IERK'T THE CAT with our three WHIPPES.

1630. TAYLOR, *Brood Cormor* [*Works*, III. 5. 1]. You may not say hee's drunke . . . For though he be as drunke as any rat He hath but catcht a fox, or WHIPT THE CAT.

1830. MARRYAT, *King's Own*, xxxii. I'm cursedly inclined to SHOOT THE CAT.

4. (old).—To indulge in practical jokes: spec. (B. E. and GROSE) 'a trick often practised on ignorant country fellows, vain of their strength; by laying a wager with them, that they may be PULLED THROUGH A POND BY A CAT; the bet being made, a rope is fixed round the waist of the party to be catted, and the end thrown across the pond, to which the cat is also fastened by a pack-thread, and three or four sturdy fellows are appointed to lead and whip the cat; these, on a signal given, seize the end of the cord, and pretending to whip the cat, haul the astonished booby through the water.'

1614. JONSON, *Barthol. Fair*, i. 4. I'll be DRAWN WITH A GOOD GIB CAT THROUGH THE GREAT POND at home.

TO WHIP THE DEVIL ROUND THE STUMP, *verb. phr.* (American).—To make false excuses to one's self and others for doing what one likes, to equivocate, to say, pretend, or do one thing, and mean, or act differently.

1857. *New York Evening Post* [BARTLETT]. Jones, you're a clever fellow, but . . . there is a want of candor now, I perceive, in the statement of your affairs . . . you are WHIPPING THE DEVIL AROUND THE STUMP: I see his foot.

**WHIP-ARSE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A schoolmaster: *cf.* BUM-BRUSHER.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Fesse-cul*, a pedantical WHIP-ARSE.

**WHIP-BELLY**, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—Thin weak liquor: spec. bad beer, SWIPES (*q.v.*): also WHIP-BELLY-VENGEANCE: *cf.* ROT-GUT.

1709–10. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, ii. I believe the brewer forgot the malt, or the river was too near him. Faith, it's meer WHIP-BELLY-VENGEANCE.

**WHIP-BROTH**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A beating: *cf.* HAZEL-OIL, THIMBLE-PIE, etc.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Where I was ill thought of by my friends, scorned by my foes, and in conclusion, in a greater puzzell then the blinde beare in the midst of all her WHIP-BROTH.

**WHIPCAN**, *subs.* (old).—A toper, tippler, boon-companion: in orig. of quot. *fesse-pinte*. *See* WHIP THE CAT, 3.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I. viii. He would prove an especial good fellow, and singular WHIPCAN.

**WHIP-HAND.** TO HAVE THE WHIP-HAND (or WHIP-HANDLE), *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To have an advantage, to be in a position to command, to have the best of a matter.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Æsop*, v. 1. Now, what say you, Mr. Flamefire? I shall HAVE THE WHIPHAND OF YOU presently.

*d.* 1701. DRYDEN [*Century*]. The archangel . . . HAS THE WHIP-HAND OF HER.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxviii. 932. Why, what matter? They know that we shall KEEP THE WHIP-HANDLE.

1887. *Field*, 24 Dec. A scheme to get the WHIP-HAND over them.

**WHIPHANDLE,** *subs.* (old).—*See* quot.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, II. xxvii. These little ends of men and dandiprats (whom in Scotland they call WHIP-HANDLES (*manches d'estrilles*), and knots of a tar-barrel) are commonly very testy and choleric.

2. *See* WHIPHAND.

**WHIP-HER-JENNY,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A term of contempt.

**WHIP-JACK,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A beggar shamming shipwreck. Hence a generic term of contempt.

*c.* 1530. PONET [MAITLAND, *On Reformation*, 74]. Albeit one Boner (a bare WHIPPE JACKE) for lucre of money toke vpon him to be thy father, and than to mary thy mother, yet thou wast persone Savage's bastarde.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl*, v. 1. A mere WHIP-JACK, and that is, in the commonwealth of rogues, a slave that can talk of sea-fight.

*c.* 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. WHIP-JACKS, c. the tenth Order of the Canting Crew; Counterfeit Mariners Begging with false Passes, pretending Shipwrecks, great Losses at Sea, etc., narrow escapes; telling dismal Stories, having learnt Tar-terms on purpose, but are meer Cheats.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, vi. 156. Sir Charles Grandison is none of your gew-gaw WHIP-JACKS that you know not where to have.

1791. BAMFYLDE-MOORE CAREW, *Oath of Canting Crew*. Swaddlers, Irish toyls, WHIP-JACKS.

**WHIP-KING,** *subs. phr.* (old).—One who controls or compels a king; a 'king-maker.'

1610. HOLLAND, *Camden*, 571. Richard Nevill, that WHIP-KING.

**WHIPMASTER,** *subs.* (old).—A flagellator: the actual word in the orig. which has long been recognised as standard English: *see* WHIPPER.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 56. Woe to our backsides, he is a greater WHIP-MASTER than Busby himself.

**WHIPPER,** *subs.* (common, but old).—Anything super-excellent: *cf.* WHOPPER and WHIP, *verb.*

1530. HEYWOOD, *Four P.'s* [Palmer, Pardoner, Poticary, Pedlar], [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1744), i. 103]. Mark wel this, this relique heer is a WHIPPER, My freend unfayned, this is a slipper Of one of the seven slepers, be sure.

2. (old).—A flagellant: *see* WHIPMASTER.

*d.* 1656. HALL, *Women's Vail*, 1. A brood of mad hereticks, which arose in the church; whom they called Flagellantes, 'the WHIPPERS.'

**WHIPPER-IN,** *subs. phr.* (political).—*See* WHIP.

**WHIPPER-SNAPPER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—'A very small but sprightly boy' (B. E., *c.* 1696); spec. a precocious callow youth, or pert girl: always more or less in contempt. As *adj.* = diminutive, insignificant: also WHIPPING-SNAPPING.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, II. iv. 4. No sooner had they fix'd their Peepers Upon the Lifeless WHIPPER-SNAPPERS.

1742. FIELDING, *Jos. Andrews*, IV. vi. A parcel of WHIPPER-SNAPPER sparks.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, CXXVII. The dog was frequently detected in all its varieties, from the lap-dog, who had passed into the WHIPPER-SNAPPER *petit-maître*, and the turn-spit who was now the bandy-legged baker's boy, to the Squire's eldest son, who had been a lurcher.

1860-3. THACKERAY, *Roundabout Papers*, XV. Though they had seven-leagued boots, you remember all sorts of WHIPPING-SNAPPING Tom Thumbs used to elude and outrun them.

1871. BROWNING, *Balaustion's Adv.* There spoke up a brisk little somebody Critic and WHIPPER-SNAPPER in a rage To set things right.

**WHIPPING-BOY**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A boy, companion to a prince, educated with him, and punished in his stead.

**2.** (racing).—A horse finishing last.

**WHIPPING-CHEER**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Flogging, flagellation, punishment: *cf.* BELLY-CHEER.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, v. 4. She shall have WHIPPING-CHEER enough, I warrant her.

1616. *Times' Whistle* [E.E.T.S.], 13. Your works of supererogation, Your idle crossings, or your wearing haire Next to your skin, or all your WHIPPING-CHEER.

1647. HERRICK, *Noble Numbers*, 398. Hell is the place where WHIPPING-CHEER abounds.

1661. DAVENPORT, *City Night-Cap*, iv. Since there is no remedy but that WHIPPING-CHEER must close up my stomach, I would request a note from your grace to the carman to intreat him to drive apace; I shall never endure it else.

1675. COTTON, *Burlesque upon Burlesque*, 187. For better fare thou shalt find here Than that same sowre-sauc'd WHIPPING-CHEER.

**WHIPPY**, *subs.* (Scots).—A pert girl, forward young woman.

**WHIP-ROUND**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A subscription got up for any purpose: *see* WHIP, *subs.*

1887. *Echo*, 23 Nov. [Her] neighbours, who knew that she had no money, instituted a WHIP-ROUND, and soon raised the necessary amount.

**WHIPSAW**, *verb* (gaming).—At faro to win at one turn, to beat in two ways at once; hence to win 'hands down,' to beat an opponent willy-nilly.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 119. The blacklegs showed no mercy. They did not let him win even a few dollars to encourage him, but either booked the cards every trip, or else WHIPSAWED him until he was forced to drop.

**WHIPSHIRE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Yorkshire (B. E., *c.* 1696).

**WHIPSTER**, *subs.* (thieves').—'A sharp or subtil Fellow' (B. E., *c.* 1696, and GROSE); 'a sharper' (BAILEY, 1731); a sly, cunning BLADE (*q.v.*): also (old) WHIP-STROKE (like WHIPSTER)=a term of abuse.

1530. *Jyl of Brentford's Testament* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 466. We see WHYPSTROKE].

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, v. 2. Every puny WHIPSTER gets my sword.

*d.* 1650. FLETCHER, *Poems*, 64. From Memphis comes a WHIPSTER unto thee, And a Black Indian from the Red Sea.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, v. 3. That young liquorish WHIPSTER, Heartfree.

**WHIP-STICKS**, *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange).—The Dunaberg and Witepsk Railway shares.

**WHIRLIGIG**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A whim, caprice, MAGGOT (*q.v.*), BEE (*q.v.*).

1635. SHIRLEY, *Coronation*, iii. The WHIRLIGIGS of women.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, I. 180. That every novelist with a WHIRLIGIG in his brain must broach new opinions.

2. (old).—Change, 'the turn of the wheel,' the lapse of time: in quot. 1721 = Time or the World in the abstract.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. And thus the WHIRLIGIG of time brings in his revenges.

*d.* 1721. PRIOR, *Ladle*. [The Gods] gave things their Beginning And set this WHIRLIGIG a spinning.

3. (provincial).—A carriage: also WHIRLICOTE.

1633. STOWE, *Survey of London*, 70. Of old time, Coaches were not known in this Iland, but Chariots or WHIRLICOTES, then so-called.

4. (common). — Applied to various toys or the like: *e.g.* (*a*) a top or top-like toy, (*b*) a tee-totum, (*c*) a round-about or merry-go-round: also WHIRLER and WHIRL-ABOUT; and (*d*) a turnstile.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse*, 762. I tryll a WHIRLYGIG round-aboute . . . *je pirouette* . . . I holde the a peny that I will tryll my WHIRLYGIG longer about than thou.

*c.* 1735. ARBUTHNOT and POPE, *Martinus Scriblerus*. He found that marbles taught him percussion and WHIRLIGIGS the axis in peritrochio.

5. (old military).—An instrument for punishing petty offenders: a kind of wooden cage, turning on a pivot, in which the culprit was whirled round with great velocity.

**WHIRRIT (WHERRET** or **WHIRRICK)**, *subs.* (old).—A blow, slap, box on the ear. As *verb* = to box the ears.

1577. KENDALL, *Flowers of Epigrams*. And in a fume gave Furius A WHIRRET on the eare.

1607. *Puritan*, iv. 2. Troth, now I'm invisible, I'll hit him a sound WHERRET on the ear, when he comes out of the garden.

*c.* 1613. FLETCHER, *Nice Valour*, iv. How meekly This other fellow here receives his WHIRRIT.

*d.* 1713. ELLWOOD, *Life* (HOWELLS), 222. Following me at my heels and now and then giving me a WHIRRET on the ear.

1750. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, i. 21. Harry . . . gave master such a WHIRRICK that his cries instantly sounded the *ne plus ultra* to such kind of diversions.

**WHISHLER,** *subs.* (circus).—A ring-master.

**WHISK,** *subs.* (old).—1. A servant: in contempt.

1653. BROME, *Novella*. This is the proud braches WHISKE.

2. (provincial).—An impertinent fellow, SAUCEBOX (*q.v.*), BOUNCER (*q.v.*).

**WHISKER-BED,** *subs. phr.* (common).—The face.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*. His ivories rattled, his nozzle barked, his WHISKER-BED napped heavily.

**WHISKERS** (or **WHISKERANDO),** *subs.* (common).—A whiskered person: a jocular salutation, 'Hallo, WHISKERS!' Also WHISKERY and WHISKERANDOED, *adj.* [From Don Ferolo WHISKERANDOS in SHERIDAN'S *Critic*, 1779.]

1834. SOUTHEY, *The Doctor*, clvi. To what follies and what extravagancies would the WHISKERANDOED macaronies of Bond Street and St. James's proceed, if the beard once more were, instead of the neck-cloth, to 'make the man.'

1848. THACKERAY, *Book of Snobs*, xli. The old lady is as ugly as any lady in the parish, and as tall and WHISKERY as a Grenadier. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xiii. The dumpy, elderly, square-shouldered, squinting, carroty, WHISKERANDO of a warrior who was laying about him so savagely.

**WHISKEY (TIM-WHISKEY** or **TIMMY-WHISKEY),** *subs.* (old).—A light one-horse chaise without a hood (GROSE).

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 481. In spite of him these youths so frisky, Went out and hir'd a TIMMY-WHISKY.

1774. FOOTE, *Cozeners*, i. A journey to Tyburn in a TIM-WHISKY and two would have concluded your travels.

1809. BYRON, *Childe Harold*, i. 69. Thy coach of hackney, WHISKEY, one-horse chair, And humblest gig through sundry suburbs whirl.

*d.* 1832. CRABBE, *Works*, II. 174. WHISKEYS and gigs and curricles.

1834. SOUTHEY, *Doctor*, Interch. xiv. It is not like the difference between . . . a WHISKEY and a TIM-WHISKEY, that is to say, no difference at all.

1884. DOWELL, *Taxes in England*, III. 227. The increased taxation of the curricle had the effect of bringing into existence the less expensive gig, a development or an imitation of a two-wheeled carriage known in the country as a WHISKEY.

**WHISKEY-BLOAT,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A person bloated from drinking whiskey.—(BARTLETT.)

**WHISKEYFIED** (or **WHISKIFIED),** *adj.* (common).—Drunk, bemused with whiskey: *see* SCREWED.

1857–9. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, XXXVIII. The two WHISKEYFIED gentlemen are up with her, however.

1872. BLACK, *Adventures of a Phaeton*, XXVIII. This person was a sort of WHISKIFIED Old Mortality, who claimed to have cut all manner of tombstones standing around.

**WHISKEY-MILL,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A grog-shop, a grocery with a license.

1870. M'CLURE, *Rocky Mountains*, 55. Platt City consists of one fair hotel, several small boarding-houses for operatives, several warehouses, as many stores, and about forty WHISKEY-MILLS, or small groceries where whiskey, tobacco, and portable eatables are sold at fabulous prices.

**WHISKING,** *adj.* (old).—Large, great, WHOPPING (*q.v.*).—BAILEY, 1731.

**WHISK-TELT,** *adj. phr.* (provincial).—Whorish, HOT (*q.v.*).

**WHISKY-FRISKY,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Flighty, MAGGOTY (*q.v.*).

1782. BURNEY, *Cecilia*, IX. iii. As to talking in such a WHISKY-FRISKY manner that nobody can understand him, why it's tantamount to not talking at all.

**WHISPER,** *subs.* (racing).—A secret TIP (*q.v.*): spec. information passed from mouth to mouth on the pretence of secrecy. Hence TO GIVE THE WHISPER=(1) to blaze abroad a supposed secret, and (2) to give a quick tip (HOTTEN); a WHISPER AT THE POST=an owner's final instructions to a jockey.

*Verb* (common).—To borrow: spec. small sums. Hence WHISPERER=a petty borrower.

ANGEL'S WHISPER, *subs. phr.* (military).—The call to defaulters' drill: usually extra fatigue duty.

1899. WYNDHAM, *Queen's Service*, XXXV. Effective measures are taken to prevent defaulters leaving barracks. . . . All day long, the bugle sounds at unexpected moments the . . . ANGEL'S WHISPER . . . when there is some extra fatigue to be performed.

PIG'S-WHISPER, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A grunt; (2)=a very short space of time: that is, as brief as a grunt (BEE): also (American) PIG'S-WHISTLE.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, XXXII. You'll find yourself in bed in something less than a PIG'S WHISPER.

**WHISPERING SYL.-SLINGER,** *subs. phr.* (theatrical).—A prompter [that is, 'syllable'-slinger].

**WHISTER - CLISTER (WHISTER-SNEFET, WHISTER - SNIVET, WHISTER - TWISTER,** or **WHISTER-POOP),** *subs. phr.* (old).—A thumping blow: spec. a back-handed blow.

1542. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 112. A good WHISTERSNEFET, truelie paied on his eare.

**WHISTLE,** *subs.* (common). — 1. The throat, RED-LANE (*q.v.*). Hence TO WET (or WHET) ONE'S WHISTLE = to drink (*see* WET): Fr. *s'affûter le sifflet.*

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Reeves Tale.' As any jay she light was and jolyf So was his joly WHISTLE WEL ywet.

*c.* 1400. *Townley Mysteries*, Pastores. Had she oones WETT HYR WHYSTYLL she couth syng fulle clere.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Franc.*, 780. I WETE MY WHYSTELL, as good drinkers do. Je crocque la pie. Wyll you WETE YOUR WHYSTELL.

1618. FLETCHER, *Mad Lover*, ii. My WHISTLE once WET I'll pipe. *Ibid.* (1622), *Beggar's Bush*, iii. 1. Give the boy some drink there! Piper, WHET YOUR WHISTLE.

1653. WALTON, *Compleat Angler*, iii. Let's ev'n say grace, and turn to the fire, drink the other cup to WET OUR WHISTLES, and so sing away all sad thoughts.

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Poems* (Globe), 150. But till we meet and WEET OUR WHISTLE, Tak this excuse for nae epistle.

2. (common).—A whim, fancy, caprice; whence TO PAY FOR ONE'S WHISTLE = to pay high (or dearly). [The allusion is to a story told (1779) by Dr. Franklin (*Works* [1836], II. 182) of his nephew, who set his mind on a common whistle, which he bought of a boy for four times its value.]

1876. ELIOT, *Daniel Deronda*, xxxv. I wouldn't destroy any old bits, but that notion of reproducing the old is a mistake, I think; at least, if a man likes to do it, he must PAY FOR HIS WHISTLE.

*Verb* (old).—To inform.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, xxxiii. I kept aye between him and her for fear she had WHISTLED.

TO WHISTLE AND RIDE, *verb. phr.* (tailors'). — To work and talk.

PHRASES. TO GO WHISTLE = to go to the deuce, to be discomfited or disappointed; TO WHISTLE FOR A WIND = (1) old salts of a superstitious turn of mind will WHISTLE for a breeze during a calm: during a storm they would not dream of so doing: hence TO WHISTLE FOR = to stand small chance of getting; (2) = a jocular offer of aid to one long in commencing to urinate; AT ONE'S WHISTLE = at call; WORTH THE WHISTLE = worth notice, attention, or a call; TO WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND = to talk for talking's sake, to talk idly, or to no purpose; AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE = NEAT (*q.v.*), SLICK (*q.v.*).

1547. HEYWOOD, *Dialogues*. It's a poor dog that is not worth the WHISTLING.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4. 715. This being done, let the law GO WHISTLE.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, iv. 2. I have been WORTH THE WHISTLE.

1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Two Noble Kinsmen*, iii. 5. *Ger.* Here's a woman wanting. *Count.* We may go WHISTLE; all the fat's i' the fire.

1760. JOHNSTON, *Chrysal*, ii. 184. 'Do you not desire to be free?' 'Desire! aye, that I do; but I may WHISTLE FOR that wind long enough before it will blow.'

*d.* 1763. SHENSTONE, *Poet and the Dun*. Your fame is secure, bid the critics GO WHISTLE.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 214. She went and fetch'd each nag his bridle, Then hung the reins upon her wrist, And WHISTLED while the horses pist.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 144. If an angel from heaven were to whisper wisdom in one ear, and your cousin her mortal chit-chat in the other, I am afraid the angel might WHISTLE FOR an audience.

1849–61. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, xiii. Ready AT HIS WHISTLE to array themselves round him in arms against the commander in chief.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, iv. If Measter Cholmley don't do what I ax him, he may GO WHISTLE for my vote, he may.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 161. 'Well, I will,' replied Jim, 'when I've WET MY WHISTLE.'

**WHISTLE - BELLY - VENGEANCE,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Bad beer, SWIPES (*q.v.*); hence indifferent LAP (*q.v.*) of any kind: *cf.* WHIP-BELLY-VENGEANCE.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xli. 'I thought you wouldn't appreciate the widow's tap,' said East, watching him with a grin: 'regular WHISTLE-BELLY VENGEANCE, and no mistake.'

**WHISTLE-CUP,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A drinking-cup with a whistle attached: the last toper capable of using the whistle received the cup as a prize. Also a tankard fitted with a whistle, so arranged as to sound when the vessel was emptied, thus warning the drawer that more liquor was required.

**WHISTLE-DRUNK,** *adj. phr.* (old).—Very drunk indeed.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, XII. ii. He was indeed, according to the vulgar phrase, WHISTLE-DRUNK; for before he had swallowed the third bottle, he became so entirely overpowered, that though he was not carried off to bed till long after, the parson considered him as absent.

**WHISTLE-JACKET,** *subs. phr.* (provincial).—Small beer.

**WHISTLER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A broken-winded horse, a ROARER (*q.v.*).

2. (common).—An unlicensed vendor of spirits. Hence WHISTLING-SHOP = an illicit dram-shop.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xlv. The turnkey knows beforehand, and gives the word to the WHISTLERS, and you may whistle for it wen you go to look. *Ibid.* A WHISTLING-SHOP, sir, is where they sell spirits.

**WHISTLING- (or PUFFING-) BILLY,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A locomotive.

**WHISTLING-BREECHES,** *subs. phr.* (common).—Corduroy trousers.

**WHIT,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A prison: *see* CAGE: spec. NEWGATE.

1676. *Warening for Housekeepers* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 30]. O then they rub us to the WHITT.

1724. HARPER, *Harlequin Sheppard*. He broke thro' all rubbs in the WHITT.

**WHITE,** *subs.* (common).—1. In *pl.* = leucorrhœa.

2. (old).—In *pl.* = white clothes, vestments, or goods.

1644. HEYLIN, *Life of Laud*, 262. The Dean of our chappel . . . in his WHITES.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, ii. 174. You clothe Christ with your blacks on earth, he will clothe you with his glorious WHITES in heaven.

1724–7. DEFOE, *Tour Through Great Britain*, i. 324. Long cloths for the Turkey trade called Salisbury WHITES.

1888. *Bicycling News*, 14 July, 19. Unless a man can combine cycling and boating, he should never . . . ride his machine in WHITES.

3. (old archery). — (*a*) The centre of a target: Fr. *blanc*: formerly painted white: *cf.* BULL'S-EYE. Whence (*b*) the object in view, a mark; TO HIT THE WHITE = to be right.

1580. LYLY, *Euphues and his England* [NARES]. An archer say you is to be knowen by his aime, not by his arrowe: but your aime is so ill, that if you knewe how farre wide from the WHITE your shaft sticketh, you would hereafter rather breake your bowe then bend it.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, v. 2. 'Twas I won the wager, though you HIT THE WHITE.

*c.* 1605. DRAYTON, *Mooncalf*, 509. Quoth mother Howlett, you have HIT THE WHITE.

1629. FELTHAM, *Parody Jonson's Ode on Leaving the Stage*. As oft' you've wanted brains And art to strike the WHITE, As you have levelled right.

1632. MASSINGER, *Emperor of the East*, iv. 4. The immortality of my fame is the WHITE I shoot at.

*c.* 1635. HOWELL, *Letters*, iii. 3. Church-Lands were made secular, which was the WHITE they levell'd at.

4. (colloquial).—In *pl.* = the white of the eyes.

1662. *Grim the Collier*, iii. And he, poor heart, no sooner heard my news, But turns me up his WHITES and falls down flat.

1682. BARNARD, *Heylin*, clxxx. Lifting up both his hands and WHITES to heaven.

1764. MACKLIN, *Man of the World*, iii. 1. Ay, and I turned up the WHITES of my eyes till the strings awmost cracked again.

*Adj.* (old and still colloquial in many senses). — 1. Thus WHITE (= fair or specious) WORDS; WHITE (= lucky) DAY: *cf.* RED-LETTER DAY; WHITE (= excusable) LIE (GROSE); WHITE (= venial) CRIME; WHITE (= friendly) WITCH; WHITE (= honourable) MAN, formerly = fair, handsome; WHITE (= guiltless) WAY; WHITE (= auspicious) HOUR; WHITE (= beneficially levied) MAIL.

*c.* 1300. *Hymns to Virgin* [E.E.T.S.], 72. Ÿ was stalworthe & WHITE.

1369. CHAUCER, *Troilus*, ii. 1062. Thou, Minerva the WHYTE, Gif thou me wit my letre to devyse. *Ibid.*, ii. 887. Ye ywis, quod fresshe Antigone the WHITE. *Ibid.*, iii. 1568. Ye caused al this fare, Trow I, quod she, for al your WORDES WHITE.

1606. *Returne from Parnassus*, ii. 6. When he returns, I'll tell twenty admirable lies of his hawk, and then I shall be his little rogue, and his WHITE VILLAIN, for a whole week after.

*c.* 1616. FLETCHER, *Knight of Malta*, ii. 5. In the WHITE WAY of virtue and true valour.

1630. SHIRLEY, *Grateful Servant*, ii. 1. Till this WHITE HOUR these walls were never proud T'inclose a guest.

1689. MATHER, *Witchcraft*, 5. There is mention of creatures that they call WHITE-WITCHES, which do only good turns for their neighbours.

1715. ADDISON, *Drummer*, ii. The common people call him a wizard, a WHITE-WITCH, a conjuror, a cunning man, a necromancer.

1789. D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, iv. 289. Sir George has told me a lie—a WHITE LIE, he says, but I hate a WHITE LIE; if you will tell me a lie, let it be a black lie.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering* [WEBSTER]. On the whole the Dominie reckoned this as one of the WHITE DAYS of his life. *Ibid.* (1821), *Kenilworth*, i. 170. He was what the vulgar call a WHITE-WITCH, a cunning man, and such like.

1834. EDGEWORTH, *Helen*, vi. I wish that word fib was out of the English language, and WHITE LIE drummed out after it.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, 1. When he had warts or burns, he went to the WHITE-WITCH at Northam to charm them away.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth* lii. He spent much of his gains, however, in sovereign herbs and choice drugs, and would have so invested them all, but Margaret WHITE-MAILED a part.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 336. The Thanksgiving festival of that year is particularly impressed on my mind as a WHITE DAY.

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxix. 523. Why, Miss, he's a friend worth havin', and don't you forget it. There ain't a WHITER MAN than Laramie Jack.

1887. *St. James's Gazette*, 21 May. At present, when an Irishman is accused in Ireland of what is called a WHITE-CRIME by his fellow-countrymen (such, for instance, as the murder of a caretaker or a landlord) the difficulty is not only with the jury but with the witnesses.

1898. GOULD, *Landed at Last*, iv. There goes a 'WHITE MAN' if ever there was one. . . . That beard [is] the only black thing about him.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xliii. She is the one WHITE, beautiful, lovable creature in all the world—to me.

**2.** *See* WHITE-BOY.

**3.** *See* WHITE-LOT.

*Verb* (old).—To gloss over, to rehabilitate: also (modern) WHITEWASH, which spec. = to clear of debt by process of the Bankruptcy Court. Hence WHITEWASH, *subs.* = a veneer of respectability; with WHITEWASHER and WHITEWASHING as derivatives. Also TO USE ONE WHITE = (1) to deal fairly and justly, and (2) to act on the SQUARE (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1616. FLETCHER, *Bloody Brothers*, iv. 1. WHIT'ST over all his vices.

1773. FOOTE, *Bankrupt* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 186. Among the verbs are WHITEWASH a creditor].

1817. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, vii. A WHITE-WASHED Jacobite . . . had lately qualified himself to act as a justice, by taking the oaths to Government.

1844–8. LOWELL, *Tempora Mutantur*. WHITEWASHED, he quits the politician's strife At ease in mind, with pockets filled for life.

1888. *D. Teleg.*, 21 Mar. The impecunious man could get the Bankruptcy Court to WHITEWASH him.

1885. *Notes and Queries*, 28 Nov., 439. Attempts to WHITEWASH the character of Richard III. . . . have been frequent.

1885. *Academy*, 21 Nov., 342. I have not aimed altogether at a WHITEWASHING of Bramwell Brontë.

1888. *St. James's Gaz.*, 17 Mar. If the Sicilian Vespers . . . have not as yet taken their place in the record of virtue, it is probably because the WHITEWASHER has been too busy upon other undertakings.

1903. *D. Teleg.*, 22 May, 7. 3. I had not followed the case closely, and did not know that he was an undischarged bankrupt. Mr. White had WHITEWASHED him.

1900. LYNCH, *High Stakes*, xxix. I don't see why I should give away a fellow that's USED ME WHITE.

TO SPIT WHITE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To expectorate from a dry but healthy mouth: also to SPIT WHITE BROTH (or SIXPENCES). Fr. *cracher des pièces de dix sous*.

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, iii. 1 [NARES]. That makes them SPIT WHITE BROATH, as they do.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Hen. IV.*, i. 2. 237. If it be a hot day, and I brandish anything but a bottle, I would I might never SPIT WHITE again.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, iii. 3. Had I been a pagan still, I should not have SPIT WHITE for want of drink.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, iv. vi. He had thought it rather a dry discourse; and beginning to SPIT SIXPENCES (as his saying was), he gave hints to Mr. Wildgoose to stop at the first public-house they should come to.

**WHITE-APRON**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A whore: *see* TART.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, iv. 1. Or midnight plays, or taverns of new wine, Hye ye, WHITE APRONS, to your landlords signe.

1733–7. POPE, *Imit. of Horace*. And some to hunt WHITE-APRONS in the park.

**WHITE-ASH BREEZE,** *subs. phr.* (boating). — The breeze caused by rowing: oars are generally made of white ash.

**WHITEBOY,** *subs.* (old). — 1. A generic endearment: also (of a favourite son) WHITE SON: see WHITE, *adj.* 1.

1554–63. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments*, ii. 190. The Pope's own WHITE SON.

1588. GREENE, *Friar Bacon* [DYCE, *Works*, i. 174]. He is great Prince of Wales. . . . Then ware what is done, For he is Henry's WHITE SON.

1611. BEAUMONT, *Knight of Burning Pestle*, ii. 2. What says my WHITE BOY?

1633. FORD, *'Tis Pity*, i. 4. 'I know,' quoth I, 'I am his WHITEBOY and will not be gulled.'

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 19. Fie, young gentleman, will such a brave sparke as you, that is your mother's WHITE-BOY, undoe your hopes?

1641. MILTON, *Apol. for Smectymnus*. His first addresse was an humble remonstrance by a dutifull son of the Church, almost as if he had said her WHITE-BOY.

*d* 1688. BUNYAN [ANNANDALE]. One of God's WHITEBOYS.

1774–81. WARTON, *Hist. Poet.*, iv. 65. [NARES: T. Warton adds, as an illustration, that Dr. Busby used to call his favorite scholars his WHITE BOYS; and says that he could add a variety of other combinations.]

2. (Irish political).—A member of a secret political society, agrarian in character (*c.* 1759–60). [LECKY: 'Their object was to do justice to the poor by restoring the ancient commons and redressing other grievances.' This they sought to accomplish by throwing down fences, levelling enclosures, and generally destroying the property of anyone — landlords, agents, Protestant clergy, tax or tithe collectors— who had made themselves obnoxious to the association. They styled themselves Whiteboys 'because during their nocturnal excursions they covered their usual attire with white shirts. This disguise was used principally to enable them while scouring through the darkness to recognise each other' (DANIM)].

3. (London). — London rioters.

1768. WALPOLE, *Letters*, iii. 250. Those black dogs, the WHITEBOYS or coal-heavers, are dispersed or taken.

**WHITECHAPEL,** *subs. phr.* (common). — 1. A light two-wheeled cart, a coster's barrow, a SHOFUL (*q.v.*): also WHITECHAPEL-CART, WHITECHAPEL-BROUGHAM, and CHAPEL-CART.

2. (streets'). — Tossing 'two out of three': *cf.* SUDDEN DEATH.

3. *See* WHITECHAPEL-PLAY.

**WHITECHAPEL - PLAY (WHITECHAPEL).** Anything mean, paltry, or unsportsmanlike: *cf.* BUNGAY-PLAY.

**WHITECHAPEL - PORTION,** *subs. phr.* (old). — A clean apron and an umbrella; also 'a clean gown and a pair of pattens' (HOTTEN).

1891. CAREW, *Auto. of Gypsy*, 416. Though she brought me nathink but a WHITECHAPEL FORTIN' she were worth her weight in gold.

**WHITECHAPEL-SHAVE,** *subs. phr.* (common). — *See* quot.

1860. DICKENS, *Uncommercial Traveller*, xxv. Blue-bearded though they were, and bereft of the youthful smoothness of cheek which is imparted by what is termed in Albion a 'WHITECHAPEL SHAVE' (and which is, in fact, whitening judiciously applied to the jaws with the palm of the hand), I recognised them.

**WHITE-CHOKER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A white tie: hence (2) a parson.

**WHITE-CROW,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A rarity; hence an apparent contradiction in terms which is none the less a fact. [Albino crows are occasionally met with.]

**WHITE-EYE,** *subs. phr.* (American). —Maize whiskey.

**WHITE-FEATHER.** *See* FEATHER.

**WHITEFRIARS.** *See* ALSATIA.

**WHITE-HORSE,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A white-crested dancing wave.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Life*, i. 168. The bay is now curling and writhing in WHITE HORSES under a smoking south-wester.

*d.* 1888. MATTHEW ARNOLD [HOTTEN]. Now the wild WHITE HORSES play, Champ and chafe and toss in the spray. Children, dear, let us away, This way, this way.

TO BE WHITE-HORSED IN, *verb. phr.* (tailors').—To obtain a berth through influence.

**WHITE-HOUSE,** *subs. phr* (American colloquial). — The official residence of the President of the United States, Washington: from its colour. Its official designation is EXECUTIVE MANSION (*Century*).

**WHITE-LIVERED,** *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Cowardly, mean. [An old notion was that cowards had bloodless livers.]

1548. LATIMER, *Sermons and Remains*, s.v.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, iv. 4. WHITE-LIVER'D runagate, what doth he there? *Ibid.* (1598), *Merchant of Venice*, iii. 2. How many cowards . . . inward searched Have LIVERS WHITE as milk?

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, iv. 1. When they come in swaggering company, and will pocket up anything, may they not properly be said to be WHITE-LIVERED?

1625. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, iv. 3. As I live, they stay not here, WHITE-LIVERED wretches.

**WHITE-LOT,** *subs. phr.* (thieves'). — A silver watch and chain: or (old) WHITE-STUFF (or WEDGE); *cf.* RED. WHITE CLOCK (or WHITE-'UN) = a silver watch; WHITE JENNY = a foreign-made silver watch (HOTTEN). WHITE-MONEY = silver; THE WHITE AND THE RED = silver and gold. SMOOTH-WHITE = a shilling: *see* RHINO.

1369. CHAUCER, *Troilus*, iii. 1384. They shulle forgon THE WHYTE AND ek THE REDE.

1628. MIDDLETON, *Widow*, iv. 2. A WHITE thimble that I found.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 138. That night he started a new career, and 'went through' three drunken men lying out in the Silent Places to the relieving tune of four pounds sterling, obtained in the form of silver money and a . . . WHITE LOT.

**WHITE MAN'S HANSOM WOMAN,** *subs. phr.* (West Indian).—A 'brown' or 'yellow' mistress: a 'black' smock-servant = WHITE MAN'S WHORE: an echo of the 'colour' sentiment: *cf.* a negro 'as black as one's hat' calling another 'a damned black nigger.'

**WHITE-MOOR,** *subs. phr.* (old). — A Genoese.

1642. HOWELL, *Forraine Travell*, vii. It is proverbially said, there are in Genoa mountaines without wood, sea without fish, women without shame, and men without conscience, which makes them to be termed the WHITE MOORES.

**WHITENESS,** *subs.* (old). — 1. Chastity: also WHITE (or COLD) SHEETS; (2) = nakedness.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *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 THAN THE SHEETS! That I might touch!

1654. CHAPMAN, *Rev. for Honour.* 'Twas a rape Upon my honour, more then on her WHITENESSE. *Ibid.* And now I would not but this devil prince Had done this act upon Caropia's WHITENESS.

**WHITE-POODLE,** *subs. phr.* (obsolete tailors').—A rough woolly cloth.

**WHITE-PROP,** *subs. phr.* (thieves').—A diamond scarf-pin: also SPARKLE- (or SPARK-) PROP.

1879. HORSLEY, *Auto. of Thief* [*Macmillan's Mag.*, xl. 506]. Pipe his spark PROP.

1888. SIMS, *Plank Bed Ballad* [*Referee*, 12 Feb., 3]. A spark PROP a pal . . . and I Had touched.

**WHITER,** *subs.* (Harrow School).—A white waistcoat: permissible after three years at the school: *cf.* -ER.

**WHITE-SATIN, (-LACE, -TAPE, -WINE,** or **-RIBBON),** *subs. phr.* (common).—Gin: *see* DRINKS and TAPE.

1820. EGAN, *Randall's Diary.* Jack Randall then impatient rose, And said, 'Tom's speech were just as fine If he would call that first of GOES By that genteeler name—WHITE WINE.'

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* The 'driz fencers,' or sellers of cheap lace, carried about their persons 'jigger stuffs,' or spirit made at an illicit still. They sold it, I've heard them say, to ladies that liked a drop on the sly. One old lady used to give three shillings for three yards of 'driz,' and it was well enough understood, without no words, that a pint of brandy was part of them three yards.

**WHITE-SERGEANT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A 'breeches-wearing' wife: THE GENERAL (*q.v.*), THR GREY-MARE (*q.v.*).

**WHITE-TRASH,** *subs. phr.* (negro).—A poor white: Southern states: also POOR WHITE FOLK.

1856. OLMSTED, *Texas* [BARTLETT]. In social relations, the Negroes are sensitive to the overbearing propensities of a proprietary who are accustomed to regard all neighbors out of their own class as WHITE TRASH.

1856. STOWE, *Dred*, II. Of all the pizen critters that I knows on, these ere mean WHITE TRASH is the pizenest. They ain't got no manners and no bringing up. *Ibid.*, I. 271. 'The fact is,' said Mr. Gordon, 'what with niggers, and overseers, and WHITE TRASH, my chances of salvation are dreadfully limited.'

1866. *Atlantic*, xviii. 84. Tain't no use, honey; you don't 'pear to take no int'res' in yer own kith and kin, no more dan or'nary WHITE TRASH.

**WHITEWASH.** 1. *See* WHITE, *verb.*

2. (old).—'A glass of sherry as a finish, after drinking port or claret' (HOTTEN).

**WHITEWASHERS,** *subs.* (military).—The second battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, late the 61st Foot.

**WHITHER-GO-THEE,** *subs. phr.* (B. E., *c.* 1696).—A wife.

**WHITING.** TO LET LEAP A WHITING, *verb. phr.* (old).—To miss an opportunity.

**WHITING-MOP,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A young and pretty girl; hence (2) an endearment: also WHITING.

*d.* 1525. SKELTON, *Elinour Rumming.* That can my husband saye Whan we kysse and playe In lust and in likynge He calleth me his WHITING.

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, iv. 2. I have a stomach, and could content myself With this pretty WHITING-MOP.

1665. *Homer à la Mode.* He bids thee without further stops, Arme th' Greekes, with heads like WHITING MOPS.

**WHITING'S-EYE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—An amorous glance, SHEEP'S-EYE (*q.v.*).

1673. WYCHERLEY, *Gentleman Dancing Master*, iv. 1. I saw him just now give her the languishing eye, as they call it, that is, the WHITING'S EYE, of old called the sheep's eye.

**WHITSUN-ALE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* ALE. Hence WHITSUN-LORD = the master of ceremonies at a Whitsun merrymaking.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, Prol. A cooper's wit, or some such busy spark, Illumining the high constable and his clerk, And all the neighbourhood from old records Of antique proverbs, drawn from WHITSON-LORDS.

**WHITTLE,** *verb* (old).—1. To confess at the gallows. Also (thieves') TO NOSE (*q.v.*), TO PEACH (*q.v.*).

1727. SWIFT, *Clever Tom Flinch.* I must speak to the people a little, But I'll see you all damn'd before I will WHITTLE.

2. *See* WHITTLED.

**WHITTLED,** *adj.* (common).—Drunk, CUT (*q.v.*): *see* SCREWED. Hence WHITTLE, *verb* = to make tipsy, and as *subs.* = a merry-making, drinking-bout, etc.

1586. WITHALS, *Dict.*, 560. *In vino veritas.* When men are well WHITLED, their toungs run at randome.

1594. LYLY, *Mother Bombie*, iii. 3. The best was, our masters were as well WHITLED as wee, for they yet lie by it.

1609. HOLLAND, *Ammianus Marcel.* Within the province of Africanus, ruling over Pannonia Secunda, some boone companions in Sirmium having taken their cups very liberally untill they were well WHITLED, supposing no man to bee by for to heare their talke, fell freely to finding fault with the present government.

16[?]. *Owle's Almanacke*, 47. Taylors shall be patternes and presidents to sober men, a bushell of wheat to a tankard of beere, lest they cut their fingers when they are WHITTELD.

16[?]. HARSNETT, *Popish Impost.*, x. 3. A Christmas temptation, after the devil was well WHITLED.

1628. VERSTEGAN, *Rest. Dec. Intell.*, 230. After the Britans were wel WHITTLED with wine he fell to taunting and girding at them.

*d.* 1742. SOMERVILE, *Poems*, 'Yeoman of Kent.' A lying-in's expensive too, In cradles, WHITTLES, spice-bowls, sack.

**WHIZZER,** *subs.* (provincial).—A falsehood (HALLIWELL).

**WHOBALL (JOHN),** *proverb* (old).—*See* quot.

1614. *Terence in English.* Se deludi facile haud patitur. You cannot easily make him a foole. He is NONE OF JOHN WHOBALLS CHILDREN. Hee will be abused at no mans hands if he may.

**WHOLE.** *See* BOILING, TEAM, and all nouns in the various combinations.

**WHOP, (WAP, WOPPE, WHAP),** *subs.* (old literary: now colloquial).—A blow. As *verb* = to beat.

*c.* 1360. *Alliterative Poems* (MORRIS) [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 63. We find the new verbs *shout* . . . WAPPE, our WHOP].

*c.* 1362. *York Plays*, 326. For a WHAPP so he whyned and weasid And ȝitt no lasshe to the lurdan was lente.

1862. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xviii. Bunch had put his boys to a famous school, where they might WHOP the French boys and learn all the modern languages.

*Intj.* (American).—WHACK! (*q.v.*), WHIP! (*q.v.*), BANG! (*q.v.*).

1840. CROCKETT, *Tour*, 109. But a day of payment is coming; and, if the money ain't forthcoming, out comes a Randolph writ, and WHAP goes your money and liberty.

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, ii. I began to think smokin' warn't so bad after all, when WHAP went my cigar right out of my mouth into my bosom.

**WHOPPER (WHAPPER)**, *subs.* (common).—Anything very large, fine, good: a generic intensive (GROSE): also WHOPPING = extremely fine, very large, A1 (*q.v.*).

[1520. HAZLITT, *Pop. Poet.*, ii. 94. An admiring woman calls a stalwart youth a WHYPPER; in our day she would use WHOPPER or whacker.]

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 69. He looks then most formidable . . . in his Fur-cap and WHAPPING large Watch-coat.

1829. MARRYAT, *Fr. Mildmay*, xx. This is a WHOPPER that's after us.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*, 61. A WHAPPIN' big pan of mush stood in the centre of a table, and a large pan of milk beside it, with lots of corn-bread and butter.

1856. DOW, *Sermons*, I. 91. Before you lie, brethren, make up your minds to go it strong; for a little callow fib stands but a small chance among the big WHOPPERS. *Ibid.*, III. 21. A few years ago, WHAPPING great sleeves and big antecedents were all the rage; and what a funny figure our bellies did then cut.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xlvii. There's a WHOPPER rising not more than ten yards below the rail.

1865. MAJOR DOWNING, *Letters*, 67. We've got only one crib, and that's a WHAPPIN' one too.

1887. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxiii. 213. But he hardly deserves mercy, having told WHOPPERS.

1888. *St. James's Gaz.*, 2 Mar. Not content with two WHOPPERS, as Mr. Jo Gargery might call them, Surtees goes on to invent a perfectly incredible heraldic bearing.

1901. WALKER, *In the Blood*, 23. 'Blime, she's a WHOPPER!' says Billy.

**WHOP-STRAW** (or **JOHNNY WHOP-STRAW**), *subs. phr.* (common).—A countryman, rustic, CLODHOPPER (*q.v.*).

**WHORE**, *subs.* (once literary: now low or vulgar).—1. A woman (orig.) who SPREAD (*q.v.*) for hire; in modern use, a harlot, strumpet, adulteress, or fornicatress: *see* TART. Hence (2) a generic term of abuse: of a woman, chaste or unchaste: *cf.* BLOODY, BUGGER, FUCKING, and similar expletives. Also WHORE'S - BIRD (WHORESON; WHORECOP) = (1) bastard, and (2) a generic reproach); and numerous combinations.

1275. *Genesis and Exodus* [E.E.T.S.], 4072. The mestres of thise HORE-MAN . . . The bidde ic hangen that he ben.

1280. *Ancren Riwle*, 316. Ich am a ful stod mere, a stinckinde HORE [I am a foul stud mare, a stinking WHORE].

*c.* 1401. *Townley Mysteries*, 'Juditium.' Alle harlottes and HORRES And bawdes that procures, To bryng them to lures, Welcom to my See.

1440. *Prompt. Parvulorum*, s.v. HORE, woman, Meretrix. *Ibid.*, s.v. HOREL, or bullowre, Fornicator . . . leno mechus.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, iv. 4. Well said; a merry WHORESON, ha! *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, v. 2. 64. He that hath kill'd my King and WHORED my mother. *Ibid.* (1598), *2 Henry IV.*, iii. 2. 193. A WHORESON cold, sir, a cough, sir. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, v. 1. 116. This is the fruit of WHORING. *Ibid.* (1602), *Troilus and Cressida*, ii. 3. A WHORESON dog that shall patter thus with us. *Ibid.* (1603), *Meas. for M.*, v. 1. 521. Do not marry me to a WHORE.

1602. MARSTON, *Antonio and Mellida*, i. iv. 1. Your WHORISH love, your drunken healths, your bouts and shouts.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 2. The WHORESON rich innkeeper of Doncaster, her father, shewed himself a rank ostler to send her up at this time a year, and by the carrier too.

1610. FLETCHER, *Maid's Tragedy*, v. Thou keptst me brave at Court, and WHOR'D me, Then married me.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.* s.v., *Madame de rebut*, a rascally drab, a WHORE.

[?]. *Mary Ambree* [CHILD, *Ballads*, vii. 113]. 'A mayden of England, sir, never will bee The WHORE of a monarche,' quoth Mary Ambree.

*d.* 1628. J. BEAUMONT, *Psyche*, iii. 184. Thou knowst my Wrongs, and with what Pain I wear the Name of WHORE his Preachment on me pinn'd.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Sermons*, i. 223. Tamar would not yield to Judah without a hire. The *hire* makes the WHORE.

1694. *Plautus made English*, 9. They'd set some sturdy WHORE'S-BIRD to meet me, and beat out half a dozen of my teeth.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *John Bull*. Frog was a sly WHORESON, the reverse of John.

*c.* 1716. CONGREVE, *Juvenal*, xi. A Vestal ravish'd, or a Matron WHOR'D, Are laudable Diversions in a Lord.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 183. Brave Diomed, I see Two WHORES' BIRDS coming full at thee.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, IV. ix. Damn you all together for a pack of WHORES'-BIRDS as you are.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, I. ii. 'Imp'dent old WOSBIRD!' says he, 'I'll break the bald head on un.'

**WHY AND WHEREFORE (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — The reason, cause.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Comedy of Errors*. Every WHY hath a WHEREFORE.

1624. FLETCHER, *Rule a Wife*, iii. 1. Dispute learnedly the WHYS AND WHEREFORES.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 373. When I let him into the WHY AND the WHEREFORE, he laughed ready to split his sides.

*d.* 1897. JEAN INGELOW [*Century*]. The WHY AND THE WHEREFORE of it all. Who knoweth?

**WHY-NOT. TO HAVE (or BE) AT A WHY-NOT**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To have, stand, or be in a dilemma; to pull up suddenly, to meet with a sudden check or reverse.

*d.* 1612. HARINGTON [*Nugæ Antiq.* (PARK), II. 144]. This game . . . was like to have been lost with a WHY-NOT.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. ii. 528. And snapp'd their canons with a WHY-NOT. *Ibid.* 'On Philip Nye's Thanksgiving.' When the church was taken with a WHY-NOT in the lurch.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, VI. 156. Now, dame Sally, I have you at a WHY-NOT, or I have had.

**WIBBLE**, *subs.* (provincial).—Weak LAP (*q.v.*); any thin, weak beverage.

**WIBBLE-WOBBLE**, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Unsteadily.

**WIBLING'S - WITCH**, *subs. phr.* (HALLIWELL). — The four of clubs.

**WICKED**, *adj.* (colloquial). — 1. Roguish, mischievous; and (2) amorous, wanton, *e.g.* a WICKED twinkle in the eye, to look WICKED, etc.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, iv. 1 That same WICKED bastard of Venus.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 369. Our doctor is rubicund in the jowl, Efflorescent on the nose, with a WICKED EYE at a bumper or a girl.

1849–50. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, XXVII. Pen looked uncommonly WICKED.

**WICKET**, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

. . . *MS. Addit.*, 12195. A WEKET of the wombe.

2. (common). — The mouth, GUTTER-ALLEY (*q.v.*).

1557. TUSSER, *Husbandrie*, 169. With hir that will clicket make daunger to cope, Least quickly hir WICKET seeme easie to ope.

**WIDDY**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A widow.

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 354. If my name appears there, in the worst place—I mean, making you a WIDDY—you must write to old Rupert.

2. *See* WIDOW.

**WIDDLE.** *See* OLIVER.

**WIDDY-WADDY**, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Trifling, insignificant.

**WIDE**, *adv.* (common).—1. Well-informed, KNOWING (*q.v.*), keen, alert, up to SNUFF (*q.v.*): also WIDE-AWAKE and WIDO: *cf.* NARROW.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*. Two milling coves, each VIDE AVAKE, Vere backed to fight for heavy stake.

1836. *The Thieves' Chaunt* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 121]. She's WIDE-AWAKE, and her prating cheat, For humming a cove was never beat.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, 'Watkins Tottle.' Our governor's WIDE AWAKE, he is: I'll never say nothin' agin him nor no man, but he knows what's o'clock, he does.

1841. CATLIN, *North Am. Indians*, I. 71. Bogard . . . was a Yankee and a WIDE-AWAKE fellow.

1854–5. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xx. 'Your aunt is a woman who is uncommon WIDE AWAKE, I can tell you.' 'I always knew, sir, that my aunt was perfectly aware of the time of day,' says Barnes, with a low bow.

1856. STOWE, *Dred*, I. 210. Miss Harriet had more clothes and more money than the rest; because she was always WIDE-AWAKE, and looking out for herself.

1874. MAHAFFY, *Social Life in Greece*, 48. The Homeric Greeks were too shrewd and WIDE-AWAKE a people to sow where they did not reap; and the increase of communication, and consequent frequency of visitors, were sure to close quickly the open door, and the unasked right of entry.

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail*. I got in company with some of the WIDEST people in London.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 8. But the knight of the pencil was WIDE-AWAKE, and was not to be had with 'kid.' *Ibid.*, 49. WIDE, sir? I believe yer! Far too WIDE for Honest Bill. *Ibid.*, 120. Although she was quite the lady In deportment and in dress, Were you asked, as a WIDE-'UN, 'Shady?' You would have to answer 'Yes.'

2. (old).—Indifferent, wide of the mark, out of the running, adrift: hence generic for bad.

1612–5. HALL, *Contempl.*, 'Aaron and Miriam.' God eyther denyes or defers the grant of our requests for our good; it were WIDE for us if our suites should be euer heard.

**WIDE-AWAKE**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A soft felt hat with a broad brim. 'So-called (GROSE) because it never had a nap and never wants one.'

1857. C. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, Int. 'Then the fairy knight is extinct in England?' asked Stangrave, smiling. 'No man less; only he . . . has found a WIDE-AWAKE cooler than an iron kettle.'

1861. H. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xliii. She was one of the first who appeared in the Park in a low-crowned hat—a WIDE-AWAKE.

1884. CLARK RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, iii. 'My democratic WIDE-AWAKE, and the republican cut of my jib,' said he, looking down at his clothes.

1890. *Daily Graphic*, 7 Jan., 9. 4. Then the crowd go mad. Up fly head-gear, chimney-pot, and WIDE-A-WAKE alike, their owners careless of their fate.

*See* WIDE.

**WIDGEON**, *subs.* (common).—A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE.

**WIDOW,** *subs.* (Old Cant).—The gallows: *see* NUBBING-CHEAT. Also (Scots) THE WIDDY, and Fr. *veuve* (formerly the gallows, now applied to the guillotine).

*d.* 1796. BURNS, *Poems* (Globe), 50. Her dove had been a Highland laddie, But weary fa' the waefu' WOODIE!

**WIDOW-BEWITCHED,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A woman separated from her husband: *cf.* GRASS-WIDOW.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 136. They should see you divorced from your husband—a widow, nay, to live (a WIDOW BEWITCHED) worse than a widow; for WIDOWS may marry again.

1863. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, xxxix. Who'd ha' thought of yo'r husband . . . makin' a moonlight flittin' and leavin' yo' to be a WIDOW-BEWITCHED.

**WIDOW'S-MAN,** *subs. phr.* (various).—*See* quots.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, III. vi. As to Square, who was in his person what is called a jolly fellow, or a WIDOW'S MAN, he easily reconciled his choice to the eternal fitness of things.

1834. MARRYAT, *Peter Simple*, vii. WIDOW'S MEN are imaginary sailors, borne on the books, and receiving pay and prize money, which is appropriated to Greenwich Hospital.

**WIDOW'S-WEEDS,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. An unmarried mother, a deserted mistress (B. E. and GROSE).

2. *See* WEED, 3.

**WIFE,** *subs.* (prison).—A leg-shackle.

AS MUCH NEED OF A WIFE AS A DOG OF A SIDE-POCKET, *phr.* (old).—'Said of a weak, old debilitated man' (GROSE).

WIFE IN WATER-COLOURS, *subs. phr.* (common).—(1) A morganatic wife; and (2) a mistress or concubine: *cf.* Fr. *collage à la détrempe.*

**WIFEY,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A wife: an endearment.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 66. As WIFEY was out.

**WIFFLE-WOFFLE,** *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = the stomach-ache, sorrow, THE DUMPS (*q.v.*): generic.

**WIG,** *verb* (North Country Cant).—1. 'To move off, go away' (HOTTEN).

2. (colloquial).—To rate, scold, 'carpet': spec. 'to call over the coals' publicly. Whence WIGGING = a public rebuke or reprimand: EAR-WIGGING = a more or less private calling over the coals.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.*, II. 386. If you wish to 'scape WIGGING, a dumb wife's the dandy.

1888. *Echo*, 26 Mar. So alarmed at the prospect of being WIGGED from home.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 84. They both had a WIGGING at Marylebone For attempting to kiss a policeman.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 26 July, 2. 2. 'Discipline must be maintained,' and now that the lads know that they are not to suffer for a crime they never committed they will not mind the C.-in-C.'s WIGGING.

**WIG-BLOCK,** *subs. phr.* (common).—The head.

**WIGSBY,** *subs.* (old).—A jocular appellation for a man wearing a wig: *cf.* RUDESBY, FOUR-EYES, BARNACLES, etc. (GROSE).

**WILD,** *subs.* (tramps').—A village, the country: *cf.* 'WEALD.'

[1598. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 1. 60. A franklin in the WILD of Kent.]

**WILD-BRAIN,** *subs. phr.* (old).—A harebrain, silly, SOFT (*q.v.*) fellow.

1608. MIDDLETON, *A Mad World, My Masters*, i. 1. I must let fly my civil fortunes, turn WILD-BRAIN, lay my wits upo' th' tenters, you rascals.

**WILD-CAT**, *adj. phr.* (American commercial).—Reckless, hazardous, unsound: orig. applied to banking enterprises of doubtful (if of no worse) character: *cf.* BLUE-PUP, RED-DOG, etc. [BARTLETT: A bank in Michigan had a large vignette on its notes representing a panther, familiarly called a WILD-CAT. This bank failed, a large amount of its notes were in circulation, which were denominated WILD-CAT money, and the bank issuing them the WILD-CAT bank. Other banks stopped payment soon after, and the term became general in Michigan, to denote banking institutions of an unsound character.] Hence WILD-CAT CURRENCY, SCHEMES, etc.

1842. CLAVERS, *Forest Life*, i. 91. We had to sell some of our land to pay taxes on the rest,—and then took our pay in WILD-CAT MONEY that turned to waste paper before we could get it off our hands.

1858. *Baltimore Sun*, 8 July. Certain it is that we are overrun with a WILD-CAT CURRENCY.

1877. *Galaxy*, 632. When the Yankee mind stoops to criminal pursuits, it is likely to manifest itself in the way of bank forgeries, embezzlements, or the formation of petroleum bubbles or WILD-CAT BANKING institutions.

1896. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 56. He went to the bartender and got a lot of WILD-CAT MONEY, wrapped it around with a couple of twenties, and put some fives in the middle.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Feb., 471. 1. Old ladies sell out of Consols to raise money with which to gamble in a WILD-CAT mining company, and end as dependents on the charity of their friends.

**WILD-DELL**, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A DELL (*q.v.*) or girl begotten and born under a hedge.

**WILD-GOOSE**, *subs. phr.* (old military).—A recruit for the Irish Brigade in the service of France in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

**WILD-GOOSE CHASE**, *subs. phr.* (common).—The pursuit of anything unprofitable or absurd; a blind hunt. [DYCE: Orig. 'a kind of horse-race, in which two horses were started together, and whichever rider could get the lead, the other was obliged to follow him over whatever ground he chose to go.']

1595. SHAKSPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 4. If our wits run the WILD-GOOSE CHASE, I have done; for thou hast more of the wild-goose in one of thy wits, than I have in my whole five.

*d.* 1650. FLETCHER, *Poems*, 202. No hints of truth on foot? no sparks of grace? No late sprung light to dance the WILD-GOOSE CHASE?

**WILD INDIANS (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians). Both battalions trace some sort of connection with the Indians of N. America and the 'Indians' of the East: the first battalion having formerly been the 100th Foot, an expression of Canadian loyalty at the time of the Mutiny, and the 2nd battalion, the 109th (Bombay Infantry) Regiment, originally raised by the Hon. East India Company.

**WILD IRISHMAN (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (railway).—The evening mail train between Euston and Holyhead: *cf.* FLYING DUTCHMAN, etc.

**WILD-MARE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The nightmare.

TO RIDE THE WILD MARE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To play at see-saw.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, ii. With that, bestriding the mast, I gat by little and little towards him, after such manner as boys are wont, if ever you saw that sport, when they RIDE THE WILD MARE.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. 268. And RIDES THE WILD MARE with the boys.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.* TO RIDE THE WILD-MARE, as children who, sitting upon both ends of a long pole or timber-log (supported only in the middle), lift one another up and downe.

**WILD-OATS,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. Youthful pranks or folly; hence (2) a rake or debauchee. TO SOW ONE'S WILD OATS = to indulge in folly or dissipation, and (by implication) to grow steady.

*d.* 1570. BECON, *Works* (1843), 240. The tailors now-a-days are compelled to excogitate, invent, and imagine diversities of fashions for apparel, that they may satisfy the foolish desire of certain light brains and WILD OATS, which are altogether given to new fangleness.

1573. TUSSER, *Husbandrie*, 17. Bridle WILD OTES fantasie.

1576. *Touchstone of Complexions*, 99. We meane that wilful and unruly age, which lacketh rypeness and discretion, and (as wee saye) hath not SOWED all THEVR WYELD OATES.

1602. *How a Man may Chuse a Good Wife* [NARES]. Well, go to, WILD OATS! spendthrift, prodigal.

1616–25. *Court and Times James I.*, ii. 85. [A youth is called] the WILD OATS of Ireland.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN (1893), 178], s.v.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OATS. One that has SOLD HIS WILD OATS, or one having run out of all, begins to take up and be more staied.

*b.* 1707. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge, &c.* (1707), ii. 276. Sow your WILD OATS, And mind not her wild Notes.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OATS, HE HAS SOWED HIS WILD OATS, he is staid, or sober, having left off his wild tricks.

1858. LYTTON, *What Will He Do With It?* VIII. v. Poole had picked up some WILD OATS—he had SOWN them now.

1874. *Siliad*, 108. Assorted hosts Besiege the Hebes of the Old Blue Posts, Push in to patronise the Barnes called Ned—Barnes, where, alas! WILD OATS are garnered.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 23 Jan. Dad's very kind, and makes me a good allowance that I may SOW MY WILD OATS, but I seem only to buy more.

**WILD-ROGUE,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A thorough-paced thief; a rogue brought up to stealing from infancy.

**WILD TRAIN,** *subs. phr.* (railway).—A train not on the time-tables of the road, and therefore irregular, and 'not entitled to the track,' as the railroad phrase is, as against a regular train.

**WILLIAM,** *subs.* (commercial).—An acceptance. TO MEET SWEET WILLIAM = to meet a bill on presentation.

**WILLOW,** *subs.* (cricketers').—A bat.

1892. *Cassell's Sat. Jour.*, 21 Sep., 13. 2. For nearly ten years I earned a living—and a good one—by 'wielding the WILLOW' and hunting the leather.

2 (old). — Mourning. Hence TO WEAR THE WILLOW = to lament the dead.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, 3 *Henry VI.*, iii. 3. 228. Tell him, in hope he'll prove a widower shortly, I'll WEAR THE WILLOW garment for his sake.

*c.* 1615. FLETCHER, *Night Walker*, i. We see your WILLOW and are sorry for't, And though it be a wedding we are half mourners.

**WILLY-NILLY (WILL I, NIL I, etc.),** *phr.* (old).—Willing or unwilling, *nolens volens*, 'Whether I will or not.' As *adj.* = vacillating: *see* NILLY - WILLY and SHILLY-SHALLY.

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* (CATTLEY), 556. WIL'D SHE, NIL'D SHE.

1590. SPENSER, *Faery Queen*, I. iii. 43. With foule reproaches and disdaineful spight Her vildly entertaines; and WILL or NILL, Beares her away upon his courser light.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, ii. 1. Your father hath consented That you shall be my wife; your dowry 'greed on; And WILL YOU, NILL YOU, I will marry you.

1607. BEAUMONT, *Woman Hater*, iii. 4. WILL SHE, NILL SHE, she shall come Running into my house.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, x. If I thought myself bound to doctor the man WILLY-NILLY, as you do, I would certainly go to him.

1877. TENNYSON, *Harold*, v. 1. Some one saw thy WILLY-NILLY nun Vying a tress against our golden fern.

**WILT,** *verb* (London).—To run away, BUNK (*q.v.*).

**WIN (or WYN, or WING),** *subs.* (Old Cant).—A penny; 1d.: *see* RHINO and NOSE-AND-CHIN.

1608. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [GROSART, *Works* (188 ), iii. 203]. Or nip a boung that has but a WIN.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. *Scuddick*—is used negatively; 'not a SCUDDICK'—not any brads, not a WHIN, empty clies.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*. Just go and get a shave now, Jim. I'll give you a WING (penny) if you will.

**WINCHESTER-GOOSE,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A bubo; (2) a person thus infected; and (3) generally in contempt. [The STEWS (*q.v.*) in Southwark were, in the 16th century, under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Winchester.] Also WINCHESTER-PIGEON.

1585. *Nomenclator*, 439. A sore in the grine or yard, which if it come by lecherie, it is called a WINCHESTER GOOSE, or a botch.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, vi. i. 3. [Of the Bishop of Winchester] WINCHESTER GOOSE, I say, a rope, a rope. *Ibid.* (1602), *Troilus and Cressida*. v. 11. It should be now, but that my fear is this, Some galled GOOSE OF WINCHESTER would hiss.

1606. CHAPMAN, *Mons. D'Olive*, iv. The court is the only school of good education, especially for pages and waiting women. Paris, or Padua, or the famous school of England called WINCHESTER (famous I mean for the GOOSE)—are but belfries to the body or school of the court.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Clapoir* . . . WINCHESTER GOOSE.

1618. ROWLEY, *Cure for a Cuckold*, F. had belike some private dealings with her, and there got a GOOSE.—The cunning jade comes into court, and there deposes that she gave him true WINCHESTER measure.

*d.* 1637. JONSON, *Execr. of Vulcan* [*Works*, vi. 410]. The WINCESTRIAN GOOSE, Bred on the Bank in time of popery, When Venus there maintain'd her mystery.

**WIND,** *subs.* (old literary: now colloquial or vulgar).—1. Breath, lung-power; and 2. (pugilists') the stomach: *i.e.* 'below the belt,' a forbidden point of attack in legitimate boxing. Hence WINDER = anything that deprives one of the power of breathing; TO NAP A WINDER = (1) to be hung, and (2) get a SETTLER (*q.v.*).

*c.* 1362. *York Plays*, 258. Woman, thy wordis and thy WYNDE thou not waste. *Ibid.*, 335. [A man after hard work says that] me wantis WYNDE.

*c.* 1469. *Coventry Mysteries*, 226. My WYNDE is stoppyd, gon is my brethe.

. . . *Political Poems* [FURNIVALL], 79. Ye noye me soore in wastyng al this WYNDE For I haue seide y-noughe, as semethe me.

1525-37. [ELLIS, *Letters.*] My WIND was short.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iv. 5. 104. If my WIND were but long enough to say my prayers, I would repent. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Henry IV.*, i. 2. Is not your voice broken, your WIND short?

1859. MATSELL, *Vocab.*, 'Hundred Stretches.' Some rubbed to wit had NAPPED A WINDER.

1860. HOLMES, *Professor*, ii. How they spar for WIND, instead of hitting from the shoulder.

*d.* 1870. DICKENS [*Century*]. He pats him and pokes him in divers parts of the body, but particularly in that part which the science of self-defence would call his WIND.

PHRASES. TO TAKE WIND = to be known, to transpire; TO SAIL NEAR (or CLOSE TO) THE WIND = (1) to take every risk, and (2) to border on malpractice; TO RAISE THE WIND = to borrow (or procure) money: usually by shift, FLYING A KITE (*q.v.*), or bills of accommodation; TO GO DOWN THE WIND = to decay; TO SLIP ONE'S WIND = to die; TO TAKE THE WIND = to gain an advantage; TO HAVE ONE IN THE WIND = to understand a person; 'Is the WIND in that door?' = 'Is that so?'; WIND ENOUGH TO LAST A DUTCHMAN A WEEK = enough and to spare; BETWEEN WIND AND WATER = in a vulnerable spot: spec. (venery) TO GET SHOT BETWEEN WIND AND WATER = to be seduced, to receive (or get) a man; DOWN THE WIND = verging towards ruin or decay; THE WAY THE WIND BLOWS = the position of a matter, the state of affairs; THREE (more or less) SHEETS IN THE WIND (*see* SHEETS); IN THE WIND = (1) astir, afoot; and (2) a matter of surmise or suspicion; TO CARRY THE WIND = to be high-spirited or mettlesome: properly of horses tossing the nose as high as the ears; TO HAVE THE WIND OF = to keep strict watch; TOO NEAR THE WIND = mean, stingy (nautical).

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, 502. He KNEW WHICH WAY THE WINDE BLEW.

1564. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 318. 'Why,' quoth Pompeius, 'IS THE WINDE IN THIS DOORE, that except Lucullus were a man geuen to delices, Pompeius might in no wise continue alive?'

*d.* 1592. GREENE, *Looking-Glass for London*, 121. *Thras.* I am come to entreat you to stand my friend, and to favour me with a longer time, and I will make you sufficient consideration. *Usurer.* IS THE WIND IN THAT DOOR?

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Titus Andron.*, iv. 2. My son and I will HAVE THE WIND OF you.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iii. 3. Go to, there is SOMETHING IN THE WIND, I see.

1620. FLETCHER, *Philaster*, iv. 1. SHOT him BETWEEN WIND AND WATER.

*d.* 1663. BRAMHALL, *Works*, iii. 507. THE WIND IS GOTTEN INTO THE OTHER DOOR since we were prosecuted and decried as Pelagians and enemies of grace.

1680. FANNANT, *Hist. Edward II.*, 11. He had hit his desires in the Master-vein, and struck his former Jealousie BETWEEN WIND AND WATER, so that it sunk in the instant.

1742–4. NORTH, *Life of Lord Guilford*, i. 101. If the lords had sat in the morning, the design to be executed at one o'clock might have TAKEN WIND.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 55. Ordonnez had not GOT WIND OF our affair.

1810. CRABBE, *Borough*, Letter 3. *The Curate.* An angry dealer, vulgar, rich and proud, Thinks of his bill, and passing, raps aloud; The elder daughter meekly makes him way—'I want my money, and I cannot stay; My Mill is stopt; what, Miss! I cannot grind, Go tell your Father he must RAISE THE WIND.'

1812. J. and H. SMITH, *Rejected Addresses*, 136. So when to RAISE THE WIND some lawyer tries, Mysterious skins of parchment meet our eyes.

1821. COMBE, *Dr. Syntax*, III. iii. Fortune at present is unkind, And we, dear sir, must RAISE THE WIND.

1830. MARRYAT, *King's Own*, x. 'My master, who always looked out for a rainy day, had collected these rings as a sort of stand-by, to RAISE THE WIND when required.'

1836. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xxxiii. This was an immense sail, and held WIND ENOUGH TO LAST A DUTCHMAN A WEEK —hove to.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*. And turn up their noses at one who could find No decenter method of RAISING THE WIND?

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*. What the blazes is IN THE WIND now?

1853. *Notes and Queries*, 1 S. vi. 486. Seamen who whistle at sea TO RAISE THE WIND.

1859. FARRAR, *Julian Home*, iv. Miss Sprong . . . seeing HOW THE WIND LAY, had tried to drop little malicious hints.

1869. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *M or N*, 124. Dick . . . began to surmise that this young lady had been RAISING THE WIND, as he called it, and to wonder for what mysterious purpose she could want so large a sum.

1874. *Siliad*, 32. And though it's SAILING very NEAR THE WIND, Monarch's prerogative can loose or bind.

1885. *Field*, 17 Oct. Indications are not wanting to show WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS.

1892. *Cassell's Sat. Jl.*, 5 Oct., 43. 2. Half-a-dozen coats are of no immediate use to a man who is content with one, unless it be to RAISE THE WIND, and the same remark applies to boots.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 10 Ap., 2. 2. Even our sardonic Chancellor of the Exchequer must have been moved to a grim smile at some of the extraordinary expedients for RAISING THE WIND with which he has been credited.

TO WIND ONE'S COTTON, *verb. phr.* (common).—To give trouble.

TO WIND UP THE CLOCK, *verb. phr.* (venery). — To possess a woman: *see* GREENS and RIDE (see *Tristram Shandy*).

**WIND-BAG**, *subs. phr.* (common).—An incessant frothy talker: also GAS-BAG.

1889. *Sportsman*, 19 Jan. Hereafter he can have the newspapers to himself, and with that WINDBAG Mitchell fill them with guff and nonsense, but I won't notice them.

**WINDING-SHEET**, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Grease (or wax) drippings guttering down the side of a candle: deemed an omen of death by the superstitious (GROSE): *cf.* THIEF.

1859. DICKENS, *Tale of Two Cities*, ii. 4. He . . . fell asleep . . . a long WINDING-SHEET in the candle dripping down upon him.

**WIND-JAMMER**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—1. A sailing vessel: *cf.* SMOKE-STACK.

1902. *Athenæum*, 8 Feb., 177. 1.

1903. HYNE, *Filibusters*, xviii. As a purser on a steamboat I had always held a fine contempt for sailor-men on WIND-JAMMERS.

2. (theatrical).—A player on a wind instrument.

**WINDMILL J.P.**, *phr.* (obsolete Australian).—Formerly used in New South Wales for any J.P. who was ill-educated and supposed to sign his name with a cross (×).

**WINDOW**, *subs.* (common).—1. In *pl.* = the eyes, the PEEPERS (*q.v.*).

2 (old).—A blank space in a writing.

*d.* 1556. CRANMER, *Works*, ii. 249. I will therefore that you send unto me a collection thereof, and that your said collection have a WINDOW expedient to set what name I will therein.

GOLDSMITH'S-WINDOW, *subs. phr.* (Australian mining). — A rich working in which the gold shows FREELY.

*See* TURN.

**WINDOW-BAR**, *subs. phr.* (old).—In *pl.* = Lattice-work on a woman's stomacher, or MODESTY-PIECE (*q.v.*).

1609. SHAKSPEARE, *Timon of Athens*, iv. 3. Those milk-paps That through the WINDOW-BARS bore at men's eyes.

**WINDOW-BLIND**, *subs. phr.* (common.—A periodicity-cloth, 'sanitary towel,' menstrual rag.

**WINDOW-DRESSING**, *subs. phr.* (commercial). — Manipulation of figures and accounts to show fictitious or exaggerated value: brought into prominence during the trial of Whitaker Wright for fraud in connection with the balance-sheets of the London and Globe Corporation (1904).

**WINDOW-FISHING**, *subs. phr.* (thieves').—Entering a house by means of a window.

**WIND-PUDDING**, *subs. phr.* (common).—Air. TO LIVE ON WIND-PUDDING = to go hungry.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 141. I have known them live on 'WIND PUDDIN'.'

**WINDSTOPPER**, *subs.* (thieves').—A garotter.

**WINDSUCKER**, *subs.* (old).—1. A querulous fault-finder, GRIZZLE-GUTS (*q.v.*); one ready to catch another tripping or to 'pick holes'; one on the lookout for a blemish or weak spot.

1603. CHAPMAN, *Iliad*, Preface. But there is a certain envious WINDSUCKER that hovers up and down.

1880. SWINBURNE, *Shakspeare*, 55. It would be something too extravagant for the veriest WINDSUCKER amongst commentators to start a theory that a revision was made of his original work by Marlowe after additions had been made to it by Shakspeare.

**WINDWARD.** TO GET TO THE WINDWARD (or WINDWARD SIDE) OF ONE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To get an advantage, the better of one, or the best position.

**WINDY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Talkative, boastful, vain. WINDY-WALLETS = a noisy prater, vain boaster, romancing yarnster.

**WINE**, *subs.* (University).—A wine-drinking party.

1847. TENNYSON, *Princess*, iv. A death's-head at the WINE.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, xiii. He disappeared every day about four to 'hall'; after which he did not reappear till eight, the interval being taken up, he said, in 'WINES' and an hour of billiards.

1887. *Echo*, 5 Sep. Surely such a WINE was never given at Oxford in any gentleman's room.

**WINE-BAG**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A drunkard who makes wine his special TIPPLE (*q.v.*).

**WINEY**, *adj.* (common).—Drunk: *see* SCREWED.

**WING**, *subs.* (prison).—1. A quid or thereabouts of tobacco.

1882. GREENWOOD, *Gaol Birds*. A piece as large as a horse-bean, called a 'chew,' is regarded as the equivalent for a twelve-ounce loaf and a meat ration, and even a morsel—a mere taste that can only be laid on the tongue and sucked like a small sweetmeat (it is called a WING, and is not larger or of more substance than a man's little finger-nail), is 'good' for a six-ounce loaf.

*Verb* (colloquial). — 1. To wound slightly: orig. to shoot in the arm or shoulder.

2. (theatrical).—To undertake a part at short notice and study it in the 'wings.'

**WINK.** *See* EYE; FORTY; TIP.

**WINKER**, *subs.* (common).—1. The eye ; and (2) in *pl.* = eyelashes.

**WINKING.** LIKE WINKING, *adv. phr.* (common).—Very quickly.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.*, 'Witches' Frolic.' Old goody Jones All skin and bones, Follows LIKE WINKING.

*d.* 1845. HOOD, *Sailor's Apology for Bow-legs.* Both my legs began to bend LIKE WINKIN'.

1861. DICKENS, *Great Expectations*, xxi. Nod away at him, if you please, LIKE WINKING.

1883. *Graphic*, 17 March, 287. 1. Nevertheless, this solid fare disappeared, with the beer, LIKE WINKING.

**WINKS**, *subs. pl.* (streets').—Periwinkles.

**WINTER-CRICKET**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A tailor.

**WINTER-HEDGE**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A clothes-horse.

**WIPE**, *subs.* (old).—1. A handkerchief: orig. WIPER = a hand towel, but *see* quot. 1624 (B. E. and GROSE).

1624. JONSON, *Masque of Owls.* WIPERS for their noses.

1830. MONCRIEFF, *Heart of London*, i. 1. Rummy Spitalfields WIPES.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'The Forlorn One.' This here warment's prigged your WIPE.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, ix. 'And what have you got, my dear?' said Fagin to Charley Bates. 'WIPES,' replied Master Bates, at the same time producing four pocket-handkerchiefs.

1861. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xxxv. 'But what is *clyfaking?*' said Charles. 'Why, a prigging of WIPES, and sneeze-boxes, and ridicules, and such.'

2. (common).—A blow ; literally or figuratively. As *verb* = to strike : *e.g.* a WIPE over (= a rap) over the knuckles.

1577. GUEVARA, *Letters* (HELLOWES), 235. Since you were the first that layde hand to weapon, the fault is not mine if I haue happened to giue you a WYPE.

1589. NASHE [GROSART, *Works*, i. 232]. A WIPE over the shins.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iv. He was woundy angry when I giv'n that WIPE, he hadn't a word to say, and so I left'n.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, v. 2. That's a WIPE for me now, because I did not give her a new year's gift.

1733. SWIFT, *On Poetry.* To statesmen would you give a WIPE, You print it in Italic type.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 16. Or else your jaws may get a WIPE.

1843–4. HALIBURTON, *Attaché*, xxvi. Father . . . gave me a WIPE . . . that knocked me over and hurt me properly.

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 224. 'Mary'll weep sore when she knows we're leaving,' said Beetle. 'She gave me a awfull WIPE on the head last time,' said Stalky.

PHRASES. TO WIPE ONE DOWN = (1) to flatter, (2) to pacify ; TO WIPE OFF A SCORE = to pay one's debts ; TO WIPE a PERSON'S EYE = (1) to shoot game which another has missed, (2) to gain an advantage through skilful manipulation ; TO WIPE THE OTHER EYE = to take another drink ; TO WIPE OUT = to kill, to exterminate ; TO WIPE ONE'S NOSE = to cheat ; TO WIPE UP THE FLOOR WITH ONE = to completely demolish an adversary ; TO WIPE A PERSON'S NOSE (*see* NOSE, adding quots. 1611 and 1622).

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day* [*Anc. Dr.*, iv. 110]. 'Sfoot, lieutenant, wilt thou suffer thy NOSE TO BE WIP'D of this great heir?

1622. FLETCHER, *Spanish Curate*, iv. 5. Most finely fool'd, and handsomely, and neatly, Such cunning masters must be fool'd sometimes, sir, And HAVE THEIR worship's NOSES WIP'D, 'tis healthful, We are but quit.

1854. *Report of Com. of Indian Affairs.* They [the Camenches, Apaches, and others] had met for the purpose of forming their own party, in order, as they in their strong language said, to WIPE OUT all frontier Indians they could find on the plains.

1858. *Alta Californian*, July. The Pima Indians have got up another quarrel with the Apaches, and have mustered upwards of a thousand warriors to give battle. It is their determination to WIPE OUT the Apaches, or, as they express it, to eat them up entirely, which is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

1857. *New York Times*, Nov. 'Letter from Utah.' The Mormon militia under Brigham Young intend to take a stand at the pass in the mountains near Bear River, with the certainty of WIPING OUT the U.S. forces sent against them.

1861–5. ROBINSON, *Kansas*, 222. We are coming to Lawrence, said the Missourians, in a few days, TO WIPE OUT the damned abolition city, and to kill and drive off every one of the inhabitants.

1870. MEDBURY, *Men and Mysteries of Wall Street*, 138. TO WIPE OUT a stock operator is a Wall-Street phrase, and means to entangle him in a stock transaction until he loses his footing and fails utterly. It is one of the malignancies and cruelties of the street.

1887. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, i. 3. I'll MOP THE FLOOR UP WITH HIM any day, if so be as you or any on 'em 'll make it worth my while.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, Aug. The Scroggin boy was as tough as a dog-wood knot. He'd WIPE UP THE GROUND WITH HIM; he'd walk all over him.

**WIRE**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A telegram. Also as *verb.*

2. (thieves').—An expert pick-pocket: *see* THIEF.

1851–61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 410. He was worth £20 a week, he said, as a WIRE.

1862. MAYHEW, *Crim. Prisons*, 46. Buzzers who pick gentlemen's pockets, and WIRES who pick ladies' pockets.

TO WIRE IN (or AWAY), *verb. phr.* (common).—To set to with a will, to apply oneself perseveringly and zealously.

1888. *Fort. Rev.*, N.S., xliii. 93. In one fashion or another he keeps WIRING AWAY.

1900. NISBET, *Sheep's Clothing*, 132. She's a fine girl . . . and I think Mr. Lupus won't object to me hanging my hat up there. I'll WIRE IN and convert her first, though.

**WIRED UP**, *adj. phr.* (American).—Irritated; provoked.

**WIRE-PULLER** (or **-WORKER**), *subs. phr.* (political).—A manipulator of party and other interests, working by means more or less secret; a political intriguer. Hence TO PULL THE WIRES = to exercise a commanding secret political influence. Also WIRE-PULLING, *subs.*

1848. *New York Mirror*, 5 June. Philadelphia . . . is filled with WIRE-PULLERS, public opinion manufacturers, embryo cabinet officers, future ambassadors, and the whole brood of political make-shifts.

1858. *Nat. Intell.*, 20 Sept. The WIRE-WORKERS in convention had a deep interest in a particular suit at law, to which their candidate was pledged to give a judgment in their favor, in case of being the judge.

1874. *Siliad*, 69. They and their fathers, and their fathers' sires, Had worked the oracle and pulled the WIRES.

1879. FROUDE, *Cæsar*, 369. It was useless now to bribe the Comitia, to work with clubs and WIRE-PULLERS.

**WISHY-WASHY**, *adj.* (colloquial).—Weak, insipid, ROTTEN (*q.v.*).

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xxiv. A good seaman he is as ever stept upon forecastle, and a brave fellow as ever crackt bisket—none of your Guinea-pigs, nor your fresh-water WISHY-WASHY, fair-weather fowls.

1801. DIBDIN, *Il Bondocani*, iii. 3. None of your WISHY-WASHY sparks that mince their steps.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, viii. If you are a coffin, you were sawn out of no WISHY-WASHY elm-board, but right heart-of-oak.

1857. TROLLOPE, *Barchester Towers*, xli. The WISHY-WASHY, bread-and-butter period of life.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 192. Mo and his man were having a great breakfast . . . off a twopenny buster and a small bit of butter, with some WISHY-WASHY coffee . . .

1881. BRADDON, *Asphodel*, xx. A year hence she will have lost all that brightness, and will be a very WISHY-WASHY little person.

1891. *Harry Fludyer at Cambridge*, 18. Papa did not care for it much when I sang it the first time, and said it was WISHY-WASHY; but he knows nothing whatever about music. The only song he ever did care about was 'Annie Laurie'; I think it was because mother always sang it.

**WISKER**, *subs.* (old).—A lie.

1694. *Plautus made English*, 9. Suppose I tell her some damned WISKER; why, that's but m' old Dog-trick.

**WISP. TO GIVE (WEAR, or SHOW) A WISP**, *verb. phr.* (old).—A wisp, or small twist, of straw or hay, was often applied as a mark of opprobrium to an immodest woman, a scold, or similar offenders; even the showing it to a woman was, therefore, considered as a grievous affront. It was the badge of the scolding woman, in the ceremony of SKIMMINGTON (*q.v.*).

1567. DRANT, *Horace*, vii. So perfyte and exacte a scoulde that women might give place, Whose tatling tongues had won a WISPE.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, 3 *Henry VI.*, ii. 2. A WISP of straw were worth a thousand crowns, To make this shameless callat know herself.

1628. EARLE, *Microcos.* (BLISS), 278. [Of a scold.] There's nothing mads or moves her more to outrage, then but the very naming of a WISPE, or if you sing or whistle while she is scoulding.

1632. ROWLEY, *New Wonder* [*Anc. Dr.*, v. 266]. Nay worse, I'll stain thy ruff; nay, worse than that, I'll do thus. [Holds a WISP.] *M. Fost.* Oh my heart, gossip, do you see this? was ever Woman thus abus'd?

**WITTOL**, *subs.* (old).—A husband who knows of, and endures his wife's unfaithfulness; a contented cuckold. As *verb*=to make a wittol. [SKEAT: From *woodwale* (a bird whose nest is often invaded by the cuckoo, and so has the offspring of another palmed off on it for its own; like *Cuckold*, from *Cuckoo.*]

1513-25. SKELTON *Works* (DYCE), ii. 178 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 394. The old WITTOL in the guise of a wetewold is now first used in its evil sense].

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. 2. Amaimon sounds well; Lucifer, well; Barbason, well; yet they are devil's additions, the names of fiends! But cuckold, WITTOL, cuckold! The devil himself hath not such a name!

1597. HALL, *Satires*, i. 7. Fond WITTOL that would'st load thy witless head, With timely horns before thy bridal bed.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Jannin.* A WITTALL; one that knowes, and bears with, or winks at, his wives dishonesty.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, 44. To see . . . a WITTOL wink at his wife's dishonesty, and too perspicuous in all other affairs.

1624. DAVENPORT, *City Nightcap*, i. 1. He would WITTOL me With a consent to my own horns.

1631. LENTON, *Characters*, 32. A cuckold is a harmelesse horned creature, but they [his horns] hang not in his eies, as your WITTALS doe.

1638. FORD, *Fancies*, ii. 1. Mark, Vespucci, how the WITTOL Stares on his sometime wife! Sure he imagines To be a cuckold by consent is purchase Of approbation in a state.

1641. *Wit's Recreations.* Thy stars gave thee the cuckold's diadem: If thou wert born to be a WITTOL, can Thy wife prevent thy fortune? foolish man!

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Batchelor*, v. 6. *Sharp.* Death! it can't be—an oaf, an ideot, a WITTAL.

**WIWI**, *subs.* (Australian). — A Frenchman. [That is, *Oui, Oui!*]

1845. WAKEFIELD, *Adventures in New Zealand*, i. 94. If I had sold the land to the white missionaries, might they not have sold it again to the WIWI (Frenchmen) or Americans?

1857. HURSTHOUSE, *New Zealand, the Britain of the South*, i. 14. De Surville's painful mode of revenge, and the severe chastisement which the retaliatory murder of Marion brought on the natives, rendered the WEE-WEES (*Oui, oui*), or people of the tribe of Marion, hateful to the New Zealanders for the next half-century.

1859. THOMSON, *Story of New Zealand*, i. 236. Before the WEWIS, as the French are now called, departed.

1873. CARLETON, *Life of Henry Williams*, 92. The arrival of a French man-of-war was a sensational event to the natives, who had always held the OUI-OUI's in dislike.

1881. *Percy Pomo*, 207. Has [sic] the WEEWEES puts it.

**WOBBLE.** *See* WABBLE.

**WOBBLER**, *subs.* (military). — An infantryman.

**WOBBLE-SHOP**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A shop where intoxicants are sold without a license.

**WOLF**, *verb* (common).—To devour ravenously: hence WOLFER =a greedy feeder or guzzling tosspot: also A WOLF IN THE STOMACH = famished; TO KEEP THE WOLF FROM THE DOOR = to keep hunger and want at bay.

1513-25. SKELTON, *Works* (DYCE), ii. 132. TO KEPE THE WOLFE FROM THE DORE.

1645. HOWELL, *Familiar Letters*. Indeed tis very fitting that hee or shee should have wherwith to support both, according to their quality, at least to KEEP THE WOOLF FROM THE DOOR, otherwise 'twere a meer madnes to marry.

1705. BUCKINGHAM, *Works*, II. 127. I am no stranger, says she, to your circumstances, and know with what difficulty you KEEP THE WOLF FROM YOUR DOOR.

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. WOLFING down some food preparatory to fishing.

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 118. He just placed him 'gainst a shutter, and then fired him in the gutter, But the worn-out whiskey WOLFER calmly slumbered through it all.

PHRASES. DARK AS A WOLF'S MOUTH (or THROAT) = pitch dark; TO CRY WOLF = to raise a false alarm; TO HAVE A WOLF BY THE EARS (*see* quots.); TO SEE A WOLF = (1) to lose one's voice, and (2) to be seduced (Fr. *avoir vu le loup*).

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, III. 249. He that deals with men's affections HATH A WOLF BY THE EARS; if we speak of peace, they wax wanton; if we reprove, they grow desperate.

1742-4. NORTH, *Lord Guildford*, ii. 2. He found himself so intrigued that it was like A WOLF BY THE EARS; he could neither hold it, nor let it go; and, for certain, it bit him at last.

1767. FAWKES, *Idyll. Theoc.*, xiv. 'What! are you mute?' I said—a waggish guest, 'Perhaps she's SEEN A WOLF,' rejoin'd in jest.

1823. SCOTT, *Quentin Durward*, xviii. 'Our young companion has SEEN A WOLF,' said Lady Hameline, alluding to an ancient superstition, 'and has lost his tongue in consequence.'

**WOLFE'S OWN**, *subs. phr.* (military). —The first battalion of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, late the 47th Foot; the black worm in the gold lace is in memory of the Hero of Quebec.

**WOLVERINE STATE (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (American).—Michigan: its inhabitants are WOLVERINES.

**WOLLOP.** *See* WALLOP.

**WOMAN**, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A term of abuse; spec. a harlot. Whence TO WOMAN (or WOMANIZE)=(1) to scold or abuse, and (2) to whore; TO PLAY THE WOMAN=to be addicted to the practice of men; TO BE AS WOMEN WISH WHO LOVE THEIR LORDS = to be pregnant; TO MAKE AN HONEST WOMAN (*see* HONEST); WOMAN OF THE TOWN=a harlot; WISE WOMAN =a midwife; WOMAN'S BROKER =a bawd; TO MAKE ONE A WOMAN=to deflower; TO ENJOY A WOMAN=to possess her: *see* ENJOY.

1648–50. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's Jo*, 9. Where I drank and took my Common In a Tap-house with my WOMAN.

1705. WARD, *Hud. Red.*, II. ii. 5. To starve, beg, steal, or PLAY THE WOMAN [*i.e.* the whore].

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 268. She called her another time fat-face, and WOMANED her most violently.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 392. Scipio and myself were . . . very soon to have the satisfaction of becoming fathers: our lasses were as WOMEN wish to be who love their lords.

2. *See* TAIL.

**WONNER.** *See* ONE-ER.

**WOODCOCK**, *subs.* (old). — 1. A simpleton: *see* BUFFLE.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, i. 2. O this WOODCOCK! what an ass it is!

1614. OVERBURY, *Characters*, M. 2. He cheats young guls that are newly come to towne; and when the keeper of the ordinary blames him for it, he answers him in his owne profession, that a WOODCOCKE must be plucked ere it be drest.

2. (common).—A tailor.

**WOODCOCK'S-CROSS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Penitence for folly: *cf.* WEEPING-CROSS, etc.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. At Westminster, where such a coyle they keepe: Where man doth man within the law betosse, Till some go croslesse home by WOODCOCKS CROSSE.

**WOODCOCK'S-HEAD**, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—A pipe. [Early pipes were frequently so fashioned.]

1599. JONSON, *Ev. Man Out of Humour*, iii. 3. *Sav.* O peace, I pray you, I love not the breath of a WOODCOCK'S HEAD. *Fastid.* Meaning my head, lady? [*i.e.*, meaning to call me a fool?] *Sav.* Not altogether so, sir; but as it were fatal to their follies that think to grace themselves with taking tobacco, when they want better entertainment, you see your pipe bears the true form of a WOOD-COCK'S HEAD.

**WOODEN-FIT**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A swoon.

**WOODEN-LEGGED MARE**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The gallows: *see* NUBBING-CHEAT.

**WOODEN-NUTMEG STATE (THE)**, *subs. phr.* (American).—Cincinnatti.

**WOODEN-OVERCOAT (or -SURTOUT)**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A coffin.

**WOODEN-RUFF**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The pillory.

**WOODEN-SPOON**, *subs.* (Cambridge). — The student last on the list of mathematical honours. *See* TRIPOS, GULF, TWELVE APOSTLES, WRANGLER, etc.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN]. OPTIME. The senior and junior optimes are the second and last classes of Cambridge honours conferred on taking a degree. That of wranglers is the first. The last junior optime is called the WOODEN SPOON.

**WOODEN-SWORD.** TO WEAR THE WOODEN-SWORD, *verb. phr.* (provincial).—To overstand the market.

**WOODMAN,** *subs.* (common).—1. A carpenter, CHIPS (*q.v.*).

2. (old).—A wencher, MUTTON-MONGER (*q.v.*).

**WOOL,** *subs.* (common). — Hair: *cf.* the wheezes, 'He has no WOOL on the top of his head in the place where the WOOL ought to grow'; and 'Keep your WOOL on'=don't get angry, keep quiet. As *verb*=to rumple or towsle the hair.

PHRASES. MORE SQUEAK THAN WOOL=more noise than substance; GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL='Much ado about nothing': *see* CIDER; TO PULL THE WOOL OVER ONE'S EYES=to impose upon, deceive, delude, or use the PEPPER-BOX (*q.v.*); TO GO WOOL GATHERING = to indulge in idle fancies, act stupidly.

*c.* 1475. FORTESCUE [*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vi. 186]. And so his hyghnes shal haue thereoff but as hadd the man that sherid is hogge, MUCHE CRVE AND LITILL WOLL.

1579. GOSSON, *School of Abuse* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 605. There occurs RUN A WOOLGATHERING].

1621. BURTON, *Anat.*, i. ii. His wits were WOOLGATHERING as they say.

*d.* 1655. ADAMS, *Works*, i. 477. But if you compare his threatenings and his after affections you would say of them, as that wise man shearing his hogs: Here is a GREAT deal of CRY, BUT a LITTLE WOOL.

1742–4. NORTH, *Lord Guildford*. For matter of title he thought there was MORE SQUEAK THAN WOOL. *Ibid.*, ii. 326. The stir about the sheriff of London . . . was MUCH SQUEAK AND NO WOOL, but an impertinent contention to no profit.

*c.* 1796. WOLCOT, *Works*, 135. Yet thou may'st bluster like bull-beef so big; And, of thy own importance full, Exclaim, 'GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL!' As Satan holla'd when he shaved the pig.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 201. At first there was MUCH CRY BUT LITTLE WOOL; for we had no luck at finding cullies.

1898. LILLARD, *Poker Stories*, 102. That bad Westerner was a bungler. I could have given him points at his own game. Nevertheless, he was clever enough to PULL THE WOOL way down OVER THE EYES of the three other men.

**WOOL-BIRD,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A sheep.

**WOOLFIST,** *subs.* (old).—A term of reproach.

1606. *Wily Beguilde*, Prol. Out, you sous'd gurnet, you WOOLFIST! begone, I say, and bid the players despatch, and come away quickly.

**WOOL-HOLE,** *subs. phr.* (tramps').—A workhouse: *see* LARGE HOUSE.

**WOOSTON,** *adv.* (Christ's Hospital).—Very: that is 'whoreson' (*see* WHORE): *e.g.* 'a WOOSTON jolly fellow,' 'I'm WOOSTON chaffy.'

**WORD.** A WORD AND A BLOW, *subs. phr.* (old).—Immediate action: as *adj.*=instantly.

1710. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, i. *Nev.* Pray, Miss, why do you sigh? *Miss.* To make a fool ask, and you are the first. *Nev.* Why, Miss, I find there is nothing but a WORD AND A BLOW with you.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, iv. 206. My cousins are grieved: they did not expect that I would be a WORD AND A BLOW, as they phrase it.

1839. MRS. TROLLOPE, *Michael Armstrong*, iv. Mr. Joseph Parsons had a Napoleon-like promptitude of action, which the unlearned operatives described by calling him A WORD-AND-BLOW.

**WORK,** *verb* (thieves').—To steal. Fr. *travailler*; Sp. *trabajar.*

PHRASES. TO MAKE WORK = to cause (or make) a disturbance, kick up a SHINDY (*q.v.*); TO WORK THE ORACLE = to manœuvre, to victimise.

**WORLD.** ALL THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE, *subs. phr.* (common).—Everyone.

1709-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, iii. *Miss.* Pray, Madam, who were the company? *Lady Sm.* Why there was THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE.

1766. *New Bath Guide*, Letter xiii. How he welcomes at once ALL THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE, And how civil to folk he ne'er saw in his life.

1865. DICKENS, *Our Mutual Friend*, I. xvii. ALL THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE and daughter leave cards. Sometimes THE WORLD'S WIFE has so many daughters that her card reads rather like a miscellaneous lot at an auction.

**WORM,** *subs.* (common).—A policeman.

**WORM-CRUSHER,** *subs. phr.* (military).—A foot soldier: *cf.* MUDCRUSHER.

**WORM-FENCE,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A zig-zag rail-fence; a VIRGINIA-FENCE (*q.v.*).

1839-40. IRVING, *Wolfert's Roost*, 251. We drove Master Jack about the common, until we had hemmed him in an angle of a WORM FENCE.

**WORRICROW,** *subs.* (old).—A scarecrow.

. . . NAYLOR, *Reynard the Fox*, 39. What a WORRICROW the man doth look!

**WORTH.** *See* BEAN; CANDLE; CENT; CRACKER; CURSE; FIG; FLY; GAME; LOUSE; NUTSHELL; PEAR; RAP; STRAW; TURD, etc., etc.

**W. P.** *See* WARMING-PAN.

**WRAP-RASCAL,** *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A cloak, or coat.

1753. *Adventurer*, 101. Some of them had those loose kind of great-coats on, which I have heard called WRAP-RASCALS.

1853. WH.-MELVILLE, *Digby Grand*, xix. Cram on a WRAP-RASCAL and a shawl choaker. Never mind the gold-laced overalls and spurs.

1860-3. THACKERAY, *Roundabout Papers*, xviii. There is the cozy WRAP-RASCAL, self-indulgence, how easy it is.

1898. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxiv. The humble individual in slouch felt and threadbare WRAP-RASCAL.

**WREN,** *subs.* (military).—A prostitute frequenting the Curragh Camp.

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London.* These creatures are known in and about the great military camp and its neighbourhood as WRENS. They do not live in houses or even huts, but build for themselves 'nests' in the bush.

**WRETCH.** POOR WRETCH, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—A term of endearment.

**WRETCHCOCK** (or **WRECHOCK**), *subs.* (old).—A puny, insignificant person, a poor wretch.

**WRIGGLING-POLE,** *subs. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. TO WRIGGLE NAVELS = to copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

*c.* 1720. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, etc. (1720), vi. 91. 'The Jolly Tradesmen.' But if my Oven be over-hot, I dare not thrust it in, Sir; For burning of my WRIGLING-POLE, My Skill's not worth a Pin, Sir.

**WRIGHT (MR.),** *subs. phr.* (prison).—A warder acting as go-between for a prisoner and his friends.

**WRINGLE-GUT,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A nervous, fidgety man.

**WRINKLE,** *subs.* (old).—A new idea, useful hint, cunning trick, smart dodge.

*d.* 1555. LATIMER, *Works*, ii. 422. And now what manner of man do you make me, Master N., when you note me to be so much abused by so ignorant a man, so simple, so plain, and so far without all WRINKLES?

15[?]. *Narratives of the Reformation* [*Camden Soc.*], 102. Palmer as he was a man symple and withoute all WRYNCLES off cloked colusy-one, opened to hym his whole intent.

1580. LYLY, *Euphues and his England*, 389. They are too experte in loue hauing learned in this time of their long peace euery WRINCKLE that is to be scene or imagined.

1709-10. SWIFT, *Pol. Conv.*, i. *Lady Ans.* Have a care, Miss; they say mocking is catching. *Miss.* I never heard that. *Nev.* Why then, Miss, you have one WRINKLE; more than ever you had before.

*c.* 1876. *Music Hall Song*, 'You're More Than Seven.' I know you're a little bit artful, old boy, And up to a WRINKLE or two.

**WRITERLING,** *subs.* (old). — An author of the baser sort, a petty journalist.

1802. TAYLOR [ROBBERD, *Memoir*, i. 420]. Every writer and WRITERLING of name has a salary from the Government.

**WRITINGS.** TO BURN THE WRITINGS, *verb. phr.* (old). — To quarrel.

**WROKIN,** *subs.* (old). — A Dutch woman.

**WRONG.** In various combinations and phrases: *e.g.* WRONG IN THE UPPER-STOREY = crazy; IN THE WRONG BOX = mistaken, embarrassed, in jeopardy; THE WRONG END OF THE STICK = the worst of a position, the false of a story; TO WAKE UP THE WRONG PASSENGER = to make a mistake in the individual, 'to get the wrong sow by the ear'; TO LAUGH ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE MOUTH = to cry; TO GET OUT OF (or RISE OUT OF) THE WRONG [or RIGHT) SIDE OF THE BED (or RIGHT SIDE) = a happy augury (or the reverse).

1554. RIDLEY ('Foxe,' 1838), vi. 438. Sir, quoth I, if you will hear how St. Augustine expoundeth that place, you shall perceive that you are IN A WRONG BOX.

1588. J. UDALL, *Distrephes*, 31. I perceive that you and I are IN A WRONG BOX.

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. 1. YOU HAVE THE SOW BY THE RIGHT EAR, sir.

1607. MARSTON, *What you Will* [*Works* (1633), sig. Rb]. You RISE ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE to-day, marry.

1614. *Terence in English* [NARES]. *C.* What doth shee keepe house alreadie? *D.* Alreadie. *C.* O good God: WE ROSE ON THE RIGHT SIDE to-day.

*c.* 1620. FLETCHER, *Women Pleased*, i. [s.v., near end of act].

1633. MACHIN, *Dumb Knight*, iv. 1. Sure I said my prayers, RIS'D ON MY RIGHT SIDE . . . No hare did cross me, nor no bearded witch, Nor other ominous sign.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. iii. 580. You have a WRONG SOW BY THE EAR.

1714. LUCAS, *Gamesters*, 65. But tho' he laugh; 'twas on the WRONG SIDE OF HIS MOUTH.

*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.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, xliii. 'That, I grant you, must be confessed: doctor, I'm afraid we have got INTO THE WRONG BOX.'

1771. SMOLLETT, *Clinker* [SAINTSBURY (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.

1811. *Lex. Bal.*, s.v. LAUGH.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. LAUGH.

1826. BUCKSTONE, *Death Fetch*, i. 4. *Snapsch.* (*Aside.*) And have a pretty family of them about my ears the first time I'm left alone in the dark, who would soon make me LAUGH ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MY MOUTH, I fancy.

1836. MARRYAT, *Midshipman Easy*, x. 'Take care your rights of man don't get you IN THE WRONG BOX—there's no arguing on board of a man-of-war.'

1837. CARLYLE, *Diamond Necklace*, iii. By and bye thou wilt LAUGH ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THY FACE.

**WRONG-'UN**, *subs. phr.* (common). —Generic for anything bad: *e.g.* a spurious note, base coin, whore, welsher, a horse intended to be PULLED (*q.v.*), and so forth.

1889. *Sporting Times*, June 29. Isabel and Maudie knew the Turf and all its arts—They had often blewed a dollar on a WRONG 'UN.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray. John Fordham*, iv. 299. 'All wery true, guv'nor, wus luck—but it don't make black white, 'cause I'm a WRONG 'UN.'

1898. *Pomes from Pink 'Un* [Advt. facing front inside cover]. Do not invest money . . . on Stiff 'uns, WRONG 'UNS or Dead 'uns.

1902. *D. Telegraph*, 11 Feb., 10. 7. Do you consider that all possible precautions are taken against welshers?—Yes. A welsher can be had up for fraud, and anyone who is known as a WRONG ONE is excluded from the racecourse.

**WROUGHT-SHIRT.** *See* HISTORICAL SHIRT.

**WRY-NOT.** TO SHEAD WRY-NOT, *verb. phr.* (provincial).—To outdo the devil.

**WUGGINS**, *subs.* (Oxford University). — Worcester College; BOTANY-BAY (*q.v.*).

**WUSSER**, *subs.* (bargees').—A canal boat.

**WUZZLE**, *verb* (American).—To jumble, muddle, mix.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown*, 63. He WUZZLED things up in the most singular way.

**To take one X** (or **letter X**), *verb. phr.* (police).—To secure a violent prisoner: two constables firmly grasp the collar with one hand, the captive's arm being drawn down and the hand forced backwards over the holding arms; in this position the prisoner's arm is more easily broken than extricated.

**X-leg**, *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = Knock knees.

**Xmas**, *subs.* (colloquial).—Christmas: frequently pronounced 'eksmas.' *See* Christmas.

**-Y**, *insep. suffix* (Manchester Grammar School). — MATHY = mathematics; CHEMMY = chemistry; GYMMY = gymnastics; etc.

**YACK**, *subs.* (thieves').—A watch. TO CHURCH (or CHRISTEN) A YACK = to change the case, or substitute a fictitious inscription, in order to prevent identification.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, ii. 57. At last he was bowled out in the very act of nailing a YACK.

1857. DUCANGE ANGLICUS, *Vulg. Tongue*, 38. He told me as Bill had flimped a YACK.

1868. DORAN, *Saints and Sinners*, II. 290. The [thieves] CHURCH THEIR YACKS when they transpose the works of stolen watches to prevent identification.

**YAFF**, *verb* (colloquial).—To talk pertly: also YAFFLE. [Properly YAFF = to bark or yelp.]

**YAFFLE**, *subs.* (provincial).—An armful.

*Verb* (Old Cant).—1. To eat (HALLIWELL).

2. (colloquial).—To snatch, to pilfer, to take illicitly.

3. *See* YAFF.

**YAHOO**, *subs.* (common). — A generic reproach: spec. a rough, brutal, uncouth character. In America = a back-country lout, a greenhorn (BARTLETT). [A name given by Swift in his *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) to a race of brutes, described as having human forms and vicious and degraded propensities. They were subject to the Houyhnhnms, or horses endowed with human reason.] As *adj.* = boorish, loutish, uncouth.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, IV. x. To see a noble creature start and tremble at the passionate exclamation of a mere YAHOO of a stable-boy . . . equally excites my pity and my indignation.

*d.* 1790. WARTON, *Newmarket*, 170 That hated animal, a YAHOO squire.

1861. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, lv. 'And what sort of fellow is he?' said Lord Saltire; 'a YAHOO, I suppose?' 'Not at all; he is a capital fellow, a perfect gentleman.'

1900. SAVAGE, *Brought to Bay*, v. You frontier YAHOOS know nothing but herding cattle.

**YALLOW**. *See* YELLOW.

**YAM**, *subs.* (nautical).—Food; GRUB (*q.v.*). As *verb* = to eat.

**YANK**, *subs.* (American).—1. A YANKEE (*q.v.*): 'an abbreviation universally applied by the Confederates to the soldiers of the Union armies' (BARTLETT).

1890. *Scribner's Mag.*, 242. 'He'd ev shot him, if he hadn't skedaddled.' 'Well, *sir*! what fur?' 'Oh, jest jaw-hawkin' a YANK, and burnin' his heouse down.'

2. (provincial).—In *pl.* = leggings.

*Verb* (colloquial).—1. Generic for quick, sharp, or jerking motion; to bustle, twitch, snatch, move quickly, work smartly; usually with *along*, *over*, *out*, etc. As *subs.* (or YANKER)=a smart stroke, jerk, or twitch; YANKING = active, pushing, thorough-going; TO YANK THE BUN='to take the CAKE' (*q.v.*).

1818. HOGG, *Brownie of Bodsbeck*, xiv. I gae . . . him a YANK on the haffat tell I gart his bit brass cap rattle against the wa'.

1825. SCOTT, *St. Ronan's Well*, ii. I cannot bide their YANKING way.

1870. WHITNEY, *Sights and Insights*, xxix. A YANKING old horse and a wretchedly uncomfortable saddle.

1880. CLEMENS, *A Tramp Abroad*. He moistens his hands, grabs his property vigorously, YANKS it this way, then that.

1888. KIPLING, *Only a Subaltern*. When the butt of a room goes on the drink, or takes to moping by himself, measures are necessary to YANK him OUT of himself.

1890. WARNER, *Their Pilgrimage*, 201. I don't see the fun of being YANKED OVER all the United States in the middle of August.

1891. JANVIER, *Aztec Treasure-house*, x. I guess th' best thing we can do is t' YANK our traps OUT of that cave an' get started again.

1893. MILLIKEN. *'Arry Ballads*, 77. YANK ON to one gal, a fair screamer.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 278. The watchman scouted around, and found three of them in a box-car, and YANKED 'em all UP.

2. (colloquial).—To chatter, scold, nag; to talk fast and incessantly. Hence YANKIE = a chatterbox, one who talks 'nineteen to the dozen.'

**YANKEE (YANKEY or YANKY)**, *subs.* (American). — 1. A citizen of New England; 2. (mostly European)=a native of the United States: also YANKEE-DOODLE. Also as *adj.* with derivatives such as YANKEEDOM, YANKEEFIED, YANKEEISM, etc. [Of dubious and much-discussed derivation: *see* quots. and *adj.* sense.] YANKEE-NATION = the United States. [*Century*: The word acquired wide currency during the war of the rebellion as a nickname or contemptuous epithet among the Confederates for a Union soldier, the confederates themselves being in like spirit dubbed Johnnies or Rebs by the Union soldiers: *see* YANK.]

1765. *Oppression* [WEBSTER]. From meanness first this Portsmouth YANKEY rose, And still to meanness all his conduct flows.

1768. *Boston Jour. of the Times*, Sept. [The first mention in print of the famous air.] Those passing in boats observed great rejoicings, and that the YANKEE DOODLE song was the capital piece in the band of music.

1775. GORDON [*Letter* quoted in *Notes and Queries* (1852), 57]. They [the British troops at Concord and Lexington] were roughly handled by the YANKEES, a term of reproach for the New Englanders, when applied by the regulars.

1809. IRVING, *Knickerbocker*, 276. Codfish, tinware, apple-brandy . . . wooden bowls, and other articles of YANKEE barter.

1822. HECKEWELDER, *Indian Nations*, 132. No doubt the word was the first effort of the Indians to imitate the sound of the national name of the English, which they pronounced YENGEES. The Indians 'say they know the YENGEES [*i.e.* the New Englanders], and can distinguish them by their dress and personal appearance, and that they were considered as less cruel than the Virginians, or Long Knives. The English proper they call Saggenash.'

1848. COOPER, *Oak Openings*, xxviii. The sobriquet of YANKEES which is in every man's mouth.

1856. *Stray* YANKEE *in Texas*, 113. The Colonel whittled away at a bit of stick in the most YANKEEFIED way possible.

18[?]. TRUMBULL [BARTLETT]. The name [YENGEES or YENKEES] was originally given by the Massachusetts Indians to the English Colonists, being the nearest sound they could give for 'English.' It was afterwards adopted by the Dutch on the Hudson, who applied the term in contempt to all the people of New England. During the American Revolution, it was eagerly caught at by the British soldiers.

18[?]. TRUMBULL [BARTLETT]. When YANKIES, skill'd in martial rule, First put the British troops to school.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 1 S., Int. We have the present YANKEE, full of expedients, half-master of all trades, inventive in all but the beautiful, full of shifts, not yet capable of comfort. *Ibid.* (1862), 2 S. iv. Ez ef we could maysure stupenjious events By the low YANKEE stan'ard o' dollars and cents.

*d.* 1852. MOORE, *Diary*, vii. 231. Approaching very fast the sublime of YANKEEISM.

*d.* 1859. DE QUINCEY, *Style*, Note 1. YANKEE, in the American use, does not mean a citizen of the United States as opposed to a foreigner, but a citizen of the northern New England states.

1861. *Death of Lincoln Despotism* [BARTLETT]. And hold them till Abe Lincoln, and all his Northern scum, Shall own our independence of YANKEE DOODLEDOM.

18[?]. *Nation* [BARTLETT]. The 'YANKS,' or the equally grovelling 'nigger,' one or the other, what we do not know, has corrupted 'Pollard of Richmond.'

*c.* 1889. LORD HOUGHTON, '*Knock at the Door*' [*Notes and Queries*, 7 S. xi. 106]. Examine him outside and in I'd thank ye, Morals, Parisian; manners, perfect YANKEE.

1890. BROUGHTON, *Alas*, viii. Hackneyed as only YANKEEDOM and Cockneydom, rushing hand-in-hand through all earth's sacrednesses can hackney.

3. (American). — A glass of whiskey sweetened with molasses.

*Adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).—A generic intensive: spanking, excellent.

1713. [GORDON, *Hist. Am. War* (1789), 1. 324.] You may wish to know the origin of the term YANKEE. . . . It was a cant favourite word with Farmer Jonathan Hastings of Cambridge about 1713. . . . The inventor used it to express excellency. A Yankee good horse, or Yankee cider and the like were an excellent good horse and excellent cider.

**YANKER,** *subs.* (common).—1. A great falsehood: *see* WHOPPER.

1822. HOGG, *Three Perils of Man*, 1. 336. Ay, billy, that is a YANKER. . . . When ane is gaun to tell a lie, there's naething like telling a plumper at aince.

2. *See* YANK, *verb.*

**YANKIE,** *subs.* (Scotch).—1. A sharp, forward, clever woman.

2. *See* YANK, *verb* 2.

**YANNAM.** *See* PANNAM (of which YANNAM is probably a misprint).

**YAP,** *subs.* (provincial).—1. A yelp; 2=a cur, a TYKE (*q.v.*); whence (3)=a countryman. Also as *verb*=to bark, yelp; YAPSTER=a dog (*Tufts*, 1798).

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xlii. Moro YAPPED in a puppy voice at their heels.

1889. BLACKMORE, *Kit and Kitty*, xxiv. Presently he YAPPED as in hot chase of a rabbit.

1901. FLYNT and WALTON, *Powers that Prey*, 21. This YAP from the country. *Ibid.*, 60. These YAPS come to town and throw up their hands at sights that a Bowery kid wouldn't drop a cigarette snipe to see.

*Verb* (back slang).—To pay. Whence YAPPY=over-generous, SOFT (*q.v.*), foolish: *i.e.* paying mad.

**YARD,** *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Priapismo*. The standing of a man's YARD, which is when the YARD is stretched out in length and breadth. . . . If it come with a beating and panting of the YARD the phisicians call it then Satiriasi.

THE YARD, *subs. phr.* (London).—1. Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the London police, now located at New Scotland Yard.

1901. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 11 May, 2. 3. He gave plausibility to his proceedings by exhibiting a subscription list for a testimonial to a member of 'THE YARD,' who, said he, was about to retire.

2. (Durham School).—In *pl.* = the list of members originally of the First Game, but now of the Second Game—at football or cricket. [Formerly in the cricket season only a patch of ground thirty yards square was mowed. Those who had the privilege of playing on this were said to be on the YARDS.]

UNDER ONE'S YARD, *phr.* (old).—In one's power, subject to authority.

1383. CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales*, 7893, 'Clerke's Tale.' Hoste, quod he, I am UNDER YOUR YERDE.

TO GET YARDS, *verb. phr.* (Harrow).—To get a catch at football and be allowed a free kick, not running more than can be covered in three running strides. Hence TO GIVE YARDS = to give such a catch; TO STEP YARDS = to cover the distance in 'kicking off YARDS' in three strides; TO KNOCK DOWN YARDS = to prevent another from 'taking YARDS.' [Orig. 'three yards.']

*See* KNIGHT.

**YARDER**, *subs.* (Harrow).—Cricket played in the school yard: in the summer term.

**YARD-OF-CLAY**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A long clay pipe; a CHURCHWARDEN (*q.v.*).

1859. FAIRHOLT, *Tobacco* (1876), 173. Such long pipes were reverently termed aldermen in the last age, and irreverently YARDS OF CLAY in the present one.

1866. *London Miscellany*, 19 May, 235. 2. Surely these men, who win and lose fortunes with the stolidity of a mynheer smoking his CLAY YARD, must be of entirely different stuff from the rest of us.

**YARD-OF-PUMPWATER**, *subs. phr.* (common).—A tall thin man (or woman): *cf.* RASHER-OF-WIND.

**YARK**, *verb* (Durham School).—To cane.

**YARMOUTH-CAPON** (or **-BEE**), *subs. phr.* (common).—A herring: *see* GLASGOW MAGISTRATE (B. E. and GROSE).

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 'Norfolk,' II. 126. A YARMOUTH CAPON. That is, a Red-herring. I believe few Capons (save what have more fins than feathers) are bred in Yarmouth. But, to countenance this expression, I understand that the Italian Friers (when disposed to eat the flesh on Fridays) call Capon *piscem e corte*, a fish out of the coop.

**YARMOUTH-COACH**, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A sorry, low Cart to ride on, drawn by one Horse' (B. E.).

**YARMOUTH-MITTENS**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—Bruised hands.

**YARN**, *subs.* (colloquial).—A story, a tale: spec. an incredible, long, or marvellous narration spun out by a sailor. Hence as *verb* (or TO SPIN YARNS) = to romance,

'draw the long bow'; A SAILOR'S YARN=a traveller's story (*q.v.*); YARN-CHOPPER (or SLINGER)=(1) a long prosy talker; and (2) a fictional journalist.

1859. READE, *Love Me Little*, iii. It isn't everybody that likes these sea-YARNS as you do, Eve. No, I'll belay, and let my betters get a word in now.

1879. *Scribner's Mag.*, viii. 465. The first lieutenant is YARNING with me under the lea of the bulwarks.

1884. CLARK RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xxx. All the crew . . . YARNING and smoking and taking sailors' pleasure.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 29 Dec. [He] who has YARNED aforetime 'On the Fo'k'sle Head,' and 'Round the Galley Fire.'

**YARUM**, *subs.* (Old Cant).—Milk. POPLARS OF YARUM=milk porridge (HARMAN, B. E., and GROSE).

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 86. She has a cackling-chete, a grunting-chete, ruff pecke, cassan, and POPPLAR OF YARUM.

1608. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 3]. The Ruffin cly the nab of the Harmanbeck, If we maund . . . POPLARS OF YARUM, he cuts, bing to the Ruffmans.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. Here's Pannam and Lap, and good POPLARS OF YARRUM.

**YAWNEY** (or **YAWNUPS**), *subs.* (provincial).—A stupid fellow; BUFFLE (*q.v.*): *cf.* SAWNEY. Also YAWNEY-BOX=a donkey: *see* NEDDY.

**YAW-SIGHTED**, *adj. phr.* (nautical).—Squinting.

**YAW-YAW**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A Dutchman: any man who says 'YAW-YAW' for 'Yes' (CLARK RUSSELL).

**YEA-AND-NAY**, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Insipid, watery; *e.g.* a poor YAY-NAY sort of a person=a stupid, doltish block: one who can say but YEA or NAY to a question: *see* next entry.

*c.* 1780. DARBLAY, *Diary*, II. 288. She is a sort of YEA AND NAY young gentlewoman, to me very wearisome.

**YEA-AND-NAY MAN**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A Quaker (B. E.).

**YEACK**, *verb* (old).—'An imitative word to express the sound with which coachmen encourage their horses (?), unless it is another form of yerk' (DAVIES).

1606. DEKKER, *Seven Deadly Sins*, iii. Candle light's coach . . . is drawne (with ease) by two rats: the coachman is a chaundler, who so sweats with YEACKING them, that he drops tallowe, and that feedes them as prouender.

**YEAR'S-MIND** (or **YEAR-MIND**), *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—A memorial, a mass, an anniversary: *cf.* MONTH'S-MIND.

**YELLOW**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. Generic for jealousy, envy, melancholy: also YELLOWS and YELLOWNESS: *cf.* BLUE, BROWN, RED, WHITE, etc. (B. E.). Also in frequent proverbial phrase: *e.g.* TO WEAR YELLOW HOSE (BREECHES or STOCKINGS)=to be jealous; TO ANGER THE YELLOW HOSE, etc.=to provoke jealousy; TO WEAR YELLOW STOCKINGS=to be cuckolded: hence YELLOW-HAMMER (or -GLOAK)=(1) a cuckold, and (2) a jealous man or husband. [YELLOW STOCKINGS (*q.v.*) were once, for a long period prior to the civil wars, a fashionable article of dress: the fashion is still preserved amongst BLUES (*q.v.*) at Christ's Hospital.]

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. 3. 111. I will incense Page to deal with poison. I will possess him with YELLOWNESS. *Ibid.* (1600), *Much Ado*, i. 1. Civil as an orange, and something of that jealous complexion. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, ii. 4. With a green and YELLOW melancholy. *Ibid.* (1604), *Winter's Tale*, ii. 3. 107. 'Mongst all colours, No YELLOW in't, lest she suspect, as he does, Her children not her husbands.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, i. 3. Jealous men are either knaves or coxcombs; be you neither; you WEAR YELLOW HOSE without cause. *Ibid.* (1607), *Westward Hoe*, ii. 2. I'll make the YELLOWHAMMER, her husband, know . . . that there's a difference between a cogging bawd, and an honest motherly gentlewoman.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. III. i. 2. At length he began to suspect, and turne a little YELLOW, as well he might, for it was his owne fault; and if men be jealous in such cases . . . the mends is in their owne hands. . . . The undiscreet carriage of some lascivious gallant . . . may make a breach, and by his overfamiliarity, if he be inclined to YELLOWNESS, colour him quite out.

1623. MASSINGER, *Duke of Milan*, iv. 1. If I were The duke (I freely must confess my weakness) I should WEAR YELLOW BREECHES.

1633. BROME, *Antipodes*, L. (4to). But for his YELLOWS, Let me but lye with you, and let him know it, His jealousy is gone.

1640. *Two Lancashire Lovers*, 27. Thy blood is yet uncorrupted, YELLOWS has not tainted it.

16[?]. *Roxburgh Ballads*, ii. 61. If thy wife will be so bad . . . Why . . . WEARE STOCKINGS that are YELLOW? Tush, greeve no more, A cuckold is a good man's fellow.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, iii. 1. In earnest to as jealous piques; Which th' ancients wisely signify'd By th' YELLOW mantuas of the bride.

2. *See* YELLOWSTOCKINGS.

BABY'S YELLOW *subs. phr.* (nursery). — Excrement, SHIT (*q.v.*): spec. infantine fæcal matter.

**YELLOW-ADMIRAL.** *See* ADMIRAL.

**YELLOW-BANDED ROBBERS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The Prince Albert's Somersetshire Light Infantry, late the 13th Foot.

**YELLOW-BELLY,** *subs.* (provincial). —1. A Lincolnshire fen-man.

2. (American).—A half-caste: also YELLOW-BOY (*q.v.*) or YELLOW-GIRL.

3. (American). — A Dutchman.

**YELLOW-BOY,** *subs. phr.* (common). —A gold coin: spec. a sovereign, 20s.: formerly a guinea: Fr. *jaunet*: *see* RHINO (B. E. and GROSE). Also YELLOW-HAMMER (tailors'), YELLOW-MOULD, and YELLOW-STUFF (generic); YELLOW-FEVER = gold fever: *cf.* SCARLET-FEVER.

1633. SHIRLEY, *Bird in a Cage*, ii. Is that he that has gold enough? would I had some of his YELLOW-HAMMERS.

1661. MIDDLETON, *Mayor of Quinborough*, ii. *Simon the Tanner.* Now, by this light, a nest of YELLOW-HAMMERS. . . . I'll undertake, sir, you shall have all the skins in our parish at this price.

1663. DRYDEN, *Wild Gallant*, i. How now, YELLOW BOYS, by this good light! Sirrah, varlet, how came I by this gold?

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 24. No Liquor could overcome him, the last Remedy then was, to bring out some YELLOW BOYS.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *Hist. John Bull*, i. 6. John did not starve his cause; there wanted not YELLOW-BOYS to fee counsel.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, viii. I wish both their necks were broke, though the two cost me forty good YELLOW BOYS.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford.* Fighting Attie, my hero, I saw you to-day A purse full of YELLOW BOYS seize.

1840. DICKENS, *Old Curiosity Shop*, xlii. 'The delight of picking up the money—the bright, shining YELLOW BOYS —and sweeping 'em into one's pocket!'

1861. M'COMBIE, *Australian Sketches*, 47. Evident symptoms of the return of the YELLOW FEVER, and a journey to the new goldfields seemed to be the only cure.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huckleberry Finn*. When they found the bag they spilt it out on the floor, and it was a lovely sight, all them YALLER BOYS.

2. (American). —A mulatto, or dark quadroon: also YELLOW GIRL.

**YELLOW-COVER,** *subs. phr.* (American).—A notice of dismissal from government employment: pron. *yaller kiver*. [From being usually enclosed in a yellow envelope.]

**YELLOW-COVERED,** *adj. phr.* (orig. American: now general). — Cheap, sensational, trashy. Also YELLOW-BACKS = a generic term for cheap board-bound railway novels.

**YELLOW-DOG,** *subs. phr.* (American). — A strong term of contempt.

**YELLOW-FANCY,** *subs. phr.* (pugilists').—A yellow silk handkerchief spotted white: *cf.* YELLOW-MAN.

**YELLOW-FEVER.** 1. *See* YELLOW-BOY.

2. (old nautical). — Drunkenness: *see* SCREWED. [Part of the punishment of drunkards at Greenwich Hospital consisted in wearing a YELLOW COAT.]

**YELLOW-HAMMER.** *See* YELLOW and YELLOW-BOY.

**YELLOW JACK,** *subs. phr.* (nautical).—Yellow fever. [A yellow flag (or jack) being generally displayed at naval hospitals, or from vessels at quarantine, to denote the existence of contagious disease.]

1848. DICKENS, *Dombey and Son*, x. His elder brother died of YELLOW JACK in the West Indies.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, iv. Have seen three choleras, two army-fevers, and YELLOW-JACK without end.

**YELLOW-MAN,** *subs. phr.* (pugilists').—A yellow silk handkerchief: *cf.* YELLOW-FANCY.

1832. EGAN, *Book of Sports*. Sporting the YELLOW MAN. The wipe was of bright yellow, made on purpose for him.

**YELLOW-MOULD.** *See* YELLOW-BOY.

**YELLOW-PINE,** *subs. phr.* (American). — A quadroon or light mulatto.

**YELLOW-PLASTER,** *subs. phr.* (provincial).—Alabaster: freq. pronounced 'YALLOW'-plaster.

**YELLOW-SLIPPER,** *subs. phr.* (common).—A very young calf.

**YELLOW-STUFF.** *See* YELLOW-BOY.

**YELLOW-STOCKING,** *subs. phr.* (old).—1. *See* YELLOW.

2. (London).—A BLUE (*q.v.*)-coat boy: also YELLOWS.

**YENNEP,** *subs.* (back slang).—A penny: 1d.: *see* RHINO.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* 'All a fellow wants to know to sell potatoes,' said a master street seller to me, 'is to tell how many tanners make a bob, and how many YENNEPS a tanner.'

1877. DIPROSE, *Lond. Life*. I've been doing awful dab with my tol . . . haven't made a YENNEP.

**YEOMAN OF THE MOUTH,** *subs. phr.* (old).—'An officer belonging to his Majestis's Pantry' (B. E.).

**YES SIREE, BOB!** *phr.* (American). —*See* SIRRAH.

**YID (or YIDDISHER),** *subs.* (common).—A Jew [Ger. *Judischer*]. Whence YIDDISH = Jewish; and as *subs.* a dialect or jargon spoken by Jews mainly composed of corrupt Hebrew and German.

**YOB,** *subs.* (back slang). — BOY (*q.v.*).

1897. MARSHALL, *Pomes*, 76. And you bet that each gal, not to mention each YOB, Didn't care how much ooftish it cost 'em per nob.

**YOKEL,** *subs.* (common). — A countryman, bumpkin, lout: in contempt. Hence as *adj.* (or YOKELISH) = rustic.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xxxi. 'This wasn't done by a YOKEL, eh, Duff?' 'Certainly not,' replied Duff. 'And translating the word YOKEL for the benefit of the ladies, I apprehend your meaning to be that this attempt was not made by a countryman?' said Mr. Losberne, with a smile. 'That's it, master,' replied Blathers.

18[?]. HOOD, *Row at the Oxford Arms*. Lord knows their names, I'm sure I don't, no more than any YOKEL.

1847-8. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, Preface. YOKELS looking up at the tinselled dancers and poor old rouged tumblers.

1869. BLACKMORE, *Lorna Doone*, xl. Thou art not altogether the clumsy YOKEL and the clod I took thee for.

**YOKUFF,** *subs.* (back slang).—A large box, chest, 'coffer.'

**YOLLY,** *subs.* (Winchester College). —A post-chaise. [Yellow was a favourite colour for these vehicles.]

**YONKER.** *See* YOUNKER.

**YOÔP,** *subs.* (colloquial).—A word expressive of a hiccuping or sobbing sound: onomatopiœa [THACKERAY].

**YORK.** AS LIKE AS YORK IS TO FOUL SUTTON, *phr.* (old).—As dissimilar as may be.

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus*, 47. To tumble ouer and ouer, to toppe ouer tayle, . . . which exercises surelye muste nedes be naturall bycause they be so childisshe, and they may be also holesome for the body; but surely as for pleasure to the minde or honestie in the doinge of them, they be AS LYKE shotinge AS YORKE IS FOULE SUTTON.

*See* YORKER.

**YORKER,** *subs.* (cricketers').—A ball finding pitch very close to the bat. Hence YORK, *verb* = to bowl YORKERS.

1885. *D. Teleg.*, 1 July. [He] was clean bowled in playing late at a YORKER.

**YORKSHIRE.** It would appear that formerly (*see* quot. 1611) Yorkshire was more proverbial for dulness and clownishness than, as in modern phrase, for 'the boot to be on the other leg': *e.g.* to COME (or PUT) YORKSHIRE OVER (or TO YORKSHIRE ONE) = to cheat, take a person in, to prove too wide-awake for him. Also YORKSHIRE-BITE = a specially 'cute piece of overreaching, entrapping one into a profitless bargain. The monkey who ate the oyster and returned a shell to each litigant affords a good example. CONFIDENT AS A YORKSHIRE CARRIER = cocksure; YORKSHIRE COMPLIMENT = a gift useless to the giver and not wanted by the receiver: also NORTH-COUNTRY COMPLIMENT; A YORKSHIRE ESTATE = money in prospect, a CASTLE IN THE AIR (*q.v.*): *e.g.* 'When I come into my YORKSHIRE ESTATES' = When I have the means; YORKSHIRE-RECKONING = a reckoning where each one pays his share; YORKSHIRE-TYKE = 'a Yorkshire manner of Man' (B. E.); YORKSHIRE-HOG = a fat wether.

1611. DAVIES, *Paper Persecutors*, 81. England is all TURNED YORKSHIRE, and the age Extremely sottish, or too nicely sage.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 39. All this put together must needs make him follow his nose with great boldness . . . no wonder . . . he's MORE CONFIDENT of his Way than a YORKSHIRE CARRIER.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 2. At first approach he made a bow, Such as your YORKSHIRE TIKES make now. *Ibid.*, 478. A pastrycook That made good pigeon pye of rook, Cut venison from YORKSHIRE HOGS And made rare mutton-pies of dogs.

1796. HOLMAN, *Abroad and at Home*, i. 1. His YORKSHIRE simplicity will qualify him admirably for the profession.

1839. DICKENS, *Nicholas Nickleby*, xlii. 'Wa'at I say, I stick by.' 'And that's a fine thing to do, and manly too,' said Nicholas, 'though it's not exactly what we understand by "coming YORKSHIRE over us" in London.'

**YORKSHIRE-HUNTERS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (old military).—A regiment formed by the gentlemen of Yorkshire during the Civil War.

**YOU.** YOU'RE ANOTHER, *phr.* (old).—A *tu quoque* : *i.e.* ANOTHER liar, fool, thief—any imaginable term of abuse.

1534. UDAL, *Roister Doister*, iii. 5. *Roister.* If it were an other but thou, it were a knaue. *M. Mery.* YE ARE AN OTHER your selfe, sir, the lorde us both saue.

1561. PRESTON, *Cambyses* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 220]. Thou call'st me knave, THOU ART ANOTHER.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, ix. vi. 'I did not mean to abuse the cloth; I only said your conclusion was a non sequitur.' 'YOU ARE ANOTHER,' cries the sergeant, 'an' you come to that; no more a sequitur than yourself.'

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xv. 'Sir,' said Mr. Tupman, 'you're a fellow.' 'Sir,' said Mr. Pickwick, 'YOU'RE ANOTHER.'

1882. *Boston Lit. World*, 3 June, 184. 3. The argument of it is simply, 'YOU'RE ANOTHER,' a retort in dignified manner to . . . British critics.

1888. SIR W. HARCOURT, *Speech at Eighty Club*, 21 Feb. Little urchins in the street have a conclusive argument. They say 'YOU'RE ANOTHER.'

*d.* 1891. LOWELL, *Democracy*. I find little to interest and less to edify me in these international bandyings of YOU'RE ANOTHER.

**YOU BET,** *intj. phr.* (American).—You may depend on it; to be sure! certainly! the most positive of affirmations: also 'YOU BET your boots,' 'life,' 'bottom dollar,' and so on. [Originally a Californian phrase: it has also been given as a name in the form of UBET to a town in the Canadian Northwest.]

1870. BRET HARTE, *Poems, etc.*, *The Tale of a Pony*. Ah, here comes Rosey's new turn-out! Smart! You BET YOUR LIFE 't was that!

*c.* 1840. *Grandpa's Soliloquy* [BARTLETT]. To little Harry, yesterday,—My grandchild, aged two,—I said, 'You love Grandpa?' said he, 'YOU BET YOUR BOOTS I do.'

18[?]. *Buffalo Courier*, 'Mystified Quaker.' His answer's gross irrelevance I shall not soon forget, Instead of simply yea or nay, he gruffly said, 'YOU BET.'

1872. S. CLEMENS ('Mark Twain'), *Roughing It*, ii. 'The mosquitoes are pretty bad about here, madam!' 'YOU BET!' 'What did I understand you to say, madam?' 'YOU BET!'

*c.* 1882. STAVELY HILL, *From Home to Home*. We reached the settlement of UBET. The name had been selected from the slang phrase so laconically expressive of 'You may be sure I will.'

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, 7 Mar. Congressional Report. *Mr. Boutelle.* That is the bravery to which you refer? (Applause on the Republican side.) *Mr. O'Ferrall.* Well, sir, it is the right kind of bravery: you may BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR on that.

**YOU-KNOW-WHAT,** *subs. phr.* (schoolgirls' conventional).—The female *pudendum*, the PUSSY (*q.v.*): *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

*c.* 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's Jl.* (1723), 93. But tho' . . . fat-a Her I caught by YOU KNOW WHAT-A.

**YOUNG,** *adj.* (political).—Found in various CANTING (*subs.* 2) combinations: Thus, YOUNG ENGLAND=a set of young aristocrats, who tried to revive the courtly manners of the Chesterfield school: they wore white waistcoats, patronised the pet poor, looked down upon shopkeepers, and were imitators of the period of Louis XIV.: Disraeli has immortalised their ways and manners. YOUNG GERMANY=a literary school, headed by Heinrich Heine [*Hi-ny*], whose aim was to liberate politics, religion, and manners from the old conventional trammels. YOUNG IRELAND=followers of Daniel O'Connell in politics, but wholly opposed to his abstention from war and insurrection in vindication of 'their country's rights.' YOUNG ITALY=certain Italian refugees, who associated themselves with the French republican party, called the *Carbonnerie Democratique*: the society was first organised at Marseilles by Mazzini, and its chief object was to diffuse republican principles (BREWER).

**YOUNG BUFFS (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The first battalion East Surrey Regiment, late the 31st Foot. [At Dettingen, George II., through the similarity of the facings, mistook it for the 3rd Foot or (Old) Buffs.]

**YOUNG EYES (THE),** *subs. phr.* (military).—The Seventh (The Queen's Own) Hussars.

**YOUNG HOPEFUL,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A half jocular, half affectionate address. [*Cf.* PATTEN, *Somerset's March* (1548), in which young Edward VI. is said to be of great HOPE; *i.e.* he begets hope in others.]

**YOUNG MAN,** *subs. phr.* (once literary: now conventionally vulgar).—A sweetheart, lover.

1585. PUTTENHAM, *Art of Eng. Poesy* [ARBER], 66. [We hear of a girl's YOUNG MAN.]

**YOUNGSTER (YOUNKER, YOUNKERKIN, etc.),** *subs.* (old).—1. A lad, a young person: always more or less familiar, contemptuous, or colloquial. Also (2) a novice, an inexperienced youth, and (nautical) a raw hand; in modern naval usage=a junior officer. [SMYTH-PALMER (s.v. YOUNGSTER): No doubt a corrupt form of YOUNKER, orig. (Germ.) a title of honour. TRENCH: The first example of YOUNGSTER which Richardson gives us is from the *Spectator* [No. 324]. If it exists at all in our earlier literature, it will hardly be otherwise than as the female correlative of the male younker or 'yonker,' a word of constant recurrence. *Contrariwise, see* quot. 1593; it is probably late Tudor, having birth at a time when it had been forgotten that the termination *-ster* was originally feminine only.] Hence to make a YOUNKER of one=to gull, cheat, deceive (for an innocent).

[1502-9. *Letters of Richard III. and Henry VII.* (GARDNER). We see the Dutch title of honour, YONKER.]

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse*, s.v. *Ung rustre* [an uncouth rustic, but note similarity to YOUNGSTER], YONKER.

*c.* 1530. *Christes Kirk on the Green* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 467. YOUNKER . . . did not come in long before that year.]

1562. BULLEYN, *Booke of Simples*, xxviii. verso. If there be any YONKERS troubled with idelnesse and loytryng.

1584. HOLINSHED, *Conquest of Ireland*. Such young novices and YONKERS as are of late gone thither.

1593. *Tom Tel-Troth's Message*, 601. This trull makes YOUNGSTERS spend their patrimonie In sauced meates and sugred delicates.

1594. BARNEFIELD, *Affectionate Shepherd*. Yet such sheep he kept, and was so seemelie a shepheard, Seemelie a boy, so seemelie a youth, so seemelie a YOUNKER, That on Ide was not such a boy, such a youth, such a YOUNKER.

1594. GREENE, *Friar Bacon*, etc., 175. Now lusty YOUNKERS, look within the glass, And tell me if you can discern your sires.

1595. SHAKSPEARE, 3 *Henry VI.*, ii. 1. How well resembles it the prime of youth, Trimm'd like a YONKER, prancing to his love. *Ibid.* (1598), *Merchant Venice*, ii. 6. How, like a YOUNKER, and a prodigal, The skarfed bark puts from her native bay. *Ibid.* (1598), 1 *Henry IV.*, iii. 3. What, will you make a YOUNKER of me? Shall I not take mine ease in mine inn, but I must have my pocket picked for it?

1596. SPENSER, *Faery Queen*, IV. i. 11. Amongst the rest there was a jolly knight . . . But that same YOUNKER soone was overthrowne.

1599. HALL, *Satires*, III. v. 18. There must my YONKER fetch his waxen crown.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, iv. 1. If I were a YOUNKER, it would be no immodesty . . . to be seen in my company; but to have snow in the lap of June, vile, vile!

1614. CHAPMAN, *Odyssey*, xiv. Ulysses slept there, and close by The other YOUNKERS.

*c.* 1625. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, iii. 5. Would he were buried! I fear he'll make an ass of me, a YOUNKER.

1626. SMITH, *English Sea Terms*, s.v. *Sayler* [an old hand as opposed to] YOUNKER, a fore-mast man.

1630–40. HOWELL, *Letters*, I. vi. 4. There was a Parliament then at Rheinsburgh, where all the YOUNKERS met.

1647–8. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 'Upon Pagget.' This YONKER fierce to fight.

1670. COTTON, *Scoffer Scofft* [*Works* (1725), 249]. He is a very honest YOUNKER, A bonny Lad, and a great Punker.

*d.* 1684. OLDHAM, *Satires*, 223. The credit of the business and the state Are things that in a YOUNGSTER'S sense sound great.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 24. A hundred or two of these little YOUNKERS, with which he could fight better than with so many stout Tars in an Engagement.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 137. As smooth as YOUNKERS slide on ice.

1809. MALKIN, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 31. By all that is sacred . . . it is plain you are no YOUNKER.

1822. LAMB, *Essays*, 'Chimney-sweepers.' It was a pleasure to see the sable YOUNKERS lick in the unctuous meat.

1870. JUDD, *Margaret*, i. 6. The juveniles and YOUNKERS in the town.

**YOUNG THING,** *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—An immature girl: in mild contempt or pity: *e.g.* 'She's but a YOUNG THING.'

1360. *Syr Gawayn* [E.E.T.S.], 49 [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 57. A lady calls herself 'a YOUNG THING,' a phrase not yet lost].

**YOUR NIBS.** *See* NIBS and WATCH.

**YOURS TRULY,** *phr.* (common).—A jocular mode of reference to oneself: *cf.* NIBS and WATCH.

1866. COLLINS, *Armadale*, II. 168. YOURS TRULY, sir, has an eye for a fine woman and a fine horse.

1899. KETTLE, *Furth. Adv.*, ix. You may take it as straight from YOURS TRULY that you'll go to your own funeral if trouble starts.

**YOU-UNS,** *pr.* (Southern U.S.).—You: *cf.* WEE-UNS.

1876. HAY, *Mystery of Gilgal*. But I'll tell the yarn to YOUANS.

1885. CRADDOCK, *Prophet Gt. Smoky Mountains*, i. Mirandy Jane . . . 'pears like I hev hed the trouble o' raisin' a idjit in YOU-UNS.

**YOXTER,** *subs.* (old prison).—A convict returned from transportation before his time was up.

**YUM-YUM,** *adv. phr.* (common).—First-rate, excellent.

**ZANY**, *subs.* (old). —1. Orig. a buffoon's foil: his office consisted in making awkward and ludicrous attempts to mimic the professional jester or clown. Hence (2) a mimic; and (3) an attendant. As *verb* = to play the fool, to mimic, to dance attendance (B. E. and GROSE); whence also such derivatives as ZANYISM. *Cf.* SAWNEY.

1567. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pithias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), iv. 74]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 566. A servant speaks French to astonish a friend, and calls him *petit* ZAWNE (ZANY or sawny).]

1598. FLORIO, *Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. ZANE . . . the name of JOHN, in some parts of Lombardy, but commonly used for a SILLY JOHN, a simple fellow, a servile drudge, or foolish clowne, in any comedy or enterlude play.

1599. JONSON, *Every Man Out of Humour*, iv. 2. For, indeed, He's like the ZANI to a tumbler, That tries tricks after him to make men laugh. *Ibid.* (1600), *Cynthia's Revels*, ii. 3. The other gallant is his ZANY, and doth most of these tricks after him, and sweats to imitate him in everything.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, i. 5. I take these wise men, that crow so at these set kind of fools, no better than the fools' ZANIES.

1602. MIDDLETON, *Blurt, Master Constable*, iii. 1. Imperia, the courtesan's ZANY hath brought you this letter from the poor gentleman in the deep dungeon, but would not stay till he had an answer.

1602. MARSTON, *Antonio and Mellida*, II. iv. 1. Laughs them to scorne, as man doth busie apes When they will ZANIE men,

*c.* 1605. DRAYTON, *Eleg.*, 1256. As th' English apes, and very ZANIES be, Of everything that they do hear and see.

*c.* 1618. FLETCHER, *Queen of Corinth*, i. 2. All excellence In other madams do but ZANY hers.

1632. HEYWOOD, *Four Prentises* [*Works* (1874), II. 203]. Ile teach thee: thou shalt like my ZANY be, And feigne to do my cunning after me.

*d.* 1658. LOVELACE, *Works*, II. 78. As I have seen an arrogant baboon, With a small piece of glass, ZANY the sun.

1668. DRYDEN, *Evening's Love*, Pref. Approbation which those very people give, equally with me, to the ZANY of a mountebank.

1726. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 206. Preacher at once, and ZANY of thy age.

1849. COLERIDGE, *Course of Lectures*, ix. The caricature of his filth and ZANYISM proves how fully he both knew and felt the danger.

1856. MOTLEY, *Dutch Republic*, I. 402. [GRANVILLE] had been wont in the days of his greatest insolence, to speak of the most eminent nobles as ZANIES, lunatics and buffoons.

1869. *Edin. Rev.*, July. The ZANY in Shakspeare's day was not so much a buffoon and mimic as the obsequious follower of a buffoon, and the attenuated mime of a mimic.

**ZEBRA**, *subs.* (American). — A prison dress: because striped.

1900. FLYNT, *Tramps*, 144. Not long after this experience he got into limbo and had to wear the famous ZEBRA.

**ZEDLAND**, *subs.* (common).—The western counties of England: where, *dialectically*, S is pronounced as Z. Also IZZARD-LAND, and (literary) the UNNECESSARIANS = Western folk.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 2. 68. Thou whoreson ZED, thou UNNECESSARY LETTER.

**ZEMMIES-HAW**, *intj.* (provincial). —An exclamation of surprise.

**ZIFF**, *subs.* (thieves'). —A young thief: *see* THIEF.

**ZOO**, *subs.* (colloquial). — The Zoological Gardens, London: *cf.* POPS, HOPS, etc.

1902. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 26 July, 2. 1. Then there are parks and gardens, picture galleries and museums, and a ZOO free on Sundays.

**ZOTY**, *subs.* (provincial). —A fool: *see* BUFFLE.

**ZU-ZU**, *subs. phr.* (American). —In *pl.* = The Zouave contingent in the Union Army during the Civil War, 1860–5.

*c.* 1861–5. *Comic Song* [BARTLETT]. My love is a ZU-ZU so gallant and bold; He's rough, and he's handsome, scarce nineteen year old. *Ibid.*, *The Zoo-Zoo's Toast.*' Once again!—the hours are fleeting; Drinking is the soldier's trick: Hark! the drum the roll-call's beating,— Scatter, Zoo-zoos, 'double quick!

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