



*Regency
Romance
Era
Lexicon*

*Sporting Cant
&
Thieves Cant*

This Complimentary Ebook

Provided From The Public Domain Sources By

Teresa Thomas Bohannon

Author Of

The Original Regency Romance

A Very Merry Chase

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### A Regency Era Lexicon Of Relevant Terms

Adapted from various original sources contemporary to the Regency Romance Era in early 19th century England.

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### Excerpt From A Very Merry Chase

# A Regency Romance Era Lexicon

A

**ABBESS, or LADY ABBESS.** A bawd, the mistress of a brothel.

**ABIGAIL.** A lady's waiting-maid.

**ABOVE PAR.** Having the needful, possession of the poney, plenty of money, 'best bliss of earth'

**ACADEMY.** A brothel, bagnio.

**Academican.** A scholar at an academy, a prostitute at a brothel.

**ACE OF SPADES.** A widow.

**ACCOUNTS.** To cast up one's accounts; to vomit.

**ADAM'S ALE.** Water.

**ADDLE PATE.** An inconsiderate foolish fellow.

**ADDLE PLOT.** A spoil-sport, a mar-all.

**AGOG, ALL-A-GOG.** Anxious, eager, impatient: from the Italian *AGOGARE*, to desire eagerly.

**AFFECTION.** A painful sensation, such as gout, rheumatism, cramp, headache.  
--Aristocratic Satire.

**AGROUND.** Stuck fast, stopped, at a loss, ruined; like a boat or vessel aground.

**ALBUM.** A ledger kept by ladies for the entry of compliments, in rhyme, paid on demand to their beautiful hair, complexions fair, the dimpled chin, the smiles that win, the ruby lips, where the bee sips. The whole amount being transferred to their private account from the public stock. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**ALE DRAPER.** An alehouse keeper.

**ALIVE.** Awake, fly, up, leery, acquainted with, alert, i.e. unlikely to be taken advantage of.

**ALL HOLIDAY.** It is *all holiday* with him; a saying signifying that it is all over with the business or person spoken of or alluded to.

**ALL HOLLOW.** He was beat all hollow, i.e. he had no chance of conquering: it was all hollow, or a hollow thing, it was a decided thing from the beginning.

**ALL OUT.** Broke. Penniless. No more credit available. The reckoning drank out, or the bar tab is all used up. 'How stands the account 'twixt me and vengeance?'

**ALMACKS.** An exclusive subscription ball held on Wednesday evenings often referred to as the Marriage Mart. Ruled with an iron thumb by three patronesses Sally Jersey, The Countess Lievan, and Mrs. Drummond-Burrell, Princess

Esterhazy. Although most seasoned socialites considered it a dead bore, only the *crÃ“me de la crÃ“me* or cream of the crop were allowed to attend.

**ALTITUDES.** The man is in his altitudes, i.e. he is drunk.

**AMBIDEXTER.** A lawyer who takes fees from both plaintiff and defendant.

**AMES ACE.** Within ames ace; nearly, very near.

**AMUSE.** To fling dust or snuff in the eyes of the person intended to be robbed; also to invent some plausible tale, to delude shop-keepers and others, thereby to put them off their guard.

**AMUSERS.** Rogues who carried snuff or dust in their pockets, which they threw into the eyes of any person they intended to rob; and running away, their accomplices (pretending to assist and pity the half-blinded person) took that opportunity of plundering him.

**ANGELICS.** Young unmarried ladies.

**ANGLERS.** Pilferers, or petty thieves, who, with a stick having a hook at the end, steal goods out of shop-windows, grates, also those who draw in or entice unwary persons to prick at the belt, or such like devices.

**ANGLING FOR FARTHINGS.** Begging out of a prison window with a cap, or box, let down at the end of a long string.

**ANOINTED.** One who is savvy, knowing, or ripe for mischief.

**APE LEADER.** An old maid; their punishment after death, for neglecting increase and multiply, will be, it is said, leading apes in hell.

**APOTHECARY'S BILL.** A long bill from any merchant.

**APPLE DUMPLIN SHOP.** A woman's bosom.

**APRON STRING HOLD.** An estate held by a man during his wife's life.

**ARCH ROQUE, DIMBER DAMBER UPRIGHT MAN.** The chief of a gang of thieves or gypsies.

**ARCH DELL, or ARCH DOXY.** Signifies the same as above in rank among the female canters or gypsies.

**ARTICLES.** Breeches; coat, waistcoat, and articles.


**ARTICLE.** A wench. A prime article. A handsome girl. She's a prime article, she's a devilish good piece.

**ASSIGNATION.** A secret meeting.

**ASTRONOMER.** A star gazer, a horse that carries his head high.

**ATHANASIAN WENCH.** A forward girl, ready to oblige every man that shall ask her.

**AT HOME.** Making your house as unlike home as possible, by turning every



thing topsy-turvy, removing your furniture, and squeezing as many people into your rooms as can be compressed together. As opposed to: **NOT AT HOME.** Sitting in your own room, engaged in reading a new novel, writing notes, or other important business. --Aristocratic Satire.

**AUTEM MORT.** A married woman; also a female beggar with several children hired or borrowed to excite charity.

**AWAKE.** Acquainted with, on the alert, unable to be fooled.

## B

**BACHELOR'S FARE.** Bread and cheese and kisses.

**BACHELOR'S SON.** A bastard.

**BACK BITER.** One who slanders another behind his back, i.e. in his absence.

**BACK UP.** His back is up, i.e. he is offended or angry; an expression or idea taken from a cat; that animal, when angry, always raising its back.

**BACON.** He has saved his bacon; he has escaped.

**BACON-FACED.** Full-faced.

**BACON FED.** Fat, greasy.

**BAD BARGAIN.** One of his majesty's bad bargains; a worthless soldier, a malingerer.

**BADGERS.** A crew of desperate villains who robbed near rivers, into which they threw the bodies of those they murdered.

**BAGGAGE.** Heavy baggage; women and children. Also a familiar epithet for a woman; as, cunning baggage, wanton baggage.

**BAG THE SWAG.** Pocket your portion, put away or hide your money.

**BALDERDASH.** Adulterated wine.

**BALLOCKS.** The testicles of a man or beast. His brains are in his ballocks, a cant saying to designate a fool.

**BALLUM RANORUM.** A hop or a dance, where the women are all prostitutes.

**BALM.** A lie.

**BALSAM.** Rag, rhino, money.

**BAM.** A jocular imposition, the same as a humbug. Also, to impose on any one by a falsity; also to jeer or make fun of any one.

**BAMBOOZLE.** To make a fool of any one, to humbug or impose on him.

**BANBURY STORY OF A COCK AND A BULL, or BANBURY TALE.** A roundabout, nonsensical story.

**BANG UP.** Quite the thing, hellish fine. Well done. Compleat. Dashing. In a handsome stile. A bang up cove; a dashing fellow who spends his money freely. To bang up prime: to bring your horses up in a dashing or fine style: as the swell's rattler and prads are bang up prime; the gentleman sports an elegant carriage and fine horses.

**BANK.** A depository for cash at a gaming-table.

**BANTLING.** A young child.

**BARKING IRONS.** Pistols, from their explosion resembling the bow-wow or barking of a dog.

**BARNACLES.** Spectacles, or eyeglasses.

**BAROUCHE.** A four wheeled carriage with two seats facing one another.

**BARREL FEVER.** He died of the barrel fever; he killed himself by drinking.

**BAR THAT.** Cheese it, stow it, do not mention it.

**BARTHOLOMEW BABY.** A person dressed up in a tawdry manner, like the dolls or babies sold at Bartholomew fair.

**BASKET.** In the basket. An exclamation frequently made use of in cock-pits, at cock-fightings, where persons refusing or unable to pay their losings, are adjudged by that respectable assembly to be put into a basket suspended over the pit, there to remain during that day's diversion.

**BASSET.** The game of Basset was considered only fit for persons of the highest rank to play, on account of the great losses or gains that might accrue on one side or the other.

**BASTARDLY GULLION.** A bastard's bastard.

**BASTING.** A beating.

**BAT.** A common streetwalking prostitute: so called from moving out like bats in the dusk of the evening.

**BATTLE-ROYAL.** A battle or bout at cudgels or fisty-cuffs, wherein more than two persons are engaged: perhaps from its resemblance, in that particular, to more serious engagements fought to settle royal disputes.

**BAUBLES, or BAWBLES.** Trinkets.

**BAWD.** A female procuress.

**BEAR-GARDEN JAW or DISCOURSE.** Rude, vulgar language, such as was used at the bear-gardens.

**BEAR LEADER.** A travelling tutor.

**BEAU-NASTY.** A slovenly fop; one finely dressed, but dirty.

**BEAU TRAP.** A sharper, neatly dressed, lying in wait for raw country squires, or ignorant fops to take advantage of them.

**BEAVER.** A hat.

**BEDIZENED.** Dressed out, over-dressed, or awkwardly ornamented.

**BEGGAR'S BULLETS.** Stones. The beggar's bullets began to fly, i.e. they began to throw stones.

**BELL, BOOK, AND CANDLE.** They cursed him with bell, book, and candle; an allusion to the popish form of excommunicating and anathematizing persons who had offended the church.

**BELLOWS.** The lungs.

**BELLOWS TO MEND.** A winded or spent pugilist, boxer or combatant.

**BELLOWER.** The town crier.

**BELOWSTAIRS.** Servant's quarters, or work areas for servants.

**BENE.** Prime, good.

**BENJAMIN.** A top coat, a great coat.

**BETOKENS.** Indicates.

**BILBOA.** A sword, or any pointed instrument.

**BILK.** To swindle or cheat.

**BILLETS-DOUX.** A love letter or sweet note.

**BILLINGSGATE LANGUAGE.** Foul language, or abuse, referring to the Billingsgate fish market where the language and the dealings were often foul.

**BIRD-WITTED.** Inconsiderate, thoughtless, easily imposed on.

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER.** Rogues of the same gang.

**BISCUIT.** Cookie served with tea.

**BIT.** Money. A bit is also the smallest coin in Jamaica, equal to about sixpence sterling.

**BIT OF CAVALRY.** A knacker or saddle horse

**BIT OF MUSLIN.** A prostitute, generally above the common street level, more likely from the ranks of actresses, dancers or shopgirls, and usually more of a kept woman than a one night stand.

**BLACK BOOK.** He is down in the black book, i.e. has a stain in his character. A black book is kept in most regiments, wherein the names of all persons sentenced to punishment are recorded.

**BLACK GUARD.** A shabby, mean fellow; a term said to be derived from a number of dirty, tattered roguish boys, who attended at the Horse Guards, and Parade in St. James's Park, to black the boots and shoes of the soldiers, or to do any other dirty offices.

**BLACKLEGS.** A gambler or sharper on the turf or in the cockpit: so called, perhaps, from their appearing generally in boots.

**BLACK SPY.** The Devil.

**BLAST.** To curse.

**BLATER.** A mooncalf, or untried and callow youth.

**BLEACHED MORT.** A fair-complexioned wench.

**BLEATERS.** Those cheated by Jack in a box.

**BLEEDERS.** Spurs. He clapped his bleeders to his horse.

**BLEEDING CULLY.** One who parts easily with his money, or bleeds freely.

**BLIND.** A feint, pretence, or shift.

**BLIND EXCUSE.** A poor or insufficient excuse. A blind ale-house, lane, or alley; an obscure, or little known or frequented ale-house, lane, or alley.

**BLIND HARPERS.** Beggars counterfeiting blindness, playing on fiddles.

**BLINDMAN'S HOLIDAY.** Night, darkness.

**BLOCK HOUSES.** Prisons, houses of correction.

**BLOCKED AT BOTH ENDS.** Finished. The game is blocked at both ends; the game is ended.

**BLOOD.** A riotous disorderly fellow.

**BLOOD MONEY.** The reward given by the legislature on the conviction of highwaymen, burglars.

**BLOOD OF THE FIRST STARE.** One who surpasses the rest of his companions in elegance and style.

**BLOODY BACK.** A jeering appellation for a soldier, alluding to his scarlet coat.

**BLOODY.** A favourite expletive used by the thieves in swearing, as bloody eyes, bloody rascal. Milder, more acceptable substitutes were devised because the word was considered so horribly offensive, these included "bleeding", "blinking", "blooming" and "ruddy".

**BLOW A CLOUD.** Smoke a pipe.

**BLOWSE, or BLOWSABELLA.** A woman whose hair is dishevelled, and hanging about her face; a slattern.

**BLUESTOCKING.** An Educated, or bookish woman.

**BLUE DEVILS.** Low spirits.

**BLUNT.** Money. To bear the blunt is to loan or give a gift of money.

**BLUSTER.** To talk big, to hector or bully.

**BOB.** A shilling.

**BOBBED.** Cheated, tricked, disappointed.

**BOBBISH.** Smart, clever, spruce.

**BOB TAIL.** A lewd woman, or an impotent man, or an eunuch. Tag, rag, and bobtail; a mob of all sorts of low people.

**BOG LANDER.** An Irishman; Ireland being famous for its large bogs, which furnish the chief fuel in many parts of that kingdom.

**BOG TROTTER.** The same.

**BOG HOUSE.** The necessary house. To go to bog; to go to stool.

**BOLT THE MOON** To cheat the landlord by taking the goods away in the night, without paying the rent.

**BOLT UPRIGHT.** As erect, or straight up, as an arrow set on its end.

**BOLT.** To run suddenly out of one's house, or hiding place, through fear.

**BOMBAZINE.** Twill fabric of a silk or cotton and wool blend, usually dyed black for mourning wear.

**BONES.** Dice.

**BONE BOX.** The mouth. Shut your bone box; shut your mouth.

**BONESETTER.** A hard-trotting horse.

**BOOKS.** Cards to play with. To plant the books; to place the cards in the pack in an unfair manner.

**BOOT CATCHER.** The servant at an inn whose business it is to clean the boots of the guest.

**BOOTS.** The youngest officer in a regimental mess, whose duty it is to skink, that is, to stir the fire, snuff the candles, and ring the bell.

**BOOTY.** To play booty; cheating play, where the player purposely avoids winning.

**BORACHIO.** A skin for holding wine, commonly a goat's; also a nick name for a drunkard.

**BORDE.** A shilling. A half borde; a sixpence.

**BORE.** A tiresome or country acquaintance, poor relation, a leg of mutton, a hackney-coach, children, or a family party, a tedious story, or a vexatious circumstance. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**BORDELLO.** A bawdy house.

**BORN UNDER A THREEPENNY HALFPENNY PLANET, NEVER TO BE WORTH A GROAT.** Said of any person remarkably unsuccessful in his attempts or profession.

**BOTTLE-HEADED.** Void of wit or stupid.

**BOTTOM.** A polite term for the posteriors. Also, in the sporting sense, strength and spirits to support fatigue; as a well-bottomed horse. Among bruisers it is used to express a hardy fellow, who will bear a good beating.

**BOUGHS.** He is up in the boughs; he is in a passion.

**BOUNCER.** A large man or woman; also a great lie.

**BOUNCING CHEAT.** A bottle; from the explosion in drawing the cork.

**BOOSE.** Drink.

**BOOSEY.** Drunk.

**BOW STREET RUNNERS.** Constables or policemen. These could also work as private detectives for hire.

**BOWSING KEN.** An ale-house or gin-shop.

**BOWYER.** One that draws a long bow, a dealer in the marvellous, a teller of improbable stories, a liar: perhaps from the wonderful shots frequently boasted of by archers.

**BRACKET-FACED.** Devilish ugly, hard-featured.

**BRAGGET.** Mead and ale sweetened with honey.

**BRAGGADOCIA.** vain-glorious fellow, a boaster.

**BRAN-FACED.** Freckled. He was christened by a baker, he carries the bran in his face.

**BRANDY-FACED.** Red-faced, as if from drinking brandy.

**BRASS.** Impudence.

**BRAZEN-FACED.** Bold-faced, shameless, impudent.

**BREAK-TEETH WORDS.** Hard words, difficult to pronounce.

**BREAKING SHINS.** Reluctantly borrowing money.

**BREECHED.** Money in the pocket, wealthy.

**BREECHES.** Evening or formal wear. Short, close-fitting trousers that fell just below the knee worn worn with stockings.

**BREEZE.** To raise a breeze; to kick up a dust or breed a disturbance.

**BRISTOL MILK.** A Spanish wine called sherry, much drunk at that place, particularly in the morning.

**BRITISH CHAMPAGNE.** Porter.

**BROMIDE.** Cliche.

**BROTHER OF THE BLADE.** A soldier

**BROTHER OF THE BUSKIN.** A player.

**BROTHER OF THE BUNG.** A brewer

**BROTHER OF THE QUILL.** An author.

**BROTHER OF THE STRING.** A fiddler.

**BROTHER OF THE WHIP.** A coachman.

**BROTHER STARLING.** One who lies with the same woman, that is, builds in the same nest.

**BROUGHTONIAN.** A boxer: a disciple of Broughton, who was a beef-eater, and once the best boxer of his day.

**BROWN BESS.** A soldier's firelock. To hug brown Bess; to carry a firelock, or serve as a private soldier.

**BROWN STUDY.** Said of one absent, in a reverie, or thoughtful.

**BRUISER.** A boxer; one skilled in the art of boxing.

**BRUSH OFF.** To publically cut or ignore.

**BRUSHER.** A bumper, a full glass.

**BUB.** Strong beer.

**BUBBLE.** The party cheated, perhaps from his being like an air bubble, filled with words, which are only wind, instead of real property.

**BUBBLER.** A cheater.

**BUCK.** A masculine, fashionably young male.

**BUCK OF THE FIRST HEAD.** One who in debauchery surpasses the rest of his companions, a blood or choice spirit.

**BUCK'S FACE.** A cuckold.

**BUCK FITCH.** A lecherous old fellow.

**BUCKEEN.** A bully.

**BUCKLES.** Fetters.

**BUCKSKINS.** Tight fitting trousers made from deerskin. Most often worn by Corinthians and Whips.

**BUDGE, or SNEAKING BUDGE.** One that slips into houses in the dark, to steal cloaks or other clothes. Standing budge; a thief's scout or spy.

**BUDGET.** A wallet. To open the budget; a term used to signify the notification of the taxes required by the minister for the expenses of the ensuing year.

**BUFE NABBER.** A dog stealer.

**BUFF.** To stand buff; to stand the brunt. To swear as a witness.

**BUFFER.** A man who takes an oath.

**BUFFLE-HEADED.** Confused, stupid.

**BUGGY.** A one-horse chaise.

**BUGGER.** A blackguard, a rascal, a term of reproach. Mill the bloody bugger; beat the damned rascal.

**BULK AND FILE.** Two pickpockets; the bulk jostles the party to be robbed, and the file does the business.

**BULL.** A crown piece. A half bull; half a crown.

**BULL BEGGAR, or BULLY BEGGAR.** An imaginary being with which children are threatened by servants and nurses, like raw head and bloody bones.

**BULL CALF.** A great hulking or clumsy fellow.

**BULL DOGS.** Pistols.

**BULL'S EYE.** A crown-piece.

**BULL'S FEATHER.** A horn: he wears the bull's feather; he is a cuckold.

**BULLY BACK.** A bully to a bawdy-house; one who is kept in pay, to oblige the



frequenters of the house to submit to the impositions of the mother abbess, or bawd; and who also sometimes pretends to be the husband of one of the ladies, and under that pretence extorts money from greenhorns, or ignorant young men, whom he finds with her.

**BULLY COCK.** One who foment, or instigates, quarrels in order to rob the persons quarrelling.

**BULLY RUFFIANS.** Highwaymen who attack passengers with paths and imprecations.

**BULLY TRAP.** A brave or powerful man with a mild or effeminate appearance, by whom bullies are frequently taken in.

**BUM.** The breech, or backside.

**BUM'S RUSH.** To arrest a debtor.

**BUM TRAP.** A sheriff's officer who arrests debtors.

**BUM BAILIFF.** A sheriff's officer, who arrests debtors; so called perhaps from following his prey, and being at their bums.

**BUM FODDER.** Soft paper for the necessary house.

**BUMKIN.** A raw country fellow.

**BUMMED.** Arrested.

**BUMPER.** A full glass.

**BUNDLING.** A man and woman sleeping in the same bed, he with his small clothes, and she with her petticoats on.

**BUNTLINGS.** Petticoats.

**BURNT.** Poxed or clapped. i.e. Stricken with venereal disease.

**BURR.** A hanger on, or dependant; an allusion to the field burrs, which are not easily got rid of.

**BUSHEL BUBBY.** A full breasted woman.

**BUZMAN.** A pickpocket.

**BYE BLOW.** A bastard.

## C

**CABBAGE.** Cloth, stuff, or silk purloined from one's employer.

**CADGE.** To beg. Cadge the swells; beg of the gentlemen.

**CAKE, or CAKEY.** A foolish fellow.

**CALLE.** A cloak or gown.

**CAMBRIDGE FORTUNE.** A wind-mill and a water-mill, used to signify a woman without no fortune, only personal endowments.

**CANARY BIRD.** A jail bird, a person used to be kept in a cage.

**CANT.** An hypocrite, a double-tongue palavering fellow.

**CANTERS, or THE CANTING CREW.** Thieves, beggars, and gypsies, or any others using the canting lingo.

**CANTERBURY STORY.** A long roundabout tale.

**CAP.** To support another's assertion or tale. To assist a man in cheating.

**CAP ACQUAINTANCE.** Persons slightly acquainted, or only so far as mutually to salute with the hat on meeting. A woman who endeavours to attract the notice of any particular man, is said to set her cap at him.

**CAPTAIN QUEERNABS.** A shabby ill-dressed fellow.

**CAPTAIN SHARP.** A cheating bully, or one in a set of gamblers, whose office is to bully any pigeon, who, suspecting roguery, refuses to pay what he has lost.

**CAPTAIN TOM.** The leader of a mob; also the mob itself.

**CARAVAN.** A large sum of money; also, a person cheated of such sum.

**CAROUSE.** To drink freely or deep.

**CARRIERS.** A set of rogues who are employed to look out and watch upon the roads, at inns, in order to carry information to their respective gangs, of a booty in transit.

**CARRION HUNTER.** An undertaker.

**CARROTTY-PATED.** Ginger-hackled, red-haired.

**CARRY WITCHET.** A sort of conundrum, puzzlewit, or riddle.


**CARTING.** The punishment formerly inflicted on bawds, who were placed in a tumbrel or cart, and led through a town, that their persons might be known.

**CASTING UP ONE'S ACCOUNTS.** Vomiting.

**CAT, or SHOOT THE CAT.** To vomit from drunkenness.

**CAT CALL.** A kind of whistle, chiefly used at theatres, to interrupt the actors, and damn a new piece.

**CAT'S FOOT.** To live under the cat's foot; to be under the dominion of a wife hen-pecked.



**CAT'S PAW.** To be made a cat's paw of; to be made a tool or instrument to accomplish the purpose of another: an allusion to the story of a monkey, who made use of a cat's paw to scratch a roasted chesnut out of the fire.

**CATAMARAN.** An old scraggy woman; from a kind of float made of spars and yards lashed together, for saving ship-wrecked persons.

**CATCH PENNY.** Any temporary contrivance to raise a contribution on the public.

**CATCH POLE.** A bum bailiff, or sheriff's officer.

**CATCHING HARVEST.** A dangerous time for a robbery, when many persons are on the road, on account of a horse-race, fair, or some other public meeting.

**CATER COUSINS.** Good friends.

**CATERWAULING.** Going out in the night in search of intrigues, like a cat in the gutters.

**CATHEDRAL.** Old-fashioned. An old cathedral-bedstead, chair.

**CATTLE.** Horses for drawing carriages.

**CAVAULTING SCHOOL.** A Bawdy-house.

**CAVIL.** Argue, nitpick or quibble.

**CAUDGE-PAWED.** Left-handed.

**CAW-HANDED, or CAW-PAWED.** Awkward, not dextrous, ready, or nimble.

**CENT PER CENTER.** An usurer. A loan shark.

**CHAFED.** Well beaten.

**CHALKERS.** Men who in the night amuse themselves with cutting inoffensive passengers across the face with a knife.

**CHALKING.** The amusement above described.

**CHAP.** A fellow.

**CHAPERON.** A respectable older female companion to an unmarried or younger lady.

**CHAPPED.** Dry or thirsty.

**CHARM.** A picklock.

**CHATTER BOX.** A loquacious or overly talkative person.

**CHATTER BROTH.** Tea.

**CHATS.** Lice.

**CHAW BACON.** A countryman. A stupid fellow.

**CHEAPSIDE.** He came at it by way of Cheapside; he gave little or nothing for it, he bought it cheap.

**CHEEK BY JOWL.** Side by side, hand to fist.

**CHEESE-TOASTER.** A sword.

**CHEESE IT.** Be silent, do not be overheard.

**CHERE AMIE.** A bed fellow or a sweetheart.

**CHICKEN-BREASTED.** Said of a woman with scarce any breasts.

**CHICKEN-HEARTED.** Fearful, cowardly.

**CHICKEN NABOB.** One returned from the East Indies with but a moderate fortune of fifty or sixty thousand pounds.

**CHINK.** Money.

**CHIT.** An infant, baby, or young lady, not yet, or just barely introduced to society.

**CHIT-FACED.** Baby-faced; said of one who has a childish look.

**CHIV.** A bleeder or knife.

**CHIZZLE.** To gammon, cheat.

**CHOKER PEAR.** Figuratively, an unanswerable objection: also a machine formerly used in Holland by robbers; it was of iron, shaped like a pear; this they forced into the mouths of persons from whom they intended to extort money; and on turning a key, certain interior springs thrust forth a number of points, in all directions, which so enlarged it, that it could not be taken out of the mouth: and the iron, being case-hardened, could not be filed: the only methods of getting rid of it, were either by cutting the mouth, or advertising a reward for the key. These pears were also called pears of agony.

**CHOICE SPIRIT.** A thoughtless, laughing, singing, drunken fellow.

**CHOP.** A blow. Boxing term.

**CHOP AND CHANGE.** To exchange backwards and forwards, i.e. trade.

**CHOUSE.** To cheat or trick: he choused me out of it.

**CHRISTENING.** Erasing the name of the true maker from a stolen watch, and engraving a fictitious one in its place.

**CHRISTIAN.** A tradesman who has faith, i.e. will give credit.

**CHRISTMAS.** That time of year when extended families, servants, tradesmen, and boys from school, become particularly troublesome. -- Aristocratic Satire

**CHUB.** He is a young chub, or a mere chub; i.e. a foolish fellow, easily imposed on: an illusion to a fish of that name, easily taken.

**CHUCKLE-HEADED.** Stupid, thick-headed.

**CHUFF.** Jolly, merry.

**CHURCHYARD COUGH.** A cough that is likely to terminate in death.

**CHURL.** A rude, surly, boorish fellow.

**CICISBEO.** A married lady's escort or admirer.

**CINDER GARBLER.** A servant maid, from her business of sifting the ashes from the cinders.

**CIT.** A citizen of London, usually refers to a merchant.

**CLAMMED.** Starved.

**CLANKER.** A great lie.

**CLAP ON THE SHOULDER.** An arrest for debt; whence a bum bailiff is called a shoulder-clapper.

**CLAPPER CLAW.** To scold, to abuse, or claw off with the tongue.

**CLAPPERDOGEON.** A beggar born.

**CLARET.** French red wine; figuratively, blood.

**CLERKED.** Soothed, funned, imposed on. The cull will not be clerked; i.e. the fellow will not be imposed on by fair words.

**CLEYMES.** Artificial sores, made by beggars to excite charity.

**CLOAK TWITCHERS.** Rogues who lurk about the entrances into dark alleys, and bye-lanes, to snatch cloaks from the shoulders of passengers.

**CLOD HOPPER.** A country farmer, or ploughman.

**CLOD PATE.** A dull, heavy booby.

**CLOD POLE.** The same.

**CLOSE-FISTED.** Covetous or stingy.

**CLOUD.** To blow a cloud of tobacco. Also, under a cloud; as in adversity.

**CLOVES.** Thieves, robbers.

**CLUTCH FIST.** Covetous, stingy.

**COACH WHEEL.** A half crown piece is a fore coach wheel, and a crown piece a hind coach wheel; the fore wheels of a coach being less than the hind ones.

**COB.** A Spanish dollar. A hired riding horse.

**COBBLE.** To mend, or patch; likewise to do a thing in a bungling manner.

**COBBLERS PUNCH.** Treacle, vinegar, gin, and water.

**COBBLED STREETS.** Streets paved with large, set stones.

**COCK AND A BULL STORY.** A roundabout story, without head or tail, i.e. beginning or ending.

**COCK-A-WHOOP.** Elevated, in high-spirits, transported with joy.

**COCK BAWD.** A male keeper of a bawdy-house.

**COCK ROBIN.** A soft, easy fellow.

**COCK-SURE.** Certain: a metaphor borrowed from the cock of a firelock, as being much more certain to fire than the match.

**COD.** A cod of money: a good sum of money.

**CODGER.** An old codger: an old fellow.

**COG.** To cheat with dice; also to coax or wheedle.

**CORKER.** A lie.

**COLLEGE.** Newgate or any other prison.

**COOL TANKARD.** Wine and water, with lemon, sugar, and burrage.

**COLT.** A boy newly initiated into roguery.

**COLT'S TOOTH.** An old fellow who marries or keeps a young girl, is said to have a colt's tooth in his head.

**COMB.** To scold any one.

**COMFORTABLE IMPORTANCE.** A wife.

**COMPANY.** To seek company; to enter into a course of prostitution.

**COUNTRY DANCE.** A dance where the dancers of the different sexes stand opposite each other, instead of side by side, as in the minuet, rigadon, louvre.

**CONVENIENT.** A mistress.

**COQUET.** A jilt, or a flirt.

**CORINTHIAN.** A male member of the ton that is both fashionable and sporting and thereby epitomizes the most admirable traits. Top of the Trees.

**CORK-BRAINED.** Light-headed, foolish.

**COSSET.** A foundling. Cosset colt or lamb; a colt or lamb brought up by hand. Generally means to spoil.

**COT, or QUOT.** A man who meddles with women's household business, particularly in the kitchen. The punishment commonly inflicted on a quot, is pinning a greasy dishcloth to the skirts of his coat.

**COVE.** A man, a fellow, a rogue. The cove was bit; the rogue was outwitted.

**COVENT, or CONVENT GARDEN, vulgarly called COMMON GARDEN.**

Anciently, the garden belonging to a dissolved monastery; famous for being the chief market in London for fruit, flowers, and herbs. The theatres are situated near it. In its environs are many brothels, the lodgings of the demi-monde or second order of ladies of easy virtue were either there, or in the purlieus of Drury Lane.

**COVENT GARDEN ABBESS.** A bawd.

**COVENT GARDEN AGUE.** The venereal disease. He broke his shins against Covent Garden rails; he caught the venereal disorder.

**COVENT GARDEN NUN.** A prostitute.

**COVEY.** A group of prostitutes.

**COUCH A HOGSHEAD.** To lie down to sleep.

**COUNTENANCED.** Approve or give blessings.

**COURT CARD.** A gay fluttering coxcomb.

**COURTESAN.** A royal mistress or a high-flying prostitute or paramour associated with noblemen or men of wealth.

**COW-HANDED.** Awkward, often applied to one who does not handle horses adroitly.

**COW-HEARTED.** Fearful.

**COXCOMB.** A fop, or vain self-conceited fellow, usually overdressed to the extreme. The antithesis of a Corinthian.

**CRABBED.** Sour, ill-tempered, difficult.

**CRACK.** To boast or brag.

**CRACK, or ALL THE CRACK.** The latest trend, or the epitomy of current fashion.

**CRACKING TOOLS.** Implements of house-breaking, such as a crowbar, a wedge or skeleton key.

**CRACKMANS.** Hedges.

**CRACKSMAN.** A house-breaker.

**CRANK.** Gin and water.

**CRAVAT.** A stylish gentleman's neckcloth or tie made from starched linen and elaborately tied around the neck.

**CREW.** A knot or gang.

**CRIB.** To purloin, or appropriate for one's own use, part of any thing entrusted to one's care.

**CRIBBAGE-FACED.** Marked with the small pox, the pits bearing a kind of resemblance to the holes in a cribbage-board.

**CRIMCON MONEY.** Damages directed by a jury to be paid by a convicted adulterer to the injured husband for criminal conversation with his wife.

**CROAKER.** One who is always foretelling some accident or misfortune: an allusion to the croaking of a raven, supposed ominous.

**CROCODILE'S TEARS.** The tears of a hypocrite. Crocodiles are fabulously reported to shed tears over their prey before they devour it.

**CROKER.** A goat, or four pence.

**CRONE.** An old ewe whose teeth are worn out; figuratively, a toothless old harridan.

**CRONY.** An intimate companion, a comrade; also a confederate in a robbery.

**CROOK BACK.** Sixpence.

**CROOK SHANKS.** A nickname for a man with bandy legs.

**CROPPED.** To be condemned to be hanged.

**CROPPER.** To come a cropper is to meet an end or to be hanged.

**CROW.** To brag, boast, or triumph.

**CRUISERS.** Beggars, or highway spies, who traverse the road, to give intelligence of a booty; also rogues ready to snap up any booty that may offer, like privateers or pirates on a cruise.

**CRUSTY BEAU.** A man that uses paint and cosmetics to obtain a fine complexion.

**CRUSTY FELLOW.** A surly fellow.

**CUB.** An unformed, ill-educated young man, a young nobleman or gentleman on his travels. Also, a new gamester.

**CUCKOLD.** The husband of an unfaithful wife.

**CULL.** A man, honest or otherwise. A bob cull; a good-natured, quiet fellow.

**CULLABILITY.** A disposition liable to be cheated, an unsuspecting nature, open to imposition.

**>CULLY.** A fog or fool: also, a dupe to women: from the Italian word coglione, a blockhead.

**CUNNING MAN.** A cheat, who pretends by his skill in astrology to assist persons in recovering stolen goods: and also to tell them their fortunes, and when, how often, and to whom they shall be married; likewise answers all lawful questions, both by sea and land. This profession is frequently occupied by ladies.

**CUNNING SHAVER.** A sharp fellow, one that trims close, i.e. cheats ingeniously.

**CUNNY-THUMBED.** To double one's fist with the thumb inwards, like a woman.

**CUP OF THE CREATURE.** A cup of good liquor.

**CUP-SHOT.** Drunk.

**CUPS.** In the cups, drunk.

**CUR.** A surly fellow.

**CURMUDGEON.** A covetous old fellow.

**CURRY.** To curry favour; to obtain the favour of a person by coaxing or servility.

**CURRICLE.** A small two-wheeled, open or sporting carriage drawn by two horses abreast. .

**CURTAIN LECTURE.** A woman who scolds her husband when in bed, is said to

read him a curtain lecture.

**CUSTOM-HOUSE GOODS.** The stock in trade of a prostitute, because fairly entered.

**CUT.** To renounce acquaintance with any one is to CUT them. There are several species of the CUT.

**CUT DIRECT.** To directly cut someone is to cross the street at their approach in order to deliberately avoid them.

**CUT INDIRECT.** To indirectly cut someone is to look another way, and pass without appearing to observe them.

**CUT SUBLIME.** The cut sublime is to admire the rooftops or the beauty of the passing clouds, till he or she is out of sight.

**CUT INFERNAL.** The cut infernal is to analyze the arrangement of your shoe-strings, for the same purpose.

**CUTTY-EYE.** To look out of the corners of one's eyes, to leer, to look askance. The cull cutty-eyed at us; the fellow looked suspicious at us.

**CYPRIAN.** A courtesan or mistress, usually stylish or sophisticated and kept by men of wealth.

## D

**DAB.** An adept; a dab at any feat or exercise.

**DAGGERS.** They are at daggers drawing; i.e. at enmity, ready to fight.

**DAISY CUTTER.** A jockey term for a horse that does not lift up his legs sufficiently, or goes too near the ground, and is therefore apt to stumble.

**DAISY KICKERS.** Ostlers at great inns.

**DAMBER.** A rascal.

**DAMME BOY.** A roaring, mad, blustering fellow, a scourer of the streets, or kicker up of a breeze.

**DAMPER.** A luncheon, or snack before dinner to damp, or allay the appetite.

**DANDY.** A swell, an exquisite, an overly fastidious gentlemen or one who is overly concerned with his appearance.

**DANDY PRAT.** An insignificant or trifling fellow.

**DANGLE AFTER.** To follow a woman without asking the question or coming up to scratch with a proposal.

**DANGLER.** One who follows women in general, without any particular attachment.

**DAPPER FELLOW.** A smart, well-made, little man.

**DARBY.** Ready money.

**DARK CULLY.** A married man that keeps a mistress, whom he visits only at night, for fear of discovery.

**DARKMANS.** The night.

**DARKMAN'S BUDGE.** One that slides into a house in the dark of the evening, and hides himself, in order to let some of the gang in at night to rob it.

**DART.** A straight-armed blow in boxing.

**DASH.** To cut a dash: to make a dashing or admirable figure.

**DAWB.** To bribe.

**DAY LIGHTS.** Eyes. To darken his day lights, or sow up his sees; to close up a man's eyes in boxing.

**DEAD BORE.** A tedious, troublesome man or woman, one who bores the ears of his hearers with an uninteresting tale.

**DEAD CARGO.** A term used by thieves, when they are disappointed in the value of their booty.

**DEAD HORSE.** To work for the dead horse; to work for wages already paid.

**DEAD MEN.** A drunkards term for empty bottles.

**DEADLY NEVERGREEN.** The gallows.

**DEEP-ONE.** A thorough-paced rogue, a sly designing fellow: in opposition to a shallow or foolish one.

**DEFT FELLOW.** A neat little man.

**DELLS.** Young buxom wenches, ripe and prone to venery, but who have not lost their virginity.

**DELOPE.** To deliberately fire a pistol into the air during a duel of honor. Usually taken as an admission of guilt.

**DEMI-MONDE.** Referring to professional mistresses or prostitutes as a group or class.

**DEMI-REP.** An abbreviation of demy-reputation; a woman of doubtful character.

**DESHABILLE.** A lady in her dressing gown.

**DEVIL'S BOOKS.** Cards.

**DEVIL'S DANCE.** Gambling.

**DEVIL'S DAUGHTER.** It is said of one who has a termagant for his wife, that he has married the Devil's daughter, and lives with the old folks.

**DEVILISH.** Very: an epithet which in the English vulgar language is made to agree with every quality or thing; as, devilish bad, devilish good; devilish sick, devilish well; devilish sweet, devilish sour; devilish hot, devilish cold.

**DIAMOND OF THE FIRST WATER.** A beautiful woman. One who has, more often than not more than just beauty to recommend her.

**DICKED IN THE NOB.** Silly. Crazy.

**DIDDLE.** To cheat. To defraud.

**DIDDEYS.** A woman's breasts or bobbies.

**DIGGERS.** Spurs.

**DIMBER.** Pretty. A dimber cove; a pretty fellow. Dimber mort; a pretty wench.

**DIMBER DAMBER.** A top man, or prince, among thieves, the chief rogue or most accomplished member of a gang of thieves.

**DING.** To throw away or hide: thus a highwayman who throws away or hides any thing with which he robbed, to prevent being known or detected, is, in the canting lingo, styled a Dinger.

**DING BOY.** A rogue, a hector, a bully, or sharper.

**DING DONG.** Helter skelter, in a hasty disorderly manner.

**DIPT.** Pawned or mortgaged.

**DISGUISED.** Drunk.

**DISHED UP.** He is completely dished up; he is totally ruined.

**DISHCLOUT.** A dirty, greasy woman.

**DITTO.** A suit of ditto; coat, waistcoat, and breeches, all of one colour.

**DISPATCHERS.** Loaded or false dice.

**DIVE.** To dive; to pick a pocket.

**DIVER.** A pickpocket.

**DIVIDE.** To divide the house with one's wife; to give her the outside, and to keep all the inside to one's self, i.e. to turn her into the street.

**DO.** To do any one; to rob and cheat him.

**DOCTOR.** Milk and water, with a little rum, and some nutmeg; also the name of a composition used by distillers, to make spirits appear stronger than they really are, or, in their phrase, better proof.

**DOCTORS.** Loaded dice, that will run but two or three chances. They put the doctors upon him; they cheated him with loaded dice.

**DOG.** An old dog at it; expert or accustomed to any thing.

**DOG'S PORTION.** One who is a distant admirer or dangler after women.

**DOLL.** Bartholomew doll; a tawdry, over-dressed woman, like one of the children's dolls at Bartholomew fair.

**DONE, or DONE OVER.** Robbed: also, convicted or hanged.

**DONE UP.** Ruined by gaming and extravagances.

**DOUBLE.** To tip any one the double; to run away in his or her debt.

**DOWAGER.** The widow of a peer whose heir is married and carries the current title.

**DOWD.** A plain or unattractive woman.

**DOWDY.** A coarse, vulgar-looking woman.

**DOWN HILLS.** False dice that run low.

**DOXEY.** A slattern or low woman.

**DOXIES.** She beggars, wenches, prostitutes.

**DRAB.** A nasty, sluttish prostitute.

**DRAM.** A glass or small measure of any spirituous liquors, which, being originally sold by apothecaries, were estimated by drams, ounces.

**DRAM-A-TICK.** A dram served upon credit.

**DRAPER.** An ale draper; an alehouse keeper.

**DRAUGHT.** A serving of ale or drink.

**DRAWING ROOM.** A parlour in a large home where guests were entertained.

**DRAW LATCHES.** Robbers of houses whose doors are only fastened with latches.

**DROMEDARY.** A heavy, bungling thief or rogue. A purple dromedary; a bungler in the art and mystery of thieving.

**DROP A COG.** To let fall, with design, a piece of gold or silver, in order to draw in and cheat the person who sees it picked up; the piece so dropped is called a dropt cog.

**DROP IN THE EYE.** Almost drunk.

**DROP COVES.** Persons who practice the fraud of dropping a ring or other article, and picking it up before the person intended to be defrauded, they pretend that the thing is very valuable to induce their gull to lend them money, or to purchase the article.

**DRUB.** To beat any one with a stick, or rope's end.

**DRUMMER.** A jockey term for a horse that throws about his fore legs irregularly: the idea is taken from a kettle drummer, who in beating makes many flourishes with his drumsticks.

**DRURY LANE AGUE.** The venereal disorder.

**DRURY LANE VESTAL.** A woman of the town, or prostitute. Drury-lane and its environs were formerly the residence of many of those ladies.

**DRY BOOTS.** A sly humorous fellow.

**DUB.** A picklock, or master-key.

**DUB LAY.** Robbing houses by picking the locks.

**DUB THE JIGGER.** Open the door.

**DUBBER.** A picker of locks.

**DUCE.** Two-pence.

**DUCK.** A lame duck; an Exchange-alley phrase for a stock-jobber, who either cannot or will not pay his losses, or, differences.

**DUCKS AND DRAKES.** To make ducks and drakes: a school-boy's amusement, practised with pieces of tile, oyster-shells, or flattish stones, which being skimmed along the surface of a pond, or still river, rebound many times. I.E. To make ducks and drakes of one's money; to throw it idly away.

**DUDDERING RAKE.** A thundering rake, a buck of the first head, one extremely lewd.

**DUDGEON.** Anger.

**DUDS.** Clothes.

**DUFFERS.** Cheats who pretend to deal in smuggled goods, stopping all country people, or such as they think they can impose on; which they frequently do, by selling them cheap goods at double their current price.

**DUGS.** A woman's breasts,

**DUKE, or RUM DUKE.** A queer unaccountable fellow.



**DUKE OF LIMBS.** A tall, awkward, ill-made fellow.

**DUKE HUMPHREY.** To dine with Duke Humphrey; to fast.

**DULL SWIFT.** A stupid, sluggish fellow, one long going on an errand.

**DUMMEE.** A pocket book. A dummee hunter. A pick-pocket, who lurks about to steal pocket books out of gentlemen's pockets.

**DUN.** An importunate creditor.

**DUN TERRITORY.** In debt.

**DUNEGAN.** A privy. A water closet.

**DUST.** Money. Down with your dust; deposit the money.

**DUST UP.** To raise or kick up a dust; to make a disturbance or riot.

**DUTCH COMFORT.** Thank God it is no worse.

**DUTCH RECKONING, or ALLE-MAL.** A verbal or lump account, without particulars, as brought at spunging or bawdy houses.

## E

**EARNEST.** A deposit in part of payment, to bind a bargain.

**EARTH BATH.** A Grave.

**EARWIG.** A crony or close friend.

**EASY.** Make the cull easy or quiet; gag or kill him.

**EASY VIRTUE.** A lady of easy virtue, one that is impure or a prostitute.

**ELBOW SHAKER.** A gamester, one who rattles the dice.

**EMPEROR.** Drunk as an emperor, i.e. ten times as drunk as a lord.

**ENSIGN BEARER.** A drunken man, who looks red in the face, or hoists his colours in his drink.

**EQUIPT.** Rich; also, having new clothes. Well equipt; full of money, or well dressed.

**EQUIPAGE.** A coach or carriage and horses.

**ETERNITY BOX.** A coffin.

**EWE.** A beautiful woman. An old ewe, dressed lamb fashion; an old woman, dressed like a young girl.

**EYE-SORE.** ugly.

## F

**FACE-MAKING.** Begetting children. To face it out; to persist in a falsity. No face but his own: a saying of one who has no money in his pocket or no court cards in his hand.

**FACER.** A bumper, a glass filled so full as to leave no room for the lip. Also a violent blow on the face.

**FADGE.** It won't fadge; it won't do. A farthing.

**FAGGER.** A little boy put in at a window to rob the house.

**FAGOT.** A bundle of sticks, twigs, or branches bound together and used as fuel or a torch.

**FAITHFUL.** One of the faithful; a taylor who gives long credit.

**FAIR.** A set of subterraneous rooms in the Fleet Prison.

**FAIT ACCOMPLI.** An accomplished fact.

**FAKEMENT.** A counterfeit signature. A forgery.

**FALDEROLS.** Ornaments or accessories, chiefly women's, such as ribbons and necklaces.

**FAM LAY.** Going into a goldsmith's shop, under pretence of buying a wedding ring, and palming one or two, by daubing the hand with some viscous matter.

**FAMS, or FAMBLES.** Hands. Famble cheats; rings or gloves.

**FAMGRASP.** To shake hands: figuratively, to agree or make up a difference. Famgrasp the cove; shake hands with the fellow.

**FANCY MAN.** A man kept by a lady for secret services.

**FARD.** A card game where gamblers place bets on cards as they are drawn from a banker's deck.

**FASTNER.** A warrant.

**FAT CULL.** A rich fellow.

**FAT HEADED.** Stupid.

**FAULKNER.** A tumbler, juggler, showman.

**FAYTORS, or FATORS.** Fortune tellers.

**FAWNEY RIG.** A common fraud, thus practised: A fellow drops a brass ring, double gilt, which he picks up before the party meant to be cheated, and to whom he disposes of it for less than its supposed, and ten times more than its real, value.

**FAWNEY.** A ring.

**FEATHER ONE'S NEST.** To enrich one's self.

**FEATHER-BED LANE.** A rough or stony lane.

**FEINT.** A sham attack on one part, when a real one is meant at another.

**FEN.** A bawd, or common prostitute.

**FENCE.** To pawn or sell to a receiver of stolen goods. Also a form of sword fighting with long, thin, pointed blades.

**FENCING KEN.** The magazine, or warehouse, where stolen goods are secreted.

**FERMERDY BEGGARS.** All those who have not fake sores.

**FERRET.** A tradesman who sells goods to young unthrifty heirs, at excessive rates, and then continually duns them for the debt.

**FETCH.** A trick, wheedle, or invention to deceive.

**FICHU.** A cloth worn about the neck to cover a modest lady's bosom. Usually silk, lace or muslin.

**FIDDLE FADDLE.** Trifling discourse, nonsense.

**FIDDLESTICK'S END.** Nothing; the end of the ancient fiddlesticks ending in a point; hence metaphorically used to express a thing terminating in nothing.

**FIDLAM BEN.** General thieves; called also St. Peter's sons, having every finger a fish-hook.

**FIDDLER'S MONEY.** All sixpences: sixpence being the usual sum paid by each couple, for music at country wakes and dances.

**FIDDLER'S FARE.** Meat, drink, and money.

**FIDDLER'S PAY.** Thanks and wine.

**FIGDEAN.** To kill.

**FIGGER.** A little boy put in at a window to hand out goods to the diver.

**FIGGING LAW.** The art of picking pockets.

**FIGURE DANCER.** One who alters figures on bank notes, converting tens to hundreds.

**FILCH, or FILEL.** A beggar's staff, with an iron hook at the end, to pluck clothes from an hedge, or any thing out of a casement.

**FILCHER.** Thief.

**FILCHING COVER.** A man thief.

**FILCHING MORT.** A woman thief.

**FINGER IN EYE.** To put finger in eye; to weep: commonly applied to women.

**FINGER POST.** A parson: so called, because he points out a way to others which he never goes himself. Like the finger post, he points out a way he has never been, and probably will never go, i.e. the way to heaven.

**FIRE A SLUG.** To drink a dram.

**FIRE PRIGGERS.** Villains who rob at fires under pretence of assisting in

removing the goods.

**FIRE SHIP.** A wench who has the venereal disease.

**FIT.** Suitable. It won't fit; it will not suit or do.

**FIVE SHILLINGS.** The sign of five shillings, i.e. the crown. Fifteen shillings; the sign of the three crowns.

**FLAM.** A lie, or sham story. To flam; to hum, to amuse, to deceive. Flim flams; idle stories.

**FLAMBEAU.** Torch or lantern used to light mansions or the streets at night.

**FLAP DRAGON.** A clap, or pox.

**FLARE.** To blaze, shine or glare.

**FLASH.** Knowing. Understanding another's meaning.

**FLASH CULL.** An ostentatious man, who shows off his wealth or other enviable attributes.

**FLASH PATTY.** To speak the slang language.

**FLASH PANNEYS.** Houses to which thieves and prostitutes resort.

**FLASH KEN.** A house that harbours thieves.

**FLASH LINGO.** The canting or slang language.

**FLASH MAN.** A bully to a bawdy house. A prostitute's bully.

**FLAT.** A bubble, gull, or silly fellow.

**FLAT COCK.** A female.

**FLAWD.** Drunk.

**FLEA BITE.** A trifling injury.

**FLEECE.** To rob, cheat, or plunder.

**FLEMISH ACCOUNT.** A losing, or bad account.

**FLESH BROKER.** A matchmaker, a bawd.

**FLICKERING.** Grinning or laughing in a man's face.

**FLICKING.** Cutting.

**FLING.** To trick or cheat. He flung me fairly out of it: he cheated me out of it.

**FLIP.** Small beer, brandy, and sugar.

**TO FLOG.** To whip.

**FLOGGER.** A horsewhip.

**FLOGGING CULLY.** A debilitated lecher, commonly an old one.

**FLOGGING COVE.** The beadle, or whipper, in Bridewell.

**FLOGGING STAKE.** The whipping-post.

**FLOOR.** To knock down. Floor the pig; knock down the officer.

**FLOURISH.** To take a flourish; to enjoy a woman in a hasty manner, to take a

flyer.

**FLOUT.** To jeer, to ridicule.

**FLUMMERY.** Oatmeal and water boiled to a jelly; also compliments, neither of which are over-nourishing.

**FLUSH IN THE POCKET.** Full of money, well-to-do, often refers to an unusual or temporary state of affairs. **FLUSTERED.** Drunk.

**FLUX.** To cheat, cozen, or over-reach; also to salivate. To flux a wig; to put it up in curl, and bake it.

**FLY.** Knowing. Acquainted with another's meaning or proceeding. The rattling cove is fly.

**FLY-BY-NIGHT.** You old fly-by-night; an ancient term of reproach to an old woman, signifying that she was a witch, and alluding to the nocturnal excursions attributed to witches, who were supposed to fly abroad to their meetings, mounted on brooms.

**FLY SLICERS.** Life-guard men, from their sitting on horseback, under an arch, where they are frequently observed to drive away flies with their swords.

**FLYER.** To take a flyer; to enjoy a woman with her clothes on, or without going to bed.

**FLYERS.** Shoes.

**FLY-FLAPPED.** Whipt in the stocks, or at the cart's tail.

**FLYING GIGGERS.** Turnpike gates.

**FLYING HOUSE.** A lock in wrestling, by which he who uses it throws his adversary over his head.

**FLYING STATIONERS.** Ballad-singers and hawkers of penny histories.

**FLYMSEY or FLIMSEY.** A bank note, i.e. folding or paper money.

**FOB.** A cheat, trick, or contrivance, I will not be fobbed off so; I will not be thus deceived with false pretences. Also a heavy ornament at the end of a watch chain.

**FOG.** Smoke.

**FOGLE.** A silk handkerchief,

**FOGRAM.** An old fogram; a fusty old fellow.

**FOP.** A man, often effeminate in taste, with exaggerated manners and clothing.

**FOOT PADS.** Thieves or rogues who rob on foot.

**FORK.** A pickpocket.

**FORLORN HOPE.** A gamester's last stake.

**FORTUNE HUNTERS.** Indigent men or women, seeking to enrich themselves by marrying someone of fortune.

**FORTUNE TELLER, or CUNNING MAN.** A judge, who tells every prisoner his fortune, lot or doom.

**FOUNDLING.** An orphan, or abandoned child, who is then kept and educated at the parish expense.

**FOX.** A sharp, cunning fellow.

**FOX'S PAW.** The vulgar pronunciation of the French words faux pas. He made a confounded fox's paw.

**FOXED.** Intoxicated.

**FOXCY.** Rank. Stinking.

**FOYST or FOIST.** A pickpocket, cheat, or rogue.

**FOYSTED or FOISTED IN.** Words or passages surreptitiously interpolated or inserted into a book or writing.

**FRATERS.** vagabonds or con artists who beg with fraudulent credentials, or briefs, for hospitals, fires and other charitable causes.

**FREE BOOTERS.** Lawless robbers and plunderers: originally soldiers who served without pay, for the privilege of plundering the enemy.

**FREEHOLDER.** He whose wife accompanies him to the alehouse.

**FREEMAN'S QUAY.** Free of expence. To lush at Freeman's Quay; to drink at another's cost.

**FRENCH CREAM.** Brandy; so called by the old tabbies and dowagers when drank in their tea.

**FRENCH DISEASE.** The venereal disease, said to have been imported from France.

**FRENCH LEAVE.** AWOL. To take French leave; to go off without taking leave of the company: a saying frequently applied to persons who have run away from their creditors.

**FRENCHIFIED.** Infected with the venereal disease. The mort is Frenchified: the wench is infected.

**FRIBBLE.** An effeminate fop.

**FRIDAY-FACE.** A dismal countenance.

**FRIG.** Figuratively used for trifling.

**FRIG PIQ.** A trifling, fiddle-faddle fellow.

**FRIGATE.** A well-rigged frigate; a well-dressed wench.

**FRISK.** used by thieves to signify searching a person whom they have robbed.

**FRAU or VRAU.** A woman, wife, or mistress.

**FROG.** A person of France, referring to their taste for eating frog legs.



**FROGLANDER.** A Dutchman.

**FROSTY FACE.** One pitted with the small pox.

**FROG'S WINE.** Gin.

**FRUMMAGEMMED.** Choaked, strangled, suffocated, or hanged.

**FUBSEY.** Plump. A fubsey wench; a plump, healthy wench.

**FUDDLE.** Drunk. This is rum fuddle; this is excellent tippie, or drink.

**FUDDLE CAP.** A drunkard.

**FUDGE.** Nonsense.

**FULHAMS.** Loaded dice are called high and lowmen, or high and low fulhams; either because they were made at Fulham, or from that place being the resort of sharpers.

**FUNDS.** Government securities purchased by investors to earn dividends.

**FUSS.** A confusion, a hurry, an unnecessary to do about trifles.

**FUSSOCK.** A lazy fat woman. An old fussock; a frowsy old woman.

**FUSTIAN.** Bombast language.

**FUZZ.** To shuffle cards minutely: also, to change the pack.

## G

**GAB.** The mouth. Gift of the gab; nimble tongued eloquence.

**GAB OR GOB STRING.** A horse's bridle.

**GABBY.** A foolish fellow.

**GAD-SO.** An exclamation said to be derived from the Italian word cazzo.

**GAGE.** A pipe of tobacco.

**GAGGERS.** Cheats or con artists, who use fantastic stories of personal sufferings to scam and cheat by imposing upon the credulity of well meaning people.

**GALIMAUFREY.** A hodgepodge made up of the remnants and scraps of the larder. i.e. A meal made of leftovers.

**GALLIED.** Hurried, vexed, over-fatigued, perhaps like a galley slave.

**GALLIGASKINS.** Breeches.

**GALLIPOT.** A nick name for an apothecary,

**GALORE.** Plenty.

**GALLOPER.** A blood horse. A hunter.

**GALLOWS BIRD.** A grief, or pickpocket; also one that associates with them.

**GAME.** Any mode of robbing. Also, Bubbles, flats, marks or pigeons drawn in to be cheated.

**GAME ONE or GAME 'UN.** Courageous person.

**GAMON.** To humbug. To deceive, To tell lies.

**GAOL.** Jail.

**GELDING.** An eunuch.

**GENTLEMAN'S MASTER.** A highway robber, because he makes a gentleman obey his commands, i.e. stand and deliver.

**GENTLEMAN OF THREE INS.** In debt, in gaol, and in danger of remaining there for life: or, in gaol, indicted, and in danger of being hanged in chains.

**GENTLEMAN OF THREE OUTS.** That is, without money, without wit, and without manners: some add another out, i.e. without credit.

**GENTRY COVE.** A gentleman.

**GENTRY COVE KEN.** A gentleman's house.

**GENTRY MORT.** A gentlewoman.

**GET.** One of his get; children or offspring.

**GIB CAT.** A male or tom cat, generally in search of a she cat for mating.

**GIBBERISH.** The cant language of thieves and gypsies.

**GIBLETS.** To join giblets; said of a man and woman who cohabit as husband

and wife, without being married; also to copulate.

**GIG.** A light one-horse carriage, generally driven by a lady or used in the country.

**GIGGER.** A latch, or door. Dub the gigger; open the door.

**GILFLURT.** A proud minx, a vain, capricious woman,

**GILL.** The abbreviation of Gillian, figuratively used for woman. Every jack has his gill; i.e. every jack has his gillian, or female mate.

**GILLS.** The cheeks. To look rosy about the gills; to have a fresh complexion. To look merry about the gills: to appear cheerful.

**GIN SPINNER.** A distiller.

**GINGERLY.** Softly, gently, tenderly. To attempt a thing gently, or cautiously.

**GLAZIER.** One who breaks windows and shew-glasses, to steal goods exposed for sale. **GLIB.** Smooth, slippery. Glib tongued; talkative.

**GLIM.** A candle, or dark lantern, used in housebreaking; also fire.

**GLIMFENDERS.** Andirons.

**GLIMFLASHY.** Angry, or in a passion.

**GLIMJACK.** A link-boy.

**GLIMMER.** Fire.

**GLIMMERERS.** Persons begging with sham licences, pretending losses by fire.

**GLIMMS.** Eyes.

**GLIMSTICK.** A candlestick.

**GLUEPOT.** A parson: from joining men and women together in matrimony.

**GNARLER.** A little dog that by his barking alarms the family when any person is breaking into the house.

**GO.** The dash. The mode. Quite the go, prime, bang up, are all similar expressions.

**GO SHOP.** The Queen's Head in Duke's court, Bow street, Covent Garden; frequented by the under players: where gin and water was sold in three-halfpenny bowls, called Goes; the gin was called Arrack Gin.

**GOAT.** A lascivious person.

**GOG.** All-a-gog; impatient, anxious, or desirous of a thing.

**GOLD DROPPERS.** Sharpers who drop a piece of gold, which they pick up in the presence of some unexperienced person, for whom the trap is laid, this they pretend to have found, and, as he saw them pick it up, they invite him to a public house to partake of it: when there, two or three of their comrades drop in, as if by accident, and propose cards, or some other game, when they seldom fail of

stripping their prey.

**GOLDFINCH.** One who has commonly a purse full of gold. Goldfinches; guineas.

**GOLLUMPUS.** A large, clumsy fellow.

**GOOSECAP.** A silly fellow or woman.

**GRAFTED.** Cuckolded, i.e. having horns grafted on his head.

**GRASS WIDOW.** A discarded mistress.

**GREASE.** To bribe. To grease a man in the fist; to bribe him.

**GREATCOAT.** A heavy overcoat often made with several short capes over the shoulders to keep rain from soaking in when riding.

**GREEDY GUTS.** A covetous or voracious person.

**GREEKS.** Cheaters.

**GREEN.** Young, inexperienced, unacquainted; ignorant.

**GREENHORN.** A novice on the town, an undebauched young fellow, just initiated into the society of bucks and bloods.

**GREGORIAN TREE.** The gallows.

**GRETNA GREEN.** A Scottish town just beyond the English border where eloping couples could legally wed just by declaring themselves man and wife in front of witnesses.

**GREY MARE.** The grey mare is the better horse; said of a woman who governs her husband.

**GRIM.** Old Mr. Grim; death.

**GRIMALKIN.** A cat.

**GRINDERS.** Teeth.

**GROG.** Rum and water.

**GRUB STREET.** A street near Moorfields, formerly the supposed habitation of many persons who wrote for the booksellers: hence a Grub-street writer means a hackney author, who manufactures books for the booksellers.

**GRUB STREET NEWS.** Lying intelligence, or yellow journalism.

**TO GRUBSHITE.** To make foul or dirty.

**GUDGEON.** One easily imposed on. To gudgeon; to swallow the bait, or fall into a trap: from the fish of that name, which is easily taken.

**GULL.** A simple credulous fellow, easily cheated.

**GULLED.** Deceived, cheated, imposed on.

**GULLGROPER.** Usurers who lend money to the gamblers.

**GUMPTION, or RUM GUMPTION.** Docility, comprehension, capacity.



**GUTFOUNDERED.** Exceeding hungry.

**GUZZLE.** Liquor. To guzzle; to drink greedily.

**GUZZLE GUTS.** One greedy of liquor.

**GYPSIES.** A tribe of vagrants, who are suffered to wander about the country. They pretend that they derive their origin from the ancient Egyptians, who were famous for their knowledge in astronomy and other sciences; and, under the pretence of fortune-telling, find means to rob or defraud the ignorant and superstitious. To colour their impostures, they artificially discolour their faces, and speak a kind of gibberish peculiar to themselves. They rove up and down the country in large companies, to the great terror of the farmers, from whose geese, turkeys, and fowls, they take very considerable contributions.

## H

**HACK.** A horse for hire in town.

**HACKNEY CAB.** A carriage for hire in town.

**HACKNEY WRITER.** One who writes for attorneys or booksellers.

**HALF PAY OFFICER.** A inactive military officer that receives half-pay for remaining on-call.

**HAND BASKET PORTION.** A woman whose husband receives frequent presents from her father, or family, is said to have a hand-basket portion.

**HANDLE.** To know how to handle one's fists; to be skilful in the art of boxing.

**HANG GALLOWES LOOK.** A thievish, or villainous appearance.

**HANG IN CHAINS.** A vile, desperate fellow. Persons guilty of murder, or other atrocious crimes, are frequently, after execution, hanged on a gibbet, to which they are fastened by iron bandages; the gibbet is commonly placed on or near the place where the crime was committed.

**HANGER ON.** A dependant.

**HANKER.** To hanker after any thing; to have a longing after or for it.

**HARRIDAN.** A hagged old woman; a miserable, scraggy, worn-out harlot, fit to take her bawd's degree: derived from the French word *HARIDELLE*, a worn-out jade of a horse or mare.

**HARRY.** A country fellow, or Old Harry, the Devil.

**HATCHES.** Under the hatches; in trouble, distress, or debt.

**HATCHET FACE.** A long thin face.

**HAVY CAVY.** Wavering, doubtful, shilly shally.

**HAWKERS.** Licensed itinerant retailers of different commodities, called also pedlars; likewise the sellers of news-papers.

**HAZARD.** A game played with only two dice.

**HEART'S EASE.** Gin.

**HEARTY CHOAK.** He will have a hearty choak and caper sauce for breakfast; i.e. he will be hanged.

**HEATHEN.** An infidel to the tenets of ton, a Goth; a monster; a vulgar wretch. One who eats twice of soup, swills beer, takes wine, knows nothing about ennui, dyspepsia, or peristaltic persuaders, and does not play ecartÃ©; a creature "nobody." -- Aristocratic Satire.

**HEATHEN PHILOSOPHER.** One whose breech may be seen through his pocket-hole: this saying arose from the old philosophers, many of whom depised the vanity of dress to such a point, as often to fall into the opposite extreme.

**HEDGE.** To make a hedge; to secure a bet, or wager, laid on one side, by taking the odds on the other, so that, no matter what happens, a certain gain is secured, or hedged in, by the person who takes this precaution.

**HEDGE ALEHOUSE.** A small obscure alehouse.

**HEDGE CREEPER.** A robber of hedges.

**HEELS.** To be laid by the heels; to be confined, or put in prison. Out at heels; worn, or diminished: his estate or affairs are out at heels.

**HELL-BORN BABE.** A lewd graceless youth, one naturally of a wicked disposition.

**HELL CAT.** A termagant, a vixen, a furious scolding woman. Also known as a **TERMAGANT** or **VIXEN**.

**HELL HOUND.** A wicked abandoned fellow.

**HEMPEN FEVER.** A man who was hanged is said to have died of a hempen fever.

**HEMPEN WIDOW.** One whose husband was hanged.

**HEN-HEARTED.** Cowardly.

**HEN HOUSE.** A house where the woman rules.

**HENPECKED.** A husband governed by his wife, is said to be henpecked.

**HEN.** A woman. A cock and hen club; a club composed of men and women.

**HERE AND THEREIAN.** One who has no settled place of residence.

**HESSIANS.** Highly polished boots reaching just below the knee, usually adorned with tassels.

**HIDEBOUND.** Stingy, hard of delivery; a poet poor in invention, is said to have a hidebound muse.

**HIGGLEDY PIGGLEDY.** Confusedly mixed.

**HIGH FLYERS.** Demi-reps or sophisticated mistresses to wealthy men.

**HIGHJINKS.** A gambler who drinks to intoxicate his Pigeon.

**HIGH ROPES.** To be on the high ropes; to be in a passion.

**HIGH WATER.** It is high water, with him; he is full of money.

**HIKE.** To hike off; to run away.

**HIND LEG.** To kick out a hind leg; to make a rustic bow.

**HIPPED.** The hypochondriac: low spirits. He ishipped; he has got the blue devils.

**HOAXING.** Bantering, ridiculing.

**HOBBLLED.** Impeded, interrupted, puzzled.

**HODGE.** An abbreviation of Roger: a general name for a country booby.

**HODGE PODGE.** An irregular mixture of numerous things.

**HOG.** A shilling.

**HOG GRUBBER.** A mean stingy fellow.

**HOGGISH.** Rude, unmannerly, filthy.

**HOITY-TOITY.** A hoity-toity wench; a giddy, thoughtless, romping girl.

**HOLLOW.** It was quiet a hollow thing; i.e. a certainty, or decided business.

**HONEST WOMAN.** To marry a woman with whom one has cohabitated as a mistress, is termed, making an honest woman of her.

**HOOD-WINKED.** Blindfolded by a handkerchief, or other ligature, bound over the eyes. Also fooled.

**HOOF.** To beat the hoof; to travel on foot.

**HOOKED.** Over-reached, tricked, caught.

**TO HOP THE TWIG.** To run away.

**HOP-O-MY-THUMB.** A diminutive person, man or woman.

**HORNS.** To draw in one's horns; to retract an assertion through fear.

**HORN MAD.** A person extremely jealous of his wife, is said to be horn mad.

**HORN WORK.** Cuckold-making.

**HORNIFIED.** Cuckolded.

**HORSE BUSS.** A kiss with a loud smack; also a bite.

**HORSE GODMOTHER.** A large masculine woman, a gentlemanlike kind of a lady.

**HOSTELER.** Inn-keeper.

**HOT POT.** Ale and brandy made hot.

**HUCKSTERS.** Itinerant retailers of provisions. He is in hucksters hands; he is in a bad way.

**HUGGER MUGGER.** By stealth, privately, without making an appearance.

**HULVER-HEADED.** Having a hard impenetrable head.

**HUM, or HUMBUG.** To deceive, or impose on one by some story or device.

**HUM DRUM.** A hum drum fellow; a dull tedious narrator.

**HUNTING.** A sharp's term for drawing the unwary into a game.

**HUZZA.** Originally the cry of the huzzars or Hungarian light horse; also the national shout or cheer of the English, both civil and military.

I

**INCHING.** Encroaching.

**INEXPRESSIBLES.** Breeches.

**IRISH APRICOTS.** Potatoes.

**IRISH TOYLES.** Thieves who carry about pins, laces, and other pedlars wares, and under the pretence of offering their goods to sale, rob houses, or pilfer any thing they can lay hold of.

**IRON.** Money in general.

**IVORIES.** Teeth.

## J

**JACK.** A farthing, a small bowl serving as the mark for bowlers. Also, an instrument for pulling off boots.

**JACK COVE.** A sloven, dirty fellow.

**JACK PUDDING.** The merry andrew, zany, or jester to a mountebank.

**JACKANAPES.** An ape; a pert, ugly, little fellow.

**JADE.** A term of reproach to women.

**JAPANNED.** Ordained. To be japanned; to enter into holy orders.

**JARVIS or JARVEY** A hackney coachman.

**JASON'S FLEECE.** A citizen cheated of his gold.

**JIG.** A trick.

**JILT.** A tricking woman, who encourages the addresses of a man whom she means to deceive and abandon.

**JILTED.** Rejected by a woman who has encouraged one's advances.

**JOB.** A guinea.

**JOB'S COMFORT.** Reproof instead of consolation.

**JOB'S COMFORTER.** One who brings news of some additional misfortune.

**JOBATION.** A reproof.

**JOBBERNOLE.** The head.

**JOB.** Any robbery. To do a job; to commit some kind of robbery.

**JOHNNY BUM.** A he or jack ass: so called by a lady that affected to be extremely polite and modest, who would not say Jack because it was vulgar, nor ass because it was indecent.

**JOINT.** A large piece of meat to be carved.

**JOINTURE.** A widow's share or income.

**JOLLY DOG.** A merry facetious fellow.

**JUKRUM.** A licence.

**JUMBLEGUT LANE.** A rough road or lane.

**JUMPERS.** Persons who rob houses by getting in at the windows.

**JUNIPER LECTURE.** A round scolding bout.

## K

**KATE.** A picklock. 'Tis a rum kate; it is a clever picklock.

**KEEPING CULLY.** One who keeps a mistress, as he supposes, for his own use, but really for that of the public.

**KELTER.** Money.

**KEN.** A house. A bob ken, or a bowman ken; a well-furnished house, also a house that harbours thieves. Biting the ken; robbing the house.

**KEN MILLER, or KEN CRACKER.** A housebreaker.

**KENT-STREET EJECTMENT.** To take away the street door: a method practised by the landlords in Kent-street, Southwark, when their tenants are above a fortnight's rent in arrear.

**KETCH.** Jack Ketch; a general name for the finishers of the law, or hangmen.

**KETTLEDRUMS.** Cupid's kettle drums; a woman's breasts.

**KETTLE OF FISH.** When a person has perplexed his affairs in general, or any particular business, he is said to have made a fine kettle of fish of it.

**KICKS.** Breeches. A high kick; the top of the fashion. It is all the kick; it is the present mode.

**KICKSEYS.** Breeches.

**KICKSHAWS.** French dishes: corruption of quelque chose.

**KID.** To coax or wheedle. To inveigle.

**KID LAY.** Rogues who make it their business to defraud young apprentices, or errand-boys, of goods committed to their charge, by prevailing on them to execute some trifling message, pretending to take care of their parcels till they come back; these are, in cant terms, said to be on the kid lay.

**KIDDEYS.** Young thieves.

**KIDNAPPER.** One who steals or decoys children or apprentices from their parents or masters, to send them to the colonies; called also spiriting: also used for all recruiting crimps for the king's troops, or those of the East India company, and agents for indenting servants for the plantations.

**KIDNEY.** Disposition, principles, humour. Of a strange kidney; of an odd or unaccountable humour. A man of a different kidney; a man of different principles.

**KILL DEVIL.** New still-burnt rum.

**KILL PRIEST.** Port wine.

**KIMBAW.** To trick, cheat or cozen; also to beat or to bully.

**KINCHIN.** A little child. Kinchin coes; orphan beggar boys, educated in

thieving. Kinchin morts; young girls under the like circumstances and training. Kinchin morts, or coes in slates; beggars' children carried at their mother's backs in sheets. Kinchin cove; a little man.

**KING'S BAD BARGAIN.** One of the king's bad bargains; a malingeror, or soldier who shirks his duty.

**KING'S HEAD INN, or CHEQUER INN, IN NEWGATE STREET.** The prison of Newgate.

**KING'S PICTURES.** Coin, money.

**KINGDOM COME.** He is gone to kingdom come, he is dead.

**KIT.** A dancing-master, so called from his kit or cittern, a small fiddle, which dancing-masters always carry about with them, to play to their scholars. The kit is also the whole of a soldier's necessaries, the contents of his knapsack.

**KITCHEN PHYSIC.** Food, good meat roasted or boiled. A little kitchen physic will set him up; he has more need of a cook than a doctor.

**KNACK SHOP.** A toy-shop, a nick-nack-atory.

**KNIGHT OF THE BLADE.** A bully.

**KNIGHT OF THE POST.** A false evidence, one that is ready to swear any thing for hire.

**KNIGHT OF THE RAINBOW.** A footman: from the variety of colours in the liveries and trimming of gentlemen of that cloth.

**KNIGHT OF THE ROAD.** A highwayman.

**KNIGHT OF THE SHEERS.** A tailor.

**KNIGHT OF THE THIMBLE, or NEEDLE.** A tailor or stay-maker.

**KNIGHT OF THE WHIP.** A coachman.

**KNIGHT OF THE TRENCHER.** A great eater.

**KNIGHT AND BARROW PIG.** more hog than gentleman.

**KNOWING ONES.** Sportsmen on the turf, who from experience and an acquaintance with the jockies, are supposed to be in the secret, that is, to know the true merits or powers of each horse; notwithstanding which it often happens that the knowing ones are taken in.

## L

**LADYBIRD.** A woman of easy virtue, one who usually trades her favors for money or gifts.

**LADY OF EASY VIRTUE.** A woman of the town, an impure, a prostitute.

**LADYBIRDS.** Light or lewd women.

**LADY DACRE'S WINE.** Gin.

**LAI D ON THE SHELF.** Pawned.

**LAMB'S WOOL.** Apples roasted and put into strong ale.

**LAMBSKIN MEN.** The judges: from their robes lined and bordered with ermine.

**LAMP.** An eye.

**LAND PIRATES.** Highwaymen.

**LANDAU.** A four-wheeled carriage with two facing seats and a folding roof.

**LANSPRISADO.** A lancier, or horseman, who being dismounted by the death of his horse, served in the foot, by the title of lansprísado, or lancepesato, a broken lance.

**LARK.** A piece of merriment. People playing together jocosely.

**LATHY.** Thin, slender. A lathy wench; a girl almost as slender as a lath.

**LAW.** To give law to a hare; a sporting term, signifying to give the animal a chance of escaping, by not setting on the dogs till the hare is at some distance; it is also more figuratively used for giving any one a chance of succeeding in a scheme or project.

**LAWFUL BLANKET.** A wife.

**LAY.** Enterprize, pursuit, or attempt: to be sick of the lay. It also means a hazard or chance: he stands a queer lay; i.e. he is in danger.

**LAZY MAN'S LOAD.** Lazy people frequently take up more than they can safely carry, to save the trouble of coming a second time.

**LAZYBONES.** An instrument like a pair of tongs, for old or very fat people to take any thing from the ground without stooping.

**LEAPING OVER THE SWORD.** An ancient ceremonial said to constitute a military marriage. A sword being laid down on the ground, the parties to be married joined hands, when the corporal or serjeant of the company repeated these words:

Leap rogue, and jump whore, And then you are married for evermore.

Whereupon the happy couple jumped hand in hand over the sword, the drum beating a ruffle; and the parties were ever after considered as man and wife.

**LEAST IN SIGHT.** To play least in sight; to hide, keep out of the way, or make

one's self scarce.

**LEFT-HANDED WIFE.** A concubine; an allusion to an ancient German custom, according to which, when a man married his concubine, or a woman greatly his inferior, he gave her his left hand.

**LEG.** To make a leg; to bow.

**LEG-SHACKLED.** Married.

**LENTEN FARE.** Spare diet.

**LETCHE.** A whim of the amorous kind, out of the common way.

**LEVITE.** A priest or parson.

**TO LIB.** To lie together.

**LIBBEGE.** A bed.

**LIBBEN.** A private dwelling-house.

**LIBKEN.** A house to lie in.

**LICK.** To beat.

**LICKSPITTLE.** A parasite, or talebearer.

**LIGHT BOB.** A soldier of the light infantry company.

**LIGHT-FINGERED.** Thievish, apt to pilfer.

**LIGHT-HEELLED.** Swift in running. A light-heeled wench; one who is apt, by the flying up of her heels, to fall flat on her back, a willing wench.

**LIGHTSKIRT.** A prostitute, demi-rep or otherwise unvirtuous woman of light morals who is generally willing to trade her favors for money.

**LIGHTNING.** Gin. A flash of lightning; a glass of gin.

**LILY WHITE.** A chimney-sweeper.

**LILY SHALLOW.** A white driving hat.

**LIMBS.** Duke of limbs; a tall awkward fellow.

**LIMB OF THE LAW.** An inferior or pettyfoggling attorney.

**LIMBO.** A prison, confinement.

**LINE.** To get a man into a line, i.e. to divert his attention by a ridiculous or absurd story. To humbug.

**LITTLE BREECHES.** A familiar appellation used to a little boy.

**LOBCOCK.** A dull inanimate fellow.

**LOBKIN.** A house to lie in: also a lodging.

**LOCK.** A buyer of stolen goods, as well as the receptacle for them.

**LOCK UP HOUSE.** A jail. Also houses kept by agents or crimps, who enlist, trepan or kidnap, men to serve the East India or African company as soldiers.

**LOCKSMITH'S DAUGHTER.** A key.

**LOGGERHEAD.** A blockhead, or stupid fellow.

**LOLL.** Mother's loll; a favourite child, the mother's darling,

**LONG.** Great. A long price; a great price.

**LONG MEG.** A jeering name for a very tall woman: from one famous in story, called Long Meg of Westminster.

**LONG SHANKS.** A long-legged person.

**LONG-WINDED.** A long-winded parson; one who preached long, tedious sermons.

**LOOBY.** An awkward, ignorant fellow.

**LOO.** A card game in which forfeits are paid into a pool.

**LOOPHOLE.** An opening, or means of escape. To find a loophole in an act of parliament; i.e. a method of evading it,

**LOPE.** To leap, to run away.

**LOVE BEGOTTEN CHILD.** A bastard.

**LOUNGE.** A loitering place, or gossiping shop.

**LOUT.** A country bumpkin, or clown.

**LOW PAD.** A footpad, mugger or thief.

**LOW TIDE, or LOW WATER.** When there is no money in a man's pocket.

**LOWER ORDERS.** Anyone not of the Aristocracy.

**LULLABY CHEAT.** An infant.

**LULLIES.** Diaper or swaddling clothes.

**LUMPING.** Great. A lumping penny worth; a great quantity for the money, a bargain.

**LURCH.** To be left in the lurch; to be abandoned by one's confederates or party, to be left in a scrape.

**LURCHED.** Those who lose a game of whist, without scoring five, are said to be lunched.

**LUSH.** Strong beer, or term for a heavy drinker or alcoholic.

**LUSHEY.** Drunk.

## M

**MACE COVE.** A swindler, a sharper, a cheat. On the mace; to live by swindling.

**MAD TOM, or TOM OF BEDLAM.** otherwise an Abram Man. A rogue that counterfeits madness.

**MADAM.** A kept madam; a kept mistress.

**MAGGOTTY.** Whimsical, capricious.

**MAGNUM BONUM.** A bottle containing two quarts of wine.

**MAHOMETAN GRUEL.** Coffee: because formerly used chiefly by the Turks.

**MAIL COACH.** A large traveling coach that carried the mail and passengers. The Regency equivalent of a Trailways Bus.

**MALINGERER.** A military term for one who, under pretence of sickness, evades his duty.

**MALKIN, or MAULKIN.** A general name for a cat or an awkward woman.

**MALKINTRASH.** One in a dismal garb.

**MAN OF THE TOWN.** A rake, a debauchee.

**MAN OF THE TURF.** A horse racer, or jockey.

**MANOEUVRING THE APOSTLES.** Robbing Peter to pay Paul, i.e. borrowing of one man to pay another.

**MAN TRAP.** A woman's commodity.

**MAN OF THE WORLD.** A knowing man.

**MANTUA MAKER.** A dressmaker.

**MARPLOT.** A spoil sport.

**MARRIAGE MUSIC.** The squalling and crying of children.

**MARTINET.** A military term for a strict disciplinarian: from the name of a French general, famous for restoring military discipline to the French army.

**MASTER OF THE MINT.** A gardener.

**MASTER OF THE ROLLS.** A baker.

**MASTER OF THE WARDROBE.** One who pawns his clothes to purchase liquor.

**MARTYR.** A gentleman subject to the gout. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**MAUDLIN DRUNK.** Crying drunk.

**MAULED.** Extremely drunk, or soundly beaten.

**MAUNDERING BROTH.** Scolding.

**MAUNDING.** Asking or begging.

**MAWKES.** A vulgar slattern.

**MAWLEY.** A hand. Tip us your mawley; shake hands. with me.

**MAW-WALLOP.** A filthy composition, sufficient to provoke vomiting.

**MAX.** Gin.

**MEALY-MOUTHED.** Over-modest or backward in speech.

**MELLOW.** Almost drunk.

**MELTING MOMENTS.** A fat man and woman in the amorous congress.

**MERRY-BEGOTTEN.** A bastard.

**MESSMATE.** One (usually a soldier) who eats at the same mess, companion or comrade.

**MESALLIANCE.** Mismatched couple either because of social standing or temperment.

**MILCH COW.** One who is easily tricked out of his property; a term used by gaolers, for prisoners who have money and bleed freely.

**MILK THE PIGEON.** To endeavour at impossibilities.

**MILLINER.** A lady's hat maker.

**MILL.** A boxing match.

**MILLING COVE.** A boxer.

**MINE UNCLE'S.** A pawnbroker's shop.

**MINIKIN.** A little man or woman: also the smallest sort of pin.

**MINT.** Gold. A mint of money; common phrase for a large sum.

**MISH.** A shirt, smock, or sheet.

**MISH TOPPER.** A coat, or petticoat.

**MOABITES.** Bailiffs, or Philistines.

**MOB; or MAB.** A wench, or harlot.

**MODISTE.** A dressmaker.

**MOLL.** A woman of easy virtue, or prostitute.

**MOLL THOMPSON'S MARK.** Empty. i.e. Take away this bottle, it has Moll Thompson's mark upon it.

**MOLLY.** A Miss Molly; an effeminate fellow, a sodomite.

**MONEY DROPPERS.** Cheats who drop money, which they pretend to find just before some country lad; and by way of giving him a share of their good luck, entice him into a public house, where they and their confederates cheat or rob him of what money he has about him.

**MONGREL.** A hanger on among cheats, a spunger; also a child whose father and mother are of different countries.

**MONKEY.** To suck the monkey; to suck or draw wine, or any other liquor, privately out of a cask, by means of a straw, or small tube. Monkey's allowance; more kicks than halfpence. Who put that monkey on horseback without tying

his legs? vulgar wit on a bad horseman.

**MOONCURSER.** A link-boy: link-boys are said to curse the moon, because it renders their assistance unnecessary.

**MOON-EYED HEN.** A squinting wench.

**MOON MEN.** Gypsies.

**MOONSHINE.** A matter or mouthful of moonshine; a trifle, nothing. The white brandy smuggled on the coasts of Kent and Sussex, and the gin in the north of Yorkshire, are also called moonshine.

**MOP UP.** To drink up. To empty a glass or pot.

**MOPED.** Stupid, melancholy for want of society.

**MOPSEY.** A dowdy, or homely woman.

**MOPSQUEEZER.** A maid servant, particularly a housemaid.

**MORT.** A woman or wench.

**MOSES.** To stand Moses: a man is said to stand Moses when he has another man's bastard child fathered upon him, and he is obliged by the parish to maintain it.

**MOT.** A girl, or wench. See MORT.

**MOTHER OF THE MAIDS.** A madam or keeper of a bawdy house.

**MOUCHETS.** Small patches worn by ladies: from the French word mouches.

**MOVEABLES.** Rings, watches, or any toys of value.

**MOURNING.** An outward covering of black, put on by the relatives of any deceased person of consequence, or by persons succeeding to a large fortune, as an emblem of their grief upon so melancholy an event. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**MOUSE.** To speak like a mouse in a cheese; i.e. faintly or indistinctly.

**MOUSETRAP.** The parson's mousetrap; the state of matrimony.

**MUCK.** Money; also dung.

**MUCKWORM.** A miser.

**MUFFLING CHEAT.** A napkin.

**MULLIGRUBS.** Low-spirited, or having an imaginary sickness.

**MUM.** An interjection directing silence.

**MUMCHANCE.** An ancient game like hazard, played with dice: probably so named from the silence observed in playing at it.

**MUMPERS.** Originally beggars of the genteel kind, but since used for beggars in general.

**MUMPERS HALL.** An alehouse where beggars are harboured.

**MUNDUNGUS.** Bad or rank tobacco: from mondongo, a Spanish word

signifying tripes, or the uncleaned entrails of a beast, full of filth.

**MUNG.** To beg.

**MUNSTER PLUMS.** Potatoes.

**MURPHIES.** Potatoes.

**MUSHROOM.** A person or family suddenly raised to riches and eminence: an allusion to that fungus, which starts up in a night.

**MUSIC.** The watch-word among highwaymen, signifying the person is a friend, and must pass unmolested.

**MUTE.** An undertaker's servant, who stands at the door of a person lying in state: so named from being supposed mute with grief.

**MUTTON-HEADED.** Stupid.

**MUTTON MONGER.** A man addicted to wenching.

**MUTTON.** In her mutton, i.e. having carnal knowledge of a woman.

**MUZZLE.** A beard.

**MUZZLER.** A violent blow on the mouth. The milling cove tipped the cull a muzzler; the boxer gave the fellow a blow on the mouth.

**MYRMIDONS.** The constable's assistants, watchmen.

## N

**NABOB.** A man who makes a vast fortune trading overseas. Usually in India.

**NAB.** To seize, or catch unawares.

**NAB GIRDER, or NOB GIRDER.** A bridle.

**NACK.** To have a nack; to be ready at any thing, to have a turn-for it.

**NACKY.** Ingenious.

**NAILED.** Secured, fixed.

**NANKEEN.** A yellow or buff cloth.

**NANNY HOUSE.** A brothel.

**NAP.** To cheat at dice by securing one chance.

**NAPPING.** To take any one napping; i.e. to come upon him unexpectedly, to find him asleep.

**NAPPER.** The head.

**NAPPY ALE.** Strong ale.

**NATTY LADS.** Young thieves or pickpockets.

**NATURAL.** A natural son or daughter; a love child, a child born out of wedlock.

**NAZY.** Drunken. Nazy cove or mort; a drunken rogue or harlot. Nazy nabs; drunken coxcombs.

**NEB, or NIB.** The bill of a bird, and the slit of a pen. Figuratively, the face and mouth of a woman; as, She holds up her neb: she holds up her mouth to be kissed.

**NECK WEED.** Hemp. Marijuana.

**NEGLIGEE.** A woman's dressing or sleeping gown.

**NETTLED.** Teased, provoked, out of temper.

**NEWGATE BIRD.** A prisoner, or former prisoner of Newgate prison.

**NEWGATE SOLICITOR.** A petty fogging and roguish attorney, who attends the gaols to assist villains in evading justice.

**NEWMAN'S LIFT.** The gallows.

**NEWMAN'S TEA GARDENS.** Newgate.

**NEWMAN'S HOTEL.** Newgate.

**NICK.** To win at dice, to hit the mark just in the nick of time, or at the critical moment.

**NICK.** Old Nick; the Devil.

**NICK NINNY.** A simpleton.

**NICKIN, NIKEY or NIZEY.** A soft simple fellow; also a diminutive of Isaac.

**NICKNACKS.** Toys, baubles, or curiosities.

**NICKNACKATORY.** A toyshop.



**NINCOMPOOP.** A foolish fellow.

**NIFFYNAFFY FELLOW.** A trifler.

**NIGHT MAGISTRATE.** A constable.

**NIGHTMAN.** One whose business it is to empty necessary houses in London, which is always done in the night.

**NIGMENOQ.** A very silly fellow.

**NIM.** To steal or pilfer

**NIMGIMMER.** A physician or surgeon, particularly those who cure the venereal disease.

**NINNY, or NINNYHAMMER.** A simpleton.

**NIP.** A cheat, a cutpurse.

**NIP CHEESE.** A stingy person.

**NIP FARTHING.** A stingy person.

**NIPPERKIN.** A small measure.

**NIX.** Nothing.

**NOB.** A king. A man of rank.

**NOB.** The head.

**NOBTHATCHER.** A peruke-maker.

**NOCKY BOY.** A dull simple fellow.

**NOD.** He is gone to the land of nod; he is asleep.

**NODDLE.** The head.

**NODDY.** A simpleton or fool.

**NOISY DOG RACKET.** Stealing brass knockers from doors.

**NOKES.** A ninny, or fool.

**NONE-SUCH.** One that is unequalled: frequently applied ironically.

**NOOZED.** Married, hanged.

**NORTH ALLERTONS.** Spurs; that place, like Rippon, being famous for making them.

**NORWAY NECKCLOTH.** The pillory, usually made of Norway fir.

**NOSE.** A man who informs or turns king's evidence. Also, to give evidence. To inform.

**NOSTRUM.** A medicine prepared by particular persons only, a quack medicine.

**NOTE.** He changed his note; he told another sort of a story.

**NOZZLE.** The nose of a man or woman.

**NUB.** Neck.

**NUBBING.** Hanging.



**NUBBING CHEAT.** The gallows.

**NUBBING COVE.** The hangman.

**NUG.** An endearing word: as, My dear nug; my dear love.

**NUGGING DRESS.** An out-of-the-way old-fashioned dress, or rather a loose kind of dress, denoting a courtesan.

**NUGGING-HOUSE.** A brothel.

**NULL.** To beat.

**NUMBSKULL.** A stupid fellow.

**NUMMS.** A sham collar, to be worn over a dirty shirt.

**NUNNERY.** A bawdy house.

**NURSE.** To cheat: as, they nursed him out of it. An estate in the hands of trustees, for the payment of bad debts, is said to be at nurse.

**NYP, or NIP.** A half pint, a nip of ale: whence the nipperkin, a small vessel.

**NYPPER.** A cut-purse. In the dress of ancient times many people wore their purses at their girdles, cutting them was a branch of the light-fingered art.

## O

**OAF.** A silly fellow.

**OAFISH.** Simple.

**OAK.** A rich man, a man of good substance and credit.

**OATS.** He has sowed his wild oats; he is staid, or sober, having left off his wild tricks.

**OAD.** To put in one's oar; to intermeddle, or give an opinion unasked: as, To be sure, you must put in your oar!

**OFFICE.** To give the office; to give information, or make signs to the officers to take a thief.

**OGLES.** Eyes. Rum ogles; fine eyes.

**OIL OF BARLEY, or BARLEY BROTH.** Strong beer.

**OIL OF GLADNESS.** I will anoint you with the oil of gladness; ironically spoken for, I will beat you.

**OLD.** Ugly.

**OLD DOG AT IT.** Expert, accustomed.

**OLD HAND.** Knowing or expert in any business.

**OLD HARRY.** A composition used by vintners to adulterate their wines; also the nick-name for the devil.

**OLD MR. GORY.** A piece of gold.

**OLD NICK.** The Devil: from NEKEN, the evil spirit of the north.

**ON THE SHELF.** An old maid

**ONE IN TEN.** A parson: an allusion to his tithes.

**ORIGINAL.** An unusual or unique lady who stands out from the crowd.

**OUT AT HEELS, OR OUT AT ELBOWS.** In declining circumstances.

**OUTRUN THE CONSTABLE.** A man who has lived above his means, or income, is said to have outrun the constable.

P

**PACKET.** A false report.

**PACKTHREAD.** To talk packthread; to use indecent language well wrapt up.

**PAD.** The highway, or a robber thereon; also a bed. Footpads; foot robbers. To go out upon the pad; to go out in order to commit a robbery.

**PAD BORROWERS.** Horse stealers.

**TO PAD THE HOOF.** See TO BEAT THE HOOF.

**PADDINGTON FAIR DAY.** An execution day, Tyburn being in the parish or neighbourhood of Paddington. To dance the Paddington frisk; to be hanged.

**PADDY.** The general name for an Irishman: being the abbreviation of Patrick, the name of the tutelary saint of that island.

**PALAUER.** To treaty, talk, or conference.

**PALLIARDS.** Those whose fathers were clapperdogens, or beggars born, and who themselves follow the same trade: the female sort beg with a number of children, borrowing them, if they have not a sufficient number of their own, and making them cry by pinching in order to excite charity; the males make artificial sores on different parts of their bodies, to move compassion.

**PAP.** Bread sauce; also the food of infants. His mouth is full of pap; he is still a baby.

**PAPER SCULL.** A thin-scull'd foolish fellow.

**PATE.** The head. Carrotty-pated; red-haired.

**PAUM.** To conceal in the hand. To palm a die: to hide a die in the palm of the hand. He paums; he cheats. Don't pretend to paum that upon me.

**PAUNCH.** The belly.

**PAW.** A hand or foot; look at his dirty paws.

**PAW PAW TRICKS.** Naughty tricks: an expression used by nurses to children.

**PEAK.** Any kind of lace.

**PEAL.** To scold.

**PECCAVI.** To cry peccavi; to acknowledge one's self in an error, to own a fault. i.e. Mea Culpa.

**PECK.** Victuals. Peck and booze; victuals and drink.

**PECKISH.** Hungry.

**PECULIAR.** A mistress.

**PEDDLER'S FRENCH.** Slang or thieves cant.

**PEDDLER'S PONY.** A walking-stick.

**PEEPER.** A spying glass; also a looking-glass.

**PEEPERS.** Eyes.

**PEEPING TOM.** A nick name for a curious prying fellow; derived from an old legendary tale, told of a taylor of Coventry, who, when Godiva countess of Chester rode at noon quite naked through that town, in order to procure certain immunities for the inhabitants, (notwithstanding the rest of the people shut up their houses) shyly peeped out of his window, for which he was miraculously struck blind. His figure, peeping out of a window, is still kept up in remembrance of the transaction.

**PELISSE.** A full or three-quarter length ladies coat that buttons up the front, but is usually sleeveless more in the style of a cape.

**PELL-MELL.** Tumultuously, helter skelter, jumbled together.

**PELT.** A heat, chafe, or passion. What a pelt he was in!

**PENANCE BOARD.** The pillory.

**PENNYWORTH.** An equivalent. A good pennyworth; cheap bargain.

**PENTHOUSE NAB.** A broad brimmed hat.

**PEPPERED.** Infected with the venereal disease.

**PEPPERY.** Warm, passionate.

**PERSUADERS.** Spurs.

**PET.** In a pet; in a passion or miff.

**PETTICOAT HOLD.** One who has an estate during his wife's life, called the apron-string hold.

**PETTICOAT PENSIONER.** One kept by a woman for secret services.

**PETTY FOGGER.** A little dirty attorney, ready to undertake any litigious or bad cause: it is derived from the French words *petit vogue*, of small credit, or little reputation.

**PHAETON.** A light, four-wheeled sporting carriage with one seat.

**PHARAOH.** Strong malt liquor.

**PHILISTINES.** Bailiffs, or officers of justice; also drunkards.

**PHOENIX-MEN.** Firemen belonging to an insurance office, which gave a badge charged with a phoenix: these men were called likewise firedrakes.

**PHYSOG.** The face. A vulgar abbreviation of physiognomy.

**PHYZ.** The face. Rum phyz; an odd face or countenance.

**PICAROON.** A pirate; also a sharper.

**PICKING.** Pilfering, petty larceny.

**PICKTHANK.** A tale-bearer or mischief maker.

**PIDDLE.** To make water, to urinate. A childish expression.

**PIDDLING SORT.** Derogatory term for a childish person.

**PIECE.** A wench. A damned good or bad piece; a girl who is more or less active and skilful in the amorous congress.

**PIG.** A police officer. A China street pig; a Bow-street officer.

**PIG-WIDGEON.** a simpleton.

**PIG-HEADED.** Obstinate.

**PIGS WHISPER.** A grunt, 'a word 'twixt you and me'.

**PIGEON.** A dupe, or weak silly fellow easily imposed on. A gambler's mark, to be cheated.

**PIKE.** To run away. Pike off; run away.

**PIN BASKET.** The youngest child.

**PIN MONEY.** An allowance settled on a married woman for her pocket expences.

**PINCH.** At a pinch; on an exigency.

**PINCH.** To go into a tradesman's shop under the pretence of purchasing rings or other light articles, and while examining them to shift some up the sleeve of the coat.

**PINCHERS.** Rogues who, in changing money, by dexterity of hand frequently secrete two or three shillings out of the change of a guinea. This species of roguery is called the pinch, or pinching lay.

**PINK.** To stab or wound with a small sword: probably derived from the holes formerly cut in both men and women's clothes, called pinking.

**PINK OF FASHION.** The top of the current mode, to be in high style.

**PINS.** Legs. Queer pins; ill shapen legs.

**PIQUET.** A card game where you acquire points according to the numbers on your cards.

**PITCH-KETTLED.** Stuck fast, confounded.

**PLATE.** Money, silver, prize.

**PLATTER-FACED.** Broad-faced.

**PLUCK.** Courage.

**PLUMB.** An hundred thousand pounds.

**PLUMMY.** It is all plummy; i.e. all is right, or as it ought to be.

**PLUMP.** Fat, full, fleshy. Plump in the pocket; full in the pocket.

**PLUMP CURRANT.** I am not plump currant; I am out of sorts.

**PLUMPERS.** Contrivances used to fake a full bosom.

**POCKETS TO LET.** Empty pockets, no money.

**POGY.** Drunk.

**POINT NON PLUS.** At a standsill.

**POKE.** A blow with the fist. A poke likewise means a sack. To buy a pig in a poke, i.e. to buy any thing without seeing or properly examining it.

**POKER.** A sword.

**POLISH A BONE.** To eat a meal. Come and polish a bone with me; come and eat a dinner or supper with me.

**POLT.** A blow, give him a knock in the face.

**POMMEL.** To beat. Originally confined to beating with the hilt of a sword, the knob being, from its similarity to a small apple, called pomelle; in Spanish.

**POMP.** Formal.

**PONEY.** Money. Post the poney; lay down the money. £50

**PONTIUS PILATE.** A pawnbroker.

**POP.** To shoot, pawn or pledge.

**POP OFF.** To take a young girl to London for the season for the purpose of showing her off and finding a husband.

**POPINJAY.** A vain, pretentious person who excels at empty chatter. Also, a coxcomb or a fop.

**POPS or POPPERS.** Pistols. His means are two pops and a galloper; that is, he is a highwayman.

**POPSHOP.** A pawnbroker's shop. To pop; to pawn: also to shoot. I popped my tatter; I pawned my watch. I popt the cull; I shot the man.

**POSEY, or POESY.** A nosegay.

**POST CHAISE.** A closed carriage used for travel or long journeys.

**POT HUNTER.** One who hunts more for the sake of the prey than the sport.

**POT VALIENT.** Courageous from drink.

**POTHOOKS AND HANGERS.** A scrawl, bad writing.

**PRAD.** A horse. The swell flashes a rum prad: the gentleman sports a fine horse.

**PRANCER.** A horse.

**PRATE ROAST.** A talkative boy.

**PRATING CHEAT.** The tongue.

**PRATTS.** Buttocks; also a tinder box.

**PRATTLE BROTH.** Tea.

**PRATTLING BOX.** The pulpit.

**PRIEST-LINKED.** Married.

**PRIG.** A conceited coxcomical fellow.

**PRIGGERS.** Thieves in general. Priggers of prancers; horse stealers. Priggers of

cacklers: robbers of hen-roosts.

**PRIME.** Bang up. Quite the thing. Excellent. Well done.

**PRIME TWIG.** High condition, doing well.

**PRINCUM PRANCUM.** Mrs. Princum Prancum; a nice, precise, formal madam.

**PRINKING.** Dressing over nicely. Primped or nicely dressed.

**PRITTLE PRATTLE.** Insignificant talk: generally applied to women and children.

**PROPS.** Crutches.

**PROVENDER.** He from whom any money is taken on the highway.

**PRY.** To examine minutely into a matter or business. A prying fellow; a man of impertinent curiosity, apt to peep and inquire into other men's secrets.

**PUBLIC LEDGER.** A prostitute: because, like that paper, she is open to all parties.

**PUCKER.** All in a pucker; in a dishabille. Also in a fright; as, she was in a terrible pucker.

**PUDDING-HEADED FELLOW.** A stupid fellow, one whose brains are all in confusion.

**PUFF, or PUFFER.** One who bids at auctions, not with an intent to buy, but only to raise the price of the lot; for which purpose many are hired by the proprietor of the goods on sale.

**PUFF GUTS.** A fat man.

**PUFFED UP WITH THEIR OWN CONSEQUENCE.** Proud or vain.

**PUFFING.** Praising any thing above its merits, for self-interested motives.

**PUG.** A lap-dog, also a general name for a monkey.

**PUG CARPENTETER.** An inferior carpenter, one employed only in small jobs.

**PUG DRINK.** Watered down cider.

**PUGNOSED, or PUGIFIED.** A person with a snub or turned up nose.

**PUMP.** A thin shoe. T

**PUNCH.** A liquor called by foreigners Contradiction, from its being composed of spirits to make it strong, water to make it weak, lemon juice to make it sour, and sugar to make it sweet.

**PUNISH.** To beat in fighting.

**PUNISHER.** Fist or one who beats another soundly.

**PUNY.** Weak. A puny child; a weak little child. A puny stomach; a weak stomach. Puny, or puisne judge; the last made judge.

**PUPPY.** An affected or conceited coxcomb.

**PURBLIND.** Dim-sighted.

**PURL.** Ale in which wormwood has been infused, or ale and bitters drunk warm.

**PURL ROYAL.** Canary wine; with a dash of tincture of wormwood.

**PURSE PROUD.** One that is vain of his riches.

**PURSENETS.** Goods taken up at thrice their value, by young spendthrifts, upon trust.

**PURSY, or PURSIVE.** Short-breathed, or foggy, from being over fat.

**PUZZLE-CAUSE.** A lawyer who has a confused understanding.

**PUZZLE-TEXT.** An ignorant blundering parson.



Q

**QUACK.** An ungraduated ignorant pretender to skill in physic, a vender of nostrums.

**QUACK-SALVER.** A mountebank: a seller of salves.

**QUACKING CHEAT.** A duck.

**QUAG.** Abbreviation of quagmire; marshy moorish ground.

**QUARTERED.** Divided into four parts; to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, is the sentence on traitors and rebels. Persons receiving part of the salary of an office from the holder of it, by virtue of an agreement with the donor, are said to be quartered on him. Soldiers billeted on a publican are likewise said to be quartered on him.

**QUASH.** To suppress, annul or overthrow.

**QUEAN.** A slut, or worthless woman, a strumpet.

**QUEEN DICK.** Something that does not and never has existed. Never.

**QUEEN STREET.** A man governed by his wife, is said to live in Queen street, or at the sign of the Queen's Head.

**QUEER, or QUIRE.** Base, roguish, bad, naught, worthless, odd or uncommon.

**QUEER AS DICK'S HATBAND.** Odd.

**QUEER.** To puzzle or confound.

**QUIBBLE.** To make subtle distinctions; also to play upon words.

**QUIDS.** Cash, money. Can you tip me any quids? can you lend me some money?

**QUIPPS.** Girds, taunts, jests.

**QUIRKS AND QUILLETS.** Tricks and devices. Quirks in law; subtle distinctions and evasions.

**QUIZ.** A strange-looking fellow, an odd dog.

**QUIZZING GLASS.** A single eyeglass or monocle.

**QUOD.** Newgate, or any other prison. The dab's in quod; the poor rogue is in prison.

## R

**RABBIT CATCHER.** A midwife.

**RABBIT SUCKERS.** Young spendthrifts taking up goods on trust at great prices.

**RACK RENT.** Rent strained to the utmost value.

**RAG.** Bank notes. Money in general. The cove has no rag; the fellow has no money.

**RAG WATER.** Gin, or any other common, inexpensive, affordable dram.

**RAGAMUFFIN.** A ragged fellow, one all in tatters, a tatterdemallion.

**RAKE, RAKEHELL, or RAKESHAME.** A lewd, thoroughly debauched fellow, who drinks, gambles, chases and seduces women.

**RAMSHACKLED.** Out of repair. A ramshackled house.

**RANDY.** Obstreperous, unruly, rampant.

**RANGLING.** Intriguing with a variety of women.

**RANK.** Stinking, rammish, ill-flavoured; also strong, great. A rank knave; a rank coward: perhaps the latter may allude to an ill savour caused by fear.

**RANK RIDER.** A highwayman.

**RANTIPOLE.** A rude romping boy or girl; also a gadabout dissipated woman.

**RANTUM SCANTUM.** Playing at rantum scantum; making the beast with two backs.

**RAPPER.** A swinging great lie.

**RAREE SHOW MEN.** Poor Savoyards, who subsist by showing the magic lantern and marmots about London.

**RASCAL.** A rogue or villain.

**RATTLE.** A dice-box.

**RATTLE-PATE.** A volatile, unsteady, or whimsical man or woman.

**RATTLE-TRAPS.** A contemptuous name for any curious portable piece of machinery, or philosophical apparatus.

**RATTLER.** A coach. Rattle and prad; a coach and horses.

**RATTLING COVE.** A coachman.

**READER MERCHANTS.** Pickpockets, chiefly young Jews, who ply about the Bank to steal the pocket-books of persons who have just received their dividends there.

**READY.** Money.

**RECKON.** To reckon with one's host; to make an erroneous judgment in one's own favour. To cast-up one's reckoning or accounts; to vomit.

**RECRUIT.** To get a fresh supply of money.

**RECRUITING SERVICE.** Robbing on the highway.

**RED FUSTIAN.** Port wine.

**RED RIBBON.** Brandy.

**RELISH.** Carnal connection with a woman.

**RENDEZVOUS.** A place of meeting.

**REP.** A woman of reputation. As opposed to a demi-rep, which is a woman of lesser reputation.

**REPOSITORY.** A lock-up or spunging-house, a gaol.

**RESURRECTION MEN.** Persons employed by the students in anatomy to steal dead bodies out of church-yards.

**RETICULE.** A ladies drawstring purse often beaded.

**RHINO.** Money.

**RIB.** A wife. A crooked rib, a unfaithful wife.

**RIBALDRY.** vulgar abusive language, such as was spoken by ribalds. Ribalds were originally mercenary soldiers who travelled about, serving any master for pay, but afterwards degenerated into a mere banditti. Also refers to rambunctious partying.

**RIBBON.** Money. The ribbon runs thick; i.e. there is plenty of money.

**RIDE THE ACORN.** You will ride the gallows, be hanged.

**RIDER.** A person who receives part of the salary of a place or appointment from the ostensible occupier, by virtue of an agreement with the donor, or great man appointing. The rider is said to be quartered upon the possessor, who often has one or more persons thus riding behind him. **RIDGE.** A guinea.

**RIDGE CULLY.** A goldsmith.

**RIFF RAFF.** Low vulgar persons, mob, tag-rag and bob-tail.

**RIG.** Fun, game, diversion, or trick. To run one's rig upon any particular person; to make him a butt. I am up to your rig; I am a match for your tricks.

**RIGGING.** Clothing. Rum Rigging; fine clothes.

**RIGMAROLE.** Roundabout, nonsensical. He told a long rigmarole story.

**RING A PEAL.** To scold; chiefly applied to women. His wife rung him a fine peal!

**RIP.** A miserable rip; a poor, lean, worn-out horse. A shabby mean fellow.

**RIPPONS.** Spurs.

**RIVER TICK.** In debt.

**ROARATORIOS AND UPROARS.** Oratorios and operas.

**ROARING BOY.** A noisy, riotous fellow.

**ROARER.** A broken-winded horse.

**ROARING TRADE.** A quick trade.

**ROAST.** To jeer, ridicule, or banter. To cry roast meat; to boast of one's situation. To rule the roast; to be master or paramount.

**ROCKED.** Foolish. He was rocked in a stone kitchen; his brains having been disordered by the jumbling of his cradle.

**ROGER.** A portmanteau; also a man's yard. Cant.

**ROGER.** To bull, or lie with a woman; from the name of Roger being frequently given to a bull.

**ROMONERS.** Fellows pretending to be acquainted with the occult sciences, fortune tellers.

**ROMP.** A forward wanton girl.

**ROOK.** A cheat, particularly at play.

**ROPES.** Upon the high ropes; elated, in high spirits, cock-a-hoop.

**ROSE.** Under the rose: privately or secretly.

**ROSY GILLS.** One with a sanguine or fresh-coloured countenance.

**ROT GUT.** Small beer; called beer-a-bumble--will burst one's guts before it will make one tumble.

**ROTTEN ROW.** A popular riding trail within Hyde Park.

**ROVERS.** Pirates, vagabonds.

**ROULEAU.** A number of guineas, from twenty to fifty or more, wrapped up in paper, for the more ready circulation at gaming-tables: sometimes they are inclosed in ivory boxes, made to hold exactly 20, 50, or 100 guineas.

**ROUND DEALING.** Plain, honest dealing.

**ROUND SUM.** A considerable sum.

**ROUT.** A modern card meeting at a private house; also a well-attended, successful party.

**ROW.** A disturbance.

**ROYAL SCAMPS.** Highwaymen who never rob any but rich persons, and that without ill treating them.

**ROYSTER.** A rude boisterous fellow.

**RUB.** A problem or impediment.

**RUBBER.** The best two out of three. To win a rubber: to win two games out of three.

**RUFFIAN.** Criminal.



**RUFFLES.** Handcuffs.

**RUFFLERS.** Notorious rogues pretending to be maimed soldiers or sailors.

**RUFFMANS.** The woods, hedges, or bushes.

**RUM.** Fine, good, valuable.

**RUM BITE.** A clever cheat, a clean trick.

**RUM BLOWEN.** A handsome wench.

**RUM BLUFFER.** A jolly host.

**RUM BOB.** A young apprentice; also a sharp trick.

**RUM COVE.** A dexterous or clever rogue.

**RUM CULL.** A rich fool, easily cheated, particularly by his mistress.

**RUM DOXY.** A fine wench.

**RUM DRAWERS.** Silk, or other fine stockings.

**RUM DUBBER.** An expert picklock.

**RUM DUKE.** A jolly handsome fellow.

**RUM FUN.** A sharp trick.

**RUM GOODS.** A maidenhead, being a commodity never entered. i.e. A virgin.

**RUM KICKS.** Breeches of gold or silver brocade, or richly laced with gold or silver.

**RUM MORT.** A queen, or great lady.

**RUM NAB.** A good hat.

**RUM NANTZ.** Good French brandy.

**RUM NED.** A very rich silly fellow.

**RUM PAD.** The highway.

**RUM PADDERS.** Highwaymen well mounted and armed.

**RUM PEEPERS.** Fine looking eyes, or eyeglasses.

**RUM PRANCER.** A fine horse.

**RUM PUNCH.** Rum, water, and sugar.

**RUM QUIDS.** A great booty.

**RUM SQUEEZE.** Much wine, or good liquor, or a successful party.

**RUMP.** To rump any one; to cut them socially or deliberately ignore them.

**RUMPUS.** A riot, quarrel, or confusion.

**RUNNING STATIONERS.** Hawker of newspapers, trials, and dying speeches.

**RUNT.** A short squat man or woman.

**RUSHERS.** Thieves who knock at the doors of great houses in London, in summer time, when the families are gone out of town, and on the door being opened by a woman, rush in and rob the house; also housebreakers who enter lone

houses by force.

**RUSSIAN COFFEE-HOUSE.** The Brown Bear in Bow-street, Covent Garden, a house of call for thief-takers and runners of the Bow street justices.

**RUSTY.** Out of use, properly applied to a restive horse.

**RUSTY GUTS.** A blunt surly fellow.

**RUTTING.** Copulating. Rutting time; the season, when deer go to rut.



## S

**SAD DOG.** A wicked debauched fellow; one of the ancient family of the sad dogs.

**SADDLE.** To saddle the spit; to give a dinner or supper.

**SALESMAN'S DOG.** A barker.

**SALT.** Lecherous.

**SAMMY.** Foolish. Silly.

**SANDY PATE.** A red haired man or woman.

**SANS PRISADO.** A person who comes into company without any money.

**SAPSCULL.** A simple fellow. Sappy; foolish.

**SATYR.** A libidinous fellow.

**SAUCE BOX or SAUCY.** A term of familiar raillery, signifying a bold or forward person.

**SAUNTERER.** An idle, lounging fellow.

**SAW.** An old saw; an ancient proverbial saying.

**SAWNY or SANDY.** A general nick-name for a Scotchman, as Paddy is for an Irishman, or Taffy for a Welchman; Sawny or Sandy being the familiar abbreviation or diminution of Alexander, a very favourite name among the Scottish nation.

**SCAB.** A worthless man or woman.

**SCALY.** Mean. Sordid. How scaly the cove is; how mean the fellow is.

**SCAMP.** A highwayman. Royal scamp: a highwayman who robs civilly. Royal foot scamp; a footpad who behaves in like manner.

**SCAMPER.** To run away hastily.

**SCANDAL BROTH.** Tea.

**SCAPEGALLOWS.** One who deserves and has narrowly escaped the gallows.

**SCAPEGRACE.** A wild dissolute fellow.

**SCARLET HORSE.** A hired or hack horse.

**SCHEME.** A party of pleasure.

**SCHISM MONGER.** A dissenting teacher.

**SCHISM SHOP.** A dissenting meeting house.

**SCOLD'S CURE.** A coffin.

**SCHOOL OF VENUS.** A bawdy-house.

**SCOTCH PINT.** A bottle containing two quarts.

**SCOTCH BAIT.** A halt and a resting on a stick, as practised by pedlars.

**SCOTCH CHOCOLATE.** Brimstone and milk.

**SCOTCH MIST.** A sober soaking rain; a Scotch mist will wet an Englishman to

the skin.

**SCOTCH WARMING PAN.** A wench.

**SCOUNDREL.** A man void of every principle of honour.

**SCOURERS.** Riotous bucks, who amuse themselves with breaking windows, beating the watch, and assaulting every person they meet: called scouring the streets.

**SCRAGGED.** Hanged.

**SCRAGGY.** Lean, bony.

**SCRAGG'EM FAIR.** A public execution.

**SCRAPE.** To get into a scrape; to be involved in a disagreeable business.

**SCRATCH.** Old Scratch.

**SCRATCH PLATTER.** Bread sopped in the oil and vinegar.

**SCREEN.** A bank note. Queer screens; forged bank notes.

**SCRIP.** Money or a scrap or slip of paper.

**SCRUB.** A low mean fellow, employed in all sorts of dirty work.

**SEEDY.** Untrustworthy, poor, penniless.

**SERVED.** Found guilty. Convicted.

**SERAGLIO.** A bawdy-house; the name of that part of the Great Turk's palace where the women are kept.

**SET.** A dead set: a concerted scheme to defraud a person by gaming.

**SETTLE.** Finalize, or to knock down or stun any one.

**SEW UP THE SEES.** To give a person two black eyes.

**SHABBARDON.** An ill-dressed shabby fellow; also a mean-spirited person.

**SHALLOW PATE.** A simple fellow.

**SHANKS.** Legs, or gams.

**SHANNON.** A river in Ireland: persons dipped in that river are perfectly and forever cured of bashfulness.

**SHARK.** A sharper: perhaps from his preying upon any one he can lay hold of.

**SHARP.** Subtle, acute, quick-witted; also a sharper or cheat, in opposition to a flat, dupe, or gull. **SHARPER.** A cheat, one that lives by his wits. Sharper's tools; a fool and false dice.

**SHAVER.** A young a boy.

**SHE HOUSE.** A house where the wife rules, or, as the term is, wears the breeches.

**SHE LION.** A shilling.

**SHEEPISH.** Bashful. A sheepish fellow; a bashful or shamefaced fellow.

**SHEEP'S EYE.** To look wishfully at someone or something.

**SHEEPSKIN FIDDLER.** A drummer.

**SHELF.** On the shelf, i.e. pawned.

**SHERIFF'S JOURNEYMAN.** The hangman.

**SHERIFF'S BALL.** An execution.

**SHERIFF'S BRACELETS.** Handcuffs.

**SHERIFF'S HOTEL.** A prison.

**SHERIFF'S PICTURE FRAME.** The gallows.

**SHERRY.** To run away: sherry off.

**SHOOT THE CAT.** To vomit from excess of liquor; called also cating.

**SHOP.** A prison. Shopped; confined, imprisoned.

**SHOPLIFTER.** One that steals whilst pretending to purchase goods in a shop.

**SHORT-HEELED WENCH.** A girl apt to fall on her back.

**SHOT.** To pay one's shot; to pay one's share of a reckoning.

**SHOULDER CLAPPER.** A bailiff. Shoulder-clapped; arrested.

**SIGN OF A HOUSE TO LET.** A widow's weeds.

**SILENCE.** To silence a man; to knock him down, or stun him.

**SILK SNATCHERS.** Thieves who snatch hoods or bonnets from persons walking in the streets.

**SILVER LACED.** Replete with lice.

**SIMKIN.** A foolish fellow.

**SIMPER.** To smile in a closed mouth or false manner.

**SIMPLETON.** A foolish fellow.

**SIMPLES.** Herbs or herbal remedies.

**SING.** To call out; the coves sing out beef; they call out stop thief.

**SING SMALL.** To be humbled, confounded, or abashed, to have little or nothing to say for one's-self.

**SIR JOHN BARLEYCORN.** Strong beer.

**SITTING BREECHES.** One who stays late in company, is said to have his sitting breeches on, or that he will sit longer than a hen.

**SIXES AND SEVENS.** Left at sixes and sevens: i.e. in confusion; commonly said of a room where the furniture is scattered about; or of a business left unsettled.

**SIZE OF ALE.** Half a pint.

**SKIN.** In a bad skin; out of temper, in an ill humour. Thin-skinned: touchy, peevish.

**SKIN.** A purse.

**SKIN FLINT.** An avaricious man or woman,

**SKINK.** To ride in any one's old boots; to marry or keep his cast-off mistress.

**SKIP JACKS.** Youngsters that ride horses on sale, horse-dealers boys. Also a plaything made for children with the breast bone of a goose.

**SKULKER.** A soldier who by feigned sickness, or other pretences, evades his duty.

**SKY BLUE.** *Qin.*

**SKY FARMERS.** Cheats who pretend they were farmers in the isle of Sky, or some other remote place, and were ruined by a flood, hurricane, or some such public calamity: or else called sky farmers from their farms being **IN NUBIBUS**, 'in the clouds.'

**SKY PARLOUR.** The garret, or upper story.

**SLAP-BANG SHOP.** A petty cook's shop, where there is no credit given, but what is had must be paid **DOWN WITH THE READY SLAP-BANG**, i.e. immediately.

**SLAPDASH.** Immediately, instantly, suddenly.

**SLATTERN.** A woman sluttishly negligent in her dress.

**SLICE.** To take a slice; to intrigue, particularly with a married woman, because a slice off a cut loaf is not missed.

**SLIPPERY CHAP.** One on whom there can be no dependance, a shuffling fellow.

**SLIPSLOPS.** Tea, water-gruel, or any innocent beverage taken medicinally.

**SLUBBER DE GULLION.** A dirty nasty fellow.

**SLUG.** A a bullet. To fire a slug; to drink a dram.

**SLUG-A-BED.** A drone, one that cannot rise in the morning.

**SLUICE YOUR GOB.** Take a hearty drink.

**SLUR.** To slur, is a method of cheating at dice: also to cast a reflection on any one's character, to scandalize.

**SLUSH BUCKET.** A foul feeder, one that eats much greasy food.

**SLY BOOTS.** A cunning girl or fellow, under the mask of simplicity.

**SMABBLED, or SNABBLED.** Killed in battle.

**SMACKING COVE.** A coachman.

**SMALL CLOTHES.** Knee breeches.

**SMART.** Spruce, fine: as smart as a carrot new scraped.

**SMART MONEY.** Money allowed to soldiers or sailors for the loss of a limb, or other hurt received in the service.

**SMEAR GELT.** A bribe.

**SPELLER.** A nose. Smellers: a cat's whiskers.

**SMITHFIELD BARGAIN.** A bargain whereby the purchaser is taken in. This is likewise frequently used to express matches or marriages contracted solely on the score of interest, on one or both sides, where the fair sex are bought and sold like cattle in Smithfield.

**SMOCK-FACED.** Fair faced.

**SMOKE.** To observe, to suspect.

**SMOKER.** A tobacconist.

**SMOKY.** Curious, suspicious, inquisitive.

**SMUG LAY.** Persons who pretend to be smugglers of lace and valuable articles; these men borrow money of publicans by depositing these goods in their hands; they shortly decamp, and the publican discovers too late that he has been duped; and on opening the pretended treasure, he finds trifling articles of no value.

**SMUGGLING KEN.** A bawdy-house.

**SMUSH.** To snatch, or seize suddenly.

**SMUT.** Bawdy. Smutty story; an indecent story.

**SNABBLE.** To rifle or plunder; also to kill.

**SNACKS.** During the period of the great plague the office of searcher, which is continued to the present day, was a very important one; and a noted body-searcher, whose name was Snacks, finding his business increase so fast that he could not compass it, offered to any person who should join him in his hazardous practice, half the profits; thus those who joined him were said to go with Snacks. Hence "going snacks, or dividing the spoil.

**SNAFFLER.** A highwayman. Snaffler of prances; a horse stealer.

**SNAFFLE.** To steal. To snaffle any ones poll; to steal his wig.

**SNAP THE GLAZE.** To break shop windows or show glasses.

**SNAPPERS.** Pistols.

**SNAPT.** Taken, caught.

**SNATCH CLY.** A thief who snatches women's pockets.

**SNEAK.** A pilferer. Morning sneak; one who pilfers early in the morning, before it is light. Evening sneak; an evening pilferer. To go upon the sneak; to steal into houses whose doors are carelessly left open.

**SNEAKING BUDGE.** One that robs alone.

**SNEAKSBY.** A mean-spirited fellow, a sneaking cur.

**SNEERING.** Jeering, flickering, laughing in scorn.

**SNUB.** To check, or rebuke.

**SNUDGE.** A thief who hides himself under a bed, in order to rob the house.

**SNUFF.** To take snuff; to be offended.

**SNUFF BOX.** A small ornamental box in which to keep snuff or sneezing powder.

**SOAK.** To drink. An old soaker; a drunkard, one that moistens his clay to make it stick together.

**SOCKET MONEY.** A whore's fee, or hire: also money paid for a treat, by a married man caught in an intrigue.

**SOLDIER'S BOTTLE.** A large one.

**SOLO PLAYER.** A miserable performer on any instrument, who always plays alone, because no one will stay in the room to hear him.

**SONG.** He changed his song; he altered his account or evidence.

**SOP.** A bribe.

**SORREL.** A yellowish red. Sorrel pate; one having red hair.

**SORRY.** Vile, mean, worthless. A sorry fellow, or hussy; a worthless man or woman.

**SOT WEED.** Tobacco.

**SOUSE.** Not a souse; not a penny.

**SOW.** A fat woman.

**SPANK.** (WHIP) To run neatly along, between a trot and gallop.

**SPANISH.** The spanish; ready money.

**SPANISH COIN.** Fair words and compliments.

**SPANISH PADLOCK.** A kind of girdle contrived by jealous husbands of that nation, to secure the chastity of their wives. i.e. Chastity belt.

**SPANKS, or SPANKERS.** Money; also blows with the open hand.

**SPANKING.** Large.

**SPARK.** A spruce, trim, or smart fellow.

**SPARKISH.** Fine, gay.

**SPARKING BLOWS.** Words previous to a quarrel.

**SPICE.** To rob. Spice the swell; rob the gentleman.

**SPICE ISLANDS.** A privy.

**SPIDER-SHANKED.** Thin-legged.

**SPIFLICATE.** To confound, silence, or dumbfound.

**SPILT.** Thrown from a horse, or overturned in a carriage; pray, coachee, don't spill us.

**SPINDLE SHANKS.** Slender legs.

**SPIRIT AWAY.** To kidnap, or inveigle away.

**SPIT.** A sword.

**SPIT FIRE.** A violent, peevish, or passionate person.

**SPLICED.** Married: an allusion to joining two ropes ends by splicing.

**SPOONEY.** Thin, haggard, like the shank of a spoon; also delicate, craving for something, longing for sweets. Avaricious. That tit is damned spooney. She's a spooney piece of goods. He's a spooney old fellow.

**SPOIL PUDDING.** A parson who preaches long sermons, keeping his congregation in church till the puddings are overdone.

**SPORT.** To exhibit or show off.

**SPUNGE.** A thirsty fellow, a great drinker.

**SPUNK.** Rotten touchwood, or a kind of fungus prepared for tinder; figuratively, spirit, courage.

**SPOON HAND.** The right hand.

**SPOUT.** To rehearse theatrically.

**SPOUTING CLUB.** A meeting of apprentices and mechanics to rehearse different characters in plays: thus forming recruits for the strolling companies.

**SPOUTING.** Theatrical declamation.

**SPOUTED.** Pawned.

**SPREE.** A frolic. Fun. A drinking bout. A party of pleasure.

**SPRING-ANKLE WAREHOUSE.** Newgate, or any other gaol.

**SQUAB.** A fat man or woman: from their likeness to a well-stuffed couch, called also a squab.

**SQUARE.** Honest, not roguish. A square cove, i.e. a man who does not steal, or get his living by dishonest means.

**SQUARE TOES.** An old man: square toed shoes were anciently worn in common, and long retained by old men.

**SQUEAK.** A narrow escape, a chance: he had a squeak for his life.

**SQUEEZE CRAB.** A sour-looking, shrivelled, diminutive fellow.

**SQUEEZE WAX.** A good-natured foolish fellow, ready to become security for another, under hand and seal.

**SQUIRE.** The squire of the company; one who pays the whole reckoning, or treats the company, called standing squire.

**SQUIRE OF ALSATIA.** A weak profligate spendthrift.

**SQUIRISH.** Foolish.

**SQUIRREL.** A prostitute: because she like that animal, covers her back with her tail.

**STALLION.** A man kept by an old lady for secret services.

**STAMMEL, or STRAMMEL.** A coarse brawny wench.

**STAMP.** A particular manner of throwing the dice out of the box, by striking it with violence against the table.

**STAMPS.** Legs.

**STAMPERS.** Shoes.

**STAND-STILL.** He was run to a stand-still; i.e. till he could no longer move. Also broke or out of money.

**STAND THE NONSENSE.** Pay the bills or the costs.

**STAR GAZER.** A horse who throws up his head; also a hedge whore.

**STAR THE GLAZE.** To break and rob a jeweller's show glass.

**STARCHED.** Stiff, prim, formal, affected.

**STAR LAG.** Breaking shop-windows, and stealing some article therein.

**STASH.** To stop. To finish. To end.

**STEAMER.** A pipe. A swell steamer; a long pipe, such as is used by gentlemen to smoke.

**STEENKIRK.** A muslin neckcloth carelessly put on, from the manner in which the French officers wore their cravats when they returned from the battle of Steenkirk.

**STEPNEY.** A decoction of raisins of the sun and lemons in conduit water, sweetened with sugar, and bottled up.

**STEWED QUAKER.** Burnt rum, with a piece of butter, a remedy for a cold.

**STICKS.** Household furniture.

**STIFF-RUMPED.** Proud, stately.

**STINGRUM.** Cheap or stingy.

**STINGO.** Strong beer, or other liquor.

**STIRRUP CUP.** A parting cup or glass, drank on horseback by the person taking leave.

**STITCHBACK.** Strong ale.

**STOCKJOBBER.** Persons who gamble in Exchange Alley, by pretending to buy and sell the public funds, but in reality only betting that they will be at a certain price, at a particular time; possessing neither the stock pretended to be sold, nor money sufficient to make good the payments for which they contract: these gentlemen are known under the different appellations of bulls, bears, and lame ducks.

**STOMACH WORM.** The stomach worm gnaws; I am hungry.

**STOTER.** A great blow. Tip him a stoter in the haltering place; give him a blow under the left ear.

**STOUP.** A vessel to hold liquor: a vessel containing a size or half a pint.

**STOW.** Stow you; be silent, or hold your peace.

**STRAIT-LACED.** Precise, over nice, puritanical.

**STRANGER.** A guinea.

**STRAP.** To work.

**STRAPPER.** A large man or woman.

**STRETCHING.** Hanging. He'll stretch for it; he will be hanged for it. Also telling a great lie: he stretched stoutly.

**STRIKE.** Twenty shillings.

**STRIP ME NAKED.** Gin.

**STROLLERS.** Itinerants of different kinds. Strolling morts; beggars or pedlars pretending to be widows.

**STRUMPET.** A harlot.

**STUB-FACED.** Pitted with the smallpox: the devil ran over his face with horse stabs (horse nails) in his shoes.

**STUBBLE IT.** Hold your tongue.

**STUM.** The flower of fermenting wine, used by vintners to adulterate their wines.

**STUMPS.** Legs. To stir one's stumps; to walk fast.

**SUDS.** In the suds; in trouble, in a disagreeable situation, or involved in some difficulty.

**SUGAR SOPS.** Toasted bread soaked in ale, sweetened with sugar, and grated nutmeg: it is eaten with cheese.

**SUNSHINE.** Prosperity.

**SUPERNACOLUM.** Good liquor, of which there is not even a drop left sufficient to wet one's nail.

**SUPOUCH.** A landlady of an inn, or hostess.

**SWAG.** Any quantity of goods. Rum swag; a shop full of rich goods. CANT.

**SWAGGER.** To bully, brag, or boast, also to strut.

**SWANNERY.** High quality brothel.

**SWEET.** Easy to be imposed on, or taken in; also expert, dexterous clever.

**SWELL.** A gentleman.

**SWILL.** To drink greedily.

**SWILL TUB.** A drunkard, a sot.

**SWING.** To be hanged. He will swing for it; he will be hanged for it.

**SWIPES.** Purser's swipes; small beer: so termed on board the king's ships, where it is furnished by the purser.

**SWIZZLE.** Drink, or any brisk or windy liquor, a mixture of spruce beer, rum, and sugar.

**SWORD RACKET.** To enlist in different regiments, and on receiving the bounty to desert immediately.

## T

**TABBY.** An old maid.

**TACT.** The art of wheedling a rich old relation, winning an heiress, or dismissing duns with the payment of fair promises. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**TAG-RAG AND BOBTAIL.** An expression meaning an assemblage of low people.

**TAKEN IN.** Imposed on, cheated.

**TALE TELLERS.** Persons hired to tell wonderful stories of giants and fairies, to lull their hearers to sleep. Also, tale bearers; mischief makers, incendiaries in families.

**TALL BOY.** A bottle, or two-quart pot.

**TAME.** To run tame about a house; to live familiarly in a family with which one is upon a visit. **TANDEM.** A two-wheeled chaise, buggy, or noddy, drawn by two horses.

**TANGIER.** A room in Newgate, where debtors were confined, hence called Tangerines.

**TAPE.** Red tape; brandy. Blue or white tape; gin.

**TAPLASH.** Thick and bad beer.

**TARADIDDLE.** A fib, or falsity.

**TARTAR.** To catch a Tartar; to attack one of superior strength or abilities. This saying originated from a story of an Irish-soldier in the Imperial service, who, in a battle against the Turks, called out to his comrade that he had caught a Tartar. 'Bring him along then,' said he. 'He won't come,' answered Paddy. 'Then come along yourself,' replied his comrade. 'Arrah,' cried he, 'but he won't let me.'--A Tartar is also an adept at any feat, or game: he is quite a Tartar at cricket, or billiards.

**TASTE.** The art of discerning the precise shades of difference constituting a bad or well dressed man, woman, or dinner. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**TAT.** Tit for tat; an equivalent.

**TATS.** False dice.

**TATLER.** A watch. To flash a tatler: to wear a watch.

**TAT MONGER.** One that uses false dice.

**TATTERDEMATION.** A ragged fellow, whose clothes hang all in tatters.

**TATTERSALL'S.** The place to go in London for the sales or purchase of fine horses.

**TAW.** A schoolboy's game, played with small round balls made of stone dust, catted marbles. I'll be one upon your taw presently; a species of threat.

**TAWDRY.** Garish, gawdy, with lace or staring and discordant colours.

**TEN IN THE HUNDRED.** An usurer; more than five in the hundred being deemed usurious interest.

**TENANT AT WILL.** One whose wife usually fetches him from the alehouse.

**TENANT FOR LIFE.** A married man; i.e. possessed of a woman for life.

**TENDER PARNELL.** A tender creature, fearful of the least puff of wind or drop of rain. As tender as Parnell, who broke her finger in a posset drink.

**TERMAGANT.** A furious woman.

**THATCH-GALLOWS.** A rogue, or man of bad character.

**THICK.** Intimate.

**THIEF TAKERS.** 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.

**THIMBLE.** A watch. The swell flashes a rum thimble; the gentleman sports a fine watch.

**THORNS.** To be or sit upon thorns; to be uneasy, impatient, anxious for an event.

**THORNBACK.** An old maid.

**THREE TO ONE.** Adultery.

**THROTTLE.** To strangle.

**THUMB.** By rule of thumb: to do any thing by dint of practice.

**THUMPING.** Great! i.e. A thumping good time.

**THWACK.** A great blow with a stick across the shoulders.

**TIB.** A young lass

**TICK.** To run o'tick; take up goods upon trust, to run in debt.

**TICKLE PITCHEB.** A thirsty fellow, a sot.

**TICKRUM.** A licence.

**TILT.** To tilt; to fight with a sword. To run full tilt against one; allusion to the ancient tilling with the lance.

**TILTER.** A sword.

**TIP.** To give or lend.

**TIP-TOP.** The best.

**TIPPLE.** Liquor.

**TIPPLERS.** Sots who are continually sipping.

**TIPSEY.** Almost drunk.

**TIRING.** Dressing. Tiring women, or tire women, women that used to cut ladies

hair, and dress them.

**TIT.** A horse; a pretty little tit; a smart little girl. A tid bit; a delicate morsel.

**TIT FOR TAT.** An equivalent.

**TITTER.** To suppress a laugh.

**TITTLE-TATTLE.** Idle discourse, scandal, women's talk, or small talk.

**TITTUP.** A gentle hand gallop, or canter.

**TIZZY.** All a flutter, or flustered.

**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. This appellation is derived from a mountebank's servant, on whom all experiments used to be made in public by the doctor, his master; among which was the eating of toads, formerly supposed poisonous. Swallowing toads is here figuratively meant for swallowing or putting up with insults, as disagreeable to a person of feeling as toads to the stomach.

**TOADY.** One who is a hanger on or false flatterer to the rich and powerful.

**TOAST.** A health; also a beautiful woman whose health is often drank by men. The origin of this term (as it is said) was this: a beautiful lady bathing in a cold bath, one of her admirers out of gallantry drank some of the water: whereupon another of her lovers observed, he never drank in the morning, but he would kiss the toast, and immediately saluted the lady.

**TOASTING IRON, or CHEESE TOASTER.** A sword.

**TOBY LAY.** The highway. High toby man; a highway-man. Low toby man; a footpad.

**TODDY.** Originally the juice of the cocoa tree, and afterwards rum, water, sugar, and nutmeg.

**TODDLE.** To walk away.

**TOGS.** Clothes. The swell is rum-togged. The gentleman is handsomely dressed.

**TOKEN.** The plague: also the venereal disease. She tipped him the token; she gave him a clap or pox.

**TOLLIBAN RIG.** A species of cheat carried on by a woman, assuming the character of a dumb and deaf conjuror.

**TOMBOY.** A romping girl, who prefers the amusement used by boys to those of her own sex.

**TOM LONG.** A tiresome story teller. It is coming by Tom Long, the carrier; said of any thing that has been long expected.

**TOOLS.** The private parts of a man.

**TOP OF THE TREES.** A male member epidomizes the most admirable traits.

**TOPPER.** A violent blow on the head.

**TOP ROPES.** To sway away on all top ropes; to live riotously or extravagantly.

**TOP.** To cheat, or trick: also to insult: he thought to have topped upon me.

**TOP DIVER.** A lover of women.

**TOP HEAVY.** Drunk.

**TOP LIGHTS.** The eyes. Blast your top lights.

**TOPPING FELLOW.** One at the top or head of his profession.

**TOPPING CHEAT.** The gallows.

**TOPPING COVE.** The hangman.

**TOPPING MAN.** A rich man.

**TOSS POT.** A drunkard.

**TOTTY-HEADED.** Giddy, hare-brained.

**TOUCH.** To touch; to get money from any one; also to arrest.

**TOUCHED IN THE HEAD.** Insane, crazy.

**TOUCH BUN FOR LUCK.** See BUN.

**TRADESMEN.** Merchants.

**TRAPAN.** To inveigle, or ensnare.

**TRAPES.** A slatternly woman, a careless sluttish woman.

**TRAVELLER.** To tip the traveller; to tell wonderful stories, to romance.

**TRAVELLING PIQUET.** A mode of amusing themselves, 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 a greyhorse, witholue 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 post chaise; 5. A horseman; 2. A man or woman walking; 1.

**TRAY TRIP.** An ancient game like Scotch hop, played on a pavement marked out with chalk into different compartments.

**TREASURE** A lady's maid, skillful in the mysteries of building up heads, and pulling down characters; ingenious in the construction of caps, capes, and scandal, and judicious in the application of paint and flattery; also, a footman, who knows, at a single glance, which visitors to admit to the presence of their mistress, and whom to refuse. -- Aristocratic Satire.

**TRENCHER MAN.** A stout trencher man; one who has a good appetite, or, as the term is, plays a good knife and fork.

**TRIB.** A prison: perhaps from tribulation.

**TRICKUM LEGIS.** A quirk or quibble in the law.

**TRIG IT.** To play truant.

**TRIGRYMATE.** An idle female companion.

**TRIM.** State, dress. In a sad trim; dirty. Also spruce or fine: a trim fellow.

**TRIMMING.** Cheating.

**TRINKETS.** Toys, bawbles, or nicknacks.

**TROLL.** To loiter or saunter about.

**TROLLY LOLLY.** Coarse lace.

**TROLLOP.** A lusty coarse sluttish woman.

**TROOPS OF VENUS.** Prostitutes who ply their trade in Vaux Hall and Ranelagh Gardens.

**TROT.** A gentle pace.

**TROTTERS.** Feet.

**TROUNCE.** To punish by course of law, or fist. **TRUCK.** To exchange, swop, or barter.

**TRULL.** A soldier or a tinker's trull; a soldier or tinker's female companion.

**TRUMPERY.** An old harlot, or goods of no value; rubbish.

**TRUMPET.** To sound one's own trumpet; to praise one's self.

**TRUMPS.** To be put to one's trumps: to be in difficulties, or put to one's shifts. Something may turn up trumps; something lucky may happen. All his cards are trumps: he is extremely fortunate.

**TRUNDLERS.** Peas.

**TRYST.** An assignation or secret meeting.

**TURF.** On the turf; persons who keep running horses, or attend and bet at horse-races, are said to be on the turf.

**TURK.** A cruel, hard-hearted man. Turkish treatment; barbarous usage.

**TURNCOAT.** One who has changed his party from interested motives.

**TURNED UP.** Acquitted; discharged.

**TURNIP-PATED.** White or fair-haired.

**TWADDLE.** Perplexity, confusion, or uninteresting talk.

**TWEAGUE.** In a great tweague: in a great passion. Tweaguey; peevish, passionate.

**TWEAK.** To pull: to tweak any one's nose.

**TWELVER.** A shilling.

**TWIDDLE-DIDDLES.** Testicles.

**TWIDDLE POOP.** An effeminate looking fellow.

**TWIG.** Handsome; stylish. The cove is togged in twig; the fellow is dressed in the fashion.

**TWIST.** A mixture of half tea and half coffee; likewise brandy, beer, and eggs. A good twist; a good appetite. To twist it down apace; to eat heartily.

**TWISTED.** Executed, hanged.

**TWIT.** To reproach a person, or remind him of favours conferred.

**TWITTER.** All in a twitter; in a fright.

**TWO TO ONE SHOP.** A pawnbroker's: alluding to the three blue balls, the sign of that trade.

**TWO-HANDED.** Great. A two-handed fellow or wench; a great strapping man or woman,

**TYBURN BLOSSOM.** A young thief or pickpocket, who in time will hang from the Tyburn Tree or gallows.

## U

**UNCLE.** Mine uncle's; a necessary house. He is gone to visit his uncle; saying of one who leaves his wife soon after marriage. It likewise means a pawnbroker's: goods pawned are frequently said to be at mine uncle's, or laid up in lavender.

**UNDERSTRAPPER.** An inferior in any office, or department.

**UNFORTUNATE WOMEN.** Prostitutes.

**UNQUENTUM AUREUM.** A bribe.

**UNICORN.** A coach drawn by three horses.

**UNLICKED CUB.** A rude uncouth young fellow.

**UNRIGGED.** Undressed, or stripped.

**UNTWISTED.** Undone, ruined, done up.

**UP TO THEIR GOSSIP.** To be a match for one who attempts to cheat or deceive; to be on a footing, or in the secret. I'll be up with him; I will repay him in kind.

**UPHILLS.** False dice that run high.

**UPPER BENJAMIN.** A great coat.

**UPPER STORY, or GARRET.** Figuratively used to signify the head.

**UPPING BLOCK.** Steps for mounting a horse.

**UPPISH.** Testy, apt to take offence.

**UPSTARTS.** Persons lately raised to honours and riches from mean stations.

**URCHIN.** A child, a little fellow; also a hedgehog.

**USED UP.** Killed.

## V

**VAGARIES.** Frolics, wild rambles.

**VAIN-GLORIOUS, or OSTENTATIOUS MAN.** One who boasts without reason.

**VAMP.** To refit, new dress, or rub up old hats, shoes or other wearing apparel; likewise to put new feet to old boots.

**VAMPER.** Stockings.

**VAN-NECK.** Miss or Mrs. Van-Neck; a woman with large breasts; a bushel bubby.

**VARDY.** To give one's vary; i.e. verdict or opinion.

**VARLETS.** Now rogues and rascals, formerly yeoman's servants.

**VARMENT.** Natty, dashing. He is quite varment, he is quite the go.

**VAULTING SCHOOL.** An academy where vaulting and other manly exercises are taught.

**VELVET.** To tip the velvet; to put one's tongue into a woman's mouth. i.e. French Kiss.

**VENUS'S CURSE.** The venereal disease.

**VINCENT'S LAW.** The art of cheating at cards, by the banker, who plays booty, Gripe, who bets, and the Vincent, who is cheated. The gain is called termage.

**VINGT-ET-UN.** Blackjack, a game where players bet on being able to draw cards without going over 21.

**VIXEN.** A termagant; also a she fox, who, when she has cubs, is remarkably fierce.

**VOUCHSAFED.** To allow or permit, to swear or attest.

**VOWEL.** A gamester who does not immediately pay his losings, is said to vowel the winner, by repeating the vowels I. O. U..

## W

**WABLER.** Footwabler; a contemptuous term for a foot soldier, frequently used by those of the cavalry.

**WAG.** An arch-frolicsome fellow.

**WAGGISH.** Arch, gamesome, frolicsome.

**WAGTAIL.** A lewd woman.

**WAITS.** Musicians of the lower order, who in most towns play under the windows of the chief inhabitants at midnight, a short time before Christmas, for which they collect a christmas-box from house to house. They are said to derive their name of waits from being always in waiting to celebrate weddings and other joyous events happening within their district.

**WAKE.** A country feast, commonly on the anniversary of the tutelary saint of the village, that is, the saint to whom the parish church is dedicated. Also a custom of watching the dead, called Late Wake, in use both in Ireland and Wales, where the corpse being deposited under a table, with a plate of salt on its breast, the table is covered with liquor of all sorts; and the guests, particularly, the younger part of them, amuse themselves with all kinds of pastimes and recreations: the consequence is generally more than replacing the departed friend.

**WALKING CORNET.** An ensign of foot.

**WALKING POULTERER.** One who steals fowls, and hawks them from door to door.

**WALKING STATIONER.** A hawker of pamphlets.

**WALKING THE PLANK.** A mode of destroying devoted persons or officers in a mutiny or ship-board, by blindfolding them, and obliging them to walk on a plank laid over the ship's side; by this means, as the mutineers suppose, avoiding the penalty of murder.

**WALKING UP AGAINST THE WALL.** To run up a score, which in alehouses is commonly recorded with chalk on the walls of the bar.

**WALL.** To walk or crawl up the wall; to be scored up at a public-house.

**WAP.** To beat.

**WAPPER-EYED.** Sore-eyed.

**WARES.** Merchandise or commodities for sale.

**WARE HAWK.** An exclamation used by thieves to inform their confederates that some police officers are at hand.

**WARM.** Rich, in good circumstances. To warm, or give a man a warming; to

beat him.

**WARMING-PAN.** A pan full of hot coals for warming the sheets or a female bedfellow.

**WARREN.** One that is security for goods taken up on credit by extravagant young gentlemen.

**WASH.** Paint for the face, or cosmetic water.

**WASP.** An infected prostitute, who like a wasp carries a sting in her tail.

**WASPISH.** Peevish, spiteful.

**WASTE.** House of waste; a tavern or alehouse, where idle people waste both their time and money.

**WATER-MILL.** A woman's private parts.

**WATER SNEAKSMAN.** A man who steals from ships or craft on the river.

**WATER.** His chops watered at it; he longed earnestly for it. To watch his waters; to keep a strict watch on any one's actions. In hot water: in trouble, engaged in disputes.

**WATER BEWITCHED.** Very weak punch or beer.

**WATERPAD.** One that robs ships in the river Thames.

**WATERY-HEADED.** Apt to shed tears.

**WATER SCRIGER,** A doctor who prescribes from inspecting the water of his patients.

**WATTLES.** Ears.

**WEASEL-FACED.** Thin, meagre-faced.

**WEASEL-GUTTED.** Thin-bodied.

**WEDGE.** Silver plate, because melted by the receivers of stolen goods into wedges.

**WEED.** To take a part.

**WEeping CROSS.** To come home by weeping cross; to repent.

**WELCH COMB.** The thumb and four fingers.

**WELCH MILE.** Like a Welch mile, long and narrow. His story is like a Welch mile, long and tedious.

**WELCH EJECTMENT.** To unroof the house, a method practised by landlords in Wales to eject a bad tenant.

**WESTMINSTER WEDDING.** A match between a harlot and a rogue.

**WHAPPER.** A large man or woman.

**WHEEDLE.** Beg, or to cut a wheedle; to decoy by fawning or insinuation.

**WHELP.** An impudent whelp; a saucy boy.

**WHEREAS.** To follow a whereas; to become a bankrupt, to figure among princes

and potentates: the notice given in the Gazette that a commission of bankruptcy is issued out against any trader, always beginning with the word whereas. He will soon march in the rear of a whereas.

**WHET.** A morning's draught, commonly white wine, supposed to whet or sharpen the appetite.

**WHETSTONE'S PARK.** A lane between Holborn and Lincoln's-inn Fields, formerly famed for being the resort of women of the town.

**WHIDS.** Words.

**WHIDDLE.** To tell or discover.

**WHIDDLER.** An informer, or one that betrays secrets.

**WHIP OFF.** To run away, to drink off greedily, to snatch.

**WHIP-BELLY VENGEANCE.** Pinch-gut vengeance, of which he that gets the most has the worst share. Weak or sour beer.

**WHIPPER-SNAPPER.** A diminutive fellow.

**WHIPSTER.** A sharp or subtle fellow. A skilled coachman or driver of various styles of carriage.

**WHIPPED SYLLABUB.** A flimsy, frothy discourse or treatise, without solidity.

**WHIRLYGIGS.** Testicles.

**WHISKER.** A great lie.

**WHISKER SPLITTER.** A man of intrigue.

**WHISKIN.** A shallow brown drinking bowl.

**WHISKY.** A malt spirit, or a one-horse chaise.

**WHIST.** A card game that is similar to bridge.

**WHISTLING SHOP.** Rooms in the King's Bench and Fleet prison where drams are privately sold.

**WHITE RIBBON.** Gin.

**WHITE FEATHER.** He has a white feather; he is a coward; an allusion to a game cock, where having a white leather is a proof he is not of the true game breed.

**WHITE-LIVERED.** Cowardly, malicious.

**WHITE LIE.** A harmless lie, one not told with a malicious intent, a lie told to reconcile people at variance.

**WHITE SERGEANT.** A man fetched from the tavern or ale-house by his wife, is said to be arrested by the white sergeant.

**WHITE SWELLING.** A woman big with child is said to have a white swelling.

**WHITWASHED.** One who has taken the benefit of an act of insolvency, to defraud his creditors, is said to have been whitewashed.

**WHITHER-GO-YE.** A wife, wives being sometimes apt to question their husbands whither they are going.

**WHITTINGTON'S COLLEGE.** Newgate; built or repaired by the famous lord mayor of that name.

**WHORE'S SON.** A bastard.

**WHORE-MONGER.** A man that keeps more than one mistress.

**WIBBLE.** Bad drink.

**WIBLING'S WITCH.** The four of clubs: from one James Wibling, who in the reign of King James I. grew rich by private gaming, and was commonly observed to have that card, and never to lose a game but when he had it not.

**WICKED PACE.** To drive or ride dangerously fast.

**WICKET.** A casement; also a little door.

**WIDOW'S WEEDS.** Mourning clothes of a peculiar fashion, denoting her state.

**WIDOW BEWITCHED.** A woman whose husband is abroad, and said, but not certainly known, to be dead.

**WIFE.** A fetter fixed to one leg.

**WIFE IN WATER COLOURS.** A mistress, or concubine; water colours being, like their engagements, easily effaced, or dissolved.

**WILLOW.** Poor, and of no reputation. To wear the willow; to be abandoned by a lover or mistress.

**WIND.** To raise the wind; to procure money.

**WINDER.** Transportation for life. The blowen has napped a winder for a lift; the wench is transported for life for stealing in a shop.

**WINDFALL.** A legacy, or any accidental accession of property.

**WINDMILLS IN THE HEAD.** Foolish projects.

**WINDWARD PASSAGE.** One who uses or navigates the windward passage; a sodomite.

**WINDY.** Foolish. A windy fellow; a simple fellow.

**WINK.** To tip one the wink; to give a signal by winking the eye.

**WINNINGS.** Plunder, goods, or money acquired by theft or gambling.


**WINTER'S DAY.** He is like a winter's day, short and dirty.

**WISEACRE.** A foolish conceited fellow.

**WITCHES.** Silver. Witcher bubber; a silver bowl. Witcher tilter; a silver-hilted sword. Witcher cully; a silversmith.

**WOBBLE.** To boil. Pot wobbler; one who boils a pot.

**WOLF IN THE BREAST.** An extraordinary mode of imposition, sometimes



practised in the country by strolling women, who have the knack of counterfeiting extreme pain, pretending to have a small animal called a wolf in their breasts, which is continually gnawing them.

**WOLF IN THE STOMACH.** A monstrous or canine appetite.

**WOOD.** In a wood; bewildered, in a maze, in a peck of troubles, puzzled, or at a loss what course to take in any business.

**WOOD PECKER.** A bystander, who bets whilst another plays.

**WOODCOCK.** A taylor with a long bill.

**WOODEN HABEAS.** A coffin. A man who dies in prison is said to go out with a wooden habeas. He went out with a wooden habeas; i.e. his coffin.

**WOODEN RUFF.** The pillory.

**WOMAN OF THE TOWN, or WOMAN OF PLEASURE.** A prostitute.

**WOMAN AND HER HUSBAND.** A married couple, where the woman is bigger than her husband.

**WOMAN'S CONSCIENCE.** Never satisfied.

**WOMAN OF ALL WORK.** Sometimes applied to a female servant, who refuses none of her master's commands.

**WOOL GATHERING.** Your wits are gone a woolgathering; saying to an absent man, one in a reverie, or absorbed in thought.

**WOOLLEY CROWN.** A soft-headed fellow.

**WORLD.** All the world and his wife; every body, a great company.

**WORM.** To worm out; to obtain the knowledge of a secret by craft, also to undermine or supplant.

**WRAPT UP IN WARM FLANNEL.** Drunk with spirituous liquors. To be wrapt up in any one: to have a good opinion of him, or to be under his influence.

X

**XANTIPPE.** The name of Socrates's wife, used to signify a shrew or scolding wife.



## Y

**YAFFLING.** Eating.

**YAM.** To eat or stuff heartily.

**YANK, or YANKEE DOODLE.** A country lout: a name given to the New England men in North America. A general appellation for an American.

**YARMOUTH COACH.** A kind of low two-wheeled cart drawn by one horse.

**YARUM.** Milk.

**YELLOW.** To look yellow; to be jealous.

**YELLOW BOYS.** Guineas.

**YOKED.** Married.

**YOUNG ONE.** A familiar expression of contempt for another's ignorance, as "ah! I see you're a young one." How d'ye do, young one?

Z

**ZAD.** Crooked like the letter Z.

**ZANY.** The jester, jack pudding, or merry andrew, to a mountebank.

**Zoo.** The Royal Exchange featured a Zoo where children and younger siblings were often taken as a treat during the London Season.



Excerpt From...

## A Very Merry Chase

### An Old-Fashioned Regency Romance

When Sabrina's angry diatribe finally wound to a breathless close, the giant highwayman laughed out loud before slowly, exaggeratedly applauding her most unladylike display of temper. "Tsk. Tsk. My dear. And here I believed myself in the company of a fine lady—showing you all the courtesy due to one in your supposedly elevated station."

"Bloody hell, you did." she replied, attempting to land another stinging slap.

At this point, Lady Bethany, shocked absolutely to the core of her gentle soul, could take no more and swooned dead away.

He pointed this out with no little enjoyment. "Now, my fine lady, look what you've done. You should be ashamed?"

Sabrina, not in the least contrite, began to call down curses on not only the man himself; but on all of his ancestors past and his descendants yet to be born.

"My dear, that really is quite enough. If you persist in acting like a strumpet, then, I fear, as a strumpet you shall be treated."

She gasped aloud and jerked away; but he was lighting fast and inside the coach with one foot even before he finished speaking. He laughed as he swept her firmly into his arms and out into the moonlit night.

And thus begins the chase....

\*\*\*\*\*

# About A Very Merry Chase

Brenton, Lord Branderly, Ninth Duke of Brensted--tall, broad-shouldered, larger than life--a giant of a man with a dark past and a brighter vision for the future. Tragically orphaned at a young age--abandoned by fate to the jealous rage of a drunken guardian--he endured years of verbal and physical abuse before confronting his tormentor and setting out alone--hardly more than a lad--determined to conquer the world on his own terms.

Twenty years later he returns--world traveled, wildly successful and in possession of a immense fortune whose origins are subject to hushed whispers and backroom speculation. Now, the last of his noble line--ancestral estates restored to their former glory--only one true desire remains....

The Right Honorable Lady Sabrina St. Clair, an incomparable--eight years the toast of London--fiercely independent, uniquely beautiful, uncommonly wealthy, titled in her own right...the fabulous Lady Bria is all this and more; but very soon something new will take precedence and all will be changed--at least in the unforgiving eyes of the haut ton. "It is of no great importance." she laughingly proclaims to any so genuinely concerned--or curiously vulgar--as to broach the subject; but still the inescapable fact remains that she is but a few weeks shy of becoming an object of pity and subject to such unflattering appellations as spinster, antidote, old maid and ape-leader.

Suddenly, she faces an uncertain future, complicated by the mysterious disappearance of her beloved brother, the unwanted attentions of a gazetted fortune hunter, the tragic loss of her first love, and....

Determined Lord and Reluctant Lady--each proud and indomitable, each haunted by demons past and present--a match made in heaven or hell? They clash one fateful night at the stroke of midnight, on the infamous Finchley Common, against a devilish backdrop of barking irons, highway robbery and a single stolen kiss.... Would their lives ever again, be the same?

Set in early 19th century Regency England, A Very Merry Chase is a comedy of both manners and errors that boasts empire fashions, dashing

characters, verbal sparring matches and witty repartee mingled with just a hint of mystery, danger and intrigue. Harking back in style to the heyday of Georgette Heyer and Barbara Cartland, this simple tale has neither marauding zombies, nor bloodsucking vampires to recommend it--featuring instead, old-fashioned romantic charm blended with the merest hint of modern day spice.

Amusing and lively--the perfect evening's entertainment for the wistful, workaholic baby boomer who lusts after the simple luxury of a few peaceful hours to indulge in the quiet pleasure of a traditional Regency Romance.

## A Very Merry Chase



A Regency Romance  
- BY -  
TERESA THOMAS BOHANNON



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Teresa Thomas Bohannon

Author Of

The Original Regency Romance

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