

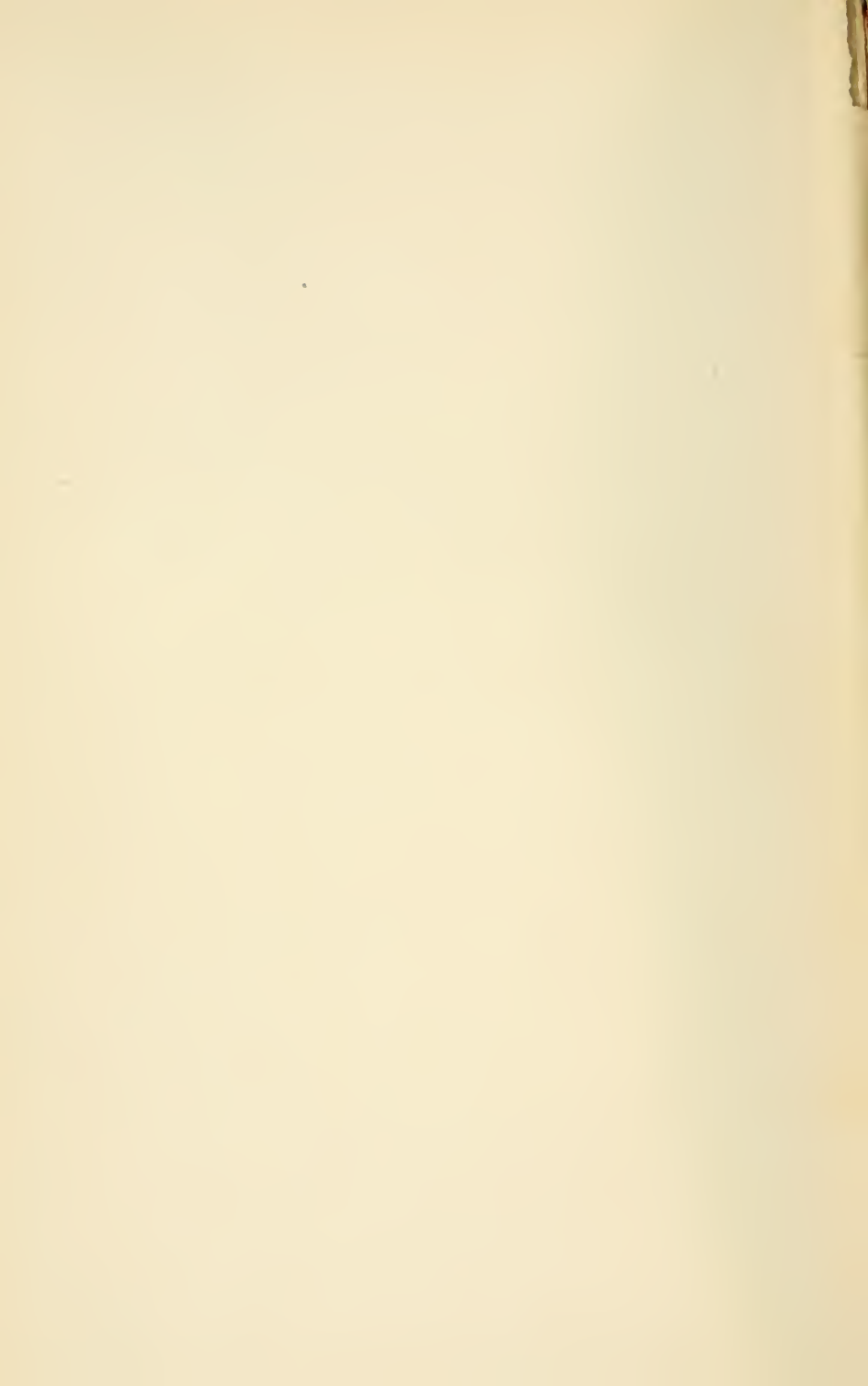
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AN AMERICAN GLOSSARY.

AN
AMERICAN GLOSSARY

BEING AN ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE CERTAIN
AMERICANISMS UPON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

BY
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OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAR
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VOL. II. M—Z

"The new circumstances under which we are placed call for new words, new phrases, and for the transfer of old words to new objects. An American dialect will therefore be formed."—*Thomas Jefferson to John Waldo, August 16, 1815, from Monticello.*

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Macheers. Appurtenances of a saddle.

1862 Showers shrank his buckskins, and soaked the *macheers* of his saddle to mere pulp. . . . The heavy California saddle, with its *macheers* and roll of blankets, fell to the ground.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' pp. 55, 222 (N.Y., 1876).

Machine. A political organization. Usually in a bad sense.

1876 He encountered the combinations inside politics,—the machine.—*North Am. Review*, cxxiii. 327. (N.E.D.)

1888 Bryce, 'American Commonwealth.' (N.E.D.)

1911 Six years ago, William H. Taft bravely denounced the Cox *machine* in Cincinnati; to-day he openly endorses its candidate on the plea that the situation has "changed."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 6.

Mackinaw blanket. A thick blanket used by the Indians of the North-West.

1839 We had *Mackinaw-blankets*, stretched upon balsam branches, to recline upon.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 114 (Lond.).

1851 My "*Mackinaw*" makes my bed by night and my great coat on other occasions.—Mayne Reid, 'The Scalp-Hunters,' p. 22. (N.E.D.)

1856 [He] recommended a tent, a soft plank, and a *Mackinaw blanket*.—*Putnam's Mag.*, viii. 384 (Oct.).

1857 Mac was making a variety of contortions between heaven and a *mackinaw*.—*San Fr. Call*, Jan. 29.

Mackinaw boat. One used on the great lakes.

1841 A *mackinaw-boat*, capable of carrying 50 or 100 casks.—Catlin, 'N. Am. Indians' (1844), i. 73. (N.E.D.)

1846 The boats were constructed of light plank, and were what are called "*Mackinaw boats*."—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw in California,' p. 64 (Lond., 1849).

Macock, Maycock. See quotations.

1612 A fruite like vnto a muske millen, . . . which they call *Macocks*.—Capt. Smith, 'Map of Virginia,' p. 17. (N.E.D.)

1705 Vetches, Squashes, *Maycocks*, Maracocks, Melons, &c.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 17

Mad. Angry. Now provincial in England, but much used in America. Examples in Garrick, Marryat, Trollope, &c. (N.E.D.)

1847 There's no use your getting *mad*, you've got to stop here.—Sol. Smith, 'Adventures,' p. 58.

1854 Mrs. Jarvis looked half glad and half "*mad*," and entirely ashamed.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 639 (June).

1908 The thing that made me *maddest* was Silas Petty a-leanin' back in his pew and smilin' as satisfied as if he'd seen the salvation of the Lord.—Eliza C. Hall, 'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 48.

Mad as a beaver.

1809 He is naturally *as mad as a beaver*, and will scold like a termagant.—*Mass. Spy*, July 5.

Madam, Ma'am. See quot. 1845.

1837 *Marm* Pugwash is as-onsartin in her temper as a mornin in April.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' i. x. (N.E.D.)

1844 *Madam* Bradshaw was evidently displeased. Caroline replied, *Ma'* Bradshaw, I have not yet spoken.—*Lowell Offering*, iv. 191.

1845 The title of *Madam* is sometimes given here, and generally in Charleston, S.C., and the South, to a mother whose son is married, and the daughter in law is then called Mrs.—Sir Charles Lyell, 'Second Visit to the U.S.,' i. 129 (N.Y., 1855).

1867 Obed, you pick 'em out o' sight an' sound,
Your *ma'am* don't love no feathers clutterin' round.

Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story': *Atlantic*, Jan.

Magooffer. Some kind of turtle.

1795 He must be used like a *magooffer*, by putting fire on his back.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., March 16.

Make a die. To die. Cotgrave (N.E.D.).

1825 I wonder [the dog] didn't go mad; or *make a die of it*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 398.

1837 Why, Tom, you don't mean to *make a die of it*.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' iii. 227 (Lond.).

1845 They said Billy was gwine to *make a die of it*, and had sent for 'em.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 72.

1848 I'm afraid I'm going to *make a die of it*. I'm going to create a vacancy.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 195.

Make good. To succeed.

1911 Whether or not the new woman Mayor would "*make good*" was of real interest to the country at large, and of considerable importance to the future of the suffrage movement.—*N Y. Ev. Post*, Sept. 14.

Make a pass. To strike at; to attack, literally or in metaphor.
'Dialect Notes,' ii. 320.

1840 Well, said Blossom, *make a pass* at me. No, said Peter, you made the banter, now *make your pass*,—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 28.

1854 Judge Sawbridge *made a pass* at him as soon almost as he was seated. He commenced by inquiring, &c.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 161.

Make out. To manage, to contrive.

1609 I could not but *make out* to tell you so.—Ben Jonson, 'The Silent Woman,' v. 1.

1776 Amidst these interruptions, how shall I *make out* to write a letter?—J. Adams, 'Fam. Letters' (1876), p. 231. (N.E.D.)

1807 We *made out* to get enough of drift wood to cook with.—P. Gass, 'Journal,' p. 92. (N.E.D.)

1834 One of his horses had struck lame, but he had *made out* to bring him to the village.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 73 (N.Y., 1837).

1845 I *made out* to skin and to cut up the b'ar, and a noble mountain of fat she made.—*Id.*, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 58 (Lond.).

1853 He did *make out* to give us some breakfast in the morning.—Brigham Young, June 5: 'Journal of Disc.,' i. 256.

1857 [The cow ate] until she nearly killed herself, and we have just *made out* to save her.—The same, April 6: *id.*, iv. 317.

1857 [The old man] *made out* to continue his duties through the session.—Geo. A. Smith, Bowery, July 26: *id.*, v. 61.

1859 What with foreboding looks and dreary death-bed stories, it was a wonder the child *made out* to live through it.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' chap. iii.

1866 [They] were carried down stream for about a dozen rods, when they *made out* to land again.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 277.

Make one's pile. To amass money.

1861 The Treasury is bankrupt by continual demands for refits; but the jobber has *made his pile*, and what does he care?—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. (Bartlett).

Make time. To proceed rapidly.

1842 A single horse in a sulky would be able to *make the same*, if not even *better time*, with the letter mail alone.—Mr. Wright of N.Y., U.S. Senate, March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 188, App.

Make a train, a place, &c. To arrive at, to reach. Originally nautical.

1797 I had *made* (note, That is, approached) the banks of this river twice before.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 339 (Lond., 1856).

1855 He will be for keeping this side, where he can soonest *make Orangeburg*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 467.

Make a train, a place, &c.—contd.

- 1862 We have no time to lose, if we expect to *make* Missouri before winter.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 52 (N.Y., 1876).
- 1875 Well, yonder's that Island, and we can't *make* it.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times,' *Atl. Monthly*, p. 222 (Feb.).
- 1910 Church Usher—"I had a singular experience at the service this morning." Friend—"What was it?" C.U.—"A stranger I was showing into a seat whispered that he wanted to be waked at 11:30 sharp, as he had to *make* a train."—*Boston Transcript*, August.

Make tracks. To be off in a hurry.

- 1833 Never man "*made tracks*," as they say in the West, as did Jack Hastie.—J. K. Paulding in the *Knickerbocker Mag.*, i. 148.
- 1833 I think I'll let go the willows, and *make tracks* for Bob Ruly (Bois Brulé), where I belong.—The same, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 147-8 (Lond.).
- 1833 I cut a stick, and *made tracks*, and came back to my old range.—*Id.*, ii. 76.
- [1839 Run, jump, cut stick, clear out! *make streaks*, I tell you.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 243 (Phila.)]
- 1843 Drake was hoisted overboard, and *made tracks* down Water Street.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 25.
- 1849 He bounded from the room, and "*made tracks*" for the steamboat wharf.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 190.
- 1850 Now, stranger, you may be a Morinon for all I know; but if you are, I advise you *make tracks* out of this State as fast as you can go.—*Frontier Guardian*, Feb. 20.
- 1850 The biggest *tracks*, and the fastest, and the more of them, were *made* by a man who had not moved a step for months.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 119.
- 1852 The prisoner *made tracks*, and was never heard of after.—'Solomon Slug,' p. 157.
- 1856 I hurried out and *made tracks* to the White House.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 451 (1860).
- 1858 I saw there was no time to lose, and in hot haste *made tracks* for the street door.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 3 (Jan.).
- 1866 As soon as I can sell out my improvements, I shall *make tracks*.—'Way Down East,' p. 367.

Mamma and Papa. These words, notwithstanding instances 1789 and 1872, are usually accented on the first syllable.

- 1789 The maid, refresh'd with cakes and wine,
Forbids her tender swain to pine;
But, lest *mama* should chide her stay,
She enters soon the gliding sleigh.

Am. Museum, v. 204

Mamma and Papa—*contd.*

- 1808 His little son, a lad of merit
Who oft had seen him steep'd in spirit,
In great surprise, cri'd, *Mamma*, see
A miracle, a prodigy ;
Papa's come home, with decent spunk,
To save his hay, and is not drunk.
The Balance, March 15, p. 44.
- 1872 If the men were so wicked, I'll ask my *papa*
How he dared to propose to my darling *mamma*.
'Poet at the Breakfast Table,' chap. iii.

Mammoth. As an adjective, the word appears to be originally American.

- 1802 A baker in this city offers *Mammoth bread* for sale. We suppose that his gigantic loaves were baked at a *Salt Lick*, and perhaps may form a great *rock bridge*, or natural arch, between the mouth and maw of a voracious republican.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 31. [The allusion is to Jefferson's writings, and to the "Mammoth Cheese" which had recently been sent to him at Washington.]
- 1802 No more to do with the subject than the man in the moon has to do with the *mammoth cheese*.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N. Y., Oct. 19, p. 331.
- 1803 Its extraordinary dimensions induced some wicked wag of a federalist to call it the *Mammoth Cheese*.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 329 (Lond.).
- 1805 A *Mammoth Pear* is described in *The Balance*, Dec. 3, p. 387.
- 1812 "The *Mammoth Horse*, Columbus," to be seen at Roulstone's Riding School.—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 21.
- 1818 Family pie is, in the New England dialect, nearly synonymous with *mammoth pie*.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 7 : from the *Columbia Centinel*.
- 1824 The last load, as we Yankees say, was a "*Mammoth*" : . . . producing an aggregate of nearly twelve cords.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 14.
- 1824 "*A Mammoth Egg*," described in the *Western Carolinian* : *Carolina Gazette*, Feb. 14, p. 1/3.
- 1837 Not long since the papers were full of articles for and against the *Mammoth Bank* ; now *mammoth pumpkins* are all the go.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Oct. 23, p. 2/1.
- Man alive!** This exclamation is perhaps American, though it occurs in J. B. Buckstone's 'Presumptive Evidence,' ab. 1829, Act I. se. ii.
- 1840 *Man alive!* what do you put yourself in such a plaguy passion for ?—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 168.
- 1845 *Man alive!* I never heard of sich a oudacious perceedin' in my life. This town's got a monstrous bad name for meany and sheconery of all sorts, but I never know'd they 'low'd pirates here before.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 47

Man alive!—*contd.*

- 1845 "Ouch! whew! *Man alive!* what's that?" shouted the speaker.—*Id.*, p. 49.
- 1909 *Man alive!* [the wild geese] know how far they have to fly to get home.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 8.

Mangola. The kind of tree is uncertain.

- 1819 It is covered all along with a most valuable timber, the *mangola* in particular, an excellent kind for house building.—B. Harding, 'Tour through the Western Country,' p. 13 (New London, Conn.).

Manhandle. To maul. Slang. Dict., 1865.

- 1886 *Century Mag.* (N.E.D.)
- 1910 Probably no gang in the city has gone in more scientifically than the car-barn gang. It was not so long ago that they "got" "Jerry" Gorman, and now that they have twice *manhandled* Cummins, it is reasonable to suppose that they will "go after" any other man who is placed on the beat.—*New York Evening Post*, Aug. 4.

Margin. A deposit made by each of two brokers, parties to a contract, when one is called up by the other. (Century Dict.)

- 1870 The broker's power to buy on a *margin* depends upon the certainty that the collaterals will have a definite borrowing capacity. . . . The first clause of every contract for purchase by *margin* is that the relative per cent must be kept up. . . . What you pay down is called *margin*; but behind it lies your whole fortune.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' pp. 56, 57, 66 (Boston).

Marooned. Cast ashore on an island; and, by analogy, blocked on a railroad.

- 1910 Trainful Stalled in Desert. 150 Passengers Must Wait Three or Four Days to be Rescued. Salt Lake City, January 5.—Train No. 4 on the San Pedro, Salt Lake and Los Angeles Railroad, due here from Los Angeles on January 1, is *marooned* in the desert, five miles from Caliente, Nev. The track on both sides was torn out by the flood of last week.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 6.

Marooning. See quotations.

- 1834 He entertained me with an account of his *marooning* expeditions. These are their excursions upon the Sea Islands for purposes of fishing and hunting.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 141 (N.Y.).
- 1855 *Marooning* differs from pic-nicing in this: the former continues several days, the other lasts but one.—Haliburton, 'Nature and Human Nature,' ii. 283, note. (N.E.D.)

Marro. See quotation.

- 1839 His dress consisted of plain leggings of deer skin, fringed at the sides, unembroidered moccasins, and a *marro* or waist-covering of antelope skin.—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 125 (Phila.).

- Mason and Dixon's line.** A line run by two surveyors, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, in 1761-2, between Pennsylvania and Maryland. The term came to be used as signifying the northern limit of the slave states.
- 1824 This bill is an attempt to reduce the country south of *Mason and Dixon's line* to a state of worse than colonial bondage.—John Randolph in Congress, April 15.
- 1830 [If Mr. Dane's] sphere had happened to range south of *Mason and Dixon's line*, he might probably have come within the scope of Mr. Foot's vision.—Speech by Daniel Webster: *Mass. Spy*, March 3.
- 1833 Of the eatables composed of bread-stuffs, served in various shapes, no one who has had the misfortune to be raised north of *Mason and Dixon's line* can form an adequate conception.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 215.
- 1835 I advise every traveller, who comes from the northern side of *Mason and Dixon's line*, to eat fried chickens whenever he meets with them in Virginia.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 17 (Phila.).
- 1840 Do they know that there is a certain line called "*Mason and Dixon's line*"? Do they know that it extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean?—Mr. Bynum of N Carolina, House of Repr., Jan. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 263.
- 1842 [Mr. Granger of N.Y.] comes from a region too far north of *Mason and Dixon's line* to permit him to know or appreciate the people of Georgia.—Mr. Black of Ga., the same, May 24: *id.*, p. 421, App.
- 1846 Thousands of negroes and abolitionists dancing hornpipes upon *Mason and Dixon's line*.—Mr. Tibbatts of Kentucky, the same, March 17: *id.*, p. 560, App.
- 1848 An' the slaves thet we ollers make the most out on
Air them north o' *Mason and Dixon's line*,
Sez John C. Calhoun, sez he.
'Biglow Papers,' No. 5.
- Massassauger, Massauger.** A small rattle-snake.
- 1842 Holbrook, 'N. Am. Herpetology,' iii. 32. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Bless your lawful sakes, you don't call this woods, do you? There ain't no bears, nor many wolves nor *mas-sau-gers* round here.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 75 (July).
- Mass-meetings.** Large public meetings. They were first so called, says Bartlett, in the campaign of 1840.
- 1847-54 MASS-MEETING. A large assembly of the people, to be addressed on some public occasion, usually political.—Webster's Dict.
- 1848 No single constitution has ever been altered by means of a convention gotten up by *mass meetings*.—Daniel Webster in the case of *Luther v. Borden*, 7 Howard 32.
- 1850 A large and enthusiastic *mass meeting* of the citizens of Alabama, held at the City of Montgomery.—Mr. Inge of Ala., House of Repr., Aug. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1652.
- 1855 Those tumultuous *mass-meetings*.—J. L. Motley, 'Dutch Republic' (1861), i. 23. (N.E.D.)

Mast pine, Mast tree. One that is to be used as a ship's mast.

1792 The most noble [of the N.H. trees] is the *mast pine*.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 73.

1792 When a *mast tree* is to be felled, much preparation is necessary.—*Id.*, 103.

Matchcoat. An Indian mantle.

1642 2 rackoone *matchcos*.—'Archives of Maryland' (1887), iv. 94. (N.E.D.)

1661 He paying . . . for the use of those Indians thirty *Matchcoats* of two yards a peice.—'Statutes of Virginia' (1823), ii. 36. (N.E.D.)

1705 The Winter Cloaks (which they call *Matchcoats*).—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 5.

1778 He also took a *matchcoat* blanket.—Runaway advt., *Maryland Journal*, Dec. 22.

1787 87 large packs, containing blankets, *match coats*, boots, &c.—'Indian depredations in Georgia,' : *Am. Museum*, ii. 582.

Materialize. To appear in sight.

1888 [I waited] for an excursion boat to *materialize*.—'Texas Siftings,' Sept. 8 (Farmer).

Maul. To hew wood into rails, very roughly

1677 They were . . . commanded to goe to work, fall trees, and *maul* and toat railles.—*Virginia Mag.*, ii. 168 (1894).

1686 [He doth] impower you to fall, *mall*, and set up . . . 400 panels of sufficient post and railles.—P. A. Bruce, 'Econ. Hist. of Virginia' (1896), i. 318. (N.E.D.)

1776 Mrs. S. used to say that she did as much and all the work a man ever did, except "*mauling rails*."—John H. Wheeler, 'Hist. Sketches of N. Carolina,' ii. 457 (Phila., 1851).

1843 A dollar a day, which was more nor double what a feller got for *mauling rails*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 80.

1848 Among the labors of the latter three years of my country life was that of *mauling rails* . . . A green blue ash was my choice, for it was easy to chop and easy to split; but I often had to encounter a dead honey-locust in the fields, which was a very different affair.—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 70 (Cincinnati, 1870).

1849 Many an honest, hardworking man has *mauled rails* for 50 cents a hundred, that he might be able to get a little coffee, or tea, or sugar, . . . for a sick wife or child.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 81, App.

1851 Finding him in the woods *mauling rails*, he told him, &c.—'An Arkansas Doctor,' p. 40.

1856 I always have two hundred rails *mauled* in a day.—Olmsted, 'Slave States,' p. 207. (N.E.D.)

1860 The judge's style as a stumper is of a heavy, *log-mauling* kind.—*Oregon Argus*, March 17,

- Maverick.** An unbranded yearling. One Maverick owned large herds of cattle, some of which, escaping, were taken by his neighbours, branded, and called by his name.—John S. Farmer, 'Americanisms,' 1889.
- 1887 Nowadays you don't dare to clap a brand on a *maverick* even.—F. Francis, Jun., 'Saddle and Moccasin,' p. 172 (N.E.D.)
- Mawmouth.** Huge-mouthed.
- 1856 We could not withstand the bait, any more than a hungry *mawmouth* perch in midsummer.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 365 (N.Y.).
- Meach.** To sneak. In the sixteenth century, to play truant: see N.E.D., *miche*, *myche*, &c.
- 1792 There is a kind of *meaching* souls in the world.—*Mass. Spy*, March 22.
- 1801 He had lantern jaws and a *meaching* look.—'Spirit of the Farmer's Museum,' p. 287.
- 1832 The old man hauled in his horns and *meeched* off.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 178 (1860).
- Meadow lark.** The grackle, *Sturnella ludoviciana*.
- 1775 *Meadow larks*, fieldfares, rice birds, &c., &c., are very frequently had.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 114.
- 1863 Longfellow, 'The Wayside Inn.' (N.E.D.)
- 1893 The *Meadow-Lark* of America is an *Icterus*.—Newton, 'Dict. of Birds.' (N.E.D.)
- Mean.** Shabby, contemptible.
- 1808 A man who is *mean* enough to abuse me in a common newspaper.—*Mass. Spy*, June 15.
- 1823 A little *mean* chip hat, and coarse domestic clothes from Harmony.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 195.
- 1823 The horses here are nearly all *mean*, wild, deformed, half-grown, dwarfish things.—*Id.*, p. 219.
- 1839 I never felt so *mean* in all my life.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' ii. 224. (N.E.D.)
- 1842 You've had a pretty *mean* time, I reckon.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 140.
- a.1847 As *mean* as a rooster in a thunder shower.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 7.
- a.1848 [One girl] thought me real *mean* for uttering such sentiments.—*Id.*, i. 147.
- 1848 He's a monstrous *mean* horse.—'Georgia Scenes,' p. 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1891 "Oh, mother," exclaimed Phœbe, "I think it would be awful *mean* of me to leave you here alone."—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 14 (Boston).
- Mecklenburg Declaration.** This was a declaration of independence adopted by the citizens of Mecklenburg County, N. Carolina, May 20, 1775. A second declaration was put forth ten days later. See W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of N. Carolina,' ch. i. (N.Y., 1846.)

Mecklenburg Declaration—*contd.*

- 1854 It is now claimed that the "*Mecklenburg declaration*," made at Charlotte, N.C., May 20, 1774, was the first declaration of independence in the Colonies.—Mr. Meacham of Vermont, House of Repr., May 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 839, App. [Should be 1775.]
- Meeting.** The service conducted in a meeting-house.
- 1774 We went to *meeting* at Wells.—J. Adams, 'Family Letters,' p. 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1781 'Tis true, Mr. Tryon went not to *meeting*.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 122.
- 1788 [The children were] left at home while their parents were gone to *meeting*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 25.
- 1793 Sunday—attended *meeting*.—*Id.*, March 7.
- 1799 Not long since I was at *meeting*, and had such difficulty in getting out of the house, that I heartily wished there never were any gowns or robes in existenc.—*Id.*, March 27.
- 1801 A sailor went to *meeting*, and being unacquainted he placed himself in the Deacon's seat. When the Deacon sung the first line of the psalm, the sailor looked at him with an evil eye; the congregation joined, and sung the psalm through; the sailor then arose, and knocked the deacon down, and told him it was he that began all that damned noise.—*Id.*, Nov. 25.
- 1814 The ladies living in the street generally walk to *meeting*, and unless protected by some gentleman are in much danger of being run over.—From 'A Card,' *id.*, Jan. 12.
- 1818 He desired that his family should be regular in attendance at *meeting*, and he himself went when the situation of his patients permitted.—Eulogy of Dr. Caspar Wistar, by Chief Justice Tilghman of Pa.
- 1821 Their girls appear at *meeting* with exquisite bonnets, nearly equal in size to the hoop petticoats of former times.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 17: from the *Ploughboy*.
- a.1821 The other evening, I accidentally ogled Jack Rattle in *meeting*.—*Connecticut Herald*: Buckingham, 'Miscellanies,' p. 76 (1822).
- 1822 The practice of carrying children to *meeting* on the Sabbath, so soon as they can be restrained from play and noise, is worthy of praise.—*Id.*, May 22.
- 1823 When you sleep at *meeting*, do it without disguise or concealment. A church is no place for hypocrisy.—*Id.*, Nov. 5: from the *Portland Gazette*.
- 1825 Poor Lydia never went to "*meeting*" after the day of the funeral.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 21.
- 1826 For heaven's sake, exclaimed my spouse, what have [the sleeves of your flannel waistcoat] to do with going to *meeting*?—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 15: from the *Nantucket Inquirer*.
- 1827 Mr. H. had just returned from *meeting*.—*Id.*, Aug. 1.
- 1829 Not one of the family was permitted to stay from *meeting*.—*Id.*, June 10: from the *Boston Philanthropist*.

Meeting—*contd.*

- 1845 [The boy] was led crying out of *meeting*.—*Lowell Offering* v. 170.
- 1849 Two fellers, Isrel named and Joe,
One Sundy mornin' 'greed to go
Agunnin' soon'z the bells wuz done
And *meetin'* finally begun.
Lowell, 'The Two Gunners.'
- 1853 You may see them take a horse and ride bare-backed until they tear [their clothes] to pieces, that they are not fit to come to *meeting* in.—Brigham Young, June 5: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 251.
- 1857 I have to pay every dime I can get for morocco shoes, for my women to wear to *meeting*; and they will wear out a pair while going once to *meeting*.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Aug. 2: *id.*, v. 137.
- 1878 You've done me more good than the minister an' *meetin'* together.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. xxvii.

Meeting. A meeting-house. Obs.

- 1780 The enemy burned about a dozen other houses, and the presbyterian *meeting*.—William Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revolution,' iii. 369 (Lond., 1788).
- 1781 A grand court-house, and two elegant *meetings*, with steeples, bells, and clocks, adorn [the town of Hartford].—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' p. 164.

Meeting-seed. See quotation 1851.

- 1851 He didn't know what *meetin'-seed* was. Why, la, said she, some people call it "caraway" and "aniseseed," but we call it "*meetin'-seed*," 'cause we cal'late it keeps us awake in *meetin'*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxviii. 372 (Sept.).
- 1877 She munched a sprig of *meetin' seed*, and read her spelling-book.—*St. Nicholas*, Jan. (Bartlett).
- 1891 [She was] choked with the dead odors of "*meetin'-seed*," the musty chill, &c.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 330 (Boston).

Menhaden. A fish resembling a herring.

- 1792 In 1787 were exported Barrels of *manhadden* 236.—'Deser. of Kentucky,' p. 42. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 See TAUTAUG.
- 1894 These fish are called "moss bunkers," "green tails," "Sam Days," "bony fish," and "mud shad" on the New Jersey coast.—'Dialect Notes,' i. 332.

Merchant. As in Scotland, the word is much used in the sense of a retail dealer.

- 1790 The word *merchant* should not be confounded with retailers and shopkeepers.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Oct. 13: from the *Am. Mercury*.
- 1809 See NOTIONS.

- Meridian**, or **M.** Noon. This term very conveniently supplements "A.M." and "P.M."
- 1850 The funeral will take place tomorrow at twelve o'clock *meridian*.—Resolution of the U.S. Senate, May 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1106.
- 1850 An adjournment was moved, to take place "on Thursday, the 1st day of August next, at twelve o'clock *meridian*."—*Id.*, p. 1329.
- Mesa.** A piece of table land. Spanish.
- 1775 This table land is called *Mesa Maria*.—Romans, 'Florida,' App. 57. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 The high *mesas*. . . although from the want of sufficient rains unfit for cultivation, are by no means valueless.—'Report of Explorations,' p. 13 (Stanford Dict., 1892, Suppl.).
- 1869 An arroya, or dry bed of a creek, near the bottom of the *mesa*.—J. Ross Browne, 'Adventures,' p. 90.
- Mess.** A quantity of fish or other edibles.
- 1775 He told me that his mother had an inclination to eat fish, and he was come to get her a *mess*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 12.
- 1830 We saw yesterday a large *mess* of early potatoes.—*Mass. Spy*, June 23.
- 1853 There was wolves in the Holler,—an unaccountable *mess* of 'em.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xli. 502 (June).
- 1854 I got a rare *mess* of golden and silver and bright cupreous fishes.—Thoreau, 'Walden,' p. 338. (N.E.D.)
- 1878 [They] were living on corn-bread, potatoes, and "green truck," with an occasional *mess* of fish or game.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 382.
- Mestizo.** A half-breed. See 1588.
- 1582 Worsted stockings knit which are worn of the *mastizocs*.—Hakluyt (1850), p. 167. (Stanford Dict.)
- 1588 A *Mestizo* is one which hath a Spaniard to his father and an Indian to his mother.—*Id.* (1600), iii. 814. (N.E.D.)
- 1600 Paul H. is married to a *Mestisa*, as they name those whose fathers were Spaniards, and their mothers Indians.—*Id.*, iii. 390. (Stanford Dict.)
- 1824 Dorion, a *Mestizo*, had acquired a considerable quantity of peltry.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 21.
- 1887 The sleepy little *mestizo* town.—L. Oliphant, 'Episodes,' p. 118. (Stanford Dict.)
- Metiff.** The offspring of a white person and a quadroon; an octeroon.
- 1808 The hospitality of the Creoles and *Mctifs* began to manifest itself.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi' (1895), ii. 510. (N.E.D.)
- 1814 A young *metiff*, daughter of the interpreter, came forward.—H. M. Brackenbury, 'Journal,' p. 258.
- 1823 The party was led by the half-brother of the *Metiff* chief.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' i. 362.

Mezquite bush. The *Prosopis Juliflora*.

- 1833 We found the river skirted with very wide bottoms, thick set with the *mezquite trees*, which bear a pod in the shape of a bean, which is exceedingly sweet.—‘Narrative of J. O. Pattie,’ p. 59 (Cincinnati).
- 1834 The valley was full of small hills interspersed with *mezquite bushes*, that is, a kind of prickly green locust bush, which bears long narrow beans in bunches, of a very pleasant and sweet taste.—Albert Pike, ‘Sketches,’ &c., p. 56 (Boston).
- 1846 In the plain grows *mezquite* and other shrubbery.—A. Wislizenus, ‘Tour in N. Mexico’ (1848), p. 48. (Stanford Dict.)
- 1847 Our road went mostly through fine *mezquite timber*.—*Id.*, p. 69.
- 1851 Here and there are trees of acacia and *mezquite*, the denizens of the desert land.—Mayne Reid, ‘The Scalp-hunters,’ p. 14. (N.E.D.)
- 1851 A desert country, covered with wild sage and *mezquite* [grass].—*Id.*, p. 187.
- 1857 Coppices of *mesquit* and forests of post-oak.—F. L. Olmsted, ‘Journey through Texas,’ p. 238 (N.Y.).
- 1878 The thorny *mezquit* alone can be said to adorn the landscape.—J. H. Beadle, ‘Western Wilds,’ p. 488.

Michigander. A citizen of Michigan.

- 1848 I mean the military tail you Democrats are now engaged in dovetailing on to the great *Michigander* [General Cass].—Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, House of Repr., July 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1042, App.

Midnight appointments, Midnight judges. Those made during the last hours of an administration

- 1855 A single term used by [Gen. Cass] shows what was the real cause of the excitement connected with the repeal of the act of 1801. I allude to the application of the term “*midnight judges*” to the judges appointed by Mr. Adams. It has become a popular phrase; a phrase suggested for purposes of odium.—Mr. J. A. Bayard of Delaware, U.S. Senate, Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 89, App.
- 1844 See Appendix XXV.

Mileage. An allowance for travelling.

- 1754 [So much] per diem during their sitting, and *milage* for travelling expenses.—B. Franklin, ‘Works’ (1887), ii. 345. (N.E.D.)
- 1776 The militia were promised their *milage*.—Sparks, ‘Corr. Am. Revol.’ (1853), i. 281. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 If the *mileage* was reduced, Mr. C. C. Clay of Alabama was in favor of an inquiry into the propriety of reducing the *per diem* also. Mr. Grundy of Tenn. would vote against all attempts to reduce pay or *milage*. Mr. Sevier of Arkansas knew that he himself had a hard bargain to get here and back upon the *milage* allowed him.... This bill supposed that they must travel through the air, for they were to charge for their *mileage* by an air line.—U.S. Senate, June 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 459,

Mileage—*contd.*

- 1841 I have witnessed, year after year, palpable violations of the law relating to the *mileage* of members, and I have in vain endeavored to correct the abuse.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Feb. 20: *id.*, p. 341, App.
- 1862 The term "*mileage*" has crept of late into our language and our law. It is not to be found in the original law of compensation of members of Congress.—Mr. James A. Pearce of Maryland, U.S. Senate, Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 671/2.

Milk and water. Weak, devoid of energy. The use appears to have originated in the U.S.

- 1783 Change the *milk-and-water* style of your last memorial; assume a bolder tone.—'Journal of Congress' (1823), iv. 209. (N.E.D.)
- 1793 [The federalists say] that our government is good for nothing,—is a *milk and water* thing which cannot support itself; we must knock it down, &c.—Tho. Jefferson, 'The Anas,' Aug. 6.
- 1810 Nor can any *milk and water* associate [judge] maintain his own dependance [*sic*].—Tho. Jefferson to Gov. Tyler, May 26.

Milk in the cocoanut. Accounting for it is equivalent to solving a puzzle.

- 1853 *The milk in the cocoa nut* was accounted for.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 50 (July).

Milk sickness. See quotations.

- 1823 They have a disease called the *milk sickness*; it commences with nausea and dizziness, succeeded by head ache, pain in the stomach, and finally by a prostration of strength; a general torpor soon ensues, succeeded by death.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' i. 82 (Phila.).
- 1834 I passed a deserted village, the whole population of which had been destroyed by the "*milk sickness*."—Hoffman, 'Winter in the West,' (1835), ii. 66. (N.E.D.)
- 1838 A mysterious disease, called "*milk sickness*," because it was supposed to be communicated by that liquid, was once prevalent in certain isolated districts of Illinois.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 203 (N.Y.).

Milk-toast. Toast boiled in milk, and thus served.

- 1857 Broiled chickens and oysters, coffee and *milk-toast*, waffles and honey, disappeared from before us like magic.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 98 (Jan.).

Mill. The tenth part of a cent.

- 1791 At 20 cents pr. lb. it is 8 *mills* per dish.—Thomas Jefferson, (N.E.D.)
- 1860 One hundred thousand dollars upon \$400,000,000 is but one fortieth of one per cent; it is but one fourth of a *mill* on a dollar.—Mr. Doollittle of Wisconsin, U.S. Senate, Dec. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 198/3.
- 1870 To begin without a *mill*, and to sleep the final sleep of the prosperous under a mausoleum costing a hundred thousand.—J. K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 153 (Boston).

- Mill, go through the.** To have practical experience of anything.
- 1837 I had been "*through the mill*" of a preconcerted, artificial revival.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 356 (April).
- 1848 Until they have all of them fairly been *run through the mill*.—Lowell, 'A Fable for Critics.'
- Millerites.** The followers of William Miller of Massachusetts (1782-1849), who in 1831 began to teach that the end of all things would come in 1843. They now call themselves Adventists.
- 1846 St. Paul writes to the Thessalonians not to believe the *Millerites* of their time.—Orestes Brownson, 'Works,' vi. 221. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 How much less deluded [is he] than one of those *Millerites* who, arraying himself in what he calls his "ascension robes," climbs up a tree in order that he may have a fair flight to heaven!—Mr. Crittenden of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Feb. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 364.
- 1857 Till then let Cumming blaze away,
And *Miller's saints* blow up the globe;
But when you see that blessed day,
Then order your ascension robe!
'Autoerat of the Breakfast-Table,' ch. i.
- * * The tale about the ascension robes has been denied.
- Mill-seat.** * A site for a mill.
- 1784 On these several branches of Licking are good *mill-seats*.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 17.
- 1784 The several streams and branches of Salt River afford excellent *mill seats*.—*Id.*, p. 19.
[Other examples in the same work.]
- 1788 A *Mill-Seat* on so valuable a stream may be of great value.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Feb. 29.
- 1788 A *Mill-Seat* within 2½ or 3 miles of this town I will sell or exchange for Goods.—*Id.*, March 4.
- 1795 *Seats*, at a very trifling expense, could be made for three times the number of mills already built [on the Brandywine].—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 20 (Lond., 1799).
- 1820 Ravines, at the bottom of which flow small streams or hooks, here called creeks, forming a few *mill-seats*.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' (Ohio), Oct. 20 (New Haven, 1822).
- 1821 [He owns] the manufactory, the *mill-seat* on which it stands, and a valuable house.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 202.
- 1830 Upon said Farm is a valuable *Mill Seat*, with a Water Privilege six months each year.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Aug. 4.
- Mind, have a.** To be willing. The phrase survives in England in "to have a good mind," "a great mind," "more than half a mind."
- 1611 The people *had a mind* to work.—Neh. iv. 6, A.V.
- 1705 Oppechaneanough was not able to walk alone, but was carried about by his Men where-ever he *had a Mind* to move.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' p. 52 (Lond.).
- 1711 As I *had a mind* to hear the Play, I got out of the Sphere of her Impertinence.—Addison, *Spectator*, No. 45. (N.E.D.)

Mind, have a—contd.

- 1762 Any Person that *has a Mind* to treat at private sale may Enquire of the Auctioneer.—*Boston Evening Post*, Oct. 4.
- 1789 If a man *has a mind* to drink a bowl of punch or a bottle of wine, &c.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., June 17
- 1803 He, *having a mind* to coax the dog to stay with him, took a piece of bread, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, March 2.
- 1829 If they *have a mind* to take the trouble, let them tell forty lies a week.—*Id.*, Jan. 28.
- 1830 I s'pose a Governor has a right to flog anybody *he's a mind to*.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 87 (1860).
- 1842 [It may be toted there whenever *you've a mind*.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 292. [For fuller citation see PLUNDER.]
- 1853 It goes agin my grit for Hardscrabble to cave into Dogtown. when we could knock the hindsights off 'em, if we was *only a mind to*.—'Life Scenes,' p. 43.
- 1854 They swore they'd drink chain-lightning if they *were a-min'-to*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 101
- 1856 If she'd only showed the least interest in what I said, she might scold and lecture me as much as *she'd a mind to*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. vi.
- 1867 To him the in-comer. "Perez, how d'ye do?"
"Jest as I'm *mind to*, Obed; how do you?"
Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'
- 1878 Well, figger it as *you're a mind to*; mabbe you'll die of somethin' else after all.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. xii.

Minister-tax. A tax for supporting congregational ministers.

- 1792 Notice to defaulting land-owners:—"Town Tax 2s. 5d. 2q. Highway Tax 4s. and 3q. *Minister Tax*, 2s. 11d. 1q.," &c.—*Mass. Spy*, May 31.

Mink A species of weasel, *Putorius vison*.

- 1624 Weesels and *Minkes* we know they haue, because we haue seen many of their skinnes.—Capt. Smith, 'Virginia,' ii. 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1683 The wild-cat, panther, . . . fisher, *minx*, musk-rat.—Letter of W. Penn, 16th of 8th mo.—Watson, 'Philadelphia,' p. 63 (1830).
- 1792 The *Mink* is an amphibious animal, and burrows in the earth by the side of rivers and ponds.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 161.

Mint-drops. Gold coins. The phrase is generally attributed to Thomas H. Benton. But the resolutions proposed by James Sloan of New Jersey in 1806 were styled by John Randolph "Sloan's mint-drops."—'Life' (1851), i. 250.

- 1837 [The money flowed to Mobile] by the aid of the far-famed Specie circular, in "*mint drops*" and "hard currency."—J. Q. Adams, House of Repr., Sept. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 339, Appendix.
- 1872 For many years gold coins were largely known as *Benton's mint-drops* (De Vere).

Mint-sling. A drink resembling a julep.

1804 "3 *Mint Slings*" at 2s. 4d. figure in a Referees' Tavern Bill, Lancaster, Pa.—*The Balance*, March 15, p. 86.

1826 Went down and got him to show me how to make *mint sling*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 1: from the *Richmond Family Visitor*.

Minute-men. See first quotation.

1774 At the provincial congress which met at Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 21, "It was concluded to raise and enlist a number of *minute-men*, now for the first time so called, from their being to turn out with their arms at a minute's warning."—W. Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revol.,' i. 412-13 (Lond., 1788)

1774 *Minute or Picquet men* in the Town of Brookfield.—'N.E. Hist. and Geneal. Reg.,' xxix. 107. (N.E.D.)

1775 On Thursday, twelve regulars tarred and feathered a *minute man*.—*Mass. Gazette*, March 13.

1860 The formation of companies of "*Minute Men*" has actually begun.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/6.

1860 "*Minute men*" were designed to keep down Black Republicans.—*Id.*, Nov. 6, p. 1/4.

1860 The election of Lincoln has created a profound sensation all through the South. "*Minute men*" are forming in several of the slave States.—*Id.*, Nov. 13, p. 1/5.

Miscegen, -ation, &c. A miscegen is a hybrid, particularly of white and black.

1864 *Miscegenation* occurs as the title of a pamphlet. (N.E.D.)

1864 A very sprightly suffragan of a *miscegen* stamp... the result would be an average *miscegen* and a superior patriot.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 354 (1865).

1864 [Do they] rely upon the new system, called by the transcendental abolitionists "*Miscegenation*," to save the black?—*Id.*, p. 357.

[See the whole speech, pp. 352-370.]

Misery. An acute pain. E. Anglia, 1825. N.E.D.

1833 You never seed sich a poor afflicted crittur as I, with the *misery* in my tooth.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 82.

1839 Can he cure a *misery* in the tooth? demanded another.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' ii. 29 (Phila.).

Mislist. To suspect.

1845 I *mislists* he's been rether more of a tory than a whig.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 10.

Miss used instead of Mrs.

1790 The use of *Miss* for *Mistress* in this country is a gross impropriety. The word *Mistress* (or *Madam* to an old lady) should always be applied to a married lady, and *Miss* to one who has never been married.—Noah Webster in the *Am. Mercury: Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 17.

1819 I concluded he had resolved to marry *Miss Spruce*, but found upon inquiry that his name was *Spruce*, and *Miss Spruce* was his wife.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star: Mass. Spy*, May 12.

Miss used instead of Mrs.—*contd.*

- 1834 Uncle Josh led off old *Miss* Sprague, Seth's mother.—
'Letters of Major Jack Downing,' p. 31.
- 1840 It's true I brought about the fight, but I wouldn't have
done it if it hadn't o' been on account of *Miss* (Mrs.)
Durham.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 64.
- 1840 [Her mother] wanted *Miss* D. to let her have her baby for
a little while.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 132.
- 1856 At last she draw'd in Major Coon; and now she's *Miss*
Major Coon.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 3.
- 1857 Her husband always calls her "*Miss*," but we shall not
adopt that Down-east peculiarity.—Thomas B. Gunn,
'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 227.
- 1861 A lady owned the bed, ye see, a widder, tu, *Miss* Shennon.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.
- 1866 I dare be bound she's handsome, if she's a sister to *Miss*
Johnson [Squire Johnson's wife].—Seba Smith, 'Way
Down East,' p. 342.
- 1867 I'll ask *Miss* Weeks; 'bout that it's hern to say.—J. R.
Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story.'
- 1878 *Mis'* Potter sent that, and it's the beaterree for bread, but
'tain't rye.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' chap. x.

Missionate. To conduct a mission. Obsolete.

- 1816 To *missionate*, to perform the services of a missionary.—
Pickering, 'Vocabulary.'
- 1828 [Mr. Weed] was next heard of in the southern tier of
counties, *missionating* for the administration.—*Richmond*
Enquirer, Aug. 19, p. 4/1.

Missouri cap

- 1824 Randolph appears this winter in a large drab surtout, with
a huge cape to his elbows, and a flat *Missouri fur cap*.—
Mass. Spy, Feb. 4: from the *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*.

Missouri compromise. This arrangement (1820) provided that
Missouri should be admitted as a slave state, but that slavery
should not be allowed in any new state lying n. of 36° 30'.

Mis-step. A slip; a false step.

- 1837 Forgetting the round door block, he made a *mis-step*.—
Yale. Lit. Mag., iii. 8 (Nov.).
- 1851 I should be sorry to have you make a *misstep*.—S. Judd,
'Margaret,' ii. 172.
- 1855 As he was descending a flight of stairs he made a *mis-step*
and fell.—Prescott, 'Philip II.,' i. 140. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 Miss B. made a *mis-step* in alighting from her carriage.—
Boston Globe, Feb. 2. (Farmer).

Mistake one's man. To mistake the character of the man one is
dealing with.

- 1794 If he supposes I am to be frightened by his pompous
accusations, he has much *mistaken his man*.—*Mass. Spy*,
April 16.
- 1800 The little alarmist Jacobin doctor found he had *mistaken*
his man.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 28.
- 1804 It seems that in one instance the General Committee have
mistaken their man.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 5.

Mistake one's man—*contd.*

- 1834 You *mistake your man*, my very good sir.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 19 (N.Y., 1837).
- 1837 Did the gentleman think he could frighten me from my purpose by the threat of a Grand Jury? If that was his object, let me tell him he *mistook his man*.—J. Q. Adams, House of Repr., Feb. 9: *Cong. Globe*, p. 264, App.
- 1841 Mr. Gordon of New York said that gentlemen *mistook their man* if they supposed he was to be affected by the machinery of the political party.—The same, June 18: *id.*, p. 75.
- [1842 The phrase *to know one's man* was used by Mr. Adams and Mr. Marshall, the same, Feb. 5: *id.*, p. 980, App.]

Mitten, to get or give the. A lady, in declining a proposal, is said to give the gentleman the mitten.

- 1838 Young gentlemen who have *got the mitten*, and young gentlemen who think they are going to *get the mitten*, always sytho [sigh].—Joseph C. Neal, 'Petter Ploddy,' &c., i. 14. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 Uncle Jo's gal *gin him the mitten*, to the singing school.—'Turnover: a Tale of N. Hampshire,' p. 8 (Boston).
- 1855 He went off suddenly to California; likely enough, Kitty *gave him the mitten*.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' ii. 116 (N.Y.).
- 1856 As if I should believe you had given that nice young man *the mitten*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 16 (July).

Mixologist. A mixer of drinks.

- 1856 Who ever heard of a man's coming to bed in the dark, and calling the barkeeper a *mixologist* of tipicular fixins, unless he had gray eyes, razor-handled nose, short ha'r, an' a coon-colored vest?—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 615 (June).
- 1870 The keeper of the White Pine Saloon at Elko, Nev., informs his patrons that "The most delicate fancy drinks are compounded by skilful *mixologists* in a style that captivates the public, and makes them happy."—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 201 (Lond.).

Mobby. An intoxicating drink made in the W. Indies from sweet potatoes, in the Southern States from peaches and apples.

- 1638 This as we call *mobby* is only potatoes boyled, and then pressed as hard as they can till all the juce is gon out of the root into fayre water, and after three houres... is good drink.—'Verney Papers' (1853), 194. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 *Mobby Punch*, made either of Rum from the Caribbee Islands, or Brandy distilled from their Apples and Peaches.—R. Beverley, 'Virginia,' §74 (1722). (N.E.D.)
- 1705 Others make a Drink [from Peaches] which they call *Mobby*, and either drink it as Cyder or distil it off for Brandy.—*Id.*, iv. 78.

Mobism. Riot and disorder.

- 1794 A scene of unlicensed *mobism*.—*Mass. Spy*, April 16.

Moccasin. An Indian shoe. The accent is on the first syllable. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ii. 225, 495.

- 1612 *Moccasins*, Shoes.—Capt. Smith, 'Map of Virginia,' 44. (N.E.D., which also furnishes examples 1704, 1725, 1760, &c.)
- 1791 They put a blanket [over the body], a pair of *moggasins* on the feet. . . . She found the deceased was barefoot, and enquired why they had omitted the *moggasins*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Oct. 15 (Phila.).
- 1796 The wild men that I now describe have neither feathers on their heads nor *moggasins* on their feet.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 5.
- 1797 These *mockasons* are made of Deer skins, which are smoked instead of tanned, and are thereby rendered very soft. . . . they are sowed together at the top with the sinews of the deer, and are finished oftentimes in a very curious manner with wampum and porcupine quills.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 272 (Lond., 1856).
- 1803 *Mocossins* are Indian shoes, made of deer-skin.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 33, note (Lond.).
- 1816 [Mr. Jefferson has in his collection] wampum belts, *mockasins*, &c., several dresses and cooking utensils of the Mandan and other nations of the Missouri.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, Oct. 24: from the *Cape Fear Recorder*.
- 1817 [The Miami Indians] all wear pantaloons, or rather long *mocassins* of buckskin, covering the foot and leg, and reaching half way up the thigh.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 113 (Phila.).
- 1817 In this case we must travel without *mockasons*, or even leggings.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 41.
- 1817 Against the thorns of the prickly pear I found that *mockasons* are but a slight defence.—*Id.*, p. 73.
- 1818 "A general assortment of Gloves, Hosiery, *Mogasins*, &c.," advertised in the *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 4.
- 1829 [The planters were] dressed in deerskin hunting-shirts, with fringed epaulets of leather on their shoulders, a knit sash of red, green, and blue about their waists, buckskin pantaloons and *mocassins*, a rifle on their shoulders, five or six dogs attending each one of them, and a dozen ragged and listless negroes lounging behind them.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 7 (Boston).
- 1830 We seldom killed [the seals] except to make *mocassins* out of their hides, for shoes were out of the question.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 146.
- 1835 Buskins, or, as named among them, *mocquasins*, enclosed his feet tightly.—W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 24 (N.Y.).

Moccasin-flower. The *Cypripedium*, a species of orchid. Examples 1700, 1748, &c. (N.E.D.)

- 1705 The *Moccasin Flower*, not yet known to English Herbalists.—R. Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 24.
- 1854 The flaming, cardinal-fringed gentian, the yellow *moccasin*, and troops of lilies.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 212.

Moccasin-snake. The *Ancistrodon piscivorus*.

- 1784 The horned and the *moccason snake*.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 27.
- 1791 The *moccasin snake* is a large and horrid serpent. . . . There is another snake in Carolina and Florida, called the *moccasin*.—W. Bartram, 'Carolina,' pp. 272-3. (N.E.D.)
- 1826 A very frequent adjunct to this horrible scenery is the *moccason-snake*, with his huge scaly body lying in folds upon the side of a cypress-tree.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 262.
- 1833 Here the *mocasin-snake* might be seen gliding over the roots of the cypress, or exposing his loathsome form on the decaying trunk of a fallen tree.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 107 (Phila.).
- 1851 The whappinest, biggest, rustiest yaller *moccasin* that ever you shuck er stick at.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 69.
- 1864 The undrained plantation is becoming the swampy pleasure ground of the alligator and *moccasin*.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 390 (1865).

Mocock. See the first quotation.

- 1827 A *mocock* is a little receptacle of a basket form, and oval, without a handle, made of birch bark, with a top sewed on with wattap (the fine roots of the red cedar, split).—Tho. L. McKenney, 'Tour of the Lakes,' p. 194 (Balt.)
- 1840 The Indians bring in immense quantities, slung in panniers or *mococks* of bark on the sides of their ponies.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 148.
- 1842 The *mococks* or bark panniers in which [the Indians] brought the sugar to market were pretty objects.—The same, 'Forest Life,' ii. 285.
- 1856 Vingt cent mille *mococks* full of feu d'enfer.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Oct.).

Mohawking. Playing tricks, usually in Indian garb

- 1825 Does he ever go out "a *Mohawking*"?—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 227. It was a party of these counterfeit Mohawks that boarded the East India ships in Boston Harbour.—*Id.*, 228.

* * The so-called "Mohocks" were one of the pests of London about 1710-1720. See Lecky's 'England in the Eighteenth Century.'

Mohikanders. See quotation.

- 1821 [The Aborigines of N.Y.,] except the Iroquois, were in my view unquestionably Mohekanews, and were called by the Early Dutch colonists *Mohikanders*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 186.

Molasses. Sugar treacle. The word appears as Melasus, Molassos, Malassos, Molossos, Molossus: see examples 1592-1694, N.E.D.

- 1705 [They] observed an inspissate Juice, like *Molasses*, distilling from the Tree.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 21.
- 1765 It is bartered in the French and Dutch colonies for *melasses*.—*Boston-Gazette*, May 27.

Molasses—*contd.*

1777 I have seen some of the *melasses* from corn-stalks. . . . I would advise every person that makes *melasses* this way, &c.
—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 2.

1789 If a merchant cheated in a bushel of salt or a gallon of *melasses*, the consequences were hardly perceptible.—*Am. Museum*, v. 46.

Money king. A plutocrat.

1841 The great *money kings* of the age have crossed the Atlantic, and are asking the interference of the General Government on behalf of the State debts.—Mr. McKeon of N.Y., House of Repr., July 9: *Congressional Globe*, p. 160, App.

Money shark. An engrosser of money.

1844 Banks into which the treasure of the nation was to be poured for the use of shavers, speculators, or stock-jobbers, managed by a set of irresponsible *money sharks*.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 37, App.

Mongrel-cedar.

1821 [Here I again saw] the *mongrel-cedar*, and found that this tree loses its leaves every autumn [by a process which is described].—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 184.

Monkey, v. To interfere; to experiment, usually in a foolish way.

1886 There must be no *monkeying* with the issue.—*Chicago Advance*, Sept. 9. (N.E.D.)

1888 Preventing inquisitive visitors from *monkeying* with the machinery.—*Texas Siftings*, June 30 (Farner).

1890 An ex-policeman in San Francisco, who had *monkeyed* with that style of man, volunteered to make the arrest.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of Cal.,' p. 282.

Monkey-jacket. A flexible roundabout garment.

1830 My wardrobe consisted of a "*monkey*" *jacket*, bought in Gravesend, &c.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 187.

1840 We always took our *monkey-jackets* with us.—R. H. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' chap. xxiii. (N.E.D.)

1850 He wore a red shirt, and a roundabout, sometimes called a *monkey-jacket*.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 18.

1850 His red shirt, and snuff-colored *monkey-jacket*, and striped mittens.—*Id.*, p. 117.

Monkey shines. Monkey-tricks.

1847 Let me catch him cutting up any *monkey shines* in this house, and I'll beau him.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 43.

1854 His left hand began to get unruly among the bass notes, then his right cut up a few *monkey shines* in the treble.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 9.

1878 You may have noticed barefooted boys cutting up "*monkey-shines*."—*Pop. Sc. Monthly*, xiii. 435. (N.E.D.)

Monmouth cap. This is noted as a survival, for the last example in N.E.D., 1713, mentions what were "formerly called Monmouth caps."

1777 [He had on a] *Monmouth cap*, and old coarse shoes.—*Maryland Journal*, July 22.

Monmouth Retaliators. See quotation.

1783 A set of vindictive rebels, known by the designation of *Monmouth retaliators*, associated and headed by one general Forman, whose horrid acts of cruelty gained him . . . the name of Black David.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' iv. 287 (Lond., 1788).

Monocrat. A Jeffersonian word applied to the Federalists; a promoter of autocracy.

792 The doctrines of the *monocrats*.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Writings,' (1859), iii. 494. (N.E.D.)

1793 He is satisfied it is altogether a slander of the *monocrats*.—The same, 'The Anas,' July 18: *id.*, ix. 60.

Monongahela. Whiskey distilled on the river of that name; thence American whiskey generally.

1834 [He] cleared his throat with the contents of a tumbler of *Monongahela*, which seemed to stand permanently full by his side.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 68 (1837).

1837 There is the independent loafer,—the one who sleeps in the market, drinks old *Monongahela*, and dines on a crust.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 2, p. 2/1.

1845 He found a bottle filled with *Monongahela*,—a liquid with which some of our readers may possibly be familiar under the delusive name of Scotch or Irish whiskey.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 89.

1846 The Russian will cease to guzzle the insipid quass, and henceforth sip no beverage but the pure *Monongahela*.—Mr. Marsh of Vermont, House of Repr., June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1011, App.

1847 May I never taste *Monongahela* again, if I did not get aboard the next up boat in a pretty big rile.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 192 (Phila.).

1855 I have some old *Monongahela*, which I can speak a good word for,—sugar, Bess.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 19.

1857 We proceeded to make a banquet worthy of the gods, washing it down with that species of nectar known as "*Monongahela*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, i. 259 (Sept.).

Monroe doctrine. The principle enunciated in President Monroe's message of Dec. 2, 1823, that "the American continents should no longer be subjects for any new European colonial settlement." John Quincy Adams, when Secretary of State, propounded the doctrine on July 17 of this year, telling Baron Tuyl "specially, that we should contest the right of Russia to *any* territorial establishment on this continent, and that we should assume distinctly the principle that the American continents are no longer subjects for *any* new European colonial establishments."

1848 [President Polk] had taken the opportunity of reiterating a doctrine which was said to be the doctrine of Mr. Monroe.—Mr. J. E. Holmes in the House of Repr., Ap. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 711. (N.E.D.)

Monroe doctrine—*contd.*

1896 It was during this contest between Spain and her insurgent colonists that President Monroe, in 1823, at the instigation of Mr. Canning, laid down...the famous "doctrine" which bears his name.—*Daily News*, March 7, 4/6. (N.E.D.)

Monroeite. A follower of James Monroe.

1816 It has been candidly confessed by at least one of the boasted sixty-five *Monrocites*, in caucus, that, &c.—Letter to the *Mass. Spy*, Sept. 11.

Moose-bush. *Viburnum lantanoïdes*.

1784 The ground covered with an underwood of *moose-bush*.—M. Cutler, 'Life,' &c. (1888), i. 102. (N.E.D.)

1832 *Moose-bush*, or *Moose-wood*, *Dirca palustris*, is not uncommon in the forest.—Williamson, 'History of Maine,' i. 117.

Moose-yard. See first quotation.

1839 The sagacious animal, so soon as a heavy storm sets in, commences forming what is called a "*Moose-yard*," which is a large area, wherein he industriously tramples down the snow while it is falling, so as to have a place to move about in, and browse upon the branches...No wolf dare enter a *moose-yard*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 95 (Lond.).

1843 It will take so many days to reach the *moose-yard*.—*Zoologist*, i. 134.

Moses-boat. The N.E.D. gives examples 1765, 1766, 1770, 1775, all from Massachusetts. Moses Lowell was a famous boat-builder at Salisbury, Mass., and these boats were apparently called after him. A correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. xi. 433, says that "A '*Moses boat*' is one built of a sufficient capacity to take from the beach and ship a single hogshead of sugar, used in the West Indies in places without the convenience of a wharf."

1766 Taken up at Dorchester Neck, a *Moses boat*.—*Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 22.

1767 Went adrift, a *Moses Boat*, 14 Feet Keel, with no stern Sheets, and no Paint on her.—*Boston Post-Boy*, Sept. 28.

1767 A *Moses Boat* about 14 feet long.—Advt., *Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 23.

1769 Lost, a small old *Moses Boat*, about 15 feet long.—*Id.*, Jan. 30.

1770 A *Moses Boat*, 16 feet, almost new, painted red.—*Boston-Gazette*, April 23.

1786 A caulker-built boat, with a *Moses keel*, about 13 or 14 feet long.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, May 19.

1786 A strong, well-built *Moses-Boat* for sale.—*Id.*, June 9.

1812 On Saturday was picked up, on Dorchester Flats, a small *Moses boat*.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 26, Suppl.

Mosey. To move along. A slang word.

- 1836 You'r not going to smoke me. So *mosey* off.—Phila. *Pub. Ledger*, Dec. 2.
- 1837 You must turtle off, as fast as you kin. If your tongue wasn't so thick, I'd say you must *mosey*; but *moseying* is only to be done when a gemman's half shot; when they're gone eases, we don't expect 'em to do more nor turtle.—J. C. Neal, 'Charecoal Sketches,' p. 13.
- 1846 Lanty Oliphant! bawled Dogberry; —*Mosey* in and be sworn.—'Quarter Race,' &c., p. 38.
- 1847 He curses life for its cares, and *moseys* into eternity pack-saddled with mental misery.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 31.
- 1888 A third *moseyed* off some distance, to sit down and lick his wounds.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 6 (Farmer).
- 1902 Now I must *mosey* on down-stairs.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 59.

Mosquito-bar. A fine gauze to exclude insects.

- 1828 The *mosquitoe-bar*. . . . admits the air, and excludes the mosquitoe.—Hall, 'Letters from the West,' 227. (N.E.D.)

Mosquito-hawk. The night-jar.

- 1782 *Musketo hawks* are mentioned in P. H. Bruce's 'Memoir,' p. 424. (N.E.D.)
- 1819 The Frenchmen call them *moschetto hawks*, because they make their appearance when moschetos are most numerous.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 22: Letter from Michigan Territory.

Moss-back. An unprogressive person; a fogey.

- 1850 Here you sit, like a knot on a tree, with the *moss* beginning to grow on your back.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 181.
- 1885 A few intense *mossbacks*, who were known during the war as copperheads.—*Boston Journal*, March 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1902 I've set up many a night tellin' them *moss-backs* tales to make 'em laugh.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 217.
- 1904 I don't want no *mossback* to do my thinkin' fer me.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 69.

Moss-banker, -bonker, -bunker. The menhaden, *q.v.*

- 1818 [The Sea Serpent] usually sups on *mossbankers* and perka nichellas on Long Island Sound.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 28.

Most for almost. This seems to be originally Scottish. See also EENAMOST.

- 1800 First with a kiss he stopp'd my breath,
And softly said, "Sweet creature, why?"
And though he squeez'd me *most* to death,
I could not help it, no, not I.
Farmer's Register, Greensburg, Pa., Nov. 8.
- 1802 I sacrificed to foolish whim
(What Belle can e'er forsake it?)
To make myself genteel and slim,
I stript myself *most* naked.
Pennsylvania Intelligencer, Lancaster, Sept. 8.
- 1803 You know how it *most* makes you blind, in winter, to look on the snow.—'The Port Folio,' iii. 97 (Phila.).

Most for almost—*contd.*

- 1815 Dorothy vows she will heat some water and scald any man that comes for any further taxes. I'm *most* afraid to see a stranger ride up.—*Mass. Spy*, June 14.
- 1824 Two days scarce elaps'd—the eggs were *most* gone.—*Id.*, Jan. 14: from the *N.H. Gazette*.
- 1830 I'm plagued *most* to death with these ere pesky sore eyes.—*Id.*, Oct. 13.
- 1835 They say you can do *most* anything, when you set out.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 218 (Phila.).
- 1837 I can't get behind the counter to tend the customers, without *most* backing the side of the house out.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 113.
- 1840 I reckon he drank *most* two quarts of [catmint tea] through the night.—Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 193. [For fuller quotation see ROCK.]
- 1840 *Most* to[o] much of a cross to come forward here.—Letter of Orson Hyde and John E. Page, April 28: *Millennial Star*, Nov., p. 184.
- 1842 It's *most* dark; that's better than daylight.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xix. 71 (Jan.).
- [1848 I guess we're *a most* a splendid example to them thunderin old monarchies.—*Punch*, Nov. 11, Cartoon.]
- 1849 I sometimes think I would give *most* anything to hear again at midnight the cry of "Yale! Yale!"—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 186.
- 1853 The devil is carrying his operations *most* too far.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 214.
- 1858 "*Most* too liberal."—Head-line, *Oregon Weekly Times*, April 3.
- 1878 I call that *a most* an excellent sermon.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. vii.
- 1878 She was *a most* a master hand for sense.—*Id.*, ch. xiv.

Mother of Presidents. Virginia. Mr. Farmer by a curious slip gives this title to Pennsylvania.

- 1850 Virginia, the *Mother of Presidents*, the Old Dominion.—Mr. Clarke of N.Y., House of Repr., May 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 562, App.

Motte. A clump of timber in the open country. See a valuable contribution by Mr. Albert Matthews to *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. x. 413-15. He says this use of the word is confined to Texas.

- 1844 [We had to] keep a bright look-out. . . while passing the different *mots* and ravines scattered along our trail.—Kendall, 'Santa Fe Expedition,' i. 41. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 [The mustangs] scattered off on all sides, through the openings between the *motts*.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 52 (N.Y.).
- 1853 It occurred to me that I might get lost among the *motts*, and I reined up.—The same, 'Tales of the Southern Border,' p. 28 (Phila.).

Motte—*contd.*

- 1853 His object was to drive the horse into a *mott*, or island of timber, he saw before him.—*Id.*, p. 148.
- 1854 But he had the rig on Jack again, when he made him charge on a brood of about twenty Comanches, who had got into a *mot* of timber in the prairies.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 9.
- 1857 The country was much more wooded than yesterday, frequent *mottes* of live-oak, coppices of mesquit, and forests of post-oak diversifying the prairie.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Journey through Texas,' p. 238 (N.Y.).

Mought for might. The N.E.D., p. 99, furnishes English examples, 1300-1885. In either country the form is either dialectic or vulgar.

- 1821 Dr. Dwight calls *mought* a Cockneyism.—'Travels,' iv. 281.
- 1843 It was about two o'clock, he guessed it *mought* be more, or it *mought* be less.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 14.
- 1847 I think I've seen you before; if I *mout* be so bold, *mout* your name be Smith?—Sol Smith, 'Adventures,' p. 48.
- 1847 She came over to that house, and axed me if my wife she *moun't* go.—'Sketches,' edited by W. T. Porter, p. 180 (Phila.).
- 1848 You *mought* as well look for a needle in a haystack, as try to find a nigger in New York.—'Major Jones, Sketches of Travel,' p. 12.
- 1848 You *mought* jest as well go to a meetin house to borrow a handsaw, as go to any of the stores [in Baltimore] for anything out of ther line.—*Id.*, p. 75.
- 1848 I undertuck to go up Broadway on the left hand side of the pavement, but I *mought* jest as well have tried to paddle a canoe up the falls of Tallula.—*Id.*, p. 111.
- 1848 They *mought* as well looked for a needle in a shuck-pen, as to try to find him in sich a place.—*Id.*, p. 175.
- 1855 The reglar Fakilty *mout* have save life, then agin they *mout* not.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 312 (March).
- 1857 Can you get us across the Rundeeep?—Dunno, we *mought*. There's a hull of a boat up the river a piece, that *mought* carry you and your luggage over; and ef we could swim the horses over, we *mought* do somethin.—*Id.*, l. 574 (Dec.).

Mountain-slide. An avalanche.

- 1830 "*Mountain slides.*" An account of four of them.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 25; from the *Keensville* (N.Y.) *Herald*.
- 1886 *Mountain-slides*...sometimes occasion genuine earthquake tremours.—A. Winchell, 'Walks Geol. Field,' p. 106.

Mow-bird. A gull (?).

- 1792 Mentioned by G. Imlay, 'Topographical Description' (Ky.), p. 227.

Mud-dauber. A mud-wasp.

- 1856 The species of the genus *Pelopœus* are popularly known as *mud-daubers* in America.—*Zoologist*, xiv. 5030. (N.E.D.)

Mud-hen. *Rallus crepitans.*

1808-13 Clapper Rail. . . It is designated the *mud hen*.—A. Wilson, 'Am. Ornithology' (1831), iii. 103. (N.E.D.)

Mud-lumps. See quotation.

1872 The earliest appearance of soft, spongy land at the mouth of the Mississippi. They are at first conical, not unlike miniature volcanoes, and have little craters at the top, from which flows muddy water.—(De Vere.)

Mud-puppy. A kind of salamander.

1897 The *mud-puppy* is a repulsive-looking water-lizard.—'Outing,' xxx. 439. (N.E.D.)

Mud-scow. A scow used in dredging.

1766 A new *Mud-Scow*, 24 Foot long.—*Mass. Gazette*, Oct. 20. (N.E.D.)

1808 [Under the Embargo] Mr. Jefferson's deputies most energetically arrest fishing canoes, *mud scows*, and boat loads of paving stones.—*The Repository*, Boston, Aug. 26.

Mudsill. This word, in its allusion to the working classes so called, had its origin in Senator Hammond's speech: see the first quotation.

1863 See SWAP.

1858 In all social systems there must be a class to do the menial duties, to perform the drudgery of life. That is, a class requiring but a low order of intellect and but little skill. Its requisites are vigor, docility, fidelity. Such a class you must have, or you would not have that other class which leads progress, civilization, and refinement. It constitutes the very *mudsill* of society and of political government; and you might as well attempt to build a house in the air, as to build either the one or the other, except on this *mudsill*.—Mr. J. H. Hammond of S. Carolina, U.S. Senate, March 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 71, App. —Speech as revised by himself.

1858 In [that southern] section, the "*mudsills* of society" are slaves, who would use power, if they had it, to repay long years of wrong and degradation; with us the "*mudsills*," the labouring men, are in power already, and using it. . . . to increase blessings which are common to all.—Mr. Pottle, of N.Y., House of Repr., March 22: *id.*, p. 1251.

1861 The muster roll of the Tar River Rangers contains the names of sixty four men, only five of whom were able to write their own names. These are the cavaliers who sneer at the Northern "*mudsills*."—*N.Y. Comml. Advertiser*, n.d.

1861 Let the *mudsills* be thankful that the soap, water, and towel element balances in their favor.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 267 (Sept.).

1862 [The secessionists] speak of the labouring millions of the free States as "the *mudsills* of society," as "a pauper banditti," as "greasy mechanics and filthy operatives."—Mr. George W. Julian of Indiana, House of Repr., Jan. 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 328/3.

Mudsill—*contd.*

- 1862 Pickenses, Bogguses, Pettuses, Magoffins, Letchers, Polks,—
Where can you scare up names like them, 'among your
mudsill folks? 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 3.
- 1863 It pleased certain Southern orators and writers to character-
ize [the North] as the abode of "*mudsills*" and
"tinkers."—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' ii. 93.

Mud-turtle. The *trionyx*. Noticed by Owen in 1854. (N.E.D.)

- 1801 Should Retta poor Phelin forsake,
The world into mourning would go,
And bullfrogs would grunt at his fate
And *mud turtles* pine at his woe.

Mass. Spy, n.d.

Mud-wasp. The mud-dauber, now classed as of the genus
Sceliphron: *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 354.

- 1824 [He was] a sort of would-be dandy; having the bottom of
his waist pinched up to the size of a quart pot, and thus
resembling in shape what we call a *mud wasp*.—'Old
Colony Memorial' (Plymouth), March 6.

Mugwump. An Indian word meaning a chieftain. Eliot's
Indian Bible has "mugquomp" for the "duke" so fre-
quently occurring in Gen. xxxvi. In the Blaine campaign
of 1884, the *N. Y. Sun* (June 15) styled the Independent
Republicans by this name. See *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. i. 29,
172; ii. 117, 177; 10 S. ii. 247, 332, 351.

- 1835 This village I beg leave to introduce to the reader under
the significant appellation of *Mugwump*, a word which
being duly interpreted means much the same as *Mah-hah-
bone*, which last I have discovered to signify *nothing in
particular*; though I am perfectly aware that both these
terms are used vulgarly and masonically as synonymous
with greatness and strength.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adven-
tures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 6.

- 1840 Then the great *mugwump* was delivered of a speech which
the faithful loudly applauded.—*Great Western*, Lake
County, Ill., July 4. (Century Dict.)

- 1884 I am an independent—a *Mugwump*. I beg to state that
mugwump is the best of American. It belongs to the
language of the Delaware Indians; it occurs many times
in Eliot's Indian Bible; and it means a great man.
—W. Everett, Speech at Quincy, Sept. 13. (Stanford
Dict.)

- 1889 [The mule's] reputation as a kicker is world-wide. He
was the *Mugwump* of the service. The mule that will not
kick is a curiosity.—Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,'
p. 286.

- 1910 There is the dim echo of bygone days in Uncle Joe's sneers
at the college professors. Poor old man of Danville!
He has lived to see the Populist, the college professor, and
the *Mugwump* cut the ground from under his feet, and he
knows it not.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, May 19.

Mulatto clay, mould, soil. A mixed earth of inferior agricultural quality.

- 1788 [Johansberg] has a southern aspect. The soil a barren *mulatto clay*, mixed with a good deal of stone, and some slate.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Tour to Amsterdam,' &c., April 11 : 'Works' (1859), ix. 386.
- 1788 The plains [of the Marne and the Sault] are generally about a mile, *mulatto*, of middling quality, sometimes stony. The hills are *mulatto* also, but whitish.—*Id.*, ix. 397-8 (April 21).
- 1794 The *mulatto soil* [of Georgia] consisting of a black mould and red earth.—Morse, 'Am. Geography,' 556. (N.E.D.)
- 1838 The *mulatto mould* of the Colorado does not surpass in fatness the alluvial soil of Ped River.—*The Jeffersonian* (Albany), April 28, p. 88.

Mule-skinner. A mule-driver.

- 1870 I took to the plains. . . in the capacity of a "*mule-skinner*."—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 224 (Phila., &c.).
- 1888 The brawny teamsters, known either as "bull-whackers" or as "*mule-skinners*," stalking beside their slow-moving teams.—Theodore Roosevelt, *Century Mag.*, p. 499 (Feb.). (N.E.D.)
- 1909 In 1879, Harry Pye, a "*mule-skinner*" in the employ of the United States army, engaged in transporting military supplies, found indications of gold and silver near the spot where Chloride post office is now located.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 28.

Mull. Mr. Lowell says, "We have heard *mulling* used for *stirring*, *bustling*, sometimes in an underhand way. It is a metaphor probably from mulling wine."

- 1851 There has been a pretty considerable *mullin* going on among the doctors.—S. Judd, 'Margaret' (Bartlett). Here it means consulting.
- 1857 What do you do with [your troubles]? Let 'em *mull*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 200. [Let 'em settle themselves.]
- 1897 The question is, what kind of a boy was he? I've been *mullin'* [ruminating] over that consid'able.—W. D. Howells, 'Landlord at Lion's Head,' ch. xxxviii.

Mung news. False news. De Vere says, confused, contradictory statements. See *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. ii. 194.

- 1844 *Mung news* :—the heading of an item concerning news a year old.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 26.
- 1849 As many of our citizens who intend to go to California may base their arrangements upon the *mung news* of some of the papers, we conceive it to be our duty to state that most of these letters are fictitious.—*N. Y. Express*, Feb. 17, 1849 (Bartlett).

Mush. Any kind of porridge.

- 1671 *Mush* they make, 'Their hungry Servants Hunger for to slake.—J. Hardy, 'Last Voyage,' p. 11. (N.E.D.)
- 1775 Food such as hommany, *mush*, groats, parched flour, &c.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 121.

Mush—*contd.*

- 1793 Ev'n in thy native regions, how I blush
To hear the Pennsylvanians call thee *Mush* !
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty-Pudding,' p. 6 (1815).
- 1797 If we could get a mess of *mush and milk*, some fried bacon, or some fresh meat of any kind, it was as much as we expected.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 352 (Lond., 1856).
- 1810 At my particular request, I was gratified with hasty pudding, or *mush*, as it is called in this state [Pennsylvania].—F. Cuming, 'Sketches of a Tour,' p. 38 (Pittsburgh).
- 1810 They have *mush* and molasses twice a day.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 24.
- 1826 "Boiled potatoes, sour milk, and *mush*," the "national diet" of Pennsylvania.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 11.
- 1826 [The food of these fanatics] was *mush* and milk, prepared in a trough, and they sucked it up, standing erect, through a perforated stalk of cane.—*Id.*, p. 277.
- 1833 [The old Indian] sat eating his *mush* as unconcernedly as if all had been tranquil.—'Narrative of James O. Pattie,' p. 90 (Cincinnati).
- 1838 Rhode Island and N. Carolina withheld consent when the Constitution was ratified; but when Congress was about to treat them as foreign states they *came to their mush*.—Journal of Judge R. R. Reid, Aug. 26: 'Bench and Bar of Georgia,' ii. 221 (Phila., 1858). Compare quot. 1857.
- 1847 The sweet meal is stirred into it, until it is about of the same consistence as *mush*.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 100 (Phila.).
- 1854 I can give you *mush*, souse, slapjacks, boiled pork.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 147.
- [1857 There ain't anything that'll *bring you to your milk* half so quick as a double-and-twisted thrashin.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 209.]

Musical. Pleasant, agreeable, facetious. A New England expression.

- 1816 They would say of a man of humour, he is very *musical*.—Pickering, 'Vocab.' (N.E.D.)
- 1819 [They declared him to be] a nice man, and very *musical*, that is to say, good-humoured and polite.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star*: *Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1825 You're *musical* enough in your own way. ("Musical, —pshaw, —clever," remarks a bystander.)—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 198.
- 1825 If here ain't some as *musical* tobacco as ever you seed.—*Id.*, ii. 48.
- 1835 Well then, replied Tom, my horse will trot as slow as common horses will stand still. You are a *musical* fellow, said the master.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 122.

Musk-rats. Dwellers on the flat lands of Michigan.

1890 [She had] a profound contempt for the "*musk-rats*," as the Flats people are generally called.—*Century Mag.*, p. 369. (N.E.D.)

Musquash. A musk-rat

1624 Martins, Fitches, *Musquassus*, and divers other sorts of Vermin.—Captain Smith, 'Virginia,' p. 27. (N.E.D.)

1634 Rackoones, Otters, Beavers, *Musquashes*.—W. Wood, 'New England's Prospect,' p. 88. (Stanford Dict.)

1672 There is a little Beast called a *Musquash*, that liveth in small houses in the Ponds.—John Josselyn, 'New-Englands Rarities,' p. 53.

1674 The *Musquashes* is a small beast that lives in shallow ponds.—Josselyn, 'Voyage to N. England,' p. 86. (N.E.D.)

1768 "920 *Musquash*, 59 Wood Chucks, &c.," were slain in the year 1682 as part of an Indian funeral ceremony.—*Boston News-Letter*, June 30: from the *Halifax Gazette*.

1788 The *musquash* or castor *muschatus*, which I have dissected, has no sacs [like those of the American skunk].—Dr. S. L. Mitchill in the *Am. Museum*, v. 488 (1789).

1792 The *Musquash* (castor *zibethicus*) builds a cabin of sticks and mud in a shallow pond.—Jeremy Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 161.

1834 I took most comfort in catching *musquash*, of anything I used to do.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 27 (1860).

Musquash root. *Cicuta maculata*: an unbelliferous and poisonous plant.

1767 Persons (especially Children) would do well to beware of this Weed. It is called wild Hemlock by some, and *Musquash Weed* by others. It grows in low Lands, especially by running water.—*Mass. Gazette*, May 21.

1807 Five children were lately poisoned in Scipio (Newyork) by eating Wild Parsnip, or *Musquash Root*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 22.

1820 They procured, on the bank of a small rivolet, a root commonly known by the name of *Musquash root*; . . . it has some resemblance to the spikenard in its flavour.—*Id.*, May 3: from the *Rutland (Vt.) Herald*.

Muss. An entanglement, a state of confusion; also a row or fight.

1840 George R. went to a Dutch ball Saturday night, and got into a little *muss*, which cost him [at the police court] Two Dollars.—*Daily Penman*, St. Louis, Aug. 25.

1842 I upset my table, spilt my ink, and knocked down my books, making a deuced *muss*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 22.

1843 Just then the lieutenant comes up to see what's the *muss*.—A. E. Silliman, 'Gallop among American Scenery,' p. 55.

1845 A parcel of bragging fools, always ready to get up a *muss*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxvi. 206 (Sept.).

Muss—*contd.*

- 1848 You're eternally kicking up a *muss* with somebody.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 138. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 The servant girl Maria complained that Caroline was making a *muss* on the table-cloth, by spilling the coffee and breaking the cups.—'Asmodeus,' p. 71 (N.Y.).
- 1848 [The capting] raised a pretty *muss*, I guess, right off the reel.—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 11 (Phila.).
- 1850 Charley W. pigged a month at Cain's, where they are all in a *muss*.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 72.
- 1851 [The thing] passed off without any *muss* being kicked up.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 131 (N.Y.).
- 1855 A few days before, [Lieut. Grattan] said he wanted a "*muss*" with the Indians.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, House of Repr., Feb. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 337, App.
- 1856 Two gentlemen from Mississippi had a fight over the way ; they were rather stout gentlemen, and made quite a "*muss*," as they say in New York.—Mr. Clingman of N. Carolina, the same, July 9 : *id.*, p. 735, App.
- 1856 "I thought it a fire," said the gentleman, "but Parturiunt montes, nascetur"—"a ridiculous *muss*," said the classic Duncan.—'Phœnixiana,' p. 268.
- 1856 Hannibal has been involved in an imbroglio,—French for "row" or "*muss*,"—touching his hair, and the color thereof.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 655 (Dec.).
- 1857 "An Indian *Muss*,"—"Mormon *Muss*,"—headlines of *Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 11 and Nov. 28.
- 1862 When Satan sets himself to work to raise his very bes' *muss*, He scatters roun' onscriptur'l views relatin' to Ones'mus.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1862 An' why should we kick up a *muss*
About the Pres'dunt's proclamation ? *Id.*, No. 7.
- 1878 They've been kicking up a *muss* about polygamy, and I'm a man that's had eighteen wives.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 303.

Muss. To disarrange, to spoil, to confuse.

- 1848 [I admire nature] even when the rude embraces of autumn have *mussed* her hair and rumpled her drapery.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 94.
- 1857 'Fraid I *mussed* her hair slightly,—it was done up mighty nice, I tell you.—*San Francisco Call*, Feb. 19 : from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.
- 1888 [The girl said the gown] was getting so *mussed*, and 'twasn't no sort of a dress for a Ginnet's wife no how.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 235.
- 1862 See Appendix XIV.

Mustang. A wild horse.

- 1808 Passed several herds of *mustangs* or wild horses.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi,' iii. 273. (N.E.D.)

Mustang—*contd.*

- 1822 The inhabitants of many places [in Texas] were subsisting on the flesh of *mustangs* (wild horses), and even that was scarce.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 9.
- 1834 Lewis and Irwin obtained young and unbroken wild horses, or, as the hunters call them, *mestangs*.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 74 (Boston).
- 1844 A hardy, sensible *mustang*, who dated his origin from the plains of Arkansas.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 262.

Mustanger. A chaser of wild horses.

- 1856 The business of entrapping [mustangs] has given rise to a class of men called "*mustangers*," composed of runaway vagabonds and outlaws of all nations.—Olmsted, 'Journey in Texas,' p. 443. (N.E.D.)

Mux. To rumple, to make a mess of

- 1806 To do observance, make obliging mention,
Wink lovingly, *mux* chastity away.
The Balance, Aug. 26 p. 272.
- 1877 Stop *muxin'* that bread!...you've eaten enough for twenty people. I shan't have you *muxing* and gauming up your victuals.—J. M. Bailey, 'They all Do It,' p. 22 (Bartlett).

Mystic Red, The. See quotation. (Not mentioned in Harper's *Encycl. of U.S. History.*)

- 1861 We found, for the last two or three years, that the members of the Methodist Church North, and others, living in Texas, were propagating abolition doctrines there...They did not cease until they had organized a society called the *Mystic Red*. Under its auspices, the night before the last August election, the towns were to be burned, &c.—Mr. John H. Reagan of Texas, House of Repr., Jan. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 393/1.

N

N.G. No good.

1840 The bells, boys, and engines tried to get up a fire last night, but it was N.G.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, June 20.

Nail-driver. A rapid horse.

1872 I had a *nail-driver*, very swift, and no end to his bottom.—‘*Life of Bill Hickman*,’ p. 54.

Nameable. Mentionable. Carlyle, 1840. (N.E.D.)

1780 —That his death, or corruption by English money, could be of any *nameable* consequence.—John Adams to Mr. Calkoen, Oct. 10 (N.Y., 1789).

Nantucket owls. See quotation.

1848 Who has not seen the eyes of a boy almost suffused with tears as he gazed upon the codfish dinner, alias “*Nantucket owls*”?—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxi. 225 (March).

Nary, nary red. Nary is a corruption of “ne’er a,” or “never a,” as in the A.V. Cf. ARY. Nary red, ne’er a red cent. See Appendix VIII.

1821 He asked her whether she was most fond of writing prose or poetry. “*Nary one*,” says she, “I writes small hand.”—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 14.

1852 I guess few can beat him in poetry or a-prosin’, *nary one*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 546.

1853 Eleven go into ten no times, and *nary one* over.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 14.

1855 There’s *nary* horse that was ever foaled durn fool enough to lope over such a place.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May. 12.

1855 Judge Strong, his brother, and family came out free of charge. A pleasant, agreeable, and happy time they must have had of it. Out “*nary red*”—uneasy “*nary time*”—troubled “*nary bit*.”—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, June 8.

1856 There’s *nara* hinge left, and not a staple to hook to.—W. G. Simms, ‘*Eutaw*,’ p. 13 (N.Y.).

1856 Ain’t you gwine to give us three dollars? *Nary a red*, sung out Hart.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 99 (Jan.).

1856 A tax-gatherer informed him that there were whole counties in [New] Jersey where the entire vocabulary of the natives consisted of only six words, namely, “Go to h—l” and “*Nary a red*.”—*Id.*, xlviii. 183 (Aug.).

1857 I left before breakfast. And I didn’t buy “*nary* cattle.”—*Id.*, l. 444 (Nov.).

1857 The collector vamoosed from the market, having collected “*nary red*.”—*San Francisco Call*, April 21.

1858 But when suspensions cloud his angry brow,
And he has “*nary red*,”—oh! where art thou?
Knick. Mag., lii. 538 (Nov.).

1862 The man came back with the to be expected report of “*nary* deer.”—*Rocky Mountain News*, April 26.

Nary, nary red—*contd.*

1862 For myself, I have *nary* gold mine nor silver mine in the territory [of Arizona].—Mr. John A. Gurley of Ohio, House of Repr., May 8 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2028/2.

1864 Methinks I see thee now,
With axletrees all broke,
And wheels with *nary* hub at all,
And hubs with *nary* spoke.
C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 90.

1878 They take everything, and *nary* dollar do you ever git.—
J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 207.

1909 TWO ANGLERS

I.

A barefoot boy,
A white birch pole ;
A can of worms,
A swimmin' hole.
A baited hook,
A tug and swish ;
A steady haul,
A string of fish.

II.

A white duck suit,
A canvas boat ;
A costly rod,
A patent float.
A gaudy fly,
A cast and swish ;
A pretty sight,
But *nary* fish !

Boston Herald, July.

Nasty. See quotation.

1834 When she dances, she slings a *nasty* foot [i.e., she dances neatly].—*Knicker. Mag.*, iii. 34 (Jan.).

Nation, Tarnation. Euphemisms for damnation, used adjectivally and adverbially.

1765 I believe, my friend, you're very right,
They'll get a *nation* profit by 't.
'Moving Times,' a dialogue relating to the Stamp Act (Bartlett).

1785 Used in the south of England (Grose).

1788 So straightway they procession made,
Lord ! how *nation* fine, sir.

Maryland Journal, Feb. 26.

1798 It seems as if the Irish are as incorrigible as the *darnation* Bostonians.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 14.

1800 He'll read a speech,—reads '*nation* bad.—*Id.*, April 8.

1800 The Connecticut claim on Pennsylvania lands must be supported,—a '*nation* good trick.—*Id.*, April 8.

1800 You have told many *nation* pretty stories in your newspaper.—*Id.*, Dec. 13.

Nation, Tarnation—*contd.*

- 1800 This was to be sure a *nation* prowoking disappointment.—*Id.*, Dec. 24.
- 1801 The Americans say, *Tarnation* seize me, or swamp me, if I don't do this or that.—Col. G. Hanger, 'Life,' ii. 151. (N.E.D.)
- 1819 And pumpkins are plenty, and all is so rare,
With ginger, and 'lasses, and notions, and spices,
And so, d'ye see, of the days of the year,
Thanksgiving's a *nation* sight best and most dear.
Mass. Spy, Dec. 1: from the *Boston Centinel*.
- 1820 The time allowed for the notice to reach the non-residents is "*nation* short."—*St. Louis Enquirer*, March 15.
- 1823 But for this sudden illumination, our Yankee guests might have taken their breakfasts in their own way, instead of being indebted to the *tarnation* *tories*, as they stiled us.—'Am. Anecdotes,' p. 124 (Phila.).
- 1824 [He said] as how they had ten thousand rattletraps, and kept up a *tarnation* sort of rattlety bang.—*Old Colony Memorial*, Plymouth, March 6.
- 1824 General Key is a *tarnation* sly old fox, for one that looks so dull.—*The Microscope*, Albany, April 3.
- 1825 "*Nation* sleepy—tarnal sleepy"—said neighbour Winslow.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 142.
- 1827 [The Militia system] by burning a *nation* sight of powder, makes way with a good deal of "villainous saltpetre."—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 31: from the *Berkshire American*.
- 1833 It's so '*nation* cold.—*Am. Monthly Mag.*, i. 392 (Aug.).
- 1836 She used to make *nation* good pumpkin pies.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 27.
- 1838 My dear young gentleman, I want nothing but to get out of this *tarnation* basket. I calculate that my heft will be too much for it. Every time it knocks agin the house it jounces my life out.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recoll. of a Southern Matron,' p. 43.
- 1838 I must say the hogs eat [hommony] a *nation* faster than we do.—*Id.*, p. 52.
- 1838 In the town what I comed from, there was two *tarnation* smart men who made considerable of a fortin just by minding their own business.—*The Jeffersonian*, March 24.
- 1843 You've got this child into a *turnation* scrape this time.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxii. 110 (Aug.).
- 1847 [He remarked to me that it was] *all-nation* hot inside the clapboards.—*Id.*, xxx. 14 (July).
- 1853 And every time they shoot it off,
It takes a horn of powder;
It makes a noise like father's gun,
Only a *nation* louder.
Daily Morning Herald, St. Louis, Jan. 7.

- Native American Party.** A party formed in New York in 1844, for the purpose of rendering the naturalization laws more stringent, and keeping political power in the hands of persons born in the U.S. Also called **KNOW-NOTHINGS**, *q.v.*
- 1845 This *Native American party* had been generated by the corruptions of our great cities....Who ever heard of a Native American meeting in a country school-house? ...George Washington never had been a Native American, in their sense of the term.—Mr. Bowlin of Missouri, House of Repr., Dec. 18: *Cong. Globc*, pp. 43-44, App.
- 1845 Mr. Hunt of N.Y. hardly knew whether to be more amazed or amused at the terrific denunciations of *Native Americanism* which had been heard. . . .He had always understood that in the City of New York *nativism* had its origin in the disputes of the Tammany party. Certain Native Democrats. . . .proclaimed a new party, to be called the *Native American*.—The same, Dec. 18: *id.*, p. 66, App.
[See also Dec. 18 and 30, the remarks of Mr. Chase of Tennessee and Mr. Dixon of Connecticut.]
- 1854 See Appendix VIII.
- Neck.** A peninsula.
- 1555 Vpon the innermost *necke* to the landwarde is a tuft of trees.—Eden, 'Decades,' 352. (N.E.D.)
- 1601 The *necke* or cape of Peloponnesus.—Holland, 'Pliny,' i. 73. (N.E.D.)
- 1677 Mount-hope, Pocasset, and several other *Necks* of the best land in the Colony.—W. Hubbard, 'Narrative,' 13. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 He fear'd [they would] adjudge the Inhabitants of the Northern *Neck* to have equal liberty with the rest of Virginia.—Beverly, 'Virginia,' i. 86.
- 1784 Will be let, a small Peninsula, or *Neck*, of Land. . . .There are improvements on the place.—Advt. by George Washington, *Maryland Journal*, July 20. [In another advt., of same date, Gunpowder-Neck, Harford County, is mentioned.]
- 1787 The following is the most singular advertisement I ever met with: "To be sold, the south part of Abraham Lawrence's *neck*." . . .It is to be supposed that a piece of land, not his natural neck, is intended.—*Am. Museum*, ii. 307.
- 1821 [The mouth of Huntington Bay, L.I.] is formed by two peninsulas, or, as they are here termed, *necks*; Eaton's on the East; and Lloyd's on the West.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 284.

Neck of woods. A settlement in the forest.

- 1851 The bar in our *neck o' woods* has a little human in un.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 53.
- 1853 He came to be considered as the man of money in his "*neck-of-the-woods*."—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 47.

Neck of woods—*contd.*

- 1853 A *neck of the woods*, whar no man ever eats his own beef, unless he eats at a neighbor's.—*Id.*, p. 187.
- 1871 He will . . . find his neighborhood designated as a *neck of the woods*, that being the name applied to any settlement made in the well-wooded parts of the South-west especially (De Vere).
- 1874 I reckon I am the beatin'est man to ax questions in this *neck of timber*.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit-Rider,' p. 119 (Lond., 1895).

Necktie party, necktie sociable. See quotations.

- 1878 [He presided] at a "*necktie sociable*," where two of the men who had robbed him were hanged.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 46.
- 1893 A lynching is gracefully described as a *necktie party*.—*The Spectator*, Oct. 7.

Negative, v. To reject, to veto.

- 1706 Instead of the *Negativ'd* were chosen B. Brown, &c.—S. Sewall, 'Diary,' June 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1720 The Govr. consented to the Choice of the Councillours, having *Negativ'd* Col. B. and Dr. C. (N.E.D.)
- 1749 It would . . . invest the Governor . . . with a power to *negative* all acts that should be passed in our Assembly.—'Col. Rec. Conn.' (1876), ix. 453. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 The vote on [the motion] was taken by yeas and nays, when it was *negatived*.—*New Bedford Mercury*, May 28.
- 1834 We passed a bill, but it was *negatived* by the President.—Daniel Webster in the U.S. Senate, March 18. (N.E.D.)

Negro drunk. Very much drunk.

- 1830 I have never been right "*negro drunk*," though I have been pretty "tipsey," just so as to go by things.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 24: from the *Georgia Statesman*.

Negrodom. The region where negroes live.

- 1847 Our measures have given all that wide region to be the empire of *negrodom*.—Mr. Brockenbrough of Florida, House of Repr., Feb. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, App.
- 1862 I ought to thank you for a shaded map of *negrodom*, which you sent me a little while ago.—N. Hawthorne in Bridge's 'Personal Recoll.' (1893), p. 173. (N.E.D.)

Negro-house. A house built specially for negroes, who, in the South, though domestic servants, usually have separate accommodation.

- 1826 The kitchens, smoke-houses, *negro-houses*, &c., were blown off into . . . atoms.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 15.
- 1826 The word is used by Alex. Barelay in his 'Practical View' of West India slavery.—*Id.*, Oct. 17, 1827.

Negroism. This word appears to have been used in the opposite senses of abolitionism and pro-slaveryism.

- 1847 Mr. Chipman of Michigan thanked God that he voted against that Wilmot proviso. It smelt rank of *negroism*.—House of Repr., Feb. 8: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323, App.

Negroism—*contd.*

- 1860 They have taken the negro to their bosoms, and lodged him in their hearts, till they know him from the sole of his splay foot to the top-knot of his woolly head, and they have imbued their minds and souls with the very quintessence of *negroism*.—Mr. English of Indiana, the same, May 2: *id.*, p. 282, App.
- 1862 Most of the common soldiers had been reared among Negroes, had become infused with *Negroism*, and knew nothing beyond it.—*N.Y. Tribune*, April 14 (Bartlett).

Negrophilism. Fondness for negroes.

- 1846 The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Giddings], the advocate of *negrophilism*.—Mr. Chipman of Michigan, House of Repr., May 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 838.
- 1859 This question is one, not of *negrophilism*, but of constitutional right and political expediency.—Mr. Marshall of Kentucky, the same, Jan. 19: *id.*, p. 462.
- 1862 The Mystery of *Negrophilism*. Of all topics now engaging attention, the American negro is unquestionably the chief.—*N.Y. Times*, quoted in *N.Y. Tribune*, June 16 (Bartlett).

Nerve. Courage.

- 1809 [He] spoke forth like a man of *nerve* and vigor.—W. Irving, 'Knickerb.' (1820), iv. 365. (N.E.D.)
- 1826 You have *nerve* enough for anything.—B. Disraeli, 'Vivian Grey,' ii. xiii. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 The Senator went on to say that the question had come down to this, "Had we the *nerve* to maintain our rights?" He begged pardon of the Senate for using that word "*nerve*." It had been so bandied about that chamber that he thought it was time for the lexicographers to give them a few synonyms, letting the word "*nerve*" be hereafter consecrated to ridicule.—Mr. Pearce of Maryland, U.S. Senate, March 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 474.
- 1846 Any man who has mind enough to form his own judgment, and "*nerve*" enough to do its bidding.—Mr. Berrien of Georgia, the same, March 17: *id.*, p. 505, App.

Nicker nut. See quotation.

- 1837 It is called *Guilandina Dioica* by John L. Williams, who says: "This is a thorny vine, has pods from 4 to 5 in. long, which contain hard blue seeds, of the size and hardness of musket balls."—'Territory of Florida,' p. 100 (N.Y.).
- 1866 See N.E.D.

Nig. To cheat.

- 1829 "If you hadn't a *nig'd*," says Bullum, "you might have had better luck."—*Mass. Spy*, June 10: from the *Boston Philanthropist*,

- Nigger.** A negro. The word is used by Burns (1786) and by Byron (1811): (N.E.D.)
- 1796 The land, d'ye mind me, is not fit to burn ;
 Curst paltry, say, not even fit for *Negurs*,
 Dam'd dull for speculators and intriguers.
 Address at the opening of the N.Y. Theatre: *The Aurora*,
 Phila., Sept. 30.
- 1823 He was a walking, working Yankee man on a journey, and
 therefore considered as nothing better than a *nigger*.—
 W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 305.
- 1824 The *niggers* at the south, as Harvey Birch calls them.—
Franklin Herald, April 30.
- 1825 He's a Guinea *nigger* ; fresh out.—John Neal, 'Brother
 Jonathan,' ii. 297.
- 1829 [They] would as soon think of sitting down to eat....
 chopped pumpkins with their cattle, as of entering into
 social intercourse with a "*negur*."—Basil Hall, 'Travels in
 N. America,' ii. 77.
- 1838 [In the House of Representatives, Mr. Downing] laid it
 down as a principle observed in Florida, that an Indian or
nigger was not to be trusted.—*Corr. Balt. Comml. Transcript*,
 Jan. 24, p. 2/3.
- 1849 [The land system] is something in which my constituents
 feel an interest far deeper than in any *nigger* question
 you can raise here....I ask gentlemen to withdraw their
 eyes for a few moments from the beautiful *niggers*, if they
 can,...and to proceed to the despatch of the public
 business.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 10 :
Cong. Globe, p. 80, App.
- 1859 [The Southerner, as a child,] is undressed and put to bed
 by a *nigger*, and nestles, during the slumbers of infancy,
 in the bosom of a *nigger* ; he is washed, dressed, and taken
 to the table, by a *nigger*, to eat food prepared by a *nigger* ; he
 is led to and from school by a *nigger* ; every service that
 childhood demands is performed by a *nigger*, except
 that of chastisement.—Mr. Lovejoy of Illinois, House of
 Repr., Feb. 21 : *id.*, p. 198, App.
- 1859 The Democratic party can no more run their party without
niggers than you could run a steam-engine without fuel.
 That is all there is of Democracy ; and when you cannot
 raise *niggers* enough for the market, then you must go
 abroad fishing for *niggers* through the whole world.—
 Mr. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Feb. 25 : *id.*, p. 1354.
- 1862 The white man shall govern, and the *nigger* never shall
 be his equal.—Mr. Willard Saulsbury of Delaware, U.S.
 Senate, May 2 : *id.*, p. 1923/2.
- 1862 Our soldiers....never trusted their lives to your care to
 be sacrificed for the liberation of the "*almighty nigger*."
 —Mr. Nehemiah Perry of New Jersey, House of Repr.,
 March 6 : *id.*, p. 1104/2.

Nigger, nigger off. See quotation 1843.

- 1834 He laid sticks across the large logs, and *niggered them off* with fire.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' (1860), p. 18.
- 1843 In addition to "*niggering off*," it became necessary, as the cold increased, to chop off logs.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 188.
- 1843 This is the *niggering off*. It is thus performed. A small space is hacked into the upper side of the trunk, and in that for awhile is maintained a fire fed with dry chips and brush; then at right angles with the prostrate timber is laid in the fire a stick of some green wood, dry fuel being added at intervals, till the incumbent stick...divides or *niggers* the trunk asunder.—*Id.*, i. 240.

Nigger in the woodpile. A mode of accounting for the disappearance of fuel; an unsolved mystery.

- 1362 These gentlemen [Mr. Cox and Mr. Biddle]...spoke two whole hours...in showing—to borrow an elegant phrase, the paternity of which belongs, I think, to their side of the House,—that there was "*a nigger in the wood-pile*."—Mr. W. D. Kelley of Pa., House of Repr., June 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2527/1.

Nigger heads.

- 1859 *Niggerheads*, the tussocks or knotted masses of the roots of sedges and ferns projecting above the wet surface of a swamp (Bartlett).

Nigger heaven. The gallery of a theatre or place of entertainment. Common in Boston in 1888-91.

Night-riders. Lawless persons infesting some of the Middle States. See quotations.

- 1909 *Night riders* are terrorizing land-owners and tenants [in Indiana].—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 15.
- 1909 The Presbyterian Church at Fredonia, Caldwell Co., Ky., was burned last night, and "*night riders*" are suspected. Blood hounds have been put on the trail.—*Id.*, April 15.
- 1909 Had Kentucky stamped out her *Night Riders* in their first anarchy, Indiana would not now be vexed by the inevitable imitation.—*Id.*, April 19.
- 1909 Lexington, Ky. A girl armed with a double-barrelled shotgun put to flight forty *night riders* when they broke down the door of her father's house last night. The riders appeared at the home of George Kreitz, evidently with the intention of whipping him.—*Id.*, Oct. 28.

Night-riding. The word is also used with reference to hunting, as in the example.

- 1850 I knew not that you were so fond of *night-riding*, or break-neck fox-hunting (as you call it) in the tangled brush of this wild country.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 23 (Phila.).

Nights. For "at nights."

1786 Not a flute that has a hole in it, but that is employed very successfully *nights*.—*Exchange Advertiser*, Boston, Oct. 19.

* * See also SIT UP NIGHTS.

Nihilism. Indifference to every religion.

a.1817 The transition is easy to mere *Nihilism*, and a total disregard of all moral obligation.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 328. (N.E.D.)

a.1817 [In Religion, the inhabitants of King's and Queen's Counties] are Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, and *Nihilists*.—*Id.*, p. 333.

Nimshi. Bartlett says this word is used in Connecticut to mean a foolish fellow. Rare.

1853 Why, any *nimshi* can jump across that little crick.—'Turn-over: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 60.

Nine-bark. The *Spiraea opulifolia*.

1796 Plum trees, *nine bark* spice, &c.—Morse, 'Am. Geog.,' i. 576. (N.E.D.)

1829 Thickets of arrow-wood, *nine-bark*, and various other shrubs.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 131 (N.Y., 1851).

1859 *Nine-bark*, a low shrub found in Maine, Canada, &c. Its old bark is loose, and separates in thin layers (Bartlett).

Nine-pence. The Sp. real. See quot. 1828. The half of it was a fourpence-halfpenny piece.

1806 He gave me a 4½d. piece to go and buy some shot.—'Self-ridge's Trial,' p. 79 (Boston).

1828 A *ninepence* in New England, Virginia, and some other parts of our confederacy, for aught I know, is a shilling in New York, and a 'levenpenny bit in Pennsylvania; and a half pistareen is about a sixth part less everywhere. This is the fag end of our old provincial currency.—*The Yankee*, May 14 (Portland, Me.).

1829 I can sometimes gather a few *ninepences* with no more cost than a wet pair of breeches.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 257 (N.Y., 1851).

1835 [The landlord let him] endeavor to draw a precarious subsistence from the *fo'pence ha'pennics* and *ninepences* that the generosity of the bathers might bestow.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 65 (Phila.).

1836 We have heard in Marblehead the cry to strangers, peculiar to that town, Give me *ninepence*, and I won't stone ye.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Aug. 30.

1837 The name Picayune is the Creole bastard Spanish for what we call a Pip, the Gothamites a Sixpence, and the Bostonians a *Fourpence halfpenny*.—*Id.*, Feb. 7.

1839 Scarcely an individual [in Rye, N.H.] is willing to part with a *fourpence-ha'penny* without the assurance that it will bring back a *ninepence*.—*Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, i. 33 (Concord, N.H.).

Nine-pence—*contd.*

- 1842 A day or two since, a gentleman in Boston received a letter enclosing a *ninepence*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, May 21.
- 1844 She stated that she had lost a *ninepence* given her by her mother to purchase a pound of butter.—*Id.*, July 24.
- 1853 What is the currency of the U.S.? Coppers, bogus, Bungtown cents, pennies, fips, *fourpence 'a' pennies*, levys, *ninepences*, Spanish quarters, pistareens, and shin plasters.—*Oregonian*, Aug. 13.
- 1853 If you calkerlate I'm goin' to pay four *ninepences* for my breakfass, an' not get the value on't, you're mistaken.—*Olympia (W.T.) Courier*, April 16.

Nip. A drink of liquor. According to Grose, a nip of ale is a half-pint.

- 1855 Every man in town who wanted a *nip* [on Sunday, in a town where travellers only could claim such entertainment] was seen walking round with a valise in one hand and two carpet-bags in the other.—*Harper's Mag.*, May.
- 1878 He loved to take a hot "*nip*" of rum toddy.—Rose T. Cooke, *id.*, lvii. 575.

Nip and tuck. A neck-and-neck race.

- 1833 There we were at *rip and tuck* [*sic*], up one tree and down another.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 61 (Lond.).
- 1836 It will be like the old bitch and the rabbit, *nip and tuck* every jump.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 16 (1846).
- 1846 Then we'd have it again, *nip and chuck*.—'Quarter Race,' &c., p. 123.
- 1857 [I got the trout off the fire] by the head, and the dog got him by the tail, and it was *nip and tuck*, pull Dick, pull devil.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 498 (Nov.).
- 1884 It was *nip and tuck*, neither animals gaining nor losing.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 369. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 From this time on, Old Probabilities and the ground-hog will have it *nip and tuck*, with the chances in favor of the hog.—*Daily Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 4 (Farmer).

No flies. To say there are no flies on any one means that the person thus eulogized is sound, is all right. Slang.

- 1888 There are *no flies* on St. Louis, or the St. Louis delegation either.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).
- 1888 THERE AIN'T NO FLIES ON HIM, signifies that he is not quiet long enough for moss to grow on his heels, that he is wide awake.—*Detroit Free Press*, Aug. 25. (Farmer and Henley, 'Slang and its Analogues,' 1893).

. This interpretation strikes the compiler as exceptional. But why did not the *D. F. P.* say "not quiet long enough for flies to rest upon him?"

No foolish thing. A thing of considerable difficulty.

No-account. Worthless.

- 1853 Yes, Massa, dem *no 'count* calves done fool me again.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 282.
- 1866 It was a long, one-storied, log building, consisting of a parlor, dining-room, bedroom, and two small "*no-'count* rooms," as the servants said.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 226 (1888).
- 1881 Mitchell, of Oregon, is another of the "*no-account*" men.—Philadelphia *Record*, Feb. 8.
- 1888 Did I come way off down in this here *no-'count* country to wash white counterpanes for dogs? — 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 255.
- 1896 The whole town's excited over a nice man a-throwin' hisself away on a *no-account* woman like her.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 71.

Nohow, no way you can fix it. Not at all.

- 1833 They don't raise such humans in the Old Dominion, *no how*.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 91.
- 1833 This ain't no part of a priming to places that I've seed afore, *no how*.—The same, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190. [For fuller quotation see PRIMING.]
- 1836 [They] would have nothing to do with that affair, *nohow they could fix it*.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 125.
- 1843 I couldn't read a chapter in the Bible *no how you could fix it*, bless the Lord! I jist preach like old Peter and Poll, by the Sperit.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 141.
- 1844 Would you be so kind as to accommodate a stranger with a bowl of bread and milk?—Well, I allow I couldn't, *no how you can fix it*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 264.
- 1845 This child ain't to be beat, *no how you can fix it*.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 23.
- 1846 He'd never sell cheese by that rule any more, and he didn't believe it was a good rule to sell by, *no way it could be fixed*.—Mr. McHenry of Kentucky, House of Repr., June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1016, App.
- 1848 This child don't meddle with no more hardware in this trap, *no how*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 104.
- 1851 I have been brought up that way, and it can't be whipped out of me *nohow*.—Mr. Carter of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 684.
- 1853 [The skippers] swear they'll never stan' that straight line "from headland to headland," *no way you can fix it*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 408 (1860).
- 1854 Here's my six-shooter, but you can't toll me up thar, *nohow*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xliii. 643 (June).
- [1856 A baby is a "crying evil," *the best way you can fix it*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxii. 124. See also ODDS, ASK NO.]

No sir, no sir-ree. An emphatic negative. Accent on the last syllable, in each case.

- 1847 "Don't the President live here?" ses I. "*No, sir*," ses he; he lives in the White House at the other eend of the Avenue.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 46 (Phila.).

No sir, no sir-ree—*contd.*

- 1849 Master. "Are the people [of Long Island] in a refined state of civilization?" Boy. "Far from it. They don't know the meaning of the word." Master. "Are they a temperate people?" Boy. "*No SIR-EE!*"—*Knick Mag.*, xxxiv. 554 (Dec.).
- 1854 *No Sir*, said she,—that's Pekin.—*Boston Ev. Post*, n.d. [For fuller quotation see PEEK.]
- 1856 *No Sir-ee!* I'm down on crout like a nigger preacher on the wices of white folks.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 616 (June).
- 1856 Examiner (for admission to the bar). When was the code procedure adopted? Student. In 1848. Examiner. What object was it designed to effect? Student. It was intended to simplify and abridge the practice, pleadings, and proceedings in the courts of this State. Examiner. Has it effected that object? Student. *No. Sir-r-r!* I don't think it has. Examiner. Have you a certificate of good moral character? Student. Yes, Sir; I have a tailor's bill, which is receipted, in my pocket. Examiner. You'll pass.—*Id.*, xlvii. 544 (May).
- 1857 *No Sir-ree* had a pretty long run, and is not out of date quite yet.—*Id.*, xlix. 86 (Jan.). [For fuller quotation see THAT'S SO.]
- 1857 Was I to stand by and hear Minnie talked to in that way, by anybody? *No Sir.*—*Id.*, l. 442 (Nov.).
- 1857 While hearing a case, the attorney stated that he believed one of the jurors was intoxicated. The judge, addressing the man alluded to, said:—"Sir, are you drunk?" The juror, straightening himself up, in a bold, half-defiant tone, replied, "*No, sirree, bob!*" "Well," said the judge, "I fine you five dollars for the *ree* and ten for the *bob.*"—*Baltimore Sun*, March 30 (Bartlett).
- 1861 Can I have any breakfast?—*No Sir-ree*, it's over half an hour ago.—Russell, 'Diary,' June 10.

No two ways about it. No room for difference of opinion; no alternative. Marlowe and Dryden have a somewhat similar phrase.

- 1590 The Soldan and the Arabian king together
 March on us with such eager violence
 As if there were *no way but one with us.*
 'Tamburlaine the Great,' v. 2. (Compare with this Mrs. Quickly in 'Henry V.,' ii. 3.)
- 1678 If he heard the malicious trumpeter proclaiming his name before his betters, he knew there was *no way but one with him.*—Preface to 'All for Love.'
-
- 1818 You and I have got to dovetail, and *no two ways about it.*—Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 320.
- 1833 "Gentlemen, good evening; this has been a powerful hot day." "Very sultry," replied one of the carriers. "*No two ways about that,*" said the hunter.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' pp. 86-87.

No two ways about it—*contd.*

- 1833 It's just a tale,—a mere noration (said Tom); there's *no two ways about it*.—The same, 'Legends of the West,' p. 51.
- 1833 If a man was as cold as a wagon tire, provided there was any life in him, she'd bring him to; *there's no two ways about it*.—*Id.*, p. 88.
- 1834 "What do you think of our country?" "It is a rich and beautiful country, sir." "There's *no two ways about that*, sir."—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 221 (Lond., 1835).
- 1845 To run without taking a single crack at the inimy is down-right cowardice. There's *no two ways about it*, stranger.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 7 (Lond.).
- 1852 You must come; there's *no two ways about that*.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 80 (N.Y.).
- 1861 [The money] must be raised; there are *no two ways about it*.—George A. Smith at Logan, Utah, Sept. 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 113.

Nob Hill. A name sometimes applied to the aristocratic suburb of a city. "Piety Hill" and "Society Hill" mean the same thing.

- 1833 There was a "*Society Hill*" (why so named?) on the south side of the old bounds of Philadelphia.—Watson's 'Historic Tales of Phila.,' p. 186.
- 1849 The most of the "plenty-penitentiaries," and "big bugs" generally, dwell on the top of a hill, about a mile from the city.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxiii. 545 (June).
- 1854 Dr. S. came to settle at Bloomfield, half a mile north of what is now *Piety Hill*, . . . in 1820.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 18.

Non-committal, non-commitalism, non-committally. A person is said to be non-committal when he neither assents nor dissents.

- 1841 Mr. Walker of Mississippi said Mr. Clay was so much ashamed of the Bank bill, that he declared he must remain *non-committal*. Mr. Clay. No such thing. Mr. Walker. You said you were *non-committal*.—U.S. Senate, Aug. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 404.
- 1845 We have had bold messages from the land of abstractions (Virginia); this is a message from the headquarters of *non-commitalism*.—Mr. J. P. Kennedy of Maryland, House of Repr., Jan. 11: *id.*, p. 295, App.
- 1851 A successful politician [in New York] is . . . either a blind partisan, . . . or a *non-committal* man, who says everything to everybody.—*Fraser's Mag.*, p. 287, Sept. (N.E.D.)
- 1885 "She's a pretty girl," said Corey *non-committally*.—Howells, 'Rise of Silas Lapham,' i. 187.

Non-concur. To defeat by not concurring.

- 1703 Bristol business is *Non-concurr'd* by the deputies.—Sewall, 'Diary,' July 24.
 1760 Then they *non-concurred* the vote.—Tho. Hutchinson, 'Hist. of Massachusetts,' iii. 256.
 1786 (Sept. 25.) This vote the senate unanimously *non-concurred*. . . [He gave] the reasons on which the senate *non-concurred* the vote of the house.—*Am. Museum*, v. 264.
 1790 The house then *non-concurred* that part of the message.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 23.
 1820 [The resolve was] *Nonconcurr'd* by the [Mass.] Senate.—*Id.*, Jan. 26.

Non-concurrence. A failure to concur.

- a.1691 Bishop Sanderson's last judgment, concerning God's concurrence or *non-concurrence* with the actions of men.—L. Pierce, *no ref.* (N.E.D.)
 1805 A *non-concurrence* of the Council in a measure of this sort.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.

None. See ANY.

Norther. A violent north wind.

- 1844 During the continuance of a *norther*, the cold is intense.—Mrs. Houston, 'Yachting Voy. Texas,' ii. 147. (N.E.D.)
 1888 Our first experience with a Texas *norther* surprised us. [A description follows.]—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 182-3.
 1888 A *norther* in that maelstrom of a gulf [of Mexico] makes a land storm mild in comparison.—*Id.*, p. 274.

Northerner. One who lives north of Mason and Dixon's line.

- 1840 Let not the *Northerners* take credit to themselves from this outline of old Virginia husbandry.—J. Bucl, 'Farmer's Companion,' p. 19.

Northwestern guns. See quotation.

- 1859 The arms furnished to the Indians are what are called *northwestern guns*. They are little popguns, with which nothing can be killed but the buffaloes; because you cannot approach the smaller game near enough to kill with the *northwestern gun*.—Mr. Blair of Missouri, House of Repr., Feb. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1069.

Nose-bleed. A bleeding at the nose.

- 1848 What's the best cure for *nose-bleed*, doctor?—'Asmodeus,' p. 73 (N.Y.).
 1853 I don't know as I can preach neow, for I guess I'm goin' to have the *nose-bleed*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 212 (Aug.).

* * * The term used to be applied to the herb yarrow or milfoil, employed to stop bleeding: 'Family-Dictionary,' 1695, *s.v.* 'Yarrow.'

Not by a jugful. An emphatic negation.

- 1835 Did you ever follow the business of peddling? *Not by a jugful, Mister*; I never was one of your wooden nutmeg fellers.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 87.
- 1843 *He wants a jugful* of being [your voter].—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 45.
- 1854 Take medicine, said I. *Not by a jugfull*, said Jim.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 162.
- 1855 *Not by a jugful*, Mr. Souley; Cuba is the most valuable patch of ground we've got.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 429 (1860).
- 1857 No more shelving operations here, *not by a jugful*, I reckon.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 180 (Feb.).
- 1857 He wished to state of the pro-slavery men of Kansas, so that their friends in Missouri might see into their plans and policy, they had not abandoned the idea of making Kansas a slave state *by a jugful*.—P. T. Able's speech [where?], July. Bartlett.
- a.1880 See Appendix XXIII.

Not worth a row of pins. Utterly worthless.

Note-shaver. A bill discounter, a usurer.

- 1810 More satisfaction will result to ourselves than money ever administered to the bosom of a *shaver*.—Tho. Jefferson to James Madison, May 13.
- 1813 [This resource] the States have unfortunately fooled away, nay, corruptly alienated to swindlers and *shavers*, under the cover of private banks.—The same to John W. Eppes, June 24.
- 1816 We have too many *note-shavers*; too many gentlemen; &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 4.
- 1817 [He] put himself under the tuition of one of the most experienced *shavers* of the city, to learn all the wretched debasing arts of the trade.—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 54.
- 1818 They should curtail their discounts, by making the *shaver* and speculator pay up entirely.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 30.
- 1819 They seized the poor president, shaved his head, and trundled him in a wheel-barrow through the streets of Louisville; meaning thereby, as Mr. Ormsby had been an old *shaver*, he should be shaved in his turn.—*Id.*, May 12.
- 1819 [The operation of discounting] affords fine sport to *shavers*.—H. McMurtric, 'Sketches of Louisville,' p. 124.
- 1838 The sub-Treasury Bill ought to be called "A Bill to encourage *shavers* and *shaving*."—Letter of Hugh S. Legare, *The Jeffersonian* (Albany), June 16, p. 141.
- 1840 The poor market woman, with one of their notes, was liable to be *shaved* to the tune of from five to ten per cent.—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y., House of Repr., July 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 497.
- 1850 Lawyers, *note-shavers*, fops, and women.—D. G. Mitchell, *The Lorgnette*, i. 90 (1852).

Note-shaver—*contd.*

- 1851 The wrinkled *note-shaver* will have taken his railroad trip in vain.—‘House of the Seven Gables,’ xviii. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 I can produce elders here, who can shave their smartest *shavers*, and take their money from them.—Brigham Young, Nov. 9: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ iv. 77.

Nothingarian. A person of no religion; also an idler.

- 1789 There is a considerable number of the people who . . . are, as to religion, *Nothingarians*.—Morse, ‘Am. Geog.,’ p. 206 (N.E.D.)
- 1815 This comprises . . . most of the Baptists and Methodists, and all the *nothingarians*.—‘Hist. Dartmouth Coll.’ (1878), 95. (N.E.D.)
- 1817 Office-hunters, brokers, clerks, stay-tape and buckram gentry, speculators, and *nothingarians*, crowd to the President’s every Wednesday evening.—*Mass. Spy*, April 2.
- * * * Compare with this “Free-thinkers, Atheists, *Anythingarians*”: *The Entertainer*, Nov. 6, 1717; *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vi. 66. See also *id.*, p. 195.

Notional. Possessed of a notion.

- 1823 I’m *notional* that you’ll find the sa’ce overdone.—J. F. Cooper, ‘The Pioneers,’ ix. (N.E.D.)

Notional. Crotchety.

- 1791 If a man is a little odd in his ways, his friends say he is a *notional* creature, or full of notions. . . . Love is the most *notional* passion.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Feb. 9: from the *Am. Mercury*, Hartford, Conn.
- 1881 She’s been a little *notional*, she’s had her head addled by women’s talk.—Howells, ‘Dr. Breen’s Practice,’ ix. (N.E.D.)

Notions. Ideas, inventions, contrivances; then miscellaneous articles carried round for sale. See also YANKEE NOTIONS.

- 1788 The Boston folks are deucid lads,
And always full of *notions*.
Maryland Journal, Feb. 26.
- 1793 Boston folks are full of *notions*.—*Mass. Spy*, May 16.
- 1796 Parentheses one within the other, like a nest of Boston boxes, commonly called *notions*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 1.
- 1809 Such a . . . *notion-peddling* crew.—W. Irving, ‘Hist. N.Y.,’ 120 (1812). For fuller quotation see BUNDLING.
- 1809 If peradventure some straggling merchant of the east should stop at the door, with his cart load of tin ware or wooden bowls, the fiery Peter would issue forth like a giant from his castle, and make such a furious clattering among his pots and kettles, that the vendor of *notions* was fain to betake himself to instant flight.—*Id.*, ii. 235.
- 1811 Our codfish and *notions* would settle commotions,
And give peace to the Bucks, and New England.
Mass. Spy, July 10.

Notions—*contd.*

- 1819 This cleared up the mystery of the toys and play-things, which, with hats, bonnets, shoes and stockings of various sizes, [and] Webster's spelling-books, were part of the *notions*.—"An Englishman," in the *Western Star*, May 12.
- 1830 I thought I'd go and see about my load of turkeys and other *notions*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 49 (1860).
- 1830 I concluded it wouldn't be a bad scheme to tackle up, and take a load of turkeys and some apple sauce and other *notions* [to Boston].—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 10.
- 1830 Peter began to think of picking up his *notions* and being off.—*Id.*, July 14.
- 1833 There was no end of those nondescript contrivances which brother Jonathan very aptly denominates *notions*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 174.
- 1836 Our assortment [of passengers] was somewhat like the Yankee merchant's cargo of *notions*, pretty particularly miscellaneous.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 77 (Phila.).
- 1839 A "*Notion seller*" was offering Yankee clocks, &c.—*Chemung (N.Y.) Democrat*, April 17.
- 1846 She had a cargo of *notions*, consisting of Boston china (Hingham wooden ware), onions, apples, coffins in nests, cheese, potatoes, &c.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii, 309.
- 1862 The *notions* I was taking back to Philadelphia were all well insured.—*Harper's Weekly*, June 7.
- 1889 If there was a new pair of boots among the contents [of a box from home], the feet were filled with little *notions* of convenience.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 221 (Boston).
- 1894 I recognized her at the *notion counter*.—S. Fiske, 'Holiday Stories' (1900), 152. (N.E.D.)
- Nubbin.** An imperfect or spoiled ear of corn.
- 1850 [The horses] had to trust the chances of a stray *nubbin* falling through the chinks of the stable loft.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 161.
- 1855 You brought him out twenty large ears of corn, no *nubbins*, and three bundles of fodder.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 364.
- 1855 Tarpole is jist next to the best nag that ever shelled *nubbins*.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
- 1859 Bill, take the hoss, and give him plenty of corn, no *nubbins*, Bill.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii, 318 (March).
- 1860 [Seward] will do more for the South than any of your *nubbin men*. [Men that can be bribed, "as we hold an ear of corn before the nose of an ox, to make him pull up hill.']]
Letter reprinted in *Richmond Enquirer*, April 17, p. 1/2.
- 1866 He might probably make a peck to the acre of peckerwood *nubbins*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 95.
- 1897 Well, that's the littlest *nubbin* I ever did see.—Gen. H. Porter in the *Century Mag.*, p. 591. (N.E.D.)

- Nullification, Nullifier.** The term "nullification," in a political sense, is said to have originated with Thomas Jefferson in 1798. In 1832 the South Carolina men declared that they would "nullify" the tariff by not allowing duties to be collected at Charleston. This was an assertion of the precedence of State rights over Federal laws; and the State rights men came to be called "nullifiers."
- 1799 The "Virginia Resolutions" indicated "a nullification by those sovereignties of all unauthorized acts done under color of that instrument" [the Federal Constitution] as the rightful remedy.
- 1830 This argument was considered by all the nullifiers as overwhelming.—*Mass. Spy*, July 7.
- 1830 *Nullification nullified*.—Heading, *id.*, Sept. 22.
- 1830 In Columbia (S.C.), the seat of Government, and the very focus of *Nullification*, two *Nullifiers*, and two *anti-Nullifiers* are chosen to the Assembly.—*Id.*, Oct. 27.
- 1830 It is to be hoped that, if the *Nullifiers* do move, it will be to Mexico, or beyond the Rocky Mountains.—*Id.*, Oct. 27: from the *Mass. Journal*.
- 1832 'Memoirs of a *Nullifier*,' published at Columbia, S.C.
- 1834 So. Carolina was fond of a name which she would not swap, because these *Nullifiers* of the south wanted to establish their own principles.—Mr. Grundy in the U.S. Senate, April 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 355.
- 1835 [Andrew Jackson] said to Georgia, You may nullify, but South Carolina shall not.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 71.
- 1838 Mr. Calhoun is as full as ever of his *Nullification* doctrines.—H. Martineau, 'Western Travels,' i. 244. (N.E.D.)
- 1839 Sir, let the Constitution speak, the compact of union, and by it let every *Nullifier* abide.—Mr. Cooper of Georgia, House of Repr., Dec. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 15.

O

- O.K.** [See quotation 1828.] A certificate of correctness. To O.K. a bill is to pronounce it correct.

The phrase was certainly used by Andrew Jackson. He may have taken it from the Choctaw *Oke* or *Hoke*, meaning "It is so." See *Mag. Am. Hist.*, xiv. 212-213 (1885); also *Century Mag.*, xlvi. 958-9 (1894). Or it may have been a mistake originally for O.R. The records of Sumner County, Tenn., contain this entry:—"October 6th, 1790. Andrew Jackson, Esq., proved a Bill of Sale from Hugh McGary to Gasper Mansker, for a negro man, which was O.K." Mr. James Parton ('Life of Jackson,' i. 136) suggests that this was a common western mistake for O.R., *i.e.*, Ordered Recorded. See Mr. Matthews in *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 390. The latter solution is probable.

Jackson's illiteracy was notorious. The *Richmond Whig*, April 19, 1828, p. 3/1, says: "Spelling in itself, may

O.K.—*contd.*

be an unnecessary qualification for the Presidency; but the man who spells every difficult, and many monosyllable words wrong, can have no one qualification which is dependent upon cultivation of the mind. Not to mention other instances, in his letter to Campbell the word Government is spelt *Government*, in every case but one; in that the *n* was first inserted, but afterwards erased."

- 1828 In the Presidential campaign of 1828, General Jackson was accused by some of his opponents of being illiterate. It was alleged that he spelled the words "all correct" thus, "oll korreect." Hence originated the abbreviation O.K.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 45 (N.Y. 1880).
- 1841 Jeremiah would be ashamed of his Lamentations, were he here to hear the modern Whigs mourning over the distresses of the people on account of a weak Treasury. *O.K. Orful Kalamity*.—Mr. Reynolds of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 141, App.
- 1844 She said my bonnet was O.S., instead of O.K.—*Lowell Offering*, iv. 148.
- 1848 [Fortitude] infuses new life into his soul, while hope adds an O.K. to his condition.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 273.
- 1853 To the earnest inquiries of another, he simply respondeth, O.K.—*Fun and Earnest*, p. 14 (N.Y.).
- 1856 We assured him we were O.K., and sound as wheat on the drummer question.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 407 (Oct.).
- 1856 Philadelphia is the hardest place in existence to find anything in that isn't done up ship-shape and O.K. And if you do conceit that you've discovered something of the sort, the natives will soon argue you down flat on it.—*Id.*, 505 (Nov.).
- 1888 The Canadian Customs-house is required to stamp an American vessel's papers O.K.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 20 (Farmer).

Oak opening. See OPENING.

Obligate. To oblige.

- 1668 My station *obligates* me to render service.—See the *Athenæum*, June 2, 1894, p. 710. (N.E.D.)
- 1764 Sir, I am *obligated* to leave.—Samuel Foote, 'Mayor of Garratt.' (N.E.D.)
- 1836 Many doubted the propriety of *obligating* the State to commence in five, and finish within twenty years, a navigable canal 200 miles long.—Mr. Tipton in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 164, App.
- 1838 Sister Nancy was much *obligated* by the fans and basket Miss Neely sent her.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 52.
- 1849 In such case, would the Government be *obligated* to pay him for the body of such freeman? —Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 176.

Obligate—*contd.*

- 1852 The Whig [in Philadelphia] who *obligated* himself to saw a half cord of wood, if Pierce and King were elected, fulfilled his task this afternoon.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Dec. 24.
- 1857 I'd like to know how much of these kinds of stories we hired folks are *obligated* to believe.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 50.
- 1857 Crop [the dog] seemed to think his master was in danger, and that he was *obligated*, live or die, to go in.—*Id.*, p. 224.

Oblongs. See quotation.

- a.1794 It was a common expression among the troops to call the bank bills *oblongs*. This was more especially the case at the gaming tables.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 233 (1845).

Occlusion. Closing or shutting up. A term used in surgery, 1645, 1746 (N.E.D.).

- 1786 The *occlusion* of the navigation of the Mississippi.—H. Lee: Sparks, *Corr. Am. Rev.* (1853), iv. 137. (N.E.D.)
- 1806 [The editor says exclusion.] It is presumed that he means *occlusion*, which is a Jeffersonian word.—*The Balance*, Feb. 4, p. 35.

Odds, ask no. To desire no advantage or favour.

- 1806 No animal of his peerless power withstood,
He reigned the monarch of the Lybian wood;
Sole sovereign of the plain—*no odds he begs*
Of any beast that walks upon four legs.
Verses entitled 'The Lion and the Tarapin,' *Balt. Ev. Post*, March 5, p. 2/2: from *The Virginia Gazette*.
- 1834 See VARMINT.
- 1857 I *ask no odds* of them, no more than I do of the dirt I walk on.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 12: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 32.
- 1857 I swore I would send them to hell across lots if they meddled with me; and I *ask no more odds* of all hell today.—Brigham Young, July 26: *id.* p. 78.
- 1857 I *ask no odds* of the wicked, the best way they can fix it.—The same, Aug. 2: *id.*, p. 99.

Off color. Out of sorts.

- a.1870 "The Kernel seems a little *off color* today," said the barkeeper.—F. Bret Harte, 'A Ward of Col. Starbottle's.'

Off ox. The one on the far side; the one of less use.

- 1807 We behold a clunsy, awkward *off ox* trying the trieks of a kitten.—*The Balance*, Aug. 25, p. 267: from the *N.Y. Evening Post*.
- 1827 A pair of oxen now grown so much alike that no one can tell which is the *off ox*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 25.
- 1848 Ez to the answerin' o' questions,
I'm an *off ox* at bein' druv.
'Biglow Papers,' No. 7.
- 1862 [He was] harnessing his *off ox* and his hoss together to plow corn.—'Major Jack Downing,' April 29.

Off the handle. See FLY OFF THE HANDLE.

Off the reel. Immediately.

- 1825 Says I to the marchant, says I, how'll you swap watches ?
—how'll you swap ? says I. So then says he to me, says
he, sharp *off the reel* ; as cute a feller thet, as I ever
seed.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 156.
- 1833 [I had a mind] to have a fight with him *off the reel*, and
settle the right of soil at once.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks
of the Ohio,' ii 78 (Lond.).
- 1848 [The capting] raised a pretty muss, I guess, *right off the
reel*.—W. E. Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 11 (Phila.).
- 1856 You have got to promise *right off the reel* that you won't
say another word.—'Dred.,' ch. xlviii

Office, v. To occupy an office.

- 1891 An attorney *officing* in the same building.—Opinion of
the Supreme Court of Illinois, 126 Ill. 587 : quoted in *The
Nation*, N.Y., liv. 303.

Office hunter, office seeker. A place-hunter.

- 1810 The crowd of *office-hunters*.—W. Irving, 'Life and Letters,'
i. 243.
- 1817 I should not like to have my name hackneyed about among
the *office-seekers* and *office-givers* of Washington.—*Id.*,
i. 392, App.
- 1817 See NOTHINGARIAN.
- 1828 The intriguing, fawning, and sycophantic *office hunter*.—
Edmund Pendleton in the *Richmond Whig*, May 21, p. 3/2.
- 1841 Half of [them] were *office-seekers*.—Mr. Sevier of Arkan-
sas, U.S. Senate, March 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 250.
- 1844 For one month before the Presidential inauguration, this
city was crowded with *office-seekers*, loafers, and loungers.
—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., March 6 : *id.*
p. 403, App.
- 1845 General Spicer was a keen *office-hunter*, and rode his mare
far ahead of ordinary beggars.—W. L. Mackenzie, 'Lives
of Butler and Hoyt,' p. 75. (Boston).
- 1861 The army of contract-jobbers and *office-seekers* . . . make
the Presidency itself almost as much a subject of traffic
as was the Roman Empire in the days of Didius Julianus.
—Mr. M. R. H. Garnett of Virginia, House of Repr.,
Jan. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 413/2.

Offish. Distant and shy.

- 1842 I am naturally pretty *offish* and retirin' in my ways with
strange men folks.—'Betsy Bobbet,' p. 289 (Farmer).
- 1857 As the coy country damsel says, There is danger of acting
offish too long.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 446 (May).

Off-wheeler. The animal next the off-wheel. (The N.E.D. has
Off-wheel, 1764).

- 1888 The old reliability of a mule-team is the *off-wheeler*. It is
his leathery sides that can be most readily reached by the
whip called a "black-snake."—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on
the Plains,' p. 354.

Ohian. A person belonging to Ohio.

1835 The author of 'Life on the Lakes,' i. 55 (N.Y.), 1836, attributes the coinage of this word to Senator Ewing of Ohio, observing that the Senator "is the very man of all the world who should be called Buck Eye and not *Ohian*."

Old Abe. Abraham Lincoln.

1860 They call him "Uncle Abe," "*Old Abe*," "*Honest Old Abe*," "The old rail-splitter," "The flat boatman," &c. I never did know an individual with these or similar sobriquets attached to his name, that was good for anything but to get up a sensation over, and hardly good for that.—Mr. Morris of Illinois, June 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 462, App.

1861 I know [Mr. Lincoln] has too much regard for the common appellation by which he is known, of "*Honest Old Abe*," ever to believe that he will betray the principles of the Republican party.—Mr. Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 23: *id.*, p. 86/1, App.

1862 In Tenniel's cartoon for *Punch*, Aug. 9, "*Old Abe*" offers weapons to Sambo.

Old Boy, The. The devil.

1802 The devil has been nick-named *the old boy*, perhaps by some as sounding more modish, familiar, or polite, and not bearing so hard upon him as his proper name. . . . His impudence in lying proves him to be an old boy.—*The Balance*, Oct. 14, p. 317.

1833 They keep more honest men from heaven than *the old boy* himself.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' iii. 65.

1858 I have the pleasure of being *the Old Boy*, at your service.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiii. 184.

Old Buck. President Buchanan.

1860 Shakspeare died, and "*Old Buck*" was born, on the twenty-third of April.—*Richmond Enquirer*, March 13, p. 2/1.

Old Bullion. A nickname given to Thomas H. Benton of Missouri (1782-1858), who vigorously opposed a paper currency.

1876 He distinguished himself as an advocate of gold and silver currency, and received the *sobriquet* of "*Old Bullion*."—W. B. Davis and D. S. Durrie, 'Hist. of Missouri,' p. 468.

1886 Benton was the strongest hard-money man then in public life, being, indeed, popularly nicknamed, "*Old Bullion*."—T. Roosevelt, 'Life of Benton (1887), p. 137.

Old Chapultepec. General Winfield Scott (1786-1866). He won the battle of Chapultepec, Sept. 1847.

Old country, the. The British Isles.

1796 The scenery. . . . so very different from what we had been used to in *the old country*.—Fra., Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 172 (Lond., 1856.)

Old country, the—*contd.*

- 1817 It gives them an opportunity of making enquiries respecting the "*old country*" (the term usually applied to the British islands.)—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 321. (N.E.D.)
- 1857 A man told me that in the *old country* he would spoil his work in order to be employed to do it again.—Brigham Young, Nov. 22: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 72.

Old Dominion. Virginia.

- 1699 In the preamble of the Act of Parliament of 1699, the province of Virginia is styled "His Majesty's *ancient and great colony and dominion*."—W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of Virginia,' p. 49 (1850).
- 1812 How many children have you? You beat me, I expect, in that count, but I you in that of our grandchildren. We have not timed these things well together, or we might have begun a re-alliance between Massachusetts and the *Old Dominion*.—Tho. Jefferson to John Adams, June 11: from Monticello.
- 1824 The chief sickness in this *ancientest dominion*, is in the autumn.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 69 (Boston).
- 1826 The good *Old Dominion*, the mother of us all, will become a centre of ralliance to the states whose youth she has instructed.—Tho. Jefferson, Thoughts on Lotteries: 'Works,' ix. 509-10 (1859).
- 1828 His idea of the *Ancient Dominion* is very much confined to that part of the State which lies below and near to the tide water.—Letter to the *Richmond Whig*, Feb. 16, p. 2/3.
- 1833 They don't raise such humans in the *Old Dominion*, no how.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 91.
- 1835 As well developed a specimen of fat female good nature and usefulness as may be found in the *Old Dominion*.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 76 (Phila.).
- 1835 See ТУКАНОЕ.
- 1836 I inferred from [Mr. Thompson's] details of expenditure at the South, that the "*Old Dominion*" was not intended to be embraced in his designation of "the South."—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y., House of Repr., April 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 263, App.
- 1837 'Letters from the *Old Dominion*' in the *Yale Lit. Mag.*, June and July.
- 1841 So far from intending any hostility to the "*Old Dominion*," I feel great pleasure in declaring, &c.—Mr. James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, U.S. Senate, Feb. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 215.
- 1841 No gentleman understands better than my colleague the uniform opposition of the *Old Dominion* to a national bank.—Mr. Hubbard of Va., House of Repr., Aug. 4: *id.*, p. 278, App.

Old Dominion—*contd.*

- 1850 [He] was the occupant of the executive mansion, located in [Richmond] that famous metropolis of the *Ancient Dominion*.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, Jan. 28: *id.*, p. 237.
- 1850 I have a constituent who... is a native of the *Old Dominion*, and at the age of sixteen fought in the battles of Eutaw and Guilford Court House.—Mr. Campbell of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 19: *id.*, p. 182, App.
- 1861 The *Old Dominion* has got the brunt of the war upon her hands.—Mr. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, July 27: *id.*, p. 296/1.

Old Hickory. Andrew Jackson. See quotation, 1813.

- 1813 It was on the homeward march from the Mississippi that the nickname of *Old Hickory* was applied to Andrew Jackson. First the remark was made that he was tough; then that he was as tough as hickory; then he was called *Hickory*; lastly the word *Old* was added.—'Life' by James Parton, i. 381-2 (1860).
- 1814 The captain of a company at New Orleans complained that his men called him Captain Flatfoot. General Jackson said, "Why, Captain, they call me *Old Hickory*; and if you prefer my title to yours, I will readily make an exchange."—Waldo, 'Memoirs of Andrew Jackson,' p. 313 (Hartford, 1818).
- 1822 A host of dons could not bend *Old Hickory* from the line of duty.—Toast given at Boston, July 4: *Pennsylvania Intelligencer*, Aug. 9.
- 1824 The friends of Mr. Clay are joining the ranks of *Old Hickory* (Jackson).—*Mass. Spy* Aug. 18: from *The Centerville* (Ind.) *Emporium*.
- 1828 When hope was sinking in dismay,
 And clouds obscured a former day,
 Thy steady soul, *old Hickory*,
 Resolv'd on death or liberty.
 Firm, united, let us be,
 Rallying round *old Hickory*;
 As a band of brothers join'd,
 Clay and Adams foes shall find.
'The New Hail Columbia,' *Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 8,
p. 4/1.
- 1823 The Tariff is a dirty thing;
 It injures all it touches;
 I'll good success to *Hickory* sing,
 If standing on my crutches.
Toast given by Wm. E. Ladd at Shady Bottom, Mecklenburg County, Va., on July 4: *Richmond Whig*, July 19, p. 3/4.
- 1828 Can you get *Old Hickory* in?—*N.H. Journal*, Sept. 20.
- 1829 A timber merchant of Weedsport, N.Y., alias a peddler of brooms, recommends his wares as "Jackson brooms, with raaal *hickory* handles."—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 14.

Old Hickory—*contd.*

- 1831 "The anti-Kemble Jacksonians of the Fourth Ward," issued a manifesto signed "*Several Old Hickories.*"—*Troy* (N.Y.), *Watchman*, Nov. 12.
- 1836 *Old Hickory* would not get out of the way. . . . to run over him.—Mr. Peyton, House of Repr., Dec. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 270, App.
- 1840 I had almost said, perish *Old Hickory*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 140.
- 1841 Mr. Stanley replied that it was a distribution bill, and it was so called to avoid *Old Hickory's* veto upon it.—House of Repr., Feb. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 187.
- 1844 Do gentlemen suppose the people have forgotten the *hickory* poles, *hickory* brooms, and *hickory* brushes which they formerly paraded on all occasions, and the pictures of a hog with which they headed their tickets, to influence the party to "go the whole hog" in elections? And even now, whenever one from that party is suspected of disaffection, do you not see him fasten himself on to a hickory stick, and tote it about as an emblem of his faithfulness?—Mr. Hardin of Ill., the same, March 21: *id.*, p. 631, App.
- 1846 [Here is an act] which receives the signature of "*Old Hickory*"—the genuine article—no infantile hickory—the old fellow himself.—Mr. Brinkerhoff of Ohio, the same, Aug. 3: *id.*, p. 1186.
- 1854 The Whigs allers did say "*Old Hickory*" was crazy.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 207.
- 1858 *Old Hickory* crossed the Warrior River at the close of the Campaign, at Carthage, in Tuscaloosa County.—*Olympia* (W.T.), *Pioneer*, March 12: from the *Mobile Mercury*.

Old Lights. See quotation.

- 1781 The *Old Lights* held that the civil magistrate was a creature framed on purpose to support ecclesiastical censures with the sword of severity; but the new lights maintained that no power or right to concern himself with church excommunication.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' p. 288. See also pp. 279, 286.

* * In a theological sense, "New Light" is an older phrase than the other. See N.E.D., *s.v.* LIGHT.

Old-line Whig. See WHIG.

- 1856 Have they offered us one of my colleagues [Mr. Caruthers], an *old-line Whig*? Mr. Kennett of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 9: *Cong. Globe* p. 180.
- 1860 As he is an *old-line Whig*, and not an American or a Know Nothing, I am proud to give him my vote.—Mr. Logan of Ind., the same, Jan. 27: *id.* p. 614.

Old man, Old woman. See quotation, 1834, 1852.

- 1834 The *old woman*, by whom we mean, in the manner of speech common to the same class and region, to indicate the spouse of the wayfarer, and mother of the two youths, was busied about the fire.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' ii. 63 (1837).

Old man, Old woman—*contd.*

- 1843 "He's your *old man*, mam?" Mrs. C. assented.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 62.
- 1852 She used the term "*old man*" in a figurative sense, as is the custom of [Virginia] in designating the father of a family.—*Knicker-Boyer*, xl. 215 (Sept.).
- 1855 As we were talking about the war [she] said. . . . "What does your *old man* think about it?" I answered as well as I could, and am amused at this appellation, purely western, she has given my husband.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 138 (1857).
- 1859 [She] feels that she has a right to spend every cent that "*the old man*" allows her.—J. G. Holland, 'Titcomb's Letters,' p. 195.
- 1878 "*Old man Bender*" became a standing joke.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 436.

Old man eloquent. This well-known phrase has repeatedly been applied to John Quincy Adams (1767-1848).

- 1848 Let not the grave of the *old man eloquent* be desecrated by unfriendly remembrances, but let us yield our homage to his many virtues.—Mr. Davis of Massachusetts, U.S. Senate, Feb. 24, on the occasion of Mr. Adams's death: *Cong. Globe*, p. 388.
- 1849 [They] recollected with what ability, with what earnestness and power, that "*old man eloquent*" defended himself against the assaults of those who attacked him.—Mr. Thompson of Indiana, House of Repr., Jan. 25: *id.*, p. 368.
- 1861 I will not stand upon this floor speaking, as *the old man eloquent* once said, "that the nation may hear."—Mr. Roscoe Conkling of New York, House of Repr., July 29: *id.*, p. 327/2.

Old Orchard. Whiskey, especially the article distilled at the place of that name.

- 1810 Come, ye lovers of *Old Orchard*, let us take a walk into the fields.—Robert B. Thomas, 'The Farmer's Almanack,' September (Boston).
- 1844 The "*old orchard*" went merrily round . . . tea, coffee and "*old orchard*" served to wash down the good things.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 63, 68 ('The Husking.')

Old Probabilities. The Superintendent of the Weather Bureau, who is addicted to the word "probable."

- 1877 There are men who build arks straight through their natural lives, ready for the first sprinkle; and there are others who do not watch *Old Probabilities*, or even own an umbrella.—Clarence King, Address at Yale, June 27 (Bartlett).
- 1888 See NIP AND TUCK.
- 1888 As a rule, *Old Probabilities* has been rather kindly disposed to both parties, and has vouchsafed tolerable marching weather [for the street parades].—*N.Y. Herald*, Nov. 4 (Farmer).

Old Roman, The. Andrew Jackson.

- 1839 Often has he been styled *the Old Roman*, upon this floor and elsewhere.—Mr. C. H. Williams of Tennessee, House of Repr., Feb. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 371, App.

Old Rough and Ready. Zachary Taylor.

- 1846 Col. Taylor, who was now also a Brigadier General by brevet, and who had won for himself by his gallant conduct in the field the soubriquet of "*Old Rough and Ready*."—Mr. Morehead of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, May 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 865.
- 1846 Our gallant Taylor, who has received the significant title of "*Rough and Ready*."—Mr. Young of Kentucky, House of Repr., June 19: *id.*, p. 956, App.
- 1847 The man who makes assaults upon the military character of General Taylor in this Mexican War will find that he has been biting upon a file. He is "*Rough and Ready*" for his enemies, either in the U.S., or in Mexico.—Mr. Mr. Graham of N. Carolina, the same, Jan. 26: *id.*, p. 424., App.
- 1847 "*Old Rough and Ready*" had gone on with his characteristic perseverance, and had collected one thousand seven hundred pack mules.—Mr. Davis of Kentucky, the same, Feb. 3: *id.*, p. 309., App.
- 1848 *Old Rough and Ready* is coming to correct all this anti-American policy.—Mr. Stewart of Pa., the same, Jan. 11: *id.*, p. 143.
- 1848 Then a blacksmith gets up and sings out, "Nine cheers for *old Rough and Ready!*"—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 312 (1860).
- 1848 An' 'taint ve'y often thet I meet a chap but wut goes in Fer *Rough an' Ready*, fair an' square, hufs, taller, horns, an' skin.

* * * *

Ole Rough an' Ready, tu's a Wig, but without bein' ultry; He's like a holsome hayin' day, thet's warm, but isn't sultry.

- 1849 The Union could not be dissolved while Henry Clay and Thomas H. Benton were in the Senate, or while *old Rough and Ready* was at the other end of the Avenue.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Dec. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 19.

Old School. The past generation, with reference to bygone modes of thought and fashion.

- 1800 [Fenno wishes] to restore the discipline of the *old school*. It is a pity this young man is not under the Jurisdiction of the *old school*; perhaps experience might alter his manners.—*The Aurora*, Phila., April 17.
- 1806 The aristocratical prejudices of the "*Old school*."—*Corr. Balt. Ev. Post*, March 10, p. 2/2.
- 1808 A modest editor of the *old school* is kind enough to pronounce us incorrigible.—*The Repertory* (Boston), July 5.

Old School—*contd.*

- 1817 [Governor Strong is a] gentleman of the *old school*. He is a soldier and a captain, in the estimation of Washington, of the highest order.—*Mass. Spy*, April 2: from the [*New Hampshire Gazette*].
- 1818 Now Wistar is gone, the last of that *old school*, by whose labours the fabrick has been reared so high.—Eulogy of Dr. Caspar Wistar, by Chief Justice William Tilghman of Pennsylvania.
- 1842 He was a perfect gentleman of the *old school*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, vii. 230 (March).
- 1842 A gentleman of Maryland, one of the olden time, a gentleman of the *old school*.—Mr. Wise of Virginia, House of Repr., May 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 491.
- 1850 Col. B. is a gentleman of the *old school*, and reminds me of my sporting days in Virginia.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 25 (Phila.).

Old sledge. The same as ALL FOURS.

- 1838 [They were] playing Brag and *Old Sledge* and all that sort of thing,—that is, gambling.—R. M. Bird, 'Peter Pilgrim,' i. 91 (Phila.).
- 1841 You've been squat on a log, playing *old sledge* for pennies.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 167 (Phila.).
- 1845 I played a pretty stiff game of *old sledge*, or, as he called it, all fours.—The same, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 88 (Lond.).
- 1850 They take a quiet pleasure in an occasional half hour at "*old sledge*."—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 102 (1852).
- 1856 A game at which the common people of the South were great proficientes seventy years ago,—*old sledge*.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 140 (N.Y.).

Old Tenor, O.T. A depreciated currency. See quotations.

- 1762 On March 11th, 1762. A genarel free Voot past among the inhabents that every fall of the year when Mr. Revd. John Tucke has his wood to com shall pay forty shillings *ould tenor*.—Records of the Town of Star: Celia Thaxter, 'Isles of Shoals,' pp. 56-57 (1873).
- 1768 Silver was then 15s. per ounce, whereas it is now six and eight pence, or 50s. *old tenor*.—*Boston-Gazette*, June 6.
- 1768 John Spooner advertises "Shot, £.10 *Old Tenor* per Hundred. Wool Cards, £.10 *O.T.* per Dozen. German Steel at 6s. 4d. *O.T.* per Pound."—*Boston Post-Boy*, June 20.
- 1769 [The deficiency] amounts to about £.4000 *Old Tenor* a year.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 13.
- 1769 The above Tea was sold 9d. *O.T.* per Pound under the common Price.—*Id.*, Sept. 18.
- 1769 Good Cyder at £.3 *O.T.* a Barrel.—*Id.*, Sept. 18.
- 1770 [He bought the fowls] for six and sixpence *old tenor* apiece.—*Id.*, Feb. 5.
- 1770 [He brings an Action] for near forty thousand pounds *old tenor* damage.—*Id.*, Aug. 27.

Old Tenor, O.T.—*contd.*

- 1772 Stolen, between Five and Six Pounds *old Tenor* in Coppers.
—*Id.*, Jan. 27.
- 1772 Onions at Ten Shillings *Old Tenor* per Bushell.—*Id.*, May 4.
- 1774 He might buy the tail of their flock at £.9 *O.T.* per head.
... I put down for the deficient sheep and mare £.900 *O.T.*
—*Newport Mercury*, May 30.
- 1805 *Old Tenor* is an antique currency—2l. 5s. equal to a dollar.
—*The Balance*, May 14, p. 160.

Old Tip. General W. H. Harrison, otherwise "Tippecanoe."

- 1840 [They could] call together a few counter-hoppers, brokers, pettifoggers, quacks, and skinflints appoint a chairman and a secretary, draw up a long preamble and resolutions denunciatory of the whole Democratic party, make a few speeches in favor of "*Old Tip*," fire a few guns, raise a few shouts and huzzas, drink a few bottles of Champagne and call it hard cider, sing a few Tippecanoe songs, and then what a soul-stirring time they had of it!—Mr. Watterson of Tennessee, House of Repr., April 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, App.
- 1841 Even "*Old Tip*" will be in all sorts of trouble... The White House is at best a jagged palace.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, the same, Feb. 25: *id.*, p. 316, App.
- 1841 [The gentleman from Kentucky had said that] his constituents had not voted for Mr. Tyler as President,—they had voted for *Old Tip*, as sure as you are born.—Mr. Wise of Virginia, the same, July 6: *id.*, p. 444, App.

Old Zack. General Taylor.

- 1848 You might as well try to stop the mighty Mississippi in her march to the ocean, as to stop the people from voting for "*Old Zack*"; he is honest and they are honest; he is rough and they are rough.—Mr. Andrew Stewart of Pa., House of Repr., June 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 780, App.
- 1848 It had been asserted that the Philadelphia Convention had been disposed to nominate *Old Zack* for President, and Old Whitey for Vice-President.—Mr. Hannegan of Indiana, U.S. Senate, July 3: *id.*, p. 893.
- 1850 It seemed to be agreed that they should not inculcate "*Old Zack*" for the acts of his high public functionaries.—Mr. Sweetser of Ohio, House of Repr., June 18. Mr. Chandler said no one seemed disposed to assail *Old Zack*: *id.*, p. 1233.
- 1850 *Old Zack*, who never flinched from the foe on the field of battle, shrinks from the question of political responsibility.—Mr. Bell of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, July 3: *id.*, p. 1093, App.

Omnibus bill. One which combines different topics, thereby affording an opportunity for "log-rolling."

- 1842 These articles were caught in the *omnibus*, or drag-net section, which is placed in the rear of the bill.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, July 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 661, App.

Omnibus bill—*contd.*

- 1850 I am opposed to all *omnibus bills*, and all amalgamation projects.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., May 8: *id.* p. 524, App.
- 1850 The hon. Senator says this is an *omnibus bill*, and that there are three passengers on board legitimately. The first is California, then the Territories, and then the Texas boundary question. The *omnibus* is in motion.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, June 18: *id.*, p. 913, App.
- 1850 I do not desire to see this *omnibus* coopered up again.—Mr. Boyd of Kentucky, House of Repr., Aug. 29: *id.*, p. 1697.
- 1850 The civil and diplomatic appropriation bill has been made an "*omnibus*" ever since I have been in Congress.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Sept. 19: *id.*, p. 1380, App.
- 1850 The phrase is frequently used in the debate in the Senate on the Compromise Bill, July 22-31: *id.*, 1407-8, &c., App.
- 1857 and later. See N.E.D.

On the fence. See FENCE.

On the fly. In mid air.

- 1872 There is no more religion in it than in catching a ball *on the fly*.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' ch. v. (N.E.D.)

On the listen. Intent on listening.

- 1788 In the *Am. Museum*, iv. 565, "Aspasia" writes: Every time the door opens, or a foot is on the stairs, you are *on the listen*. On p. 567, "The Bachelor" points out that *listen* is "a verb, not a substantive noun."
- 1803 They are always *upon the listen* in this house.—Mary Charlton, 'Wife and Mistress,' ii. 151. (N.E.D.)

On paper. Opposed to "in reality."

- 1788 The form of [the Dutch] constitution, as it is *on paper*, admits not of coercion, but necessity introduced it in practice.—Speech of Oliver Ellsworth, Jan. 4: *Am. Museum*, iii. 336.
- 1795 All this looks very well *on paper*; but...—George Washington, 'Letters' (1892), xiii. 64. (N.E.D.)
- 1812 See TERRAPIN WAR.

On shares. On a bargain to divide crop or produce.

- 1838 As soon as the ice is out of the river, buy you an old skift, take part in a sane, and go a fishing *on sheers*.—*The Jeffersonian*, Oct. 13: from the *Maumee City Express*.
- 1856 I went up City Creek Kanyon to show a man where he might get wood *on shares*, which I was having cut.—Brigham Young, April 20: 'Journal of Disc.' iii. 325.
- 1857 He is working some land *on shares* for me upon the Church farm.—H. C. Kimball, Sept. 20: *id.*, v. 250.

On time. Punctual, punctually.

- 1848 Spose you never heard of burying a man *on time*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 30.
- 1867 I am going to take this coach in to Carson City *on time*, if it kills every one-horse judge in the State of California.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 384.
- 1878 His wife had always been *on time*, and on duty.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' ch. xxiii.
- 1888 He was faithful, and *on time* every morning.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 359.

One-horse. Small, paltry, inferior.

- 1854 I'm done with *one-horse* bedsteads, I am.—Anecd., N.Y. *Journal of Commerce*, n.d.
- 1857 A Mormon elder says he has visited and preached in the following places in Texas: Empty-Bucket, Rake-pocket, Doughplate, Bucksnot, Possum Trot, Buzzard-Roost, Hardscrabble, Nippentuck, and Licksillet; most of which, however, he says, are merely *one-horse* towns.—*Harper's Weekly*, Nov. 14.
- 1858 A country clergyman, with a one story intellect and a *one-horse* vocabulary.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,' ch. ii. (N.E.D.).
- 1859 Close by the little *one-horse* church, skirted by the belt of cedars.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, liii. 318. (March).
- 1861 A *one-hoss*, starn-wheel chaplin.—'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 1.
- 1862 Tellin 'em that the only way for Southern men to protect their property is for 'em to dissolve the Union and 'stablish a *one-hoss* consarn, with such *one-hoss* chaps as you at the head of it.—*Harper's Weekly*, May 17.
- 1867 See ON TIME.
- 1890 A few little *one-horse* ranches below in the valley made a fuss because our gravel covered up their potato patches and radish beds.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 252.

One-man power. An autocracy.

- 1842 Those men whose clamors are so unceasing against what they are pleased to call the "*one-man power*."—Mr. Colquitt of Georgia, House of Repr., Aug. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 812, App. (See also ASHLAND DICTATOR, 1842).

One-term. Elected only for one official period.

- 1845 The North had been taunted with the fact that it never had any but *one-term* presidents, democratic or federal.—Mr. Brinkerhoff of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 122, App.

- Onto.** This very ugly compound, almost as objectionable in its way as the "split infinitive," is found in the Paston Letters, and in Keats, but has never obtained a lodgment in good English.
- a.1465 [A man hath] put exceptions *onto* [certain persons].—'Paston Letters,' ii. 145 (Kington Oliphant).
- 1819 Please you walk forth *Onto* the terrace.—Keats's 'Otho' v. 4, Ed. 1901. Ed. 1876 has "Upon the terrace." (N.E.D.).
- 1841 When Mr. Chipp comes *onto* the stage, you must greet him.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvii. 460 (June).
- 1849 A tree fell *onto* him, you see.—*Id.*, xxxiv. 208 (Sept.).
- 1850 Seeing his hesitancy, two anxious friends pushed the colonel *onto* the stage.—*Id.*, xxxvi. 385 (Oct.).
- 1853 He threw the onus "*onto*" the printer.—*Id.*, xlii. 217 (Aug.).
- 1854 Is her fever brok't *onto* her?—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 128.
- 1854 The improvement consists in casting a boss of soft metal *onto* the tube.—*Patent Office Report*, i. 480 (Bartlett).
- 1855 Most of his shirt stuck *onto* the splintered ends of a broken rail.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
- 1857 See PAINTER.
- 1857 Not long ago a man got lost *onto* the plains. He followed the only track there was. Four times he came round to the judge's stand, and then says he, "I give it up, we're *onto* a race-course."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 520 (May).
- 1858 He said he and his crowd prayed nigh *onto* four hours.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 11.
- 1860 Some small boys made. . . faceshus remarks *onto* his bald head.—*Oregon Argus*: June 23: from *Hartford Times*.
- 1888 A plank was brought for me to lay my soap *onto*, and I cut it into chunks.—H. H. Bancroft, 'California inter Pocula,' p. 75.
- 1888 I sought to forget my terror in sleep, and crept *onto* one of the little wooden shelves allotted to us.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 275.
- 1890 They lifted the table just as it stood *onto* the higher ground.—The same, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 297.
- Orphans' Court.** The name given in some states to a court of probate
- 1863 Be it further enacted, that the court to be organized under the provisions of this act [in the district of Columbia] may. . . assign one of their justices to perform the duties of a probate or *orphans' court*.—Proposed amendment to a bill, Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1128/3.
- 1863 I think [the bar] would prefer that for the present the *orphans' court* should remain as it is.—Mr. Ira Harris of N.Y., U.S. Senate: *id.*, p. 1128/3.

Open and Shut. A phrase denoting simplicity. An "open and shut" proposition is one which must be accepted or rejected in its entirety.

1848 [It] beat all the high pressures he ever heerd, jest as easy as *open and shut*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 128.

1902 I 'lowed we was going to make an *open-and-shut* trade that we could be proud of.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 153.

Opening, Oak opening. A park-like tract of land, with trees here and there; a natural park.

1704 On the south side of the place in the swamp . . . which is called the first *opening*.—'Providence' (R.I.) 'Records,' iv. 178 (N.E.D.).

1821 These grounds are also termed openings; being in a great degree destitute of forests.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 58.

1833 At a sudden turning of the path, I came at once upon the "*oak openings*."—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 139 (Lond., 1835).

1835 We ascended the hills taking a course through the *oak-openings*.—W. Irving, 'Tour of the Prairies,' p. 77 (Bartlett).

1835 Among the "*oak openings*" you find some of the most lovely landscapes of the west.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' ii. 218 (Lond.).

1838 Some of the most lovely scenery of the west is beheld in the landscapes of these barrens or "*oak openings*," as they are more appropriately styled.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 192 (N.Y.).

1844 At wide intervals were seen the "*oak openings*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 266.

Opine. To think, to be of a certain opinion. The N.E.D. gives examples 1598, 1609, 1628, &c.

1824 [He bowed] so low, I *opine* I heard his brains rattle.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 28.

1824 It may be well, I *opinion*, to notify, &c.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' 136.

1830 Not a few leeches in that city, we *opine*, will vote for him.—*Northern Watchman* (Troy, N.Y.), Aug. 17.

1840 Didn't I? exclaimed Fog; I *opine* I did; unequivocally I fancy I did.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 106.

1842 "What care I for the red moonrise?
Far liefer would I sit,"

we humbly *opine* is rank twaddle.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, March 2.

1842 [Gen. Winfield Scott] had better keep his fingers to scratch his own ears with, we *opine*.—*Id.*, Aug. 27.

a.1854 Do we know that for a certainty? we do not, as I *opine*.—Dow, jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 16.

1854 We *opine* that he would have carried with him . . . prayers and good wishes.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Oct. 7.

Opine—*contd.*

- 1855 We "opine" the Rev. Sidney Smith does not "cotton to" poodles more than we do.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 206 (Aug.).
- 1857 The word "light-house" we *opine*, means the same thing. *San. Francisco Call*, Jan. 21.

Opossum. Also **Possum.** See quotation, 1612.

- 1610 There are Aracouns, and *Apossouns*, in shape like to pigges, shrowded in hollow roots of trees.—*True Decl. Col. Virginia* (1844) 13 (N.E.D.).
- 1612 An *Opassom* hath an head like a swine, and a taile like a Rat, and is of the bignes of a Cat.—Capt. John Smith, 'Map of Virginia,' 14 (N.E.D.).
- 1800 Bordering on a wilderness of *opassam*, and in the region of Tom the Tinker, where men drink whiskey [Pittsburgh to wit].—*The Aurora*. Phila., Nov. 4.
- 1826 The husband was a Frenchman, and his wife a squaw. . . . For supper he had a terrapin, the squaw an *opossum*.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 131.

Optionals. Optional subjects of study.

- 1857 What was never known since the establishment of *optionals*, the number pursuing the study of Hebrew is nine.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxii. 291.

Order, in short. Very quickly, at once.

- 1834 Be off in a hurry, or I shall fire upon you *in short order*. W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 176 (1837).
- 1840 I cut out *in quick order* from the hollow, and made clean tracks for camp.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' ii. 197, (Lond.).
- 1847 If I had my way, I would eject him *in short order*.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 136 (Phila.).
- 1847 I'll fix your flint *in short order*.—*Id.*, p. 197.
- 1876 [The newspapers declared that the Yankees] would perish *in short order*, under the glow of our Southern sun.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ii. 229.

Organic law. The Federal constitution, and Acts of Congress passed in pursuance of it.

- 1849 [The origin of a Territorial Government] is not from such people, but from the law of Congress, usually styled the "*organic law*," establishing it. . . . The rules that Government has itself prescribed in the "*organic law*."—Mr. Westcott of Florida, U.S., Senate, July 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 46, App.
- 1883 His official duty under the *organic Act* by which the Territory was organized.—G. T. Curtis, 'Life of James Buchanan,' ii. 202 (N.E.D.).

Ornary. Mean, contemptible. A contraction for "ordinary," which in this sense is nearly obsolete in England.

- 1785 An Irish parson, remarkable *ordinary* in his person.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 6.

Ornary—*contd.*

- 1800 This *ordinary* drunken wretch is supposed to be the perpetrator.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 1.
- 1830 You *ornery* fellow! do you pretend to call me to account for my language? *Mass Spy*, July 28, from the N.Y. *Constellation*. (Given as a Southernism).
- 1836 One instance [of peculiarities of Philadelphia pronunciation] is in *ornary*. We have been taught to pronounce this *ordinary*; but our teachers were bombastic fellows.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Aug. 22.
- 1837 You're all a pack of poor *or'nary* common people.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 68 (Jan.).
- 1848 He said the mate had hired him for "or'nary theaman" [seaman].—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 83.
- 1850 A Polka did you say?—no, that's trés low-flung, excessive-ment *or'nerly*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 409 (April).
- 1854 [He was] sent to Freehold court-house last term for 'busin' his wife. Awful *or'nary*!—*Id.*, xliii. 319 (March).
- 1856 Rather an *ornary* looking woman, but quite ginteel.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 19.
- 1856 There was the minister's wife in her seat, lookin jest as if nothin' had happened more'n *or'nary*.—*Id.*, No. 27.
- 1857 She was heard one day to observe that men were the meanest, slowest, cowardliest, *or'nariest* creatures.—D. H. Strother, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 202 (N.Y.).
- 1857 That poor *ornary* cuss of a red-haired, cross-eyed grocery-keeper.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 442 (Nov.).
- 1859 There's Iargo, who is more *ornery* nor pizen. Obsarve how Iargo got Casheo drunk as a biled owl on corn whisky.—Artemus Ward, 'Wax Figures vs. Shakspeare.'
- 1862 Nor sot apart from *ornery* folks in features nor in figgers.
'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 3.
- 1862 Not in *ornery* times.—*Id.*, No. 4.
- 1888 He's a good enough fellow, only he's an *onery* [*sic*] scamp of a republican.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 286.
- * * * In examples 1848, 1856, 1862, the word is used for "ordinary" in its common acceptation.
- Ouch!** The N.E.D. refers this to the German *Autsch*, a cry of pain, and gives a Pennsylvania example, 1886. It may have come across with the Dunkers or the Mennonites.
- 1837 "Ouch!" shrieked Dabbs, "my eye, how it hurts."—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 38.
- 1837 "Ouch!" ejaculated a voice from the interior, the word being one not to be found in the dictionaries, but which, in common parlance, means that a sensation too acute to be agreeable has been excited.—*Id.*, p. 220.
- 1845 "Ouch! whew! man alive! what's that?" shouted the speaker.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 49.
- 1850 I want a tooth pulled,—can you manage the job? *Ouch!* criminy, but it hurts!—'Odd Leaves,' p. 82 (Phila.).

Ouch!—*contd.*

- 1856 *Ouch!* an awkward darkey's basket
Hit him a thump in the eye;
And stars are flashing before him
Like orbs in a wintry sky.
Knick. Mag., xlviii. 546 (Nov.).
- * * * Compare the following quotation from the N.E.D. :
- 1654 But harke Sancho Pancas runs *ouching* around the mountains like a ranck-Asse, braying for's Company.—Gayton, 'Pleasant Notes,' iv. 176.

Outagamies. An extinct tribe of Indians.

- 1792 The *Otogamies* and the *Ottagawmies* are mentioned by G. Imlay, 'Topogr. Description,' pp. 239-40.
- 1800 Joe Hopkinson, the memorable sing-song ambassador to the *Outagamies*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 4.

Outfit. See quotations.

- 1869 In the Far West and on the Plains, everything is an *outfit*, from a railway train to a pocket-knife. [The word] is applied indiscriminately,—to a wife, a horse, a dog, a cat, or a row of pins.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 211 (Bartlett).
- 1870 In company with a Mormon "*outfit*" of sixteen men, ten wagons, and sixty mules, I had made the wearisome journey from North Platte.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 217 (Phila., &c.).
- 1887 The American herder speaks of his companions collectively as the "ranch" or the "*outfit*."—*Scribner's Mag.*, p. 509. (N.E.D.)

Outland. Outlying.

- 1855 The homestead was a very large farm; besides which there were several *outland* fields and lots.—*Putnam's Mag.*, v. 411.

Outlaw. To bar a claim by lapse of time.

- 1850 They came to this country so long ago that the sin of their "immigration" ought to be *outlawed*.—Mr. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, July 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1717.

Outsider. A person outside the society referred to. This is possibly American.

- 1833 Those he cannot entertain, the *outsiders*.—Fonblanque, 'England under Seven Administrations (1837), ii. 354. (N.E.D.)
- 1844 The word was used in the Baltimore Convention.—Marsh, 'English Language,' p. 274. (N.E.D.)
- 1855 Were I to quote from Joseph Smith, or from Brigham Young, the world, or *outsiders*, might think it folly.—Orson Hyde, at the Mormon Tabernacle, March 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 202. [So the speaker quoted from Franklin Pierce.]

Oven-wood. Small fire-wood. Obs. in England.

- 1794 Oaks . . . that had once a head,
But now wear crests of *oven-wood* instead.
W. Cowper, 'The Needless Alarm' (N.E.D.).
- 1830 It would have knocked any steamboat between 'Quoddy and New-Orleans into *oven-wood*.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 193.
- 1833 [The man was] warped with hoop-poles and filled in with *oven-wood*.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' p. 62.
- 1857 You'd better scull your dug-out over the drink again, and go to splittin' *oven-wood*.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 137.

Over one's signature.

- 1806 A writer *over the signature* of Zanga, is another buckram expression. Custom justifies, and therefore requires us to say, a writer *under* such a signature.—*Spirit of the Public Journals*, p. 96 (Balt.).
- [1823 It was Gen. Jackson's intention to address the American people, *under his own signature*, should Mr. Crawford receive a nomination as President.—*Liberty Hall and Cincinn. Gazette*, Oct. 31, p. 1/2].
- 1829 I took up a newspaper, and found the following advertisement *over your name*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 9.
- 1839 The first time I ever saw it in print *over a responsible signature*.—Mr. Roane of Va., U.S. Senate, Feb. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 187, App.
- 1840 See BLUE HEN'S CHICKENS.
- 1846 I have published *over my own signature* that I would vote for this resolution.—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 3 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 302.
- 1849 A card . . . appeared . . . *over the signature* of his honor Justice McLean.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, Jan. 23 : *id.*, p. 325.
- 1908 Mr. Fox, in a statement issued *over his signature*, says, &c.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 10.

Overcoat. This word has completely displaced "great coat" in the U.S. Great coats are advertised in the *Maryland Journal*, Aug. 21, 1776, and Jan. 28, 1777 ; and the word is frequently met with down to about 1840. In 1832 Watson puts it in inverted commas, as being unusual :—'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 157.

Overcup oak. The *quercus macrocarpa*, sometimes called the Burr-oak or Mossycup oak.

- 1795 *Quercus glandulibus magnis, capsula includentibus, nommé Overcup White Oak*.—Michaux, 'Journal,' June 15. (N.E.D.)
- 1817 Mentioned by J. Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 288.
- 1818 Also by W. Darby, 'Emigrant's Guide,' p. 80.

Overly. Remarkably. In the form *Oferlice*, the word occurs in Wulfstan's 'Homilies,' 11th c. (N.E.D.) It is found in Galt's 'Annals of the Parish,' ch. x., &c.

1827 To my eye it seems not to be *overly* peopled.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 28. (N.E.D.)

1845 Away we went, merrily, merrily,—but not *overly* rapid.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 197.

1852 The poor woman, not being *overly* curious, took it for granted, &c.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 99 (Phila.).

1878 He was not *overly* modest or shy, but to be the centre of all those eyes was abashing even to him.—Rose Terry Cooke, *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 585.

Overslaught, The. A bar with islands in the Hudson River, on which vessels often ran aground in the old time: mentioned by Carroll (1776), and Morse (1796). N.E.D.

1788 Those stones should be carried to *the Overslaught*, or wherever in its vicinity the [Hudson] river is filling up.—*Am. Museum*, iii. 513.

1831 They approached *the Overslaught*, a place infamous in all past time for its narrow crooked channel, and the sand banks with which it is infested.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Dutchman's Fireside,' ii. 4 (Lond.).

1835 *The Overslaught.* *The Albany Argus* says that the obstructions in the Hudson River are to be removed at last.—*Vermont Free Press*, Jan. 31.

1838 She draws but 30 inches water, and therefore is never detained at *the Overslaught*.—*The Jeffersonian*, May 5, p. 96.

1838 There is a point some distance up the Hudson River known as *the Overslaught* or *Overslow*, but sometimes called "Marcy's Farm" for the sake of brevity and euphony. . . . The obstructions at the *Overslaught* produce great loss and inconvenience.—Mr. Sibley in the House of Repr., *id.*, Sept. 1.

1877 To visit Albany or Troy
Was quite an enterprise;
In Tappan Zee the wind was flawy,
And billows oft would rise;
And then the *overslaugh* alone
For weeks detained a few;
Steamboats and railroads were unknown,
When this old house was new.
N. Y. Post, March (Bartlett).

Own up. To make a full admission.

1862 I *own up* that I take a little [whisky], and I am in favor of a large tax on whisky and tobacco.—Mr. James F. Simmons of Rhode Island, May 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2284/1.

1880 If you *own up* in a genial sort of way the house will forgive anything.—Trollope, 'Duke's Children,' ch. xxxv. (N.E.D.)

1890 On being arrested, he *owned up* to his crime.—*Boston Journal*, May 23, p. 1/6. (N.E.D.)

Ox-bow. A horse-shoe bend in a river.

- 1797 [Here] are those extensive intervalles known by the name of the great *Ox-Bow*, which form the River assumes.—J. A. Graham, 'Present State of Vermont,' 148. (N.E.D.)
- 1845 *Ox-bow*, on the *Ox-bow* of the Oswegatchie River.—Barber and Howe, 'Hist. Coll. N.Y. State,' 201. (N.E.D.)
- 1858 The Connecticut... wantons in huge luxurious *oxbows* about the fair Northampton meadows.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' ch. x. (N.E.D.)
- 1860 The St. Clair flats, where the main channel of the St. Clair river takes a long bend around the flats in the shape of an *ox-bow*.—Mr. Chandler of Michigan, U.S. Senate, Feb. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 669.

Ox-mill. See quotation.

- 1826 Steam-mills arose in St. Louis, and *ox-mills* on the principle of the inclined plain or tread-mill.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 211.

Oyster-plant. The salsify: *Tragopogon porrifolius*.

- 1824 [The Virginians] also cherish the salsify, or *oyster-plant*, so called from its flavour when fried.—A. Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 72.

Oyster-scow. A flat boat used in oyster-dredging.

- 1824 He wore a hat of the new *oyster-scow* cut, with a long piece of crape hanging to it; and the remainder of his apparel in the latest tip.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 26: from *The Emporium*.

P

Pack. To carry, to convey.

- 1844 I wish I may be rammed through a gum-tree head foremost, if I'm goin' to *pack* Suze any further.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.
- 1846 The captain used to boast that he could *pack* a gallon without its setting him back any.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 103 (Phila).
- 1850 Joe killed an antelope... We *packed* the hams and shoulders to camp.—'Fifth Smithsonian Report,' p. 91 (Bartlett).
- 1857 I have seen the public hands *packing* home carrots, parsnips, potatoes.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 18.
- 1874 My shoes hurts my feet, an' I have to *pack* one of 'em in my hand.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 59 (Lond., 1895).
- 1896 If you're a-goin' on upstairs, would you just as lieve *pack* my bucket up?—Ella Higginson, 'Tales of Puget Sound,' p. 193.

Paddle. To spank.

- 1856 I thought it was... sulkiness, so I *paddled* him and made him go to work.—Ohnsted, 'Slave States,' 189. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 His master had *paddled* to death three of his fellow slaves.—*The Independent*, May 15 (Bartlett).

Painter or Panter. A panther.

- 1803 My master. . . . said that I ought to live among *painters* and wolves, and sold me to a Georgia man for two hundred dollars.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 382 (Lond.).
- 1820 When [a man] is alone among the *painters* and wild varments.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 304 (Lond.).
- 1825 One day, our Towzle he fit a *painter*; well—and so the *painter* he smacks him thro' the ribs, clean as a whistle, same as a cat.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 41.
- 1836 They all burst out laughin like a passel [parcel] of *painters*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 27.
- 1836 It's never a man I'm talkin' about, but a rale *painter*. He's growlin', an' is goin' to devour the whole graveyard.—*Id.*, Dec. 6.
- 1843 I have been hunted like a *paynter* from Salem to Weathersfield.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 47.
- 1845 It might be a *painter* that stirred [the dog], for he could scent that beast a great distance.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 48 (Lond.).
- 1845 I reckon you never hearn about the time I got among the *panthers*.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 173.
- 1846 Another time I was in the wood's a-chopping
When I saw a *painter* from tree to tree hopping.
Knick. Mag., xxvii. 276 (March).
- 1846 You, Jake Snyder, don't holler so, says the old woman; why, you are worse nor a *painter*.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 85.
- 1847 Why, stranger, my father swum across the big Satan, in a freshet, with a dead *painter* in his mouth and a live alligator full splurge after him.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 195 (Phila.).
- 1847 I never leave the surveyor's chain now, unless I am afraid of getting my head combed by a *painter* or wild-cat.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 63 (Jan.).
- 1847 Didn't Tom get mad! wuz you ever near enough to a *panter* when his har riz with wrath?—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 107.
- 1847 I'm some in a bar fight, and considerable among *panthers*, but I warn't no whar in that fight with Jess.—*Id.*, p. 132.
- 1848 I staggered up agin the lamp-post, and held on to [the baby], while it kicked and squalled like a young *panter*.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 114.
- 1850 The bar and *painter* got so sassy, that they'd cum to the tother side of the bayou, and see which could talk impudentest. "Don't you want some bar meat or *painter* blanket?" they'd ask; bars is monstrous fat, and *painter's* hide is mighty warm.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 170 (Phila.).
- 1851 We didn't make quite as much noise as a *panter* and a pack of hounds, but we made some.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' p. 47 (Phila.).

Painter or Panter—*contd.*

- 1853 There was wolves in the Holler,—an unaccountable mess of 'em; and *painters*—the wust kind of *painters*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xli. 502 (June).
- 1855 I druv ten years in Kentueky, and four here, and I never carried a western woman that didn't holler like a *painter* every time I jolted her a little.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' p. 294.
- 1855 I was much amused at M.'s astonishment at hearing the old hunters speak of shooting "*painters*." He was evidently unused to artists being thus summarily disposed of.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 569 (June).
- 1857 If you find a *painter*, or a bar takin' a nap in your path, and don't want to clinch with him, wake him up before you get right onto him, and he'll be very likely to think he's cornered.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 223.
- 1860 [He] thought young men ought to be in bed, time enough to get up airly in the mornin', and not go round howlin' like a pack o' *painters*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lv. 613 (June).
- 1869 She told us how the *painters* (panthers) used to come round the log cabin at night.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. xxviii.

Pale-faces. White men as distinct from Indians.

- 1822 [The masquerader] thus accosted him:—"Ah, *Pale-face!* what brings you here?"—McCall, 'Letters from the Frontiers' (1868), p. 72. (N.E.D.)
- 1826 J. F. Cooper (N.E.D.).

Pale faces. (Sterret incident, 1799.)

- 1799 Third lieut. Andrew Sterret, of the U.S. frigate *Constellation*, wrote to his brother, Feb. 14: "We would put a man to death for even looking pale on this ship."—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 13.
- 1799 Mr. Sterrett has manifested his hatred to *pale faces*.—*Id.*, March 15.
- 1799 A correspondent requests you will have the charity to publish immediately a list of all the shops in the U.S., where the best rouge is sold, in order that every *pale-faced* subject may purchase a quantity, to give their cheeks a courageous appearance, lest any person looking pale might be run through the body on land, as it was at sea lately for the heinous crime of being *pale-faced*.—*Id.*, March 16.
- 1799 It seems that the lieutenant did run a man through the body for that cause.—*Id.*, April 9.

Palmetto. The fan-leaved palm. Sp. *palmito*.

- 1555 Theyr drynke is eyther water or the iuse that droppeth from the cut braunches of the barren date trees called *Palmites*.—R. Eden, 'Decades' (1855), p. 387 (Stanford Dict.).

Palmetto—*contd.*

- 1583 The *Palmito* with his fruite inclosed in him.—Hakluyt's 'Voyages,' p. 188. (N.E.D.)
[Many examples, 1565, 1598, 1601, 1613, 1621, &c., in the above-named dictionaries.]
- 1775 A small hut covered with thatch of *palmitos*, or bark of trees, is always preferable to the lumber of a tent.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 189.
- 1776 The *palmetto* is a tree peculiar to the southern states, which grows from 20 to 40 feet high without branches, and then terminates in something resembling the head of a cabbage. The wood is remarkably spongy.—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' ii. 280 (Lond., 1788).
- 1861 He took the position and threw up a temporary battery with *palmetto* logs and sand.—Mr. Jefferson Davis in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 308/1.
- 1861 On the rugged highways toward the city of Mexico was heard the steady tread of the *Palmetto* boy and the Pennsylvania volunteer, side by side and shoulder to shoulder.—Mr. William Bigler of Pa., U.S. Senate, Jan. 21: *id.*, p. 489/3.
- 1862 Tom O'Connor . . . had the *Palmetto* secession badge pinned upon the left lappel of his coat.—Examination of W. G. Brownlow before the U.S. Senate, June 26: *id.*, p. 2948/1.

Palmetto State, the. South Carolina.

- 1846 I can stand a good deal from the gallant *palmetto State*.—Mr. Cathcart of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323.

Pan out. To turn out, to develope. From the process of placer mining.

- 1881 The route did not *pan out* as was expected.—*N.Y. Sun*, Nov. 16.
- 1882 It's a notorious fact that none of these Star-route cases have *panned out*. They are all smoke and no fire.—*Washington Critic*, Feb. 23.

Pan-dowdy. Food made of bread and apples baked together. (Worcester.)

- 1846 Such glowing encomiums on *pandowdy* and pumpkin-pie! Such affectionate mention of clam-chowder, roast veal, and baked beans!—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 235.

1847 Oh! those were joyous times,
 The times of which we've read,
 Of good old fashioned *pandowdy*,
 Of rye-and-Indian bread.

Knick. Mag., xxix. 498 (June).

- 1852 [He would] fill my plate from the great dish of *pandowdy*.—Hawthorne, 'Blithedale Romance,' xxiv. (N.E.D.)
- 1856 The *Pandowdy Band* at Bowdoin College, described as one of the discordant kind.—Hall, 'College Words,' p. 342.

Pan-fish. Any fish that can be fried in a pan.

- 1833 Before the house flows a small but deep creek, abounding in *pan-fish*.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of Phila.,' p. 49.
- 1846 [The Indians] brought with them water-melons, musk-melons, and strings of *pan-fish*.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw of California,' p. 241.
- 1850 I don't believe the wide world can supply a more delicate and delicious dish than those perch or creek *pan-fish* immediately before you.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 161 (Phila.).
- 1860 [If the Prince of Wales visits the James River, he will find] such roasted saddles of mutton, venison pies, sturgeon steaks, home-cured hams, breaded cutlets, and shad, *pan fish*, and oysters, [as] never were served by Soyer himself.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 15, p. 2/3.

Pan-handle. A narrow tract of land belonging to one State and bounded laterally by other States. The State is as it were a pan, of which this projection is the handle.

- 1862 I want to compare the district of Mr. Segar with the Wheeling district. One is called the *pan-handle* of the East, and the other the *pan-handle* of the West.—Mr. W. G. Brown of Va., House of Repr., Feb. 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 754/3.
- 1888 The *Panhandle* of Texas offers desirable homes to a million of people, at a moderate price.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).

Panoche. See quotation.

- 1848 A large amount of sugar-cane is grown [in the Santa Clara valley], from which is made *panoche*, a favorite sugar with the natives; it is the syrup from the cane, boiled down, and run into cakes of a pound weight, and in appearance is like our maple sugar.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 210 (Lond., 1849).

Pansaje. A barbecue of the middle part of an animal.

- 1893 A *pansaje* where all could refresh the inner man.—Galveston (Tex.), *News*, Feb. 11.

Pantalettes. An article of feminine apparel.

- 1846 Said traveller stated he had seen a piano somewhere in New England with *pantalettes* on.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Mysteries of the Backwoods,' p. 21.
- 1847 If I hadn't a had on my *pantalets*.—Porter, 'The Big Bear,' p. 104 (Farmer).
- 1854 The girls wore ruffles on their *pantalettes*, frizzled down over their shoes, nearly concealing the whole foot.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 94.
- 1855 [The eagle] was running about the cock-pit, looking very much like an old school-girl in *pantalettes*, or even more like one of those strong-minded females who pass their declining years in asserting "women's rights," and the "higher law," who generally become "Bloomers" about the time when they cease to bloom.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 47 (Jan.).

Pantalettes—*contd.*

- 1855 When but a little puss in *pantalettes*, of no more than thirteen years old, she was mistress of her father's house.—*Putnam's Mag.*, v. 318 (March).
- 1857 The landlady's daughter, a shrill and objectionable girl in *pantalettes*.—Thos. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding-Houses,' p. 77.

Pantaloon, Pants. The garments which preceded trousers. Then the word came to mean trousers. A few American examples of the latter word are here added. As to Pantaloon, see also *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. vii. 207; as to Trousers, 10 S. vi. 86, 157, 255. The Stanford Dict. furnishes instances of pantaloon (It. *pantaloni*), 1660, 1663, &c. The derivation, quot. 1836, is a mere guess.

- 1804 He was dressed in the American style; in a blue suit, with round hat and *pantaloon*.—Brown, tr. 'Volney's View of the U.S.,' 360. (N.E.D.)
- 1809 Fashions for Gentlemen. Stocking *pantaloon*s and half-boots. Nankeen *trousers* and gaiters, or Kerseymere *pantaloon*s and gaiters in one.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Oct. 24.
- 1819 Look in the bureaux and trunks of modern men of fashion, and see the number of coats, waistcoats, *pantaloon*s, &c.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Sept. 15.
- 1836 *Pantaloon*s. This word is derived from the Latin *pene*, almost, and *talones*, the heels, because they come quite down to the heels. It is in the memory of persons now living in Mississippi, the beaux and belles of Spanish times, that *pantaloon*s were inadmissible at balls, as small clothes now would be.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 21.
- 1837 He was dressed in *pantaloon*s, boots, and vest.—*Knicker. Mag.*, x. 286 (Oct.).
- 1842 A red-faced individual in a bottle-green coat and greasy pants.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 29.
- 1843 A young gentleman chastely apparelled in white jean *pants* of a fashionable cut, an elegant blue coat, and bushy whiskers.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 236.
- 1846 The thing named "*pants*" in certain documents,
A word not made for gentlemen, but "gents."
O. W. Holmes, 'A Rhymed Lesson,' p. 515. (N.E.D.)
- 1846 Brown coats, gray *pants*, broad-brimmed hats, &c.—Mr. Woodruff of N.Y., House of Repr., July 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1068, Appendix.
- 1852 A dandy is a thing in *pantaloon*s, with a body and two arms, head without brains, tight boots, a cane and white handkerchief, two broaches, and a ring on his little finger.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Dec. 29.
- 1853 [He] laments the gradual encroachment of womankind on the territories of *pantaloon*s.—*Id.*, Jan. 26.

Pantaloons, Pants—*contd.*

- 1859 See GRIST.
- 1860 Whirling round so quick, the hind side of your *pants* stuck out before you, you shut your eyes.—*Oregon Argus*, Oct. 6.
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- 1778 Had on and took with him a good felt hat, and a shirt and *trousers*.—Runaway advt., *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 1.
- 1802 [He had on] one pair cloth, one pair tow, and one pair blue and yellow cotton striped *trousers*.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, July 24.
- 1808 Six Cents Reward! Ran away, an indented apprentice, named John Trasher, aged 18 years, light complexion, with blue Jacket and *Trowsers* on when he went away.—Advt. in *Essex Register*, Salem, Mass, Sept. 17.
- 1818 Next a great pair of *trousers* upon me they drags,
With legs all the world like your three-bushel bags.
Missouri Gazette, St. Louis, Dec. 25.

Pap. Political patronage, bestowal of offices, &c.

- 1841 The very new States are nursed from their chrysalis territorial condition into existence upon Federal *pap* from the Executive spoon.—Mr. Wise of Virginia' House of Repr., Jan. 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 300, App.
- 1842 A few items will show how the "Treasury *pap*" has gone for political newspapers, with a view of sustaining partisan editors.—Mr. Brown of Tennessee, the same, Feb. 19 : *id.*, p. 255.
- 1843 True, we have occasionally received a little of the Government *pap*, in small parcels and at long intervals.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, the same, Dec. 19 : *id.*, p. 53, App.
- 1847 Mr. Ritchie... is out of office on the coming fourth of March. After that we shall hear no more of him as a public printer, and when the *pap* goes he goes. His ruling passion now is revenge.—Mr. Wentworth of Illinois, the same, Feb. 6 : *id.*, p. 342.

Papaw. See PAW-PAW.**Paper-blockade.** One proclaimed, but not made effective.

- 1812 The *paper blockades*, which have justly occasioned so much irritation, are now abandoned.—*Boston-Gazette*, July 20.
- 1861 Can you stop the supplies of the great staple, cotton, by a mere *paper blockade*?—Mr. Slidell, in taking leave of the U.S. Senate. O. J. Victor, 'Hist. of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 342.
- 1863 Lord John Russell, Letter to Mr. Mason (N.E.D.).

Papoose root. The root of *Caulophyllum thalictroides*. Also called Blue Cohosh (Bartlett).

- 1816 A dose and a half of his *papoose root*.—Review of Henry's 'American Herbal' in the *Analectic Mag.*, vii. 263 (March),

Paragraph. To "write a person up" in a paper.

1764 I will *paragraph* you in every newspaper.—Foote, 'The Patron' (N.E.D.).

1824 One or two propugnacious grubs have recently *paragraphed* us most desperately.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 5.

Paragraphist. A newspaper hack.

1790 A *paragraphist* in the General Advertiser of Thursday last.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 27.

1798 Every *paragraphist* . . . will await the issue of the late victory.—'Spirit of Public Journals,' ii. 350 (N.E.D.).

Paralee. To set at hazard. This word is not in the N.E.D.

1828 As well, sir, might you ask the adventurer at Faro, who *paralees* (I believe, sir, that most of us are old enough to remember the term, although I trust that with the practice it is quite obsolete), who *paralees* I say stake, winnings and all upon a single card, why he does not uniformly double his stake.—Speech of Mr. Bernard in the Senate of Virginia: *Richmond Whig*, Feb. 20, p. 1/3.

Pardner, Pard. This variant of partner, much used in the mining camps, has been brought into general notice by Mark Twain.

1821 Dr. Dwight quotes *Partender* for *Partner* as a Cockneyism: 'Travels,' iv. 279.

1854 *Pardners* keep clus arter one another.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 126.

1883 The mine is warked by two "*pardners*," who dig and wash by turns.—D. Pidgeon, 'An Engineer's Holiday,' p. 132 (Lond.).

1893 Many an old hunter has buried his "*pard*" in the Missouri River.—Alex Major's 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' p. 260.

Paring Bee. See quotation, 1850.

1845 "*The Paring (or Apple) Bee*" is described in the 'Lowell Offering,' v. 268-271.

1850 The Editor . . . knows what a *paring-bee* is, but some of his readers may not. It is a gathering of jolly boys and girls at a farm-house, to pare, quarter, core, and string apples for drying. . . . Give me the real *paring-bee* reels and jigs before all your waltzes and Spanish dances.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv. 24 (Jan.).

Parmateer. To electioneer. A Rhode Island word; possibly an abbreviation of parliamenteer.—Mr. Charles L. Norton, *Mag. Am. Hist.*, xiii. 397 (1885). See CAUCUS, 1774.

Partyism. Steady adherence to a party.

1844 Industrial incoherence and family *partyism*. — Mary Hennell, 'Social System,' p. 191 (N.E.D.).

1846 Let me say one word in relation to the "*partyism*" of this question. It is no party question. It is a mighty American question. — Mr. Hannegan of Indiana on the augmentation of the navy, U.S. Senate, Jan. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 256.

1886 Goldwin Smith (N.E.D.).

1903 The vast canvas whereon he painted American *partyism* with all its deformities.—*The Dial* (Chicago), March 16. (N.E.D.)

Patgoe. See quotation.

1827 *Patgoes* are a kind of introduction to a dance. A wooden bird is fixed on a pole, and carried through the City by some slave; on presenting it to the ladies, they make an offering of a piece of riband, of any length or colour. This is fixed to the bird, which thus becomes decked with an abundant and gaudy plumage. A time and place is then set apart for the fair patrons of the *patgoe* to assemble, who are usually attended by their beaux. The *patgoe* is shot at, and the fortunate marksman, who first succeeds in *killing* it, is proclaimed king.—J. L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' pp. 78-79 (Phila.). [This is somewhat like the KINGBALL.]

Patron. At first the master of a galley with oars (14th-18th. c., N.E.D.). Then the captain or steersman of a river boat.

1820 How! did you say the *patron* of a galley?—Byron, 'Marino Faliero,' i. 294 (N.E.D.).

1775 The vessel [coming from Cuba] draws one third, the *patroon* or master two thirds of the remaining two thirds.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 186.

1814 The *patron* is the fresh water sailing master.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 206, *note*.

1817 Our *patron*, or steersman, who conducted the first boat, and directed our motions.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 176.

1824 A *patroon* for sale. A prime fellow, well acquainted with the navigation of Cooper River.—*Carolina Gazette*, Feb. 14.

1826 The "*patroon*," as he is called, of the boat [was occasionally unable, from the violence of the wind to manage the helm.]—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 81.

1826 [We went down the Mississippi] in a very large keel-boat, with an ignorant *patron*. The whole way was one scene of disasters.—*Id.*, p. 217.

1850 Leaving space enough at the stern for the seat of the *patron*, or captain, who with a short broad paddle, both aided to propel and steer the canoe.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 15 (N.Y.).

Patroon. A lord of the manor in the Dutch Settlements along the Hudson River.

1758 Marched into the *Paterroon Lands* to Landlord Lovejoys.—L. Lyon, 'Milit. Journals' (1855) 13, (N.E.D.).

1776 Vast tracts of land on each side of Hudson's river are held by the proprietaries, or as they are here styled *Patrones of manors*.—C. Carroll, 'Journal,' p. 42 (*id.*).

The N.E.D. also furnishes examples 1790, 1797, &c.

1819 One of those persons that I told to wait until their turns came was the *Young Patroon*.—B. F. Butler to Jesse Hoyt, 'Lives of Butler and Hoyt,' by W. L. Mackenzie, p. 18 (Boston, 1845).

Patroon—*contd.*

- 1824 Mr. Van Rensselaer of Albany, called the *Patroon*, is reported to be worth \$7,000,000.—*Woodstock Observer*, Vt., March 2.
- 1832 [The Dutch settlers encouraged those who went out] to the "Groot Rivier" of Hudson with the enterprise, force, and capital of *Patroons*. They were such as should undertake to plant a colony of fifty souls, &c.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 29.
- 1835 General Van Rensselaer is the *Patroon*, or Lord of the Manor, and is considered the greatest landlord in the U.S.—Andrew Reed, 'Visit to America,' i. 323.
- 1841 This is the celebrated Stephen Van Ransslear [Van Rensselaer] known by the name of the *Patroon*, a word derived from the Dutch, and corresponding in its meaning to our English phrase "lord of the manor."—Buckingham, 'America,' ii. 327.
- 1902 My father as a young man was making the journey from Albany to Utica, 96 miles, in company with the *Patroon*, Van Rensselaer, Martin Van Buren, Daniel D. Tompkins, and Chancellor Kent.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 3.

Pave. The pavement.

- 1835 [They] throng the streets and line the outside of the *pavé* [at Natchez].—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 35.
- 1843 The *pave* was of course [coarse] dust sometimes, sometimes mortar.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 75-6.
- 1843 Our side-walk, for a mile was paved with wood. This *pave* was used in miry times.—*Id.*, ii. 306.
- 1852 [In St. Mark's] we tread upon the finest mosaic *paves* we have yet seen.—S. S. Cox, 'A Buckeye Abroad,' p. 269.
- 1857 Along the dusty road,
 Along the granite *pave*,
 A lean old horse is dragging his load.
 Knick. Mag., i. 383 (Oct.).
- 1859 The law student was out, and tripping it rather daintily along the *pave*.—*Id.*, liii. 331 (March).
- 1889 I fancy them on every *pave* in Rome
 Toward the palace faced.
 Harper's Mag., p. 192 (N.E.D.).

Paw-paw. The tree *Carica Papaya*.

- 1613 The *Papaios* will not grow, but male and female together. Purchas, 'Pilgrimage,' (1614) 505 (N.E.D.).
- 1760 *Papaw-tree* of N. America.—Annona, J. Lee, 'Introd. Bot.,' 321, App. (N.E.D.).
- 1806 The fruit of the *papaw*, when ripe, exactly resembles in taste, flavor, composition, and colour, a custard of the best quality.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' i. 192 (Lond., 1808).

Paw-paw—*contd.*

- 1826 At Steubenville in Ohio we first began to notice the *pawpaw*, persimon, and other new shrubs.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 22.
- 1835 The *pawpaw tree* with its heavy luscious fruit was the greatest curiosity.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 124 (Lond.).

Paxton boys. See quotations.

- 1818 The Indians fled to Philadelphia from the pursuit of the *Paxton boys* (as they called themselves).—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 25.
- 1833 [The Indians] were massacred at mid-day by an armed band of ruffians, calling themselves the "*Paxtang boys*." [This was in 1764.]—Watson, 'Historic Tales of Phila.,' p. 66. See also pp. 205-208.

Pay dirt, Pay streak, &c. That which pays for working.

- 1857 The miners talk of rich dirt and poor dirt, and of stripping off so many feet of "top dirt" before getting to "*pay dirt*."—Borthwick, 'California,' p. 120 (Bartlett).
- 1857 Ten thousand dollars have been expended in reaching *pay dirt* at the Cumberland claim.—*S. F. Call*, March 4.
- 1859 You descend in the "lead" or "crevasse" until *pay-dirt* is reached, at a depth varying from one to twenty-five feet.—*Rocky Mtn. News*, Cherry Creek, Kas. Ter., June 18.
- 1869 Any new speculation that offered the slightest symptom of a *pay-streak*.—J. Ross Browne, 'The Apache Country,' p. 488.
- 1869 If the digging shows "*pay dirt*," he stakes his claim.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 320.
- 1909 The fellow who has struck *pay ore* and doesn't need money for development, and doesn't wish to sell, is about as uncommunicative as a malefactor of great wealth before an investigating committee.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 18.
- 1909 At intervals overhead were openings through which the ore was tumbled down from the stopes cut upward in long, slanting drifts, following the *pay streak*.—*Id.*, April 15.

Peach. A person or thing of special excellence. Like "Daisy" this is a specimen of stupid college slang. See 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 48.

Peach-worm. A worm that feeds on peaches.

- 1821 The *Peach-worm* has been known here for about fifty years; and is now become very common.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 76.

Peaked. Thin and angular. The opposite of FLESHY. The verb occurs in *Macbeth*, I. 3:—

Weary sev'n nights, nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, *peak*, and pine.

- 1835-40 I am dreadfully sorry, says I, to see you . . . lookin' so *peeked*.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' 38 (N.E.D.)
- 1859 He looks *peaked*er than ever.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' ch. 9.

Peaked—*contd.*

1860 I lived on bread-and-milk nearly six weeks, until my face grew as *peaked* as a crow's beak.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 169.

a.1871 His mother was jest about the poorest, *peakedest* old body over to Sherburne.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Miss Elderkin's Pitcher.'

a.1872 An elderly man with *peaked* features.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 14.

1878 When I came here, she was as *peaked* as a young rat.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 36.

Peaker. A traveller to Pike's Peak.

1859 Gentle and Mormon, bullwhacker, and *Pike's Peaker*, all seemed to mingle freely.—*Alta California*, Aug. 17.

1861 Though but a few months in the country, he is as good a *Peaker* as the next man.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lviii. 121 (Aug.).

Pea-nut. A ground nut or "monkey-nut," which grows profusely in S. Virginia and N. Carolina.

1826 We were presented with a sample of *pea-nuts* raised in this village. They are the first ever raised in this place. Nuts of this description usually sell here for \$2. or \$2.50 per bushel.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 11, from the *Saratoga Sentinel*.

1835 Wrenching it from its roots as a Lilliputian would a *pea-nut*.—Hoffman, 'Winter in the West,' ii. 206 (N.E.D.).

Peanut politics, politicians, &c. Those addicted to mean and paltry tricks.

1854 I know them—a set of *peanut agitators* and Peter Funk philanthropists.—Mr. Mike Walsh of N.Y., House of Repr., May 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1230.

1887 If the Governor would consent not to play *peanut politics*.—N.Y. Mail, May 27 (Farmer).

1909 They used to talk about "*peanut politics*" at Albany, but a peanut is too large and respectable an object to yield a comparison for yesterday's action of the State Senate.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 4.

Peart. The N.E.D. gives instances 1500-1889. Mr. F. T. Elworthy in *Notes and Queries*, 9 S. iv. 461, says that in the W. of England the word still means sprightly, joyous, healthy, fresh, happy, which is just the American meaning.

1820 These little fixens make a man feel right *peart*.—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 304. [For fuller quotation see VARMINT.]

1833 She flew round...mighty *peart*, I tell you.—Hall's 'Legends of the West,' p. 88. [For fuller quot. see FIX.]

1833 I wish that fellow would shut the door; he must think that we were all raised in a saw-mill; and then he looks so *peart* whenever he comes in.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 209.

1842 Among the peculiar expressions used [in Georgia] traveling rapidly is called "*moving peert*"; and to provide a family with food is expressed thus: He always grows enough to bread his own people for a year at least, and sells the balance.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 167.

Peart—*contd.*

- 1847 Dicey is a middlin' *peart* gal, but for my part I don't see what the taler seed in her.—'Billy Warwick's Courtship,' p. 100 (Phila.).
- 1855 So out we goes to the paw-paw thicket, and pealed (*sic*) a right *peart* chance o' bark.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
- 1855 She expressed her opinion that I must feel right *peart* to be out that airy.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' p. 26.
- 1856 A teaspoonful of that ar, morn and night, and in a week you'll be round agin, as *pert* as a cricket.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. 8.
- 1869 She's tolerable *peert*, the old 'oman is; O, she's on it, you bet.—J. Ross Browne, 'The Apache Country,' p. 334.
- 1888 [The boys] from being starved, wretched, and dull, grew quite "*peart*" under [Eliza's] good care. Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 171.
- 1890 To tell the truth, General, our family never was very *peart* for caring much about each other.—The same, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 56.
- 1899 [He assured me] that if I would deign to confer on him the honor of my presence, he would prove it to be quite safe, and as *peert* a steamer as ever sailed.—The same, 'Boots and Saddles,' p. 188.

Pearten, to enliven, to grow cheerful.

- 1851 I *peartened* up then, and gin him as good as he sent, mind, I tell you.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' p. 78.

Pea-time, the last of. The melancholy end of things.

- 1834 [Our parson] whines it out like a old woman in the *last of pea-time*.—'The Kentuckian in N.Y.,' i. 190.
- 1850 It war the *last of pea-time* with me, sure, if I didn't rise 'fore bar did.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 174.
- 1861 There's ollers chaps a-hangin' roun' thet can't see *pea-time's past*.—'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 1.

Peccan. A species of hickory.

- 1773 [Virginia.] The timber, Bois Connu, or *Paccan*, Maple, &c.—P. Kennedy, 'Journal' (N.E.D.).
- 1786 [I wish you] to procure me two or three hundred *paccan-nuts* from the Western country.—Thomas Jefferson to F. Hopkinson, Jan. 3, from Paris.
- 1795 A bundle of *Pekan* or *Illinois nuts* is also sent.—Geo. Washington to Mr. Pearce, May 24: 'Memoirs of Long Island Historical Society (1889), iv. 187.
- 1812 The *peccanne*. . . found on the low grounds, is a large tree resembling somewhat the hickory, but has a more delicate leaf.—Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 61 (N.E.D.).
- 1816 The general growth of timber is *paccan*, and some other species of hickory.—W. Darby, 'Louisiana,' p. 54.

Peccan—*contd.*

- 1817 The *peccan*, or Illinois nut, is a kind of walnut, but very different from all other species, both in the form and texture of its shell, which is so thin as to be cracked between the teeth.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 261.
- 1847 We meet the *peccan* and other trees, among them the black-jack.—'Life of Benjamin Lundy,' p. 39 (Phila.).
- Peck of misery.** A variant of "a peck of troubles."
- a.1535 [He] told hym that Mr. More was in a *pecke of troubles*.—'Archæologia,' xxv. 97 (N.E.D.).
- 1839 Brother Nobs was in a *peck of misery*.—'History of V. A. Stewart,' p. 31. (N.Y.).
- Peek.** To examine in a prying manner. Examples occur in
in Chaucer, Skelton, &c. (N.E.D.).
- 1789 A vain trifling curiosity to pry into secrets, to meddle with the business of others, and to *peek* into privacies.—*Mass. Spy*, June 18.
- 1834 [He sat] where he could *peak* into my book.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 28. (1860.)
- 1839 I went along, and went to *peak* over, but hang me if I didn't slip up.—'Major Jack on a Whaler'; *Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1848 The next instant the driver was *peeking* in at the window, as the Yankees say.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiii. 231.
- 1850 He keeled over on the grass, *pecked* through the trees, &c.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 227.
- 1853 Arter a spell, old Marm Harris come *a-peekin* over my shoulder, an bursts out a larfin.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 222 (Sept.).
- 1854 As once my dazzled eyes I set
Where Julia's neck and boddice met,
She asked what I was seekin' ;
"There,—that," said I, "is that Nankeen ?
—The lining of your waist I mean."
"No *Sir*," said she, "that's *Pekin*."
Boston Evening Post, n.d.
- 1857 He commenced *peeking*, as he called it, into every nook and corner on the boat.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 20.
- 1862 Zekle crep' up quite unbeknown,
An' *peeked* in thru the winder.
J. N. Lowell, 'The Courtin'.'
- 1869 People do not listen over their spectacles,—they listen over their collars ; they *peek* over their spectacles.—Dr. E. E. Hale, 'Ingham Papers,' p. 175.
- 1869 We was all a *winkin*' and a *nudgin*' each other, and a *peekin*' to see what would come o' it.—Mrs. Stowe, 'The Widow's Bandbox.'
- 1888 [He put me] under a promise to remain in one spot without "*peeking*," as children say.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 422.
- 1890 One of the guests did "*peek*" through, and seeing the tables in the saloons with heaps of money, guarded by knives and revolvers, she was frightened.—The same, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 160.

- Peek-bo, Peek-a-boo.** See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ii. 85, 153.
- Pelter.** A dealer in skins. Rarely used.
- 1856 When his earthly tenement yields his soul no shelter,
May it animate the corpse of an ancient *pelter*.
Knick. Mag., xlviii. 314 (Sept.).
- Pen.** The penitentiary.
- 1888 His friends compromised the matter, and kept him from going to the *pen*.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 11 (Farmer).
- 1909 The violator of his oath of office, who opens his surcharged bosom to the Voters' League, may well dream of escaping "the *pen*."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 11.
- Penelopize.** To stave things off as Penelope did. The word was apparently coined by Mr. Benton.
- 1841 Diplomacy was still drawing out its lengthened thread—still weaving its long and dilatory web—still *Penelopizing*.—Mr. Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, June 14: *Congressional Globe*, p. 43, Appendix.
- 1853 There is nothing for it but to *penelopize*, pull to pieces, and stitch away again.—J. L. Motley in O. W. Holmes, 'Life' (1878), p. 72. (N.E.D.)
- Pennsylvania hurricane.**
- bef.* 1812 A "*Pennsylvany hurricane*," like a "Caroliny swamper," was indeed a common term for a long lie.—John Bernard, 'Retrospections' (1887), p. 250.
- Penny.** A cent, equal to a halfpenny.
- 1833 The *New York Sun* was published for "one *penny*," Sept. 3.
- 1842 [The Log Cabin Advocate, Baltimore] was one of the class called here *Penny Papers*, though selling for one cent a copy.—Buckingham, 'Eastern and Western States,' ii. 113.
- Pennyroyal hymn.** See quotation.
- 1850 He sang one, popularly known as a *pennyroyal hymn*, a measure that combines unction with vivacity.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 274.
- Peperage.** The tupelo: a tree of the genus *Nyssa*.
- 1826 A trencher, neatly carved from the knot of the *peperage*. J. F. Cooper, 'Mohicans' (1829), i. 77. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 Nobody would be sech a consarned fool as to try an' split a *peperage* log.—'Major Jack Downing,' Sept. 13.
- Pepperpot.** A stew of tripe and doughballs, formerly made in Philadelphia.
- 1794 A wag in my neighbourhood, a lover of *pepper pots*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 13.
- 1796 On market day evenings [they] are found excellent in *pepperpot*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 17.
- 1800 Daniel Dunn of the Leopard Tavern in Lætitia Court, advertises "*Pepperpot* of a superior quality at 6 o'clock every evening."—*Id.*, June 19.

Pepperpot—*contd.*

- 1803 An old negro-woman [in Philadelphia] was passing... with some *pepperpot* on her head.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 45 (Lond.).
- 1807 'Tis like the dish call'd *pepperpot*,
That's peppered pretty piping hot,
Yes, hot as best cayenne can make it.
New Year's Address, *N.Y. Weekly Inspector*.
- 1814 [In Philadelphia] the ear is regaled with cries of "*pepperpot*, right hot," &c.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 27 (Boston, 1824).
- 1825 [The principal trade of Philadelphia] consists in the exportation of Toughy and *Pepperpot*.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 231 (Lond.).

Per diem. An allowance per day, paid to the members of a legislative body.

- 1839 In that case, had he asked for his mileage and *per diem* all would have considered it an insult.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 5: *Congressional Globe*, p. 66, Appendix.
- 1839 We hesitate not to pay ourselves the moderate *per diem* of \$11.33, in addition to the usual and statute [statute] *per diem* of \$8.—Mr. Morris of Pa., the same, Feb.: *id.*, p. 217, App.
- 1840 If the mileage was reduced, Mr. C. C. Clay of Ala, was in favor of an inquiry into the propriety of reducing the *per diem*, and to compensate members only for their actual attendance to their duties. Mr. Calhoun of S. Carolina had been in favor of an act which had changed the *per diem* into an annual compensation.—(U.S. Senate.)
- 1842 Mr. Davis of N.Y. would reduce the *per diem* of members to \$4, and abolish their franking privilege.—House of Repr., April 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 437.
- 1843 There could be no question that the executors of the deceased member were entitled to his mileage, and to a portion of his *per diem*, as he was on his way to the seat of Government.—Mr. Mason of Maryland, the same, Jan. 4: *id.*, p. 113.
- 1848 This resolution contemplated the payment of [Governor Yell's] *per diem* up to the 7th of Feb., and his travel fees from Arkansas here.—Mr. Starkweather of N.Y., the same, June 29: *id.*, p. 880.
[The phrase is constantly used in this debate.]
- 1849 No gentleman could support himself and his family here upon the *per diem*; or in other words, if he left his family at home, he could not support himself here and his family at home on the *per diem*. This mileage therefore was intended to make up, to some extent, &c.—Mr. Vinton of Ohio, the same, Jan. 4: *id.*, p. 160.
- 1850 A common laborer's wages [in California] are more than the *per diem* of a member of Congress.—Mr. Hall of Missouri, the same, March 5: *id.*, p. 252, Appendix.

Per diem—*contd.*

- 1850 [When members are absent] their *per diem* is not stopped in the mean time, but runs regularly on as if they were here in their seats.—Mr. Featherston of Mississippi, the same, Aug. 17: *id.*, p. 1595.
- 1855 True, the members of the Utah legislature get their *per diem*.—Brigham Young, June 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 320.

Periogue, Pirogue. A large canoe. This word, from the Sp. Piragua, assumes curious forms.

- 1629 Six *Peryagoes*, which are huge great trees formed as your Canowes, but so laid out on the sides with boards, they will seeme like a little Gally.—Capt. John Smith, 'Works,' (1884), p. 901. (Stanford Dict.).
- 1697 A Fleet of *Pereagoes* laden with Indian corn, &c.—Dampier, 'Voyages,' (1698), i. 40. (N.E.D.)
- 1719 To make myself a canoe or *periagua*.—'Robinson Crusoe,' i. 161. (Nares.)
- 1770 I will carry Sally Nicholas in the green chair to New-quarter, where your *periagua* (how the — should I spell that word ?) will meet us.—Thomas Jefferson to John Page, Feb. 21.
- 1773 A *Petty Augre*, which came with Sand took him off.—*Boston Evening Post*, Feb. 1.
- 1785 To be sold at Private Sale, a *Pettiaguer*, 55 feet long.—*Georgia Gazette*, March 3.
- 1799 We met two large *periogues* from New Orleans.—F. Cumming, 'Tour,' p. 329, Appendix.
- 1801 Whitsol, being out upon an excursion one day near the Allegheny, discovered two men in a *perogue* for Pittsburg.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Sept. 5.
- 1801 Having purchased a *piroque*, or large canoe, he put Jack and the other negroes he had purchased on board.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 30.
- 1805 We intend continuing our voyage in the canoes and a *perogue* of skins, the frame of which was prepared at Harper's Ferry.—Letter from Capt. Merriwether to Thomas Jefferson, April 7: *The Balance*, Aug. 13, p. 261.
- 1806 From thence upwards [the Missouri] may be navigated by batteaux and *periaugers*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 12.
- 1806 Having completed four *Perogues* and a small Canoe, we gave our Horses in charge.—*Penna. Intelligencer*, Nov. 18.
- 1818 We are forming two *pirogues* out of large poplars, with which we propose to navigate the Wabash.—Birkbeck, 'Letters from Illinois,' p. 94. (Phila.)
- 1820 [The Ohio] is navigated by Steam Boats, Barges, Flat Boats or Arks, Skiffs, *Pirogues*, Rafts, &c.—*Western Review*, Jan. (Lexington, Ky.).
- 1821 The *pettiaguer schrs.* Glory Ann, &c., were all lost on Rockaway Beach.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 12.

Periogoue, Pirogue—*contd.*

- 1826 In another place are *pirogues* of from two to four tons burthen, hollowed sometimes from one prodigious tree, or from the trunks of two trees united, and a plank rim fitted to the upper part.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 14.
- 1828 He saw two proas or *perioques* full of the most ugly savages.—T. Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' i. 169.
- 1828 Some enterprising skipper, who owns a little *periauger*.—J. K. Paulding, 'New Mirror for Travellers,' p. 105 (1868).
- 1840 Getting into a *perioque* I paddled off.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvi. 162 (Aug.).
- 1847 He was as tight as a Jersey oyster *perryauger* on a mud flat at low tide.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 192.
- 1853 A well-manned little keel-boat or *perroque* might have accomplished the voyage.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 23.

Perkinism. This curious humbug is described by Dr. O. W. Holmes in 'Currents and Counter-Currents,' pp. 73-101 (1861). The date of the address is 1842.

- 1796 Perkins's "Metallic Tractors" are noticed in a half-column letter: *The Aurora*, Phila., March 29.
- 1797 He advertises in the *Gazette of the U.S.*, March 15, April 7.
- 1797 Prof. Josiah Meigs of Yale College commends the Tractors.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 1.
- 1798 His father's discovery, which may with propriety be termed *Perkinism*, or . . . Perkinian Electricity — Langworthy, 'A View, &c.,' p. 41, App. (N.E.D.)
- 1801 "Dr. Perkins's patent points" alluded to: 'Spirit of the Farmer's Museum,' p. 278.
- 1803 "Terrible Tractoration: a Poetical Petition against Galvanizing, Trumpery, and the Perkinistic Institution." Title of a pamphlet by Fessenden. (N.E.D.)
- 1803 The *Gentleman's Magazine* for Sept., pp. 856-7, contains an address delivered in July before the Perkinian Society: "See *Pointed Metals*, blest with power t'appease
The ruthless rage of merciless Disease,
O'er the frail part a subtil fluid pour,
Drench'd with invisible Galvanic show'r,
Till the arthritick staff and 'crutch forego,
And leap exulting like the bounding roe!"
- 1804 There are Perkins's Tractors. They will cure everything. And if mankind would only come into the practice of using them, they need not be detained from their daily occupations by the most acute diseases, longer than to partake of an ordinary meal. [This is satirically written.]—*The Balance*, Jan. 10, p. 9.

Peroot. To ramble, to explore. **Perooter**, a scout, an explorer.

- 1856 We were *perooting* round town together, and talking business.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii., 501 (Nov.).
- 1883 The best foragers and *pirooters* of the brigade met their match in this old woman.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi 12.

Persimmon. The American date-plum. The fruit is highly astringent.

- 1670 The Fruits natural to the Island are Mulberries, *Posimons*, &c.—D. Denton, 'Description of New York' (1845), p. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1705 The *Persimmon* is by Hariot call'd the Indian Plum; and so Smith, Purchase, and Du Lake, call it after him.—Beverly, 'Virginia,' ii. 14.
- 1775 *Diospyrosguajacana*. *Parsimmon*. — Bernard Romans, 'Florida,' p. 20.
- 1817 I found [the cake] was made of the pulp of the *persimmon*, mixed with pounded corn. (Note) *Diospyros Virginiana*. —John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 37.
- 1827 Why or with what view, it passes my *persimmon* to tell.—De Quincey, 'Works,' iv. 50. (N.E.D.)
[He of course means his head, his understanding; and he probably mistakes the persimmon for some larger fruit.]
- 1833 In the spring he shook the stupid opossum from the *persimmon-trees* and paw-paw bushes.—James Hall, 'The Harpe's Head,' p. 111.
- 1842 Joe Smith [the Mormon prophet] is a great fellow for sucking *persimmons*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, May 12.
- a.1848 [Eve] got the Devil to give her a boost into the tree; and up she went like a 'possum after *persimmons*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 189.
- 1851 The longest pole knocks down the *persimmon*.—'Widow Rugby's Husband,' p. 20.
- 1855 Seaward stretches a valley there,
Seldom frequented by men or women;
Its rocks are hung with the prickly pear,
And the golden balls of the wild *persimmon*.
Knick. Mag., xlv. 333 (April).
- 1857 He has an expression of countenance such as might be supposed would be produced by an exclusive diet of *persimmons*.—Thos. B. Gunn, 'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 66.
- 1857 He will deal himself four queens, so that your Honor will perceive he must "*rake the persimmons*."—*San Francisco Call*, April 3.
- 1859 Ye think yourself that I'm *some persimmons*, now don't ye?—Mrs. Duniway, 'Capt. Gray's Company,' p. 26.
* * * See also HUCKLEBERRY.

Person of colour. A darkey.

- 1796 The class which is called *people of colour* originates from the intermixture of the whites and the blacks.—B. Edwards, 'St. Domingo' (1801), p. 25. (N.E.D.)
- 1801 *People of colour*. This new-fangled name for the black race, which has . . . crept into the vocabulary of the U.S., seems to have been borrowed from that fruitful source of innovations, the philosophical school of Paris.—"Z" in the *Portfolio*, i. 163. (Phila.)

Person of colour—*contd.*

- 1806 At the white ball-room [in New Orleans] no *lady of colour* is admitted.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' iii. 266. (Lond., 1808.)
- 1815 [Died] in Grafton, Sarah, a *woman of colour*, aged cxiii.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 29.
- 1825 We all read *Massa Quarterly*, he love us *people of colour* so much.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 86. (Lond.)
- 1831 She was the mother of three generations of blacks—I beg pardon—of *people of colour*—who all appertained to the establishment.—The same, 'The Dutchman's Fireside,' i. 122. (Lond.)
- 1833 "Well, as I was saying, the nigger"—"I tink he might call um *gemman of cholera*," muttered blackey.—The same, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 213. (Lond.)
- Pesky**, Plaguy. **Peskily**, Plaguly.
- 1830 I'm plagued most to death with these ere *pesky* sore eyes.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 13.
- 1830 They make *pesky* bad work, trigging the wheels of Government.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 72 (1860).
- 1833 This nettled Mr. Van Buren *peskily*.—*Id.*, p. 227.
- 1834 At last I came to a *pesky* great long crooked word, that I couldn't make head nor tail to it.—*Id.*, p. 28.
- 1834 Folks have been thinking a good while there was a *pesky* snarl of rats round the Post Office.—Major Jack D., *Vermont Free Press*, June 28.
- 1839 Here's a going to be one of the *peskiest* battles that ever was fit.—*Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, April 17.
- 1839 "But you charge me for the feed." "*Pesky* little, I tell ye."—*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, July 31.
- 1848 I gin that pound [of ratsbane] I bought the other day to a *pesky* mouse, and I'm pretty sure another pound would kill him.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 67.
- a.1848 I found [looking for houses] a *pesky* sight worse job than I expected.—Downing, 'May-day in N.Y.,' p. 36 (Bartlett).
- 1854 How *pesky* sassy them 'turneys at la' are, continued [she]—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 116.
- 1854 It is a *pesky* bad business, said the Deacon.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 23.
- 1862 The *pesky* critter has been playin' one of his cunnin tricks on me; but my name aint Jack Downing ef I don't expose him.—'Major J. D.,' June 18.
- 1888 Now see what you've done [said Eliza]. You keer more for that *pesky*, sassy old hound than you does for Miss Libbie.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 207.
- Peter Funk auction.** A swindle. Bartlett says that "Peter Funk" is a puffer or a by-bidder.
- 1854 I know them—a set of peanut agitators and *Peter Funk philanthropists*.—Mr. Mike Walsh of N.Y., House of Repr., May 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1230.
- 1857 A sort of patent safe or *Peter Funk* operation.—N.Y. *Herald*, Sept. 1. (Bartlett.)

Peter Funk auction—*contd.*

1858 The American people understand pretty well *Peter Funk auctions*. Once in a while a greenhorn gets taken in; but the great mass of the people will not be taken in by them.—Mr. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, March 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1122.

Peter out. To give out; to be exhausted.

1854 He hoped this 'spectable meeting warn't going to *Peter out*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 84.

a. 1865 The store in which he clerked was "*petering out*"—to use his own expression.—A. Lincoln in McClure's 'Life' (1896), p. 133. (N.E.D.)

1876 [He advised him] to sell out at any sacrifice, as the mines were *petered out*.—*Boston Post*, May 5. (Bartlett.)

1888 The Boston Herald thinks the Hill boom is *petering out*. When the time comes for Mr. Hill to have a boom, it will not *peter*.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 15. (Farmer.)

Pew-tax. A compulsory rate which used to be levied in New England.

1845 Unless our ministers consent to live in a less expensive manner, and thereby diminish our *pew-tax*.—'Lowell Offering,' v. 18.

Phebe, Phebee. A bird which lives outside the dictionaries.

1839 She sometimes gives a concert, upon a pleasant day, Inviting Mrs. *Phebe*, the Yellow-bird, and Jay, The Cuckoo, and the Katydid, and other company, To warble o'er together their various harmony.

Yale Lit. Mag., iv. 242.

1854 On the next morning the blue-bird came again, and brought a *phebe* with him.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 245.

a. 1854 The crow will caw, the *phebee* snap at the flies.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 73.

Philadelphia lawyer. Why members of the Philadelphia bar should be credited with superhuman sagacity, has never been satisfactorily explained.

1803 If would (to use a Yankee phrase) *puzzle a dozen Philadelphia lawyers* to unriddle the conduct of the democrats. *The Balance*, Nov. 15, p. 363.

1824 The New England folks have a saying, that *three Philadelphia lawyers* are a match for the very devil himself.—*Salem Observer*, March 13.

1824 The New England folks have a saying, that *three Philadelphia lawyers* are a match for the devil, and that they are able to unravel any knotty point, be it ever so hard.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, March 24.

1825 To puzzle a *Philadelphia lawyer* is proverbially difficult.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 86.

1830 When in all creation any of 'em will be finished, I guess it would puzzle a *Philadelphia lawyer* to tell.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 64 (1860).

Philadelphia lawyer—*contd.*

- 1833 It doesn't take a *Philadelphia lawyer* to tell that the man who serves the master one day, and the enemy six, has just six chances out of the seven to go to the devil. You are barking up the wrong tree, Johnson.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 46.
- 1837 Will the Editor of the *Ledger* inform us from whence came the phrase, often used over a knotty subject, *it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer?* (*Portlander*). This phrase originated in the superior sagacity of our lawyers, and they still preserve the quality.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Jan. 26.
- 1840 Politics has got into a jumble that a *Philadelphly lawyer* couldn't steer through them.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 160.
- 1848 It would puzzle a *Philadelphia lawyer* to pint out the latitude of enything like [the United States] in all creation.—Burton's 'Waggeries,' p. 68.
- 1856 It would require a "*Philadelphia lawyer*" to improve the legal drift of this rejoinder.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 537 (May).
- 1861 It would puzzle a *Philadelphia lawyer* to prove the difference.—*Id.*, lviii. 176 (Aug.).
- 1866 Which one 'twas, it would have puzzled a *Philadelphia lawyer* to tell.—Seba Smith. 'Way Down East,' p. 63.

Philopoena, Fillipeener, &c. A double almond, a forfeit.

- 1857 The unostentatious clarity of drives, bouquets, small *filipeener* jewellery, &c.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 180 (Feb.).
- 1857 The ring, once joked off on Amelia for a *fillipeener*.—*Id.*, 186.
- 1857 We remembering her rashly volunteering a wedding-dress, in order to get off from paying a forfeit *philopoena*.—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 138.
- 1860 N. was hunting among the almonds to find a *phillipeener*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi., 365 (Oct.).
- 1898 One evening we invited him to dine at our table, and we ate a *philopoena* together.—Mrs. Mackin, 'Two Continents' p. 150.

Piazza. A house verandah.

- 1787 A large, well-built house, with a *piazza* extending the whole length of the front.—M. Cutler, 'Life, &c.' (1888), i. 225. (N.E.D.)
- 1804 The back *piazza* of Mr. Taylor was destroyed.—*Mass. Spy*, June 20.
- 1804 He crept out at a window upon a *piazza*.—*Id.*, July 11.
- 1823 [He was] marching haughtily about his *piazza*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mtn. Expedition,' i. 74 (*Phila.*).

Picaroon. A pole with a hook at the end.

- 1850 Richard, armed with a *picaroon*, descended the slip, some thirty feet, to the basin, where the logs lay in the water ready to be drawn in.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 42.
- 1850 The Boy made his *picaroon* fast to his boat with a rope.—*Id.*, p. 220.

- Picaroon.** A marauder. The word is used by Kipling for a slave-ship; see *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 185, 234.
- 1855 However honest they might be, they had certainly been very exemplary *picaroons*.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 252 (N.Y.).
- Picayune.** See quotation * 1837. The word is used as an adjective to signify small, mean, contemptible.
- 1819 Upon these the children canter, by paying a half-bit, here [in New Orleans] called a *pécune*. A bit is the Pennsylvania elevenpence, the N.Y. shilling, and the New England ninepence.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 127 (Boston, 1824).
- 1833 He put his hand in his pocket, and gave her a *pickation*.—J. K. Paulding, 'The Banks of the Ohio,' i. 218 (Lond.).
- 1835 *Picaiune*, properly *picuillon*. Called in New England a "fourpence halfpenny," in New York a "sixpence," and in Philadelphia a "fip."—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 205 *note*.
- *1837 The name *Picayune* is the Creole bastard Spanish for what we call a Fip, the Gothamites a sixpence, and the Bostonians a Fourpence halfpenny.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Feb. 7.
- 1837 To those farmers who traded down the river, the price [of salt per bushel] could not exceed three *picuillons*.—Thomas Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Feb. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 208.
- 1837 The hon. senator from Kentucky [Mr. Clay] by way of ridicule calls this a *picayune* bill.—Mr. Young of Illinois, the same, Dec. 22: *id.*, p. 19, Appendix.
- 1841 Business has been dull lately, eh? Haven't made a single *picuillon*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xvii. 49 (Jan.).
- 1841 Some gentlemen affected to consider it a small concern, a *picayune* affair.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 341, Appendix.
- 1842 [The amendment had been characterized] as contemplating a *picayune* reform.—Mr. Hopkins of Va., the same, March 2: *id.*, p. 275.
- 1842 He said he had still a *picayune* in his pocket, a small silver coin worth about 3d., and though it was the last he had he must lay it out in drink.—Buckingham, 'Eastern and Western States,' ii. 75.
- 1845 We will receive you with open arms, and try to fleece you out of every *picayune* you have in the world in less than twenty-four hours.—*Bangor Mercury*, n.d.
- 1850 [I heaved] a delectable morsel [of mud]...full in the mouth of a *picayune* demagogue.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 91 (Phila.).
- 1850 The passun [parson] chirrupt and chuct to make his crittur gallop, but the animal didn't mind him a *pic*.—*Id.*, p. 51.
- 1852 From him she got many a stray *picayunc*.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' ch. xx. (N.E.D.)

Picayune—*contd.*

- 1852 Most of them that plays [at the Virginia Springs] only puts down a *picayune* or so.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 318 (Oct.).
- 1855 How much does the muskito-bar cost a yard?—Two bits and a *pic*, or three bits.—E. W. Farnham, 'Prairie Land,' p. 291.
- 1857 In this year the *New York Picayune* was published, at first at 3 cents, and later for 5 cents.
- 1857 There were many *picayunish* fools around.—John Young at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 8: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 234.
- 1857 Our *picayunary* [*ery*] will vanish; for our interest will be centred in the Kingdom.—George A. Smith, the same, Sept. 13: *id.*, v. 224.
- 1857 "I don't want to buy no whisky fur less'n a dollar and a half a gallon." "Well, I du. I'd like it was a *picayune* a gallon, I would."—F. L. Olmstead, 'Journey through Texas,' p. 85 (Lond.).
- 1861 [It has caused us to] scramble for the *picayunes* when we might as well have picked up the eagles.—George A. Smith in the Mormon Tabernacle, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 19.
- 1862 [Advertisers] are not the men to skulk from a *picayune* tax.—Mr. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, House of Repr., March 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1196/3.
- 1862 The trade of Colorado is no *picayune* affair.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Dec. 25.

Pick. To select.

- a.1390 The best wordes wolde I *pike*.—Gower, 'Confessio Amantis,' i. 296. (N.E.D.)
- 1852 If the whole Whig party came forward to attack him, they would have *picked* the meanest man in the house to do it.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 11: *Congressional Globe*, p. 535.
- 1909 Cannon *picks* Vreeland to be Chairman of Banking and Currency Committee.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, July 6.
- 1910 Doubt in Pennsylvania. Neither side has *picked* its candidate for Governor.—*Id.*, May 9.
- 1911 A champion polo player returning from abroad is asked whom he *picks* for the Republican nomination in 1912.—*Id.*, Oct. 23.

Picked over. Already selected from.

- 1839 All the emigrants went to the new lands, where they could get the first choice at \$1.25 per acre, because they could not give that sum for *picked-over* lands in the old counties.—Thomas H. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Jan. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 47., App.

Pickeronians or **Pickeroons**. The followers of Timothy Pickering.

- 1800 The three parties are now known by the designation of the Republicans, the Adamites, the *Pickeronians*.—The *Aurora*, Phila., May 16.
- 1800 Let the measures of only the last session be examined, and it will be found that the *Pickeronian* columns either led or directed every odious measure which has been brought forward.—*Id.*, May 19. [*Pickeroons* on same page.]
- 1800 The bloody and remorseless character of the Hamiltonians and *Pickeroons*.—*Id.*, Sept. 3.
- 1800 Why does he not Daytonize the culprit? Why does he not *Pickeroon* him.—*Id.*, Sept. 29. See also Oct. 3.
- 1808 Let the Lacoites, the Kitites, the *Pickeroons*, the Refugees, the Tories, the British, and the whole Federal fry that follows them, be convinced, &c.—*Essex* (Mass.) *Register*, April 2.

Picture. One's face; hence one's person. Used in rustic imprecations.

- 1825 Young Bob's dad—*consarn his pictur*—spry as a cat, swom like a fish.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 387.
- 1829 "*Consarn his picture!*" said Jeff in a low tone.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 448 (N.Y., 1851).
- 1830 I heard him exclaim, "D——n their cowardly *profiles*, we shan't have any fun with them after all."—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 213.
- 1843 Is that the way the Britishers larnt ye to treat a gal, blast your infarnal *pictur!*—*Yale Lit. Mag.* ix. 79.
- 1845 Oh yes, exclaimed Si, dadfetch your everlastin *pictur!*—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 114.
- 1845 You'll get waked up worse than you ever was afore, drat your infarnal *picters!*—*Id.*, p. 181.
- 1846 Consarn you, Bill Granger! Consarn your *pictur!*—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 159.
- 1847 Wall, my sister Marth made me a bran new pair of buckskin trowsers to go in, and *rile my pictur* if she didn't put stirrups to 'em to keep 'em down.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 61.
- 1847 Whar is *he?*—Which is *him?*—Consarn his comic *pictur*, show him out.—*Id.*, p. 85.
- 1847 Confound their *picturcs*, they are the most troublesome customers the Administration ever had.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 262 (1860).
- 1848 Ef I could only come across that ere Vermonter, which I was took in by, if I wouldn't spile his *pictur*, bust my boots and gallowses.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 168.
- 1852 It was'nt any fellow of that name, but Bill Jones, that kissed me; and, confound his *picture*, I told him everybody would find it out.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Dec. 28.

- Piece.** A woman; always with some qualifying word. The N.E.D. gives examples from the 14th c. to 1694, with the adjectives *precious, proud, mighty, crazed, tender, forward*.
- 1866 I wonder if she is a proud, stuck up *piece*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 341. [See also Appendix, XXIII.]
- Pigeon-wing.** An evolution in dancing.
- 1807-8 He is famous at the pirouet and the *pigeon-wing*.—W. Irving, 'Salmagundi' (1824), 28. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 [We had] none of your dandy *pidgeon wings*, shawsees, or rigermadoons. — 'Old Colony Memorial,' Plymouth, March 6.
- 1847 I cut the "*pigeon wing*" just in front of the astonished pedagogue.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 203.
- 1888 [The negro] ambled out, as lithe as a youngster, cut some *pigeon-wings*, and then skipped and flung himself about with the agility of a boy.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 233.
- Pigs in clover.** An emblem of contentment. The N.E.D. mentions (1900) the game so called.
- 1813 Canadians! then in droves come over,
And live henceforth like *pigs in clover*.
Boston-Gazette, Jan. 7.
- Pig-weed.** The *Amarantus retroflexus*.
- 1835 A weed not unlike the common *pig-weed*.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 110.
- 1844 The roots of a weed called *pig-weed*.—H. Hutchinson, 'Practical Drainage,' 159. (N.E.D.)
- Pike.** A turnpike road; a highway.
- 1863 We charged down the *pike* for six miles or more.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi. 321 (1883).
- 1864 With the assistance of our artillery, the "*pike*" was cleared of the enemy.—*Id.*, xii. 228 (1884).
- 1882 He pointed to a house a few hundred yards further down the *pike*.—*Id.*, x. 514.
- 1908 Horseback riders had been pouring into town over the smooth, graveled *pike*.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 107.
- 1908 I remembered hearin' a hack go by on the *pike* the night before.—*Id.*, p. 128.
- Pike.** See quotation 1857.
- 1856 A tall yellow-haired, sun-burned *Pike*, in a butternut-colored hat, coat, and so forths of the period.—'Phoenixiana,' p. 217.
- 1857 The two "*Pikes*" went to sleep, very fortunately, for they were least disagreeable in that state.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 258 (Sept.).
- 1857 Our only neighbor was a squatter, and a *Pike* of the pikiest description. There may possibly be some untutored minds, who do not understand the meaning of the term "*Pike*." It is a household word in San Francisco, originally applied to Missourians from Pike County, but afterwards used to designate individuals presenting a happy compound of verdancy and ruffianism.—*Id.*, l. 265.

Pike—*contd.*

- 1862 The foulest, frowziest creatures I have ever seen are thoroughbred *Pikes*.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 10 (N.Y., 1876).
- 1873 When it was proposed to build a school house in a village where there was none, the *Pikes* objected, on the ground that the ringing of the schoolhouse bell would scare the deer away.—Chas. Nordhoff, 'California,' p. 137 (Bartlett).
- Pike-pole.** The implement with which a lumberer guides floating logs.
- 1878 The running and rafting implements, *pike-poles*, &c., are made ready.—*Scribner's Mag.*, xv. 147. (N.E.D.)
- Pikery.** This is *hiera picra*, a nauseous compound of gum and *Canella alba*: *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. 132, 193.
- 1878 He won't go back on his tracks, but it's *pikery* and worm-wood to him, I tell ye.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganue People,' ch. 14.

Pile, one's. One's fortune.

- 1741 Rash mortals, ere you take a wife,
Contrive your *pile* to last for life.
B. Franklin, 'Poor Richard's Almanack' (Bartlett).
- 1853 He found F. A., who had run through his "*pile*," and a few kindred spirits of the fast young men's school.—'Life Scenes,' p. 263.
- 1855 Wal, arter four years Ben came back with a "pocketfull of rocks"; he'd made his *pile*.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., May 26.
- 1861 The trapper betook himself to the fort whenever the size of his "*pile*" warranted a visit.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 119 (Aug.).
- 1869 See STATES, THE.
- 1870 Slim Jim had "made his *pile*" by lucky hits at mining—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 337.

Pile on (or up) the agony. To accumulate stroke on stroke, effort on effort.

- 1839 I do think he *piled the agony up* a little too high in that last scene.—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' ii. 235 (N.E.D.).
- 1844 It was thought by some that he "*piled the agony*" on a little too hard.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 178 (Phila.).
- 1846 When he gin me the fust lick, it made me sorter mad, but I woodn't a minded ef he hadn't kept *piling on the agony* 'bout my eyes and smeller.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 45.
- 1852 If you have any more *agony to pile on him*, put it on.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 339 (Oct.).
- 1854 "I think he loves you." "Yes, but he didn't *pile up the agony* high enough."—*Weekly Oregonian*, Sept. 23.
- 1856 I haven't *piled the agony on* as I might have done.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 621 (Dec.).

Pile on (or up) the agony—*contd.*

- 1857 Three raving, lying, free-negro journals, is *piling up the agony* a little too steep.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 14.
- 1860 It seems to me that gentlemen are rather disposed to *pile up the agony* on us.—Mr. Brown of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, June 18 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 3109.

Pilot-house. A look-out place on a steamer.

- 1849 The first one is described in the *Knickerbocker Mag.*, xxxiv. 178-9 (Aug.).
- 1883 A seaman might rise from the forward deck to the *pilot-house* and the master's quarters.—*The American*, vi. 40 (N.E.D.)

Pin-oak. *Quercus palustris*. The swamp-oak.

- 1857 His head is as obtuse and spongy as the butt-end of a *pin-oak* rail.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxii. 284.
- 1874 *Pin-oaks*, whose tiny acorns are greedily sought for by mallards and sprigtails.—J. W. Long, 'American Wild Fowl,' p. 197. (N.E.D.)

Pinch. A narrowing in a vein of ore, rendering it less profitable. **To pinch.** To contract.

- 1869 They know that [the lead] may cap, or *pinch*, or play out entirely.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 267.
- 1878 Again [the miner] encounters a "*pinch*" or a "cap," and hope almost dies out.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 486.

Pine barrens. Open spaces of land with scattered pines.

- 1775 First the pine land commonly called *pine barrens*, which makes up the largest body by far, the Peninsula being scarce anything else.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 15.
- 1775 [They] planted their baronies in the *pine barrens*. There let the lords be lumber cutters!—*Id.*, p. 117.
- 1817 Poor S. turned his head into a *pine barren*, by cultivating his faculties overmuch.—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 96 (N.Y.).
- 1827 [James Island] is, in general, a poor *pine barren*, broken by ponds of water.—John L. Williams, 'View of West Florida,' p. 20 (Phila.).

Pine Knot. See quotations.

- 1778 Pine knots are so replete with turpentine, that they are fired and used at night to illuminate the room; and lighted splinters are often carried about in the houses of the Carolina planters, instead of candles.—Wm. Gordon, 'Hist. of the Am. Revolution,' iii. 190, note (Lond., 1788).
- 1791 To collect . . . wood and *Pine Knots* to feed our fires.—W. Bartram, 'Carolina,' p. 387. (N.E.D.)
- 1830 They could not afford to furnish him with oil and candles, and he was forced to search the forest for *pine knots*, which he split up and used.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 27 : from the *Williamstown Advocate*.

Pine Knot—*contd.*

- 1830 At night parties collect by a *pine-knot* fire, and play cards for the earnings of the day.—*Mass. Spy*, May 26.
- 1833 We collected some *pine-knots*, and split them with our tomahawks, and kindled torches.—‘Narrative of James O. Pattie,’ p. 57 (Cincinnati).
- 1833 The *pine-knots* which not only constitute the fuel of [Kentucky], but are the most fashionable substitutes for sperm-aceti candles.—James Hall, ‘Harpe’s Head,’ p. 108.
- 1837 [The alligators] sometimes swallow *pine knots* for want of better eating.—John L. Williams, ‘Territory of Florida,’ p. 65 (N.Y.).
- 1847 Bring some more *pine-knots*, boys, and let’s have a rousing fire.—Sol. Smith’s ‘Adventures,’ p. 105.

Pinery. A plantation of pines.

- 1822 [We] found a continued *pinery* for about a mile.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 30: from the *Detroit Gazette*.
- 1822 There are also a few *pineries*, but of small extent.—The same, *id.*, Feb. 6.
- 1882 When the timber shall have been stripped from the *pineries* of Maine.—*Harper’s Mag.*, p. 12. (N.E.D.)

Pinion. See quotations.

- 1833 [The bear] had fattened on a nut of the shape and size of a bean, which grows on a tree resembling the pine, called by the Spanish *pinion*.—‘Narrative of James O. Pattie,’ p. 43 (Cincinnati).
- 1846 The burrs of the pine are sometimes twelve inches in length, and contain a nut (*pinon*) which, although said to be nutritious, is not agreeable to the taste.—Edwin Bryant, ‘What I saw in California,’ p. 210 (Lond., 1849).

Pipe-layer, Pipe-laying. The practice of introducing as voters, under various pretexts, persons not entitled to vote. See quotation 1850.

- 1840 The profuse use of gold, corruption of the franchise by *pipe layers* and yarn spinners, . . . have conspired to elect W. H. Harrison.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov.
- 1841 I was not defeated by voters. I was defeated by “*pipe layers*.”—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 155, App.
- 1841 Others say that fraud, double voting, *pipe laying*, transfer of voters from one point to another, Hessians conducted by police officers and agents from city to city,—that these have done much to carry the election.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Jan. 26: *id.*, p. 120, App.
- 1841 Mr. Cooper of Pennsylvania alluded to the language used by Mr. Brown in reference to Mr. Bela Badger and other *pipe-layers* of Philadelphia, who, he prophesied, would soon be again in their proper sphere, the Penitentiary.—House of Repr., July 2: *id.*, p. 143.
- 1841 The City of New York was defrauded, by *pipe-laying*, out of her representatives.—Mr. Wood of N.Y., the same, Aug. 3: *id.*, p. 279, App.

Pipe-layer, Pipe-laying—*contd.*

- 1841 Their silly bannerns and rolling balls, their low doggerel log cabin songs, and their *pipe-laying*, were all alike disgusting.—Mr. Dean of Ohio, the same, Aug. 5 : *id.*, p. 259, App.
- 1841 Your schemes had been brought to light, your frauds exposed ; your *pipe laying* laid bare ; and last, though not least, your electioneering funds had run low.—Mr. Eastman of N. Hampshire, the same, Dec. 29 : *id.*, p. 51, App.
- 1842 Pipe-laying was said by Mr. Wright of N.Y. to have originated in the city and county of Philadelphia : U.S. Senate, May 31 : *id.*, p. 471, App.
- 1842 Mr. Linn of Missouri was of the opinion that compelling the elections to be held on the same day throughout the republic would prostrate the *pipe-laying* system.—The same, June 8 : *id.*, p. 496, App.
- 1842 We are promised in a few days an authentic account of the *Pipe laying* method, by which the honest voters of Walnut Ward were robbed of their rights in 1838 —Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 30.
- 1842 Men who were in fact "*pipe layers*," authors of false registers of fictitious names....The Democratic party should discharge every *pipe-layer*, falsifier, and notorious traitor.—*Id.*, May 23.
- 1844 I have evidence indisputable that not less than 700 voters were imported into the single county of Hamilton (Ohio), at the Election of 1840, to defeat the democratic ticket by a regular, organized system of swindling and *pipe-laying*.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., March 6 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 399, App.
- 1845 It is not in the wide-spread West where you are told of frauds, perjuries, *pipe-laying*, and bribery.—Mr. Brown of Indiana, the same, Jan. 14 : *id.*, p. 97, App.
- 1848 The result of the Pennsylvania election would not be in the least doubtful, if we could be assured of fair play and no *pipe-laying*.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Oct. 30 (Bartlett).
- 1850 Ordinary political swindling, such as hog-droving or *pipe-laying* on a small scale, at so much per head, would not meet the occasion.—Mr. Leffler, House of Repr., June 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 822, App.
- 1850 Fifty or sixty Irish labourers. . . were conciliated for some years by employment in the Croton water-works, so that "*pipe-laying*" became the slang term for this kind of bribery.—Lyell, 'Second Visit U.S.,' ii. 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 There are not a few who are *pipe-laying* and marshalling forces for the fray.—*San Francisco Examiner*, March 22 (Farmer).

Pipe-line. A tube for transporting coal-oil.

- 1860 The first suggestion of a *pipe-line* for transporting oil was made by Gen. S. D. Karns in Nov. 1860.—'U.S. Tenth Census,' p. 93.
- 1883 Notice is sent to the nearest agency of the *pipe line*.—*Century Mag.*, p. 332 (N.E.D.)

Pipsissiway. The herb wintergreen. The N.E.D. has Sip-si-se-wa, 1814.

- 1818 [On the Schuylkill, the Indians] procured the herb called by them *Phipsissiway*, in great plenty. . . . I informed him that we had given *Phipsissiway* tea, very strong, and as hot as he could drink.—Joseph Cooper in the *Am. Centinel* : *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 25.
- 1818 The efficacious quality of *pipsissiway*. The plant is an evergreen, and sometimes called wintergreen.—*Baltimore Patriot*, n.d.

Pistareen. A coin worth nominally twenty cents.

- 1764 "New England's prospect" advertised for *Two Pistareens*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 6.
- 1765 Several persons have been committed to Goal (*sic*) for uttering Counterfeit Dollars, Quarter of Dollars, and *half Pistareens*.—*Mass. Gazette*, Sept. 26.
- 1766 [He said] he would not receive even a *pistareen*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Dec. 22.
- 1769 Cyder Brandy, at *Two Pistareens* per Gallon.—*Boston Weekly News-Letter*, Feb. 9.
- 1769 Lemmons *One Pistareen* per Doz.—*Id.*, March 9.
- 1774 So I gave *pistareens* enough among the children to have paid twice for my entertainment.—John Adams, 'Family Letters,' p. 10. (N.E.D.)
- 1774 Bride and Christening Cakes made, and ornamented in the genteelest manner, at a *Pistareen* per Pound.—*Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 12.
- 1782 Eight or ten *pistareens*, together with a quantity of small money.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 17.
- 1789 A cooper's apprentice, rather clumsily built, made a bet of a *pistareen* (twenty cents) that he would ascend to the vane of the old South meeting house.—'Recollections of Samuel Breck,' p. 42 (Phila., 1877).
- 1796 When the turnip-tops were of the size of *pistareens*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., July 21.
- 1806 Did you not magnanimously give the man a single *half pistareen*?—*Salem (Mass.) Register*, April 7.
- 1810 [He offered him] an extra half bit, a *pistareen*, a half dollar ! a dollar !! and a bottle of rum.—*Mass. Spy*, May 9.
- 1823 Wanted, a Few Thousand old fashioned *Pistareens* at their original value.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Oct. 28.
- 1829 [The Bank] receives and pays out *Pistareens*, which formerly passed for 20 cents, at 17 cents each.—*Mass. Spy*, July 8 : from the *Boston Centinel*.
- 1829 *Pistareens* are worth 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents in New York.—*Id.*, July 22.
- 1829 Their current value in Connecticut is 18 cents, in New York 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents, and in some towns in Massachusetts only 17 cents. Their real value varies from 16 to 20 cents, and probably averages about 18 cents ; the *head pistareens* are worth 20 cents.—*Id.*, July 29 : from the *Hampshire Gazette*,

Pistareen—*contd.*

- 1850 He surprises his wife with a Cashmere, the poor-box with a *pistareen*.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii. 116 (1852).
- 1850 Look o' here, Square, one o' them quarters you gin me last was a *pistareen*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxv. 179 (Feb.).
- 1853 "What is the currency of the U.S.?" "Coppers, bogus, Bungtown cents, pennies, fips, fourpence 'a'pennies, levys, ninepences, Spanish quarters, *pistareens*, and shinplasters."—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 13.
- 1862 We don't care a *pistareen* what sort of improvements they are.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lx. 226 (Sept.).
- 1872 Every time I ask him to change a *pistareen*, . . . what does the fellow do but . . . pull out an old Roman coin.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. iii.
- 1875 But quarter, ninepence, *pistareen*,
And fourpence ha'pennies in between,
All metal fit to show.
O. W. Holmes, 'Old Cambridge,' July 3.

Pitch-knot. A pine-knot.

- 1792 A lighted *pitch-knot* is placed on the outside of a canoe.—Belknap, 'History of N. Hampshire,' iii. 90. (N.E.D.)
- 1825 [In the fireplace], two or three lighted *pitch-knots*, a substitute for candles, were burning.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 58.

Pitch-pine. Pine abounding in pitch.

- 1754 The Glutinous Juices of the American *Pitch Pine*.—'Sixth Rep. Dep. Keeper,' ii. 128, App. (N.E.D.)
- 1796 The smoke of the *pitch pine* is particularly thick and heavy.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 132 (Lond., 1799).
- 1797 These pines are of the species which is called by the inhabitants "*pitch pine*," and grow to an enormous height and vast size.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 346 (Lond., 1856).
- 1821 The plain is covered with *pitch pines*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 298.
- 1821 *Pitch pine* abounds in many parts of Ohio and Indiana.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' ii. 339 (Phila., 1823).
- 1824 [He snatched] a *pitch pine knot* blazing from the fire, [and] expressed his determination to rescue the priest, or perish in the attempt.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 15.
- 1872 Do you know two native trees called *pitch pine* and white pine respectively? Of course you know 'em. Well, there are pitch-pine Yankees and white-pine Yankees.—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' chap. x.

Pivotal. Holding the balance politically. The N.E.D. quotes Mary Hennell, 1844.

- 1888 New York is a *pivotal* state, and seems just now to have two Democratic pivots.—Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, Jan. 31 (Farmer).

Placate. To appease.

- 1678 Therefore He is always Propitiated and *Placated*.—Cudworth, 'Intellectual System,' i. 476. (N.E.D.)
- 1861 The outside indications seemed to favor an adjustment which would at least *placate* the remaining loyal states.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 360.
- 1862 [No one can] cite a single instance where a rebel has been *placated*...because you dealt leniently [with him].—Mr. B. F. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, June 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2930/3.
- 1907 The tenderness of an alleged orthodoxy would have to be *placated*.—*Church Standard*, Philadelphia, Oct. 19.
- 1910 There has been reported in both parties a certain desire to "*placate*" Hearst, and possibly to win the support of his newspapers.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Sept. 29.

Placater. A reconciler.

- 1894 What Americans call a "*placater*."...He "*placates*" opposing interests as Thurlow Weed used to do.—*The Nation*, N.Y., March 22, p. 205. (N.E.D.)

Place. To identify thoroughly.

- 1855 Are "K. Y." his initials? If yea, we can't *place* him.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv., 194.
- 1862 We see that a school has been established in Auburn, under charge of Miss O'Brien, "lately from Denver." We can't recollect *where to place* this late citizen of ours.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Oct. 30.
- a.1875 "He said he couldn't *place* you," returned Miss M. The widow looked up. "Couldn't *place* me?" she replied.—F. Bret Harte in 'Mr. MacGlowrie's Widow.'
- 1880 I knew that he was an old friend; but for the moment I could not *place* him, or call his name.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 230.
- 1904 I observed among the guests a very busy little woman, in simple black apparel, whose face was familiar to me, but whom I found myself unable to *place*.—Mrs. Clay, 'A Belle of the Fifties,' p. 79 (N.Y.).

Placer. An area adapted to surface-mining. Spanish.

- 1846 At present the old and the new *Placer*, near Santa Fe, have attracted most attention.—A. Wislizenus (1848), 'Tour of New Mexico,' p. 24 (Stanford Dict.).
- 1849 Will they all stop at the first *placer*, as a turkey-hen and her young ones would stop at the first ant-hill?—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Jan. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 258.
- 1850 If rich *placers* or gold mines should be discovered [in New Mexico], slavery would inevitably go there.—Mr. Bell of Tenn., the same, July 5: *id.*, p. 1095, App.
- 1850 Thirty feet square is to be the size of a lot to be worked by manual labor in a *placer*.—Mr. Fremont of California, the same, Sept. 25: *id.*, p. 1370, App.
- 1850 The other party were direct from the gold mines, or *placeras*, and were returning to San Francisco.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 115 (N.Y.).

Placer—*contd.*

1909 Perhaps no single fact is more responsible for the change that has taken place in the character of Western mining camps than the cessation of *placer* or gulch mining. A *placer mine* was the ideal poor man's mine, from which, with the simple contrivance of a sluice box, he washed out precious nuggets of gold from the gravelly soil of the mountain gulches, with only the labor of shovelling the gravel into his "flume." The *placer mining* days were the one's that produced the Jack Hamlins and Tennessee's Pardners.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 22.

Plank. See PLATFORM.

Plank, Plank down, Plank up. To pay in cash,

1824 His guaranty was sent for, and he *planked* the cash.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, April 19.

1835 His patient returned, and, *planking* ten dollars, took possession of her invaluable medicine.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 104.

1847 I guess you'll jist please to hand over five dollars for that there segar you're smoking. So jist *plank up*.—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 104.

1851 He would "*plank down*" the very money he had received.—D. B. Woods, 'Sixteen Months at the Gold Diggings,' p. 75.

1852 They *planked* their dollar apiece at the entrance.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 226 (N.Y.).

1855 [He was] receiving his cards, and "*planking*" his shillings.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 324.

Planter. See quotations, 1812 and 1817.

1802 It is not safe to descend the [Ohio] river in the night, unless the boat be uncommonly strong, on account of the sawyers and *planters*.—A. Ellicott, 'Journal' (1803) 123. (N.E.D.)

1812 In time the trees thus fallen in become sawyers and *planters*; the first so named from the motion made by the top when acted upon by the current; the others are the trunks of trees of sufficient size to resist it.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 43.

1814 We found ourselves at the upper end of the reach, in the midst of sawyers and *planters*.—The same, 'Journal,' p. 228.

1817 [Some of the trees] are firmly fixed and immoveable, and are therefore termed *planters*. Others, although they do not move from where they are placed, are constantly in motion. The period of this oscillatory motion is sometimes of several minutes' duration. These are the sawyers, and are much more dangerous than the *planters*, as no care can guard sufficiently against them.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' pp. 194-5.

1817 The remainder of our voyage to Natchez, was very pleasant, except two very narrow escapes from *planters* in the river.—*Id.*, p. 208.

Planter—*contd.*

- 1823 We were entangled among great numbers of snags and *planters*, and had a cat head carried away by one of them.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 86 (Lond.)
- 1826 You hear of. . . *planters*, and sawyers, and points, and bends, and shoots.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 15.
- 1831 Great caution is required to avoid sunken trees, called snags or *planters*, and by the Canadians *Chicots*.—Ross Cox, 'The Columbia River,' i. 120 (Lond.).
- 1835 Trees deeply embedded with their roots in the river are called according to their fixed or moveable position, snags, *planters*, or sawyers.—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 280 (Lond.).

Platform, Plank. A platform is a political programme or manifesto; a plank, one of its constituent parts.

- 1803 "The *platform* of Federalism." Heading of an article from a late Northcarolina paper.—*Mass. Spy*, April 27.
- 1838 It has been said that these resolutions were intended as a *platform* on which we of the North might stand.—Mr. Buchanan of Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 11: *Congressional Globe*, p. 73, App.
- 1844 These are our doctrines, this the broad *platform* on which we stand.—Address of the Democratic State Convention of Virginia, Feb. 3. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 The Whigs, whether on the Lexington *platform* or some other non-committal *platform*, will be. . . at once known and doomed.—*N.Y. Herald*, May 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1848 The 1844 resolutions now constituting the Democratic creed—*platform* is the fashionable phrase—were drawn by a Mr. Gillett.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, House of Repr., June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 819, App.
- 1848 You had erected what you called a "*platform*" at Baltimore, which was to make all things easy.—Mr. Duer of N.Y., the same, July 29: *id.*, p. 1049, App.
- 1848 Was this the first time the Whig party had refused to establish a *platform* upon which to rally throughout the Union?—Mr. Howell Cobb of Georgia, the same, July 1: *id.*, p. 888. [The phrase was much used during this debate.]
- 1848 [They] have admitted that the principal *plank* of the Cass *platform* had fallen to the ground, and precipitated him and them with it.—Mr. Crozier of Tennessee, the same, Aug. 3: *id.*, p. 1082, App.
- 1848 Another *plank* in the *platform* is, no Cass or other *plank* to be added.—*Boston Courier*, Sept. 28. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Mr. Webster congratulates [the Northern Whig party] that the Buffalo *platform*, though having some rotten *planks* (free trade and sub-treasury, I suppose), gives him and them a secure place to stand upon.—Mr. Venable of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 19: *Cong. Globe*, p. 160, App.

Platform, Plank—*contd.*

- 1850 [All were summoned] to go a pilgrimage to Buffalo, where a *platform* was to be laid down, upon which the North could stand as one man. . . . And a *platform* was erected, and upon it crowded men of all political complexions.—Mr. Ashmun of Mass., the same, March 27 : *id.*, p. 398, App.
- 1850 I tell honorable gentlemen again that I am upon the *platform* of non-intervention, reared by the genius of John C. Calhoun.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, June 27 : *id.*, p. 992, App.
- 1852 There were no *platforms* until Mr. Van Buren quarreled with Mr. Calhoun, and thought to get the start of him by *platform* resolutions. That was when they commenced.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., *id.*, p. 694, App.
- 1853 The *plank* in our *platform*, which we place at the head of this column.—*Oregonian*, Aug. 13.
- 1853 A great deal is said of “*platforms*” lately in the public prints.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlii. 532 (Nov.).
- 1854 I stand flat-footed, square-toed, hump-shouldered upon the *platform* of free rights and true republicanism.—*Id.*, xliii. 439 (April).
- 1854 These candidates for office had a “*platform*,” some planks of which were thrown in merely to catch votes.—H. H. Riley, ‘Puddleford,’ p. 100.
- 1856 That *plank* in the *platform* was stricken out by the convention.—Mr. Watkins of Tennessee, House of Repr., May 6 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1127.
- 1856 I have no great confidence in *platforms*. I think that, generally, they are cunningly devised schemes of modern invention, intended to catch votes and to gull the people. Mr. Jones of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Aug. 9 : *id.*, p. 2010.
- 1856 Dr. Cutter at a recent Fusion meeting in Montpelier, Vt., said : “If you would carry the election, keep bloody outrages in Kansas before the people. You have no other *plank*.”—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 29.
- 1857 He once favored us with his *platform*, which was ultra-Garrisonian.—T. B. Gunn, ‘N.Y. Boarding Houses,’ p. 69.
- 1859 The two or three last *platform* Presidents we have had, when they got into the car of State and safely seated, all around, everywhere, you could see, “Do not stand on the *platform* when the cars are in motion.” That is the way they manage it.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Feb. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1062.
- 1860 (Dec.) Mr. Toombs submitted a series of resolutions, embracing substantially the principles of the Breckenridge *platform*.—Orville J. Victor, ‘The Southern Rebellion,’ i. 106 (1861).
- 1860 [Mr. Nicholson] quoted from the *platform* of the Republican party.—*Id.*, i. 119.
- 1861 The “*platforms*” of the various parties are regarded as [their] constitution or declaration of principles.—*Id.*, i. 137.

Platform, Plank—*contd.*

- 1861 (Jan.) I trust we are to have no war for a *platform*. I can fight for my country, but there never was a political *platform* that I would go to war for.—Mr. Douglas in the U.S. Senate.—*Id.*, i. 160.
- 1861 Our past experience has given me no great respect for party *platforms* made in the tumult of a crowded convention. I do not know of anything in the materials or the mode of construction of the one built at Chicago, that entitles it to more than the ordinary respect.—Mr. John W. Killinger, of Pa., House of Repr., Feb. 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 697/2.
- 1861 It is said to me, "You believed in the Chicago *platform*." Suppose I did.—Senator Baker in the *Olympia Pioneer*, April 26.
- 1908 [The *Omaha Bee* was] attacking what it thought was Mr. Bryan's *plank*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 22.
- 1910 The Premier made the absolute and unlimited supremacy of the party which at any time commands a majority in the House of Commons, "*a plank in the platform*"—to use odious but appropriate slang borrowed from Transatlantic politics—of the Liberal party.—*Quarterly Review*, p. 287 (Jan.).

Play possum. (Sometimes to **Possum**.) To sham death or inability; to dissemble.

- 1824 It is a common saying in America, that he is "*playing possum*."—W. N. Blane, 'Excursion,' 134. (N.E.D.)
- 1833 The Yankee had money enough about him, and was merely *playing the possum* all the while. Elmwood, 'A Yankee among the Nullifiers,' p. 32.
- 1834 The rascal had only been *possuming* the whole time, and was better able to travel than I was.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 32 (Boston).
- 1834 They most of all of them pretended to be too eternal drunk. I said nothin, but *possumed* too a little.—'The Kentuckian in N.Y.,' i. 64.
- 1841 There's no chance to *play possum* with your brother any longer. It's lion and tiger now, if anything.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 120 (Phila.).
- 1843 Tim Scratch know'd better nor to come. He's not sick no how—it's all *possum*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 201.
- 1847 This would prevent what the tars were wont to call "shamming Abraham," and "*playing possum*."—Mr. Bayly of Virginia, House of Repr., Jan. 28 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 280.
- 1848 I don't imagine a woman can *play possum* in that kind of style.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 244.
- 1852 The Indian, to use Adam Poe's own expression, had only been *possuming*.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-House,' p. 174 (Phila.).

Play possum—*contd.*

- 1854 It is a common saying [with the hunters] that a man who takes great pains to dissemble for a particular purpose is "*opossuming*."—Lambert Lilly, 'Hist. of the Western States,' p. 18.
- 1861 This last looked like affectation, or, as the negroes call it, *possuming*.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvii. 627 (June).
- 1867 They caught John Thomas of Company A, and beat him, as they thought, to death. He however, *played possum*, and after they left got up.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 312.
- 1888 [There was a] possibility of *possuming* among those [grizzlies] stretched out below.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 6 (Farmer).

Played out. Exhausted, used up.

- 1862 The poor privilege of fawning about the skirts of a *played-out* codfish aristocracy.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 15.
- 1863 One remains here and there, a *played-out* man, whom circumstances have restrained from going on to absolute suicide.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 239. (N.E.D.)
- 1867 Medicines seemed generally a *played-out* commodity in the Southern Confederacy.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 141.
- 1869 One large lead, owned by three miners, . . . may be worth \$1,000,000 or more, as its owners estimate it; but practical men do not pretend to see into the ground; and they know that it may cap or pinch, or *play out* entirely.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 267.
- 1872 [That Boy] gave me to understand that popguns were *played out*.—'Poet at the Breakfast Table,' ch. 10.
- 1888 It was an old government mule that had died because it was *played out*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 259.
- 1902 Not many years ago, flogging was considered a salutary medicine for a disobedient boy; but now our boys say that flogging is *played out*.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 195.

Plaza. A public square, Sp. This word survives on the Pacific Coast.

Plead. This short preterite, pronounced *pled*, is very common in the U.S. It probably came in by way of Scotland. The legend of St. Edith (a.1420) has *pladde*. (Kington Oliphant, i. 225.)

- 1774 The Man appeared very humble, *plead* Ignorance, &c.—*Boston Evening Post*, March 7.
- 1788 They averred their penitence, and *plead* the misfortunes to which they had been . . . exposed.—Geo. R. Minot, 'Hist. of the Insurrections in Mass.,' p. 189 (Worcester, Mass.).
- 1790 Moses Goddard of Orange *plead* guilty to his indictment for Blasphemy.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 14,

Plead—*contd.*

- 1799 The prisoner *plead* guilty to the charge.—*Mass. Mercury*, Aug. 2.
- 1822 [The members of a company of negro players, being arrested for disorder], *plead* so hard in blank verse that the police magistrate released them.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Jan. 18.
- 1823 Wm. Upham, Esq., *plead* in behalf of the petitioner.—*Woodstock* (Vt.) *Observer*, Nov. 18, p. 2/1.
- 1824 The defendant upon trial, *plead* non assumpsit, and non assumpsit within five years.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 18.
- 1824 George's trial and condemnation followed speedily. He *plead* guilty.—*Id.*, Aug. 18.
- 1824 He was arraigned for assault and battery, and *plead* guilty.—*Id.*, Aug. 18.
- 1827 Three have *pleaded* guilty [of Morgan's murder]. . . The three persons last named *plead* guilty to the indictment.—*Id.*, Jan. 17.
- 1829 The cause he *plead* was for a poor widow.—*Id.*, July 8.
- 1836 The fellow *plead* that, if his offence could be forgiven him this once, he would offend no more.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Aug. 9.
- 1837 He *plead* for life not as one unprepared to die.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iii. 76.
- 1842 The young man. . . *plead* guilty in the court of Quarter Sessions.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 22.
- 1842 Dr Johnson, a man of finished education, a few days ago *plead* guilty to an assault and battery.—*Id.*, May 18.
- 1842 He *plead* poverty as the only cause of his act.—*Id.*, Aug. 18.
- 1844 This was too much. I *plead* sickness and rose.—*Nauvoo Neighbor*, Aug. 21.
- 1854 What would be said by his old friends in Virginia, when it reached their ears that he had *plead* want of notice, to get rid of a debt?—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 104.
- 1858 I once had the extreme felicity of leaving my business to serve upon the jury. I *plead* in all manner of ways for release, but to no effect.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Oct. 23.
- 1860 John Morrissey was arraigned yesterday for leaving the State to witness a prize-fight. He *plead* guilty.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Auraria and Denver, Feb. 29.
- 1861 [Mr. Stephens of Georgia] *plead* in eloquent terms the cause of the Union.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 38.
- 1861 Mr. Crittenden *plead* for Union, conciliation, compromise.—*Id.*, i. 64.
- 1863 John McD. was fined \$8 and costs, when, if he had *plead* guilty, a V. and perquisites would have settled it.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Jan. 29.
- 1865 As the dogs were dragged out by the guard, some even *plead* that they might be left to make soup for dinner.—Abbott, 'Prison Life in the South,' p. 145 (N.Y.).

Plead—*contd.*

- 1876 When the war broke out [General Wise] *plead* no exemption on account of his age, but buckled on his sword.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ ii. 207.
- 1882 Mr. Boone was the only party arraigned, and he *plead* not guilty in each instance.—*Washington Post*, March 28.
- 1907 The Bishop [of Olympia] *plead* for the consecration of the rapidly increasing wealth of this region.—*Living Church*, Milwaukee, June 29.

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- 1675 Nothing can be *pleaded* for such.—Hackett’s ‘Sermons,’ p. 400.
- 1682 The third *pleaded* and defended their cause.—Izaak Walton, ‘Life of Hooker,’ p. 9.
- 1820 I *pleaded* for him, but Hutton told me it was no time for pleading.—*Mass. Spy*, May 3.
- 1827 He *pleaded* guilty, which made short work.—Sir Walter Scott, ‘Journal,’ Sept. 13.
- 1830 Mr. Everett remarked that the [Indians] now *pleaded* their rights in better English than was used by the high officers of the Government.—*Mass. Spy*, July 7.

Plenty for plentiful. Nearly obs. in England. The N.E.D. gives examples from the *Cursor Mundi* down to Sydney Smith.

- 1779 When flowers are *plenty*, nobody will buy them.—Mrs. Cowley, ‘Who’s the dupe?’
- 1796 The shagbark, English walnut, &c., are very *plenty*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 23.
- 1805 The animals called skunks are extremely *plenty* and tame in the barrens of Kentucky.—Matthew Lyon to William Duane: *Mass. Spy*, June 26.
- 1815 Money becomes so *plenty* that it is hardly worth having, which is an excellent thing.—*Id.*, Nov. 15.
- 1819 See NATION.
- 1820 Irishmen are “*plenty*” in Pennsylvania, and pretty girls in Rhode Island.—Hall, ‘Letters from the West,’ p. 174.
- 1820 \$50. and \$100. fees are not very *plenty* in this part of the country, at least not with young lawyers.—Butler to Hoyt, in Mackenzie’s ‘Life of M. Van Buren,’ p. 167 (Boston, 1846).
- 1822 Fish are also *plenty*; an Indian will catch a small canoe full in two or three hours, with a hook.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6: from the *Detroit Gazette*.
- 1824 Hats were not so *plenty* then.—John Randolph to Dr. Brockenborough, July 24: ‘Life,’ ii. 226 (1851).
- 1833 The dandies of threescore were as *plenty* as the belles of a certain age.—J. K. Paulding, ‘Banks of the Ohio,’ ii. 53.
- 1836 After forty speeches, topics *plenty* as blackberries still spring up.—Mr. Vanderpoel of N.Y. in the House of Repr., March 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 225.
- 1836 Other fragments are rather more *plenty* in the West.—*Western Pioneer*, Ill., Aug. 5.
- 1837 Fips and levies ain’t as *plenty* as snowballs, in this ere yearthly spear.—J. C. Neal, ‘Charcoal Sketches,’ p. 182.

Plenty for plentiful—*contd.*

- 1845 In New Hampshire the chief product was granite, and that was so *plenty* it could not be given away.—Mr. Wentworth of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 201.
- 1846 At times fish are *plenty* ; at other times so scarce that the fares are scarcely adequate to cover the expenses.—Mr. Davis of Mass., U.S. Senate, March 24 : *id.*, p. 538.
- 1848 When milk was not *plenty* the lack was supplied by the substantial dish of hommony.—Monette, 'Mississippi Valley,' ii. 8. [For fuller quotation see JOHNNY-CAKE.]
- 1866 We had some meat, though not very *plenty*.—Seba Smith, 'Way down East,' p. 331.
- 1869 [In Turkey] mosques are *plenty*, churches are *plenty*, graveyards are *plenty*, but morals and whisky are scarce.—'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. 3.

Plug-muss. A lively "row."

- 1857 The exceeding utility of a hot poker, properly applied, in quelling a riot or "*plug-muss*."—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 584 (Dec.).

Plug-ugly. A Baltimore rowdy ; a rowdy in general.

- 1857 The city of Baltimore, from whose midst the "*plug uglies*" claim to hail.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 1.
- 1857 "What do you mean by a collection?" we asked.—Simply this: that there is a Wolverine ; there are two "Pukes" ; one "*Plug-Ugly*" ; and two "Suckers."—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 430 (Oct.).
- 1858 A distinguished "*Plug-Ugly*" of Baltimore, and a highly-talented "Dead Rabbit" of New York.—*Id.*, lii. 431 (Oct.).
- 1858 I understand that this same Mayor Swann received some public testimonial from these "*Plug Uglies*" and "Rip Raps," "Blood Tubs," &c.—Mr. Hatch of New York, House of Repr., Feb. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 731, App.
- 1860 Four short years ago Millard Fillmore, and Henry S. Foote headed the Know-Nothing crusade. The *Plug-Uglies*, Rip-Raps, Ranters, and other divisions of the Murrelite clan, formed the advance guard.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 6, p. 1/7.
- 1861 [The collision in Baltimore] was a brickbat "*Plug Ugly*" fight,—the result of animal, and not intellectual or patriotic instincts.—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' i. 25 (Phila., 1866).
- 1863 Colonel Butler is a tall, fully developed, imposing man, devoid of the slightest resemblance to an ideal "*Plug Ugly*."—James Parton, 'Butler in New Orleans,' p. 79.
- 1865 A brawny fellow, with a "*plug-ugly*" countenance, looked over my shoulder at the book.—A. D. Richardson, 'The Secret Service,' p. 108 (Hartford, Conn.).
- 1867 Even intellectual *plug-uglies* may be transformed into respectable and candid thinkers.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxxii. 182.
- 1876 As Union soldiers are scarce in the Democratic ranks, many are recruited from the *plug-uglies* of Baltimore.—*Providence Journal*, Sept. 30 (Bartlett).

Plumb. Entirely, completely, close up.

- 1601 The wind Septentrio that bloweth *plumbe* North.—Holland's 'Pliny,' p. 609. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 I'm *plumb* out of bread.—'Life in Arkansas,' by an Ex-Governor (Phila.).
- 1850 His breeches split *plum* across with the strain, and the piece of wearin' truck wot's next the skin made a monstrous putty flag.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 51.
- 1851 [The bar] stopped right *plumb* slap up whar Ike's gun was.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 52.
- 1851 [He] looked at me right *plum* in the face, as savage as a meat-axe.—*Id.*, p. 149.
- 1858 He wur *plum* crazy, an' jumped over the frunt ov the pulpit.—*Olympia Pioneer*, Feb. 26.
- 1859 We're *plum* out of everything to eat in the house.—*Knicker Mag.*, liii. 316 (March).
- 1860 [Mr. Lincoln's house at Springfield, Ill.] is built *plumb* out to the sidewalk.—*N.Y. Herald*, Aug. 13.
- 1860 I took the wrong trail, and rode *plump* up to a band of hostiles.—J. F. H. Claiborne, 'Life of Gen. Sam. Dale,' p. 67 (N.Y.).
- 1865 We kin come up with him yet, ef we turn *plumb* around.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 441 (Oct.).
- 1893 "You're *plumb* crazy," she remarked.—*Harper's Weekly*, p. 1211. (N.E.D.)

Plum'd Knight. Robert Ingersoll applied this term to James G. Blaine in the political campaign of 1884.

- 1888 In the window were two democratic ladies, who did not know that the *Plum'd Knight* was beneath them.—*N.Y. Herald*, Nov. 4 (Farmer).
- 1903 I recall looking down upon the red and silver of the *Plum'd Knights* [in a Republican parade] from the window of my uncle's newspaper office, thrilled in spite of my ultra-democratic training by the swing of their unbroken tread and the glamor of the music and the lights.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 29.

Plunder. Personal effects ; baggage.

- 1815 We heard these men [in the Allegany hills] uniformly calling their baggage "*plunder*."—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 6 (1826).
- 1817 [We carried] our *plunder* (as the Virginians call baggage) in a light Jersey wagon.—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 38. (N.E.D.)
- 1818 When you arrive at a house [in Kentucky], the first inquiry is, where is your *plunder*? as if you were a bandit ; and out is sent a slave to bring in your *plunder* : i.e. your trunk, or valise.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 106 (Boston, 1824).
- 1820 His *plunder* consisted of a small parcel of clothing tied up in a bandanna handkerchief.—Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 182 (Lond.).

Plunder—*contd.*

- 1827 "I have little occasion for what you call *plunder*, unless it may be now and then to barter for a horn of powder or a bar of lead." "You are not then of these parts by natur', friend?" the emigrant continued, having in mind the exception which the other had taken to the very equivocal word which he himself had used for "baggage" or "effects."—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 40 (Lond.).
- 1833 This here heavy wagon, loaded down with *plunder*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190.
[For fuller quotation see PRIMING.]
- 1833 [They were] satisfied to tote their *plunder* upon mules and pack-horses.—*Id.*, p. 49.
- 1835 [They burned] the cabin, and a beautiful piece of cloth that she had in the loom, and all the *plunder* that the poor thing had been scraping together by the work of her own hands.—The same, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 55 (Phila.).
- 1835 When I reached the creek I inquired of a bystander if he knew what they were toling that *plunder* for.—*Boston Pearl*, Sept. 26.
- 1842 [In Virginia] you hear the driver say, "Here, you nigger fellow, tote this lady's *plunder* to her room." Upstairs is pronounced "upstarrs"; the words "bear" and "fear" [? fair] are pronounced "barr" and "farr"; and one passenger was told "The room upstarrs is quite prepared, so that your *plunder* may be toted there [? thar] whenever you've a mind."—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 293.
- 1846 In a few minutes her companion made his appearance, and announced that he had toted the *plunder* aboard.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' p. 18 (1855).
- 1847 What can honest people do with such a heap of *plunder* as you are toting in that wagon?—Sol Smith, 'Adventures,' p. 59.
- 1848 His "*plunder*" was toted from the Astor before daybreak.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 93.
- 1848 I do believe old Miss Stallins and mother has packed up 'bout seven trunks full of *plunder* of one kind and another.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 10.
- 1853 [A man] poked his head into a country store, where I was "loafing" at the time, and yelled out:—"Mister, do you take *plunder* here for your spun truck?"—*Knicker Mag.*, xlii. 211 (Aug.).

Plunkus. A mythical animal invented by the Maine lumbermen.—'Dialect Notes,' iii. 249. (Cf. PROCK).

Plurality. See quotation 1828.

- 1803 (Dec. 2). In several states, many great offices are filled, and even the chief magistracy, by various modes of election. The public will is sometimes expressed by *pluralities* instead of majorities.—Mr. Tracy in the U.S. Senate: *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 18, 1804.
- 1809 Hon. William Tudor, Secretary of State, Rechosen by a *plurality* of 95. Josiah Dwight, Esq., Treasurer, Re-elected by a *plurality* of 98.—*Mass. Spy*, June 14.

Plurality—*contd.*

- 1828 In elections, a *plurality* of votes is when one candidate has more votes than any other, but less than half of the whole number of votes given.—Noah Webster, Dictionary.
- 1846 In 1840 [Pennsylvania] did cast her vote for the Whig candidate; not indeed by a majority, but by less than a majority. Her vote for General Harrison was a *plurality* vote only.—Mr. McClean of Pa., House of Repr., June 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 992.
- 1860 If his election has been effected by a mere *plurality*, and not a majority of the people.—Message of President James Buchanan, Dec. 4.

Pocoson lands. See quotation 1811.

- 1709 The land in this *Percoarson*, or valley [is] extraordinary rich.—J. Lawson, 'Hist. Carolina,' 26. (N.E.D.)
- 1760 Black mould taken out of the *Pocoson* on the creek side.—Geo. Washington, 'Writings' (1889), ii. 13. (N.E.D.)
- 1811 A considerable extent of that kind of flat, wet pine lands, which is known in N. Carolina by the name of *poccooson lands*.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 23.

Pocket full of rocks. Plenty of money.

- 1847 You know, if I had a *pocket full of rocks*, you should share them, for I like you vastly.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 165.
- 1850 *A pocket full of rocks* 'twould take to build a house of freestone.—J. R. Lowell, 'Unhappy Lot of Mr. Knott.'
- 1851 Thar's a feller here named Andy Smith, with a *pocket full of rocks*. He has just sold a tract of land, and pocketed the dimes.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 45.
- 1853 [They don't get off cheap], if they haven't got a *pocket full of rocks* to pay all hands.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 186.
- 1853 Mr. Drake was returning home with his *pocket full of rocks*, from Chicago, where he had been to dispose of a load of grain.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 28.
- [1853 I'll come and make you Mrs. Jenkins; but I want to get the *rocks* first.—'Life Scenes,' p. 58.]
- 1853 His adversary was distinguished for possessing a *pocket full of rocks*.—*Id.*, p. 208.
- 1855 Wal, arter four years Ben came back with a "*pocket full of rocks*"; he'd made his pile.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., May 26.
- 1855 He was assured by his better half that Mr. R. had "*a pocket full of rocks*."—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 4.
- 1857 [He had received flattering accounts of the California gold mines] from the few of his acquaintances who had seen the elephant, and had returned with a *pocket full of rocks*.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 7.
- 1859 I told you that you'd be half crazy about Effie's brother and his *pocket full of rocks*.—Mrs. Duniway, 'Capt. Gray,' p. 238 (Portland, Oregon).

Pocket full of rocks—*contd.*

- [1859 A fellow who has got the "rocks,"
And ain't compelled to stand the knocks
Of mountain life, may grow ecstatic, &c.
Rocky Mountain News, Auraria and Denver, Dec. 1.]

Pocket veto. When the Executive does not return a bill that has passed both houses, he is said to pocket it. See quotation 1888.

- 1848 This House saw a President of the United States very coolly *pocket* a bill which had been submitted [to him].—Mr. Barrow of Tennessee, House of Repr., Jan. 24 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 225.
- 1850 When Congress made an appropriation for opening Roanoke inlet, Mr. Tyler *pocketed* the bill.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., March 6 : *id.*, p. 343, App.
- 1885 Legislators who . . . could be thwarted by any such trifle as the *pocketing* of the bill.—L.W. Spring, 'Kansas,' p. 260. (N.E.D.)
- 1888 If Congress adjourns within the ten days allowed the President for returning the bill, it is lost. His retaining it under these circumstances at the end of a session is popularly called a *pocket veto*.—Bryce, 'Am. Commonwealth,' i. 74, note. (N.E.D.)

Pocket-pedler. See quotation.

- 1892 *Pocket-pedlers* . . . who stand on the street corners with a bottle in one pocket and a glass in the other.—*The Nation*, N.Y., July 28. (N.E.D.)

Pod. A small flock of birds or fishes.

- 1832 We saw several small *pods* of coots go by.—D. Webster, 'Letters,' i. 526. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 [These herds] are termed by whalers "schools" and "*pods*."—F. D. Bennett, 'Whaling Voyages,' ii. 171. (N.E.D.)

Podman. A word of doubtful meaning.

- 1842 The ruffians—fishermen, oystermen, and "*podmen*," who fought at Gloucester Point.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 6.

Pod team. This is also doubtful.

- 1853 You see Hookem wanted to hire Zeb's horse to put into a *pod team* with Ike Marston's sorrel.—'Turnover : A Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 36 (Boston).

Pogonip. See quotation.

- 1870 A name originally given to a thick mass of cold vapour which sometimes veils the mountain tops [of Nevada], and sometimes fills the valleys, is employed to characterize these terrible storms. Tell a miner acquainted with White Pine that you have had to face the *Pogonip*, and he will at once know that all your powers of endurance have been put to the test.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 210 (Lond.).

Pointer. A suggestion ; a bit of useful information.

1884 There's a *pointer* for you!—*Lisbon (Dak.) Star*, Oct. 10. (N.E.D.)

1890 The soldiers sometimes gave us "*pointers*" as we rode by their quarters.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 255.

1902 You must call Pole in and let me give him a few *pointers*.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 152.

Points and bends. The capes and bays formed by the devious course of the Mississippi River, &c.

1826 You hear of . . . sawyers, and *points*, and *bends*, and shoots.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 15.

1826 The entire uniformity of the meanders of the rivers in Arkansas, called in the phrase of the country "*points* and *bends*."—*Id.*, pp. 258-9 ; see also following pp.

Poke. A game, probably now out of use.

1824 No person shall play Foot-ball or *Poke*, Stick-ball or Swinger, within the compact part of the town of Nantucket.—By-law published in the *Nantucket Inquirer*, Jan. 12.

Poke. A worthless fellow.

1856 "Did you pick up any fellows?" "A few *pokes*,—not much, but they hev horses."—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 247 (N.Y.).

Pokerish. Dangerous ; alarming ; "eerie."

1827 A patriarchal ram, who would fight anything but a *pokerish* looking ducking gun.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 21.

1829 The road led through a *pokerish* bit of wood, and it was beginning to be dark.—*Id.*, Jan. 28.

1830 Duff held out a *pokerish* looking pistol with a percussion lock at him.—*Id.*, May 19.

1839 We'd better have a light—my place here in front is cursed *pokerish*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' ii. 67.

1849 It looked amazingly *pokerish*, that dark and dingy cellar.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 324 (Aug.).

1850 —Reflection's *pokerish*,

Like walking on those saw mill logs ;—step quick,
And you go safe ; to dally is to sink.

S. Judd, 'Philo,' p. 52 (Boston).

1853 There is something *pokerish* about a deserted dwelling, even in broad daylight—Lowell, 'Prose Works,' i. 6. (N.E.D.)

1859
Moreover, you must need a wife
To see to shirts and things,
And keep you from the *pokerish* path
That's full of traps and springs,
As well as to protect your cash
From its proverbial wings.

Knick. Mag., liii. 212 (Feb.).

Poke-root. The green hellebore.

- 1698 *Poke-root*, called in England jallop.—G. Thomas, 'Pennsylvania' (1848), 19. (N.E.D.)
- 1811 [For a cancer cure] take *pocoon root*, finely powdered, &c. . . . Take young *poke root* roasted, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, May 8.
- 1829 *Poke-root* in this vicinity called pigeon-berry, is a sure remedy for the bite of a snake.—*Id.*, Aug. 5: from the Staunton *Spectator*.

Poke-weed. See quotations.

- 1751 The *Phytolacca* is known to almost every one in America by the name of *Poke-weed*.—A N.Y. physician in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July: quoted in the *Mass. Spy*, May 24, 1809. [A detailed description follows.]
- 1756 *Poke-weed*. . . is commonly found in all the cooler hills.—P. Browne, 'Jamaica,' 232. (N.E.D.)
- 1787 Quere, whether the weed vulgarly called *poke weed*, and another called henbane, do not contain qualities noxious to insects?—*Am. Museum*, i. 135 (Feb.).
- 1832 *Poke*, an abbreviation of *Pocum*, and frequently called *Cocum*, and erroneously *Carget*.—Williamson, 'Hist. of Maine,' i. 128 (Hallowell).

Pole, the. See quotation.

- 1852 A horse "*has the pole*" means that he has drawn the place nearest the inside boundary-fence of the track.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 229, note.

Pole-boat. One propelled by poling.

- 1841 Wherever a *pole-boat* had made its way, [his name had] found repeated echoes.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 163 (Phila.).

Poling. Moving a boat along with a pole.

- 1774 The canoe was *poled* up the stream.—D. Jones, 'Journal' (1865), p. 47. (N.E.D.)
- 1814 The water is generally too deep for *poling*.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 205.

Pole-bridge. A bridge made of poles.

- 1850 Contingencies of travel over corduroy roads, *pole bridges*, mud turnpikes, &c.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 240.

Politician. This word, especially in the U.S., has acquired a sinister meaning. See quotations.

- 1646 [He] was merely a *Politician*, and studied only his own ends.—Buck, 'Richard III.,' i. 17. (N.E.D.)
- 1841 A Whig Editor, a bar-room wrangler, a stump orator, a noisy, brawling, *pot-house politician*.—Mr. Gordon of N.Y., House of Repr., Aug. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 264, App.
- 1862 Not *pot-house politicians* only, but profound thinkers, declared the Government permanently crippled.—Mr. Samuel Shellabarger of Ohio, the same, Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 690/1.

- 1862 Queer *politicians*, though, for I'll be skinned
Ef all on 'em don't head against the wind.

'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 6.

Politician—*contd.*

1879 The word "*politician*" is used in a bad sense in America as applied to people who...are skilled in the art of "wirepulling."—Sir G. Campbell, 'White and Black,' p. 68. (N.E.D.)

Pollywog. A tadpole. The forms Polwygle, Porwige, Polwig, &c., occur in the 15-17th centuries. (N.E.D.)

1835-40 Little ponds...nothing but *pollywogs*, tadpoles, and minims in them.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' p. 321. (N.E.D.)

1857 They can talk with you on any subject from cosmogony to *pollywogs*.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 213.

1862 There rose a party with a mission
To mend the *polliwogs'* condition.
'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 4.

1862 My colleague [Mr. S. S. Cox] takes to the turbid waters of low ridicule as naturally as the *polliwog* does to the dirty waters of the ditch. In these riled waters he swims without a rival.—Mr. John Hutchins of Ohio, House of Repr., July 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3130/1.

1888 Our rain-water was full of gallinippers and *pollywogs*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 76.

Pond lily. The water-lily.

1778 The lake is covered...with the large *pond-lily*.—J. Carver, 'Travels in N. America,' p. 167. (N.E.D.)

1809 They entered into a boat with a view to collect *pond lillies*.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Aug. 1.

Pone. Maize bread.

1634 Their ordinary diet is *Poane* and *Omine*, both made of Corne.—'Relat. Lord Baltimore's Plantation' (1865), p. 17. (N.E.D.)

1705 The *Pone* is the Bread made of Indian meal...Their constant Bread is *Pone*, not so called from the Latine, *Panis*, but from the Indian name *Oppone*.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iv. 55-56.

1808 Massa shall now eat de *pone*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 28.

1813 Sweet Molly, can'st thou breeches make,
And neatly spin Merino yarn;
Wilt thou soon learn *pone bread* to make,
And my old worsted stockings darn?

Id., Dec. 15.

1816 What slaves I have seen, have fared coarsely upon their hoe-cakes and *ash-pone*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 78 (Boston, 1824).

1826 The children only need a *pone* of corn bread and a bowl of milk.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 29.

1838 He was a full grown Kentuckian, raised on sulphur water, *pone*, and 'possum fat.—B. Drake, 'Tales,' p. 33 (Cincinnati).

1849 One of the most prominent dishes of [Tennessee], a *pone*, or roll of hot corn bread.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 58 (Jan.).

- Pony express.** A line of conveyance across the Rocky Mountains, used before the Union Pacific Railroad was built. See chaps. xxi., xxii. of Alex. Majors's 'Seventy Years on the Frontier,' 1893.
- 1860 Are we not receiving news every few days by the *Pony Express*?—H. C. Kimball, Nov. 25: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 240.
- 1861 We have now a semi-weekly "*pony express*," in other words, an established northern route to the Pacific.—Mr. Milton S. Latham of California, U.S. Senate, Jan. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 258/1.
- 1861 The American *Pony Express*, en route from the Missouri River to San Francisco.—*Illustrated London News*, Oct. 12, p. 386. (N.E.D.)
- 1861 They charge five dollars an ounce for matter carried by the *pony express*.—Mr. Colfax of Indiana, House of Repr., March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1419.
- Pony up.** To pay up in cash.
- 1824 Every man swore that he had *ponied* up his "quarter."—*Atlantic Magazine*, i. 343. (N.E.D.)
- 1824 I've heard as how he'd like to have drown'd a man once, 'fore he could make him *poney up*.—*The Microscope*, Albany, April 3, p. 15/3.
- 1855 He thinks the old gentleman will "*poney up*," sooner or later.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' ii. 172.
- a.1872 She reasoned that they'd *pony up* with the [borrowed] sugar, &c.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 102.
- Pool.** To create a pool, *i.e.*, a common fund or stock.
- 1879 This general averaging, or as we may say "*pooling*" of advantages.—H. George, 'Progress and Poverty' (1881), iii. 166. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 "What did you say to Commissioner Ballinger?" "I told him I thought we could cancel all the Alaska claims; that a lot of prominent people had formed a *pool*, and that the evidence would prove it."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 31.
- Pool issues.** To act in concert.
- 1888 An undertaker and a grave-digger in Hungary *pooled their issues*, and poisoned off fourteen people before their plan was discovered.—*Detroit Free Press*, n.d. (Farmer).
- Poor.** Lean; in poor condition. Used in the 16-18th centuries with reference to cattle. (N.E.D.). Nearly obsolete in England.
- 1778 [The sheep] are very *poor*, and appear to have been out all winter.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 10.
- 1788 Came to the Subscriber's Plantation, in May 1787, a dark red Cow, very *poor*, and had been scalded on the right shoulder.—*Advt., id.*, Oct. 31.
- a.1871 His mother was jest about the *poorest*, peakedest old body over to Sherburne.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Mis' Elderkin's Pitcher.'
- 1878 They get as *poor* as snakes on such food; but it does keep body and soul together for a while.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 276.

Poor-farm. The Western analogue of a poor-house, but usually less uncomfortable.

1859 [He] let both his sisters go to the "*poor-farm.*"—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiv. 418.

Poor mouth, make a. To plead or pretend poverty. Sc.

1822 It's no right o' you to be aye *making a puir mouth.*—*Blackwood's Mag.*, p. 307. (N.E.D.)

1859 He lives about six miles from here, and *makes a mighty poor mouth.*—Mrs. Duniway, 'Captain Gray's Company,' p. 174 (Portland, Oregon).

1885 You wanted to . . . *make a poor mouth* to Mrs. Lapham.—W. D. Howells, 'Silas Lapham,' ch. xxv. (N.E.D.)

Poor whites, poor white trash. A class much despised in the South.

1836 The slave of a gentleman universally considers himself a superior being to "*poor white folks.*"—Letter from a gentleman in S. Virginia: J. K. Paulding, 'Slavery in the U.S.,' p. 205 (N.Y.).

1853 He was despised [by the negroes] as coming within the list of "*poor white folks.*" a class they think almost beneath contempt.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 279.

1857 Jest look at that there slide. How many trees do you think these *poor white trash* have slid down there?—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 260 (March).

1861 From the planter owning six hundred negroes, down to the "*white trash,*" all alike [in S. Carolina] were inspired with hatred of the North.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 48.

1862 They're all Stuart Millses, *poor-white trash*, and sneaks.—'Biglow Papers,' Second S., No. 4. (Message of Jeff Davis.)

1863 [The population was] composed largely of "*poor white trash,*" of penniless politicians, &c.—O. J. Victor, ii, 63.

1888 The windows and doors were filled with the vacant faces of the filthy children of the *poor white trash* and negroes.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 120.

1888 [The house] was like the cabins of the "*poor white trash*" in the forest, only larger.—*Id.*, p. 192.

1901 The terms "sand-hiller," "clay-cater," or "*poor white trash,*" conveyed a terrible reproach, for even the negroes looked down upon them.—W. Pittenger, 'The Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 74 (Phila.).

Pop-corn. Parched maize, esp. the *Zea erecta*.

1854 The farmer barter with an urchin tradesman for his last pint of *pop-corn.*—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 29.

["Popped corn" occurs on p. 225.]

1858 I got on the ears [after] flattening out an apple-boy and *pop-corn* vendor.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Jan. 14. (N.E.D.)

Pope. A name applied to several birds.

1781 The whippertail is also called the *pope* by reason of its darting with great swiftness, and bawling out "*Pope!*" which alarms young people and the fanatics very much, especially as they know it to be an ominous bird.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 257. (N.E.D.)

"**Pope**" **Dwight.** A nickname at one time applied to Dr. Timothy Dwight of Connecticut.

1800 Dr. Dwight, the President of Yale College, universally called the *Pope*, and Mr. Hillhouse of the Senate of the U.S., are married to two sisters, whose maiden names were Woolsey. . . . Theodore Dwight, brother of the *Pope*, is a candidate for Congress. . . . Dr. Dwight dictates the policy and the prayers of the Illuminati.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 12.

1800 Long Allen and the *Pope of Connecticut*.—*Id.*, Dec. 16.

Pope-horn. A loud, dissonant horn.

1772 The ingenuity of some of these nocturnal Sley-frolickers has added the Drum and Conk-shell, or *Pope-horn*, to their own natural, noisyabilities.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 3 (N.E.D.)

Pope-night, Pope-day. See quotations.

1842 The little boys of Amesbury and Salisbury have a celebration, which, so far as I know, is peculiar to themselves. It is the observance of *Pope-night*, or the Fifth of November. . . . You will quite as often hear the youngers call it *Poke-night* as anything else.—'Lowell Offering,' ii. 111-12.

1903 It is possible that [Joyce Junior] continued to parade the streets of Boston on *Pope-day*.—Mr. Albert Matthews, in 'Publ. Col. Soc. Mass.' viii. 104. (See also xii. 288-295, March, 1909).

Popple. Meaning uncertain.

1844 The boys [clapped on] their little slouched *popple* hats.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 176.

Popycock. Bombast. Slang.

1865 You won't be able to find such another pack of *popycock* gabblers as the present Congress.—'Artemus Ward on his Travels,' i. 3.

1892 Their wails were all what the boys call "*popycock*." *The Nation*, N.Y., Nov. 24, p. 386. (N.E.D.)

Populism,-ist, &c. The populists were formed as a party in Feb., 1892, on socialistic principles.

1892 Fusion with the *populists* has been perfected [by the Democrats].—*Colombus* (O.) *Dispatch*, Oct. 8. (N.E.D.)

1893 The situation results from the rise of the *Populist* party.—*The Nation*, N.Y., Jan. 19. (N.E.D.)

1894 It was Mr. Bryan and his *populistic* ideas which were the bone of contention.—*Chicago Advance*, Oct. 4. (N.E.D.)

Porgy. A name applied to various species of fish. The N.E.D. furnishes examples, 1725-1897.

- 1775 Southern fishes, such as the mullet, *porgy*, and some others.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 133.
 1833 It could not be fish: there was more substance even in *paugies*.—*Knick. Mag.*, i. 371.
 1843 The sight of the cheerful *porgies* comin' up on the hook may sort o' revive you.—Cornelius Matthews, 'Writings,' p. 34.
 1857 *Porgies*, purchased in their decadence from perambulating fish-vendors.—Tho. B. Gunn, 'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 52.

Porkopolis. A name formerly applied to Cincinnati.

- 1844 It is said that there are now from 1,000 to 1,500 believers in Millerism in *Pigopolis*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 2.
 1844 Parson Miller has not entirely succeeded in regenerating the morals of *Porkopolis* yet.—*Id.*, Sept. 27.
 1845 I shall be pleased to see you when next in *Porkopolis*.—Letter of Nicholas Longworth, Nov. 17: Sol. Smith's 'Autobiography,' p. 262.
 1870 Not long ago Cincinnati took the lead of every city in the Union as the place where the largest number of pigs were slaughtered, salted, and packed, for exportation. On this account, the city was commonly known by the name of *Porkopolis*. But, if the statements of the citizens of Chicago are to be accepted, the glory of Cincinnati has passed away.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 40.

Portage. A place where canoes have to be carried across land.

- 1698 The *portage* was two Leagues long.—Trans. of Hennepin's 'America,' p. 75. (N.E.D.)
 1821 The canoe of Governour Cass was transported over a *portage* of about nine miles, to the head of the Wabash.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 10: from the *Detroit Gazette*, Sept. 7.

Porterhouse steak. A cut between the tenderloin and the sirloin.

- 1843 I guess I'll take a small *porter house steak* without the bone.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 206.
 1857 He went out and had a *porter-house steak* at a Broadway restaurant.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 44.
 1859 A burly fellow, forging his thunderbolt over a *porter-house steak* and a pot of beer.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 55 (Jan.).
 1860 While enjoying a dainty cut [of elk-meat] I could not help remarking that it was as good as any *porterhouse steak*; upon which Tuolumne asked me what was the meaning of *porterhouse steak*. I explained that it was the choice cut of the beef.—J. C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 64. (S.F.)
 1909 At Washington Market, the customary price for *porterhouse steak* to individual purchasers has been 25 cents a pound.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Sept. 13.

Posey dance.

1837 This is described by John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 116 (N.Y.). In some of its features it resembled the PATGOE, q.v.

Posey-watcher. See quotation

1843 Mr. Wright presented a petition from the keeper of the gate at the Capitol, commonly called the *Posey-watcher*.—U.S. Senate, Dec. 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 50.

Possum. The word is found without the initial o, 1613, 1670, 1698. (N.E.D.)

1705 Here I can't omit a strange Rarity in the female *Possum*.—R. Beverley, 'Virginia,' ii. 38.

1858 The "*possum*" is in size like unto a "wood-chuck," feet like a squirrel, and color like unto a gray squirrel, but a tail long and like a rat's.—*Knicker. Mag.*, li. 537 (May).

1909 Harry S. Fisher of Newman, Ga., known as the '*possum king*,' says: Give us a '*possum*-loving President, and the White House will ring with peace and prosperity and joy for years to come.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 4.

Post-and-rail fence. See quotation, 1823.

1806 [I'll give him] a fraternal embrace at the gate of the *post-and-rail fence* that encircles my Prezzidoliad.—*The Balance* Oct. 7, p. 316.

1823 An open wooden fence, consisting of *posts and rails* only.—P. Nicholson, 'Practical Builder,' 590. (N.E.D.)

Posted, Posted-up, informed.

1850 Well *posted* in music matters.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 169 (1852).

1854 They were tolerably well *posted up* in some matters upon which they spoke.—Orson Hyde at the Mormon Tabernacle, March 18: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 206.

1854 Mr. M. is not well *posted up*, or he would have said less on this subject.—Letter to the *Weekly Oregonian*, July 15.

1855 She has kept a close eye upon equipages, hats, cloaks, habits, churches, different schemes of faith and of summer recreation. She is "well *posted*" in regard to all these matters.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 54.

1861 I never was very much *posted* in these systems of piety.—Geo. A. Smith at the Mormon Tabernacle, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 15.

1882 [It might be] awkward for him to be *posted* in the information of the prosecutions.—*N.Y. Herald*, March 19.

Post-oak. See quotations.

1817 On the prairie, *post oak* (*Quercus obtusiloba*) black jack (*Quercus nigra*), and shell bark hickory (*Juglans squamosa*).—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 257.

1826 A species of oak, called *post oak*, indicating a cold, spongy, and wet soil.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 56.

Post-oak grape. A vine that clings to the post-oak (?)

1845 The *post-oak grape*, which grows abundantly on the high lands, will yield a wine of excellent flavor.—'Prairiedom,' by a Suthron, p. 83 (N.Y.).

Pot. A quantity of money.

1856 They had hauled down a big *pot*, and intended henceforth to live as jolly as clams.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 619 (Dec.).

Pot and can. Of one mind; hand in glove. Obs.

1789 I suppose we shall be *pot and can* in the general conviction that the Kingdom cannot be supported by keeping clear consciences.—'Speech of the Emperor of Lilliput,' *Am. Museum*, v. 297.

Pot-ash.

1767 W. G. has a right in a *Pot-ash* on the above Farm.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 16 (Advt.). [This seems to mean a pot-ash producing concern or "plant.,"]

Potato-bug. The *Doryphora decemlineata*.

1801 In the year 1799 I discovered in [Huntington, Conn.] the *Potatoe Bug*, or American Cantharides.—Wm. Shelton in the *Conn. Journal*: *Mass. Spy*, July 29.

1838 This company, formed for the praiseworthy purpose of encouraging the growth of *potato-bugs*, and manufacturing *potato-bug* oil.—*The Hesperian*, Columbus, O., i. 42.

1852 General *Potato-Bug* has squatted down with his innumerable hosts in the gardens and patches.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 260 (Sept.).

1868 The ravages... of the *potato-bug*.—'Report U.S. Commission on Agriculture,' p. 10. (N.E.D.)

Pot-pie. See quotations.

a.1792 The standard dinner dish at log-rollings, house-raising, and harvest days, was a large *pot-pie*, inclosing minced meats, birds, or fruits.—Monette, 'Mississippi Valley,' ii. 8 (1848).

1823 You may feed [the snow-birds] with crumbs and shoot enough for a *pot-pye* any day.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneers,' i. 14 (Lond., 1827).

1839 If you wish to make a *potpie* instead of a baked pie, you have only, &c.—'Farmer's Visitor,' Concord, N.H., i. 75.

1843 An enormous *potpie*, piping hot, graced our centre. The pie today was the doughy sepulchre of at least six hens, two chanticleers, and four pullets.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 181.

1851 From the hare and partridge our cook serves a delicious *pot-pie*.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 120 (N.Y.).

1878 As for training-day gingerbread and *pot-pie*, she was simply wonderful.—Rose T. Cooke in *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 578.

Powder-falbin. A powdered root.

1861 We give to one man, at one time, *powder-falbin*.—H. C. Kimball, at the Mormon Tabernacle, April 7: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 27.

Powerful, monstrous, &c. Much used by common people in the sense of very: like the word *marvellous* in the English Psalter. "Monstrous desperate" occurs in 'All's Well that ends Well'; and "Devilish smart" in Congreve's 'Old Bachelor' (Kington Oliphant).

- 1799 Everybody must have noticed [the use of such words] in the familiar phrases of common language; when some damned honest fellow swears that the Madeira is devilish good, or the girl *monstrous pretty*; or when a young lady admires a lap dog for being so *vastly small*, and declares him *prodigious handsome*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 4.
- 1803 [A person, who had been invited out, said] the dinner was *desperate* well cooked, the wine was *terrible* good, Mr. — was *dreadful* polite, and his daughters were *cruel* pretty, and *abominable* fine.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 9.
- 1833 Gentlemen, good evening; this has been a *powerful* hot day. —James Hall, 'Harpo's Head,' p. 86.
- 1834 [The buffalo cow] was, to use a western expression, *powerful* fat.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 70 (Boston).
- 1835 He was *powerful* tired.—W. Irving, 'Tour of the Prairies,' ch. xiii. (N.E.D.)
- 1859 Our men has mostly gone across to Californy to see what's the chances for fodder. Folks tells us it's *powerful* dry over there.—J. Ross Browne, 'Apache Country,' p. 461.

Pow-wow. A consultation. **To Pow-wow.** To talk much together on any subject. Derived from the N. A. Indians, and applied to Tammany; then generally. See 1861-5 for use of the word at Yale.

- 1659 See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xi. 487.
- 1705 The Indian went immediately a *Pauwawing*, as they call it, and in about half an hour there came up a black Cloud into the Sky.—Beverly, 'Virginia,' iii. 36.
- 1768 A letter "from a late London newspaper," signed *No Powow*.—*Boston Evening Post*, March 21.
- 1780 He may refer the matter to congress, they to the Medical Committee, who will probably *powwow* over it awhile, and no more will be heard of it.—J. Cochran in 'N.E. Hist. and Gen. Reg.' xviii. 35. (N.E.D.)
- 1781 An ancient religious rite, called the *Pawwaw*, was annually celebrated by the Indians.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 215. (A description follows).
- 1784 St. Tammany's song being sung, a gentleman in a complete *pow wow* dress appeared, and performed a Maneta dance.—*Mass. Spy*, May 27.
- 1809 [They] regard it no more than they would an Indian *Pow-wow* upon the banks of the Missouri.—*Id.*, Aug. 9.
- 1810 Winthrop, in giving an account of the great storm in 1639, says, "The Indians near Aquiday being *pawawing* in this tempest, the Devil came and fetched away five of them."—*Id.*, Feb. 21.
- 1812 The Warriors of the Democratic Tribe will hold a *powow* at Agawam on Tuesday.—*Salem Gazette*, June 5. (N.E.D.)

Pow-wow—*contd.*

- 1814 A *Pow-wow* held near Litchfield, wherein Mr. Visey [discomfited] a vast number of the Indian devils.—*Analectic Mag.*, iv. 65 (July).
- 1818 The Indian fashion (unknown in England) of *powowing* and *huzzaing* in approbation of toasts, is generally unwelcome to a majority of those who are engaged in it.—*Mass. Spy.*, Sept. 9: from the *Salem Gazette*.
- 1821 The *Powow*, who was at once their Priest and Physician, always undertook, when he was applied to, the removal of a disease.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 120.
- 1825 [She] cursed poor Bet, with sich a *powwow!* "Ah, *powwow!* is that what you call the bad prayer in these parts?" "Why, sure enough."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 387.
- 1833 The Indians always abounded in marvellous relations, much incited by their conjurers and *pow-voos*.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of Phila.,' p. 140.
- 1855 I was in Philadelphia when the Know-Nothings were holding their grand national *pow-wow* there, and laying it on thick that "Americans shall rule America."—Letter to the *N.Y. Herald*, June 22 (Bartlett).
- 1857 Senator Mason of Virginia was there, *pow-wowing* about the Union.—Longfellow, 'Life,' (1891), ii. 334. (N.E.D.)
- 1861 The Freshman *Pow Wow*, with all its absurd tinselry and grotesque extravagance... is yet a class institution.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvi. 258. [This custom was established about 1849. *Id.*, p. 330].
- 1863 *Pow-Wow* is a torch-light masquerade and procession to express the joy of a class at the termination of its Freshman year... The din of horns is not an integral part, but has been adopted to drown out the interruptions of the juniors.—*Id.*, xxviii. 291-2.
- 1865 Freshman *Pow-Wow*, as a legitimate and authorized institution, went out with '65.—*Id.*, xxx. 293.

Prairie. See quotation 1817. Fr.

- 1773 The *Prairie*, or meadow-ground on the eastern side, is least twenty miles wide.—P. Kennedy, 'Journal' (N.E.D.).
- 1797 These *prairies* are large tracts of land which are covered entirely with grass, and are supposed by many persons to have formerly been lakes of water, which... have drained off, and left the whole spot without any other covering than a large tall grass, which reaches sometimes six feet high.—Fra. Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' pp. 263-4 (Lond., 1856).
- 1803 That part of Louisiana which borders on New Mexico, is one immense *prairie*; it produces nothing but grass.—Thomas Jefferson, communication to Congress: *Mass. Spy*, Dec. 7.
- 1804 They came into fine open *prairies*, in which nothing grew but long luxuriant grass.—Letter to the *Kentucky Palladium*, Dec. 12: by Harry Toulmin.

Prairie—*contd.*

- 1804 See him commence Landspeculator,
And buy up half the realm of nature,
Towns, cities, Indians, Spaniards, "prairies,"
Saltpetre vats, and buffalo-dairies.
Mass. Spy, Jan. 25: from the *Connecticut Courant*.
[The allusion is to the Louisiana purchase.]
- 1805 In several parts [of Ohio] are large level plains, called
Prairies (sic) or natural meadows, covered with wild grass
and cane, but destitute of shrubbery.—Thaddeus M.
Harris, 'Description of Ohio,' p. 97 (Boston).
- 1806 Vast *praires*, huge rivers, &c. [See HORNED TOAD].
- 1816 The *prairie* land is of three qualities.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 10.
- 1817 We are so taken with the *prairies*, that no "timbered"
land can satisfy our present views.—M. Birkbeck, 'Jour-
ney in America,' p. 132 (Phila.).
- 1817 *Prairie* is the term given to such tracts of land as are
divested of timber. In travelling west of the Alleghanies
they occur more frequently, and are of greater extent, as
we approach the Mississippi.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,'
p. 31 (Liverpool).
- 1822 We passed also a *prairy* of several miles extent, which is
skirted with woodland.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6: from the
Detroit Gazette.
- 1825 The Road to St. Louis, with the exception of an occasional
tract of forest, passes through nothing but *Prairie*.—*Id.*,
Feb. 9.

Prairie bitters. See quotation.

- a.1860 A beverage common among the hunters and moun-
taineers, flavoured with buffalo-galls.—'Scenes in the
Rocky Mountains,' p. 133 (Bartlett).

Prairie clipper. See quotation.

- 1870 The coaches, or "*prairie clippers*" as they are called by the
denizens of the country, pitched and jolted.—Keim,
'Sheridan's Troopers,' p. 49 (Bartlett).

Prairie cup. A prairie flower.

- 1880 *Prairie cups* are swinging
To spill their airy wine.
John Hay, 'Pike County Ballads,' p. 96 (N.E.D.).

Prairie dog. A kind of squirrel. See quotation 1845.

- 1805 Yesterday the *Prairie* (sic) *dog* and Magpie, sent by Capt.
Lewis, arrived at the City of Washington.—*Mass. Spy*,
Aug. 28.
- 1805 How Mr. Lewis, or any one in the least acquainted with
classing in Zoology, came to call the ground-fox squirrel
a *dog*, it is difficult to imagine.—*The Balance*, Sept. 17,
p. 304.
- 1807 On their return [they] killed a *prairie dog*, in size about
that of the smallest of domestic dogs.—P. Gass, 'Journal,'
p. 37. (N.E.D.)

Prairie dog—*contd.*

- 1812 It lives in burrows, or, as they are commonly called, towns. . . . These towns are to be found in the large prairies about 300 miles west of the Mississippi, and are frequently more than a mile in length.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 58 (1814).
- 1814 I happened on a village of barking squirrels or *prairie dogs*. My approach was announced by an incessant barking, or rather chirping, similar to that of a common squirrel, though much louder.—The same, 'Journal,' p. 239.
- 1817 I immediately conceived it to be, what it proved, a colony of the *prairie dog*. (Note.) A species of *Sciurus*, or Squirrel, not described in the *Syst. Nature*.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 73.
- 1823 The *prairie dog* villages we had observed to become more frequent and more extensive, as we approached the mountains.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' i. 498 (Phila.).
- 1823 With us the owl never occurred but in the *prairie-dog* villages.—*Id.*, ii. 37.
- 1834 Hawks and *prairie dogs* do very well, but there is too little meat about a terrapin.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 55 (Boston).
- 1845 The *prairie dog* is something larger than a common sized gray squirrel, of a dun color; the head resembles that of a bulldog; the tail is about three inches in length.—Their food is prairie grass.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 21 (Cincinnati, 1847).
- 1846 For a detailed description of the animal, see Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' pp. 109-10 (Phila.).
- 1862 All quiet now along the Platte;
No cannon's heavy booming sound;
A *prairie-dog*, in size a rat,
Stands picket on a gravelly mound.
The foe is lurking in the thicket;
The sentinel stands firm and staunch;
A flash—a whiz—O where's the picket?
Why, he—the cuss,—vamosed the ranch.
Rocky Mountain News, Denver, May 10.
- 1866 The little *prairie dogs*—comedians of the waste—sit crowing on their mounds of earth, until we drive close up to them, when they plunge into their holes, head downwards.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. 4.
- 1867 Today we marched through a *prairie dog* village. They are quite saucy, standing up on their little mounds, and barking at us until we arrive within a stone's throw of them.—Letter of Gen. Custer, April 4: Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 525 (1888).
- 1867 Once I saw an owl slowly leaving the entrance of a *prairie-dog's* home.—The same, April 8: *id.*, p. 530.
- 1873 They have often seen the rattle-snake come out of hole in a *dog-town*.—'Good Words,' p. 77. (N.E.D.)

Prairie dog—*contd.*

- 1873 It was a "good day for dogs" when we passed, and the little creatures seemed no way disconcerted by the train, but would sit on their haunches, and converse with each other in short yelps, till a shot was fired from the cars, when hundreds of feet would twinkle in the air, and the whole community go under with amazing suddenness.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 82 (Phila., &c.).
- 1909 In the State of Texas alone, *prairie dogs* eat annually enough grass to support 1,562,500 cows. Utterly useless, the little animal is a pest so dreaded that the Forest Service has undertaken his extermination.—*Technical World Magazine*, March.

Prairie hen. A bird resembling a grouse.

- 1805 Killed nothing but five *prairie hens*, which afforded us this day's subsistence.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi' (1810), p. 44. (N.E.D.)
- 1805 The grouse, or *prairie* (sic) *hen*, are in plenty.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17.
- 1812 The *prairie hen* in winter is found in great flocks, comes into barnyards, and frequently alights on the houses of the villagers.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 59 (1814).
- 1817 We shot a *prairie hen*, and prepared to breakfast.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 60 (Liverpool).
- 1819 Besides the deer, the country swarms with wild turkey and *prairie hens*.—B. Harding, 'Tour through the Western Country,' p. 8 (New London, Conn.).
- 1826 There is a great abundance of wild fowl and turkeys, *prairie hens*, and partridges.—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 248.
- 1839 The *prairie hen* is no less distinguished a bird than the pinnated grouse. They become excessively fat, do not fly far or fast, and are easily bagged.—John Plumbe, 'Sketches of Iowa, &c.,' p. 55 (St. Louis).

Prairie schooner. See quotations 1888, 1910.

- 1858 [In Lawrence, Kansas] may be seen large covered wagons, alias "*prairie schooners*." . . . These wagons are usually drawn by oxen, otherwise by mules.—*N.Y. Tribune*, June 7. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 The great trains of *prairie schooners* come in, laden with their hundred or more tons of goods.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Dec. 4.
- 1888 The old *prairie schooner* is now mainly a thing of the past. *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, April 14 (Farmer).
- 1888 Everything was transported in the great army wagons called *prairie schooners*. These were well named, as the two ends of the wagon inclined upward, like the bow and stern of a fore-and-after.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' pp. 351-2.

Prairie schooner—*contd.*

1890 Heavily loaded "*schooners*," drawn in some instances by twelve large mules, could often be seen stringing along the road for miles, laden with household goods, hardware, groceries, and provisions.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 205 (N.Y.).

1910 The next schooner I had any association with was that venerable and faithful *prairie schooner* that floated so bravely and silently over the trackless plains of the West in the dawn of her greatness. This schooner carried our flour, bacon, and coffee, the inviting aroma of which seems still to pervade my nostrils and the flavor to still linger on my palate. It carried our "shakedown" as well, upon which in the long nights we dreamed of the dear ones left behind and of what the future would bring, and from which when awakened by the bark of the coyote or the howling of our faithful oxen we were wont to gaze out at the stars in cloudless skies, loving their twinkles and enjoying their mirth and wishing we could hear their songs. That good old schooner protected us from the broiling rays of the sun and the downpours of rain, and when in the hostile country afforded a barricade against the arrows of the red men. This old \$100 schooner, Mr. Chairman, brought more profit to civilization and more glory and more enduring benefits to our country than all our modern battleships combined.—Mr. Rucker of Colorado in the House of Representatives: from the *Congressional Record*.

Prairie State. Illinois.

1861 Illinois, the "*Prairie State*," proved that she was as rich in her plantations as in her resources.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. of the So. Rebellion,' i. 166.

Prairie Turnip. *Psoralea esculenta*.

1814 The *prairie turnip* is a root very common in the prairies, with something of the taste of the turnip, but more dry; this [the Indians] eat, dried, and pounded, made into gruel.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 249.

Preach a funeral: *i.e.*, a funeral sermon.

1851 Parson S. was called upon to "*preach the funeral*" for a hard case named Rann.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxviii. 559 (Nov.).

1855 Her *funeral* is to be *preached* Sunday week at Salem Church.—*Id.*, xlv. 312 (March).

Precious few. Very few indeed. Dickens has "*precious large*," 1837. (N.E.D.)

1839 While on the Continent I have received *precious few* letters Asa Gray, 'Letters' (1893), i. 268. (N.E.D.)

1850 *Precious few* members of Congress need all these valuable documents.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., April 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 821.

1910 The Republicans are now getting a dose of their own medicine, and deserve *precious little* compassion.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 17.

Pre-emptioner, Pre-emptor. One who pre-empt's land under the general laws of the U.S.

1841 [I am not] saying harsh and unkind things of those who are called *pre-emptioners*.—Mr. Southard of N.J., U.S. Senate, Jan. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 368, App.

1846 Judge Story. [See Worcester's Dict.]

1850 If I were going to hunt for patriots. . . I would go among the poor, the squatters, the *pre-emptors*, the hardy sons of toil.—Mr. Brown of Mississippi, House of Repr., July 26 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1458.

Present. To mention, to "remember" a person to another.

1808 *Present* me affectionately to Mr. Ogilvie.—Thomas Jefferson to T. J. Randolph, Nov. 24.

1809 I pray you to *present* me respectfully to Mrs. Smith.—The same to Robert Smith, June 10.

1833 *Present* me kindly to your lady and family, and believe me to be your friend.—Letter of Andrew Jackson to Rev. Andrew J. Crawford, May 1 : quoted in *Cong. Globe*, Feb., 1861, p. 283/1, App.

1834 *Present* me most affectionately to my mother and cousin.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' ii. 109.

Present. This word is sometimes appended to the name of an addressee, implying that the latter is in town. About thirty years ago, an American musician, being in London, sent some concert tickets to an address, expecting payment, for which, upon refusal, he sued. He added the word "Present"; and the judge decided that the tickets must be considered as a gift.

1816 St. Louis, Nov. 15. 1816. Charles Lucas addressed Mr. Benton as "T. H. Benton *Present*."—W. M. Meigs, 'Life of Benton,' p. 106 (1904).

1835 Letter addressed to "Hon. D. Crockett, *Present*."—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 179 (Phila.).

1857 Address, "To Midshipman John Jenkins, U.S.N., *Present*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 454 (Nov.).

Pretty. See quotation, 1827.

1827 When the Yankee says "*pretty*," he does not mean handsome but agreeable; and when he says "*ugly*," he does not mean ill-looking, but vicious. Thus he will say of a horse, "He is a very handsome horse, but he is as ugly as Satan."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28 : from the *Berkshire American*.

1878 A half-breed squaw, about as "*pretty*" as a wild-cat struck with a club.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 387.

Pretzel. A small salted biscuit of twisted shape. The thing as well as the name came from Germany. There are pictures of it in German books, about 1550.

1888 A quantity of these horrid *pretzels* in every pocket of his clothes.—St. Louis *Globe-Demoerut*, April 29 (Farmer).

1889 The German beer-houses, with their baskets of *pretzels*, are more frequent as we approach the commercial quarters.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 692, April. (N.E.D.)

Previous, too. Needlessly prompt.

1885 He is a little before his time, a trifle *previous*, as the Americans say.—*Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 14 (Farmer).

1890 The grumbling in this matter has been too *previous*.—*Boston Journal*, June 21. (N.E.D.)

Prex. A college president. Coll. slang.

1828 Our *Prex* says this :—You surely miss,
When rating N. P. Willis,
Who loves all girls with chestnut curls,
From Viola to Phillis.

The Yankee, p. 232 (Portland, Maine).

1846 That sanctum sanctorum, that skull and bones of college mysteries, the *Prex's* room.—*Yale Banger*, Nov. 10 : Hall, 'College Words,' 1856.

1848 An "Impromptu to *Prex* Day."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiii. 139.

1849 What excuses we rendered unto *Prex*, and what he said thereupon.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xv. 119.

1849 The old *Proex* called out to young M. to bring him a chair.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxiv. 366 (Oct.).

1854 [He] receives his sheepskin from the dispensing hand of our worthy *Prex*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xix. 355.

1855 When first I saw a sheepskin
In *Prex's* hand I spied it.
I'd given my hat and boots, I would,
If I could have been beside it.

Charles E. Trumbull (Yale), 'Song of the Sheepskin' (Bartlett).

1857 After examination I went to the old *Prex*, and was admitted. *Prex*, by the way, is the same as President.—'The Dartmouth,' iv. 117 : Hall, 'College Words,' 1856.

1862 *Prex* Backus was a jovial *Prex*,
The roughest, kindest of his sex.
'Mem. Hamilton Coll.,' p. 154. (N.E.D.)

Prezzidoliad. A name given to Mr. Jefferson's house.

1803 While pure religion in the train
Of philosophic Thomas Paine,
Mounts on the *Prezzidoliad* stairs,
And pious Jefferson declares
The cause of all the good to be,
All wisdom and philanthropy.

The Port Folio, iii. 24 (Phila.).

1803 Mr. Randolph, the Keeper of the *prezzidoliad* secrets, and the pert pioneer of the Government party.—*Id.*, 29.

Prickly heat. The *Lichen tropicus*, an inflammation.

1736 I found she had only the *prickly heat*, a sort of rash.—J. Wesley, 'Works' (1830), i. 36. (N.E.D.)

1822 [It is] called the *prickly heat*, from the pungent feeling that attends it.—J. Flint, 'Letters from America,' p. 10. (N.E.D.)

1830 The *prickly heat* is a complaint sufficiently defined by its name.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 54.

Priest. This name was applied by the early Quakers to the Congregational ministers of New England, and is still locally applied to preachers who are not in holy orders.—'Lowell Institute Lectures,' pp. 114-15.

1800 All the *priests* of the state [of Connecticut].—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 23. [For full quotation see STEADY HABITS.]

1824 [He snatched] a pitch pine knot blazing from the fire, [and] expressed his determination to rescue the *priest*, or perish in the attempt.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 15.

[This "priest" is a Congregational minister. He puts bands, and a "surplice," probably a black gown, with a belt.]

1829 They reverence their *priest*, but disagreeing
In price or creed, dismiss him without fear.

F. Hallick, 'The New England Men,' *Mass. Spy*, June 3.

1853 I have directed several young gentlemen to *priest* Bulkley's in my time. . . . The *priest's* house is the third. . . . on your left hand.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ii. 83 (July).

1856 Henry Ward Beecher was alluded to as a *priest* by Mr. Mason and by Mr. Butler in the House of Representatives. April 10: *Congressional Globe*, p. 863.

1878 *Priest* Robbins he came to see her a spell ago.—Rose T. Cooke, *Harper's Mag.*, lvii. 581.

Primary. A meeting at which candidates for office are first nominated.

1821 And this was all the hocus-pocus of a *primary* caucus.—*Mass. Spy*, April 11.

1909 The gravest charge against the direct *primary* is that it means the break-up of political parties.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 18.

Priming, no part of a. Nothing in comparison.

1833 "You must not tussle with me no more, Bill," said the victor; "you see you ain't *no part of a priming* to me."—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 88 (Phila.).

1833 This ain't *no part of a priming* to places that I've seed afore, no how. I've seed race paths in a worse fix than this. Don't you reckon stranger, that if my team can drag this here heavy wagon, loaded with plunder, you can sartainly get along with that ar little carry-all and nothing on the face of the yeath [earth] to tote, but jist the women and children?—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190 (Phila.).

1862 [He said Whittier could write a poem] that this would *not be a primin to*.—'Major Jack Downing,' April 29.

Prock. An imaginary animal, called in Maine a side-winder or side-hill badger.—'Dial. Notes,' iii. 249.

1849 The *Prock*, that remarkable western animal, which has two short legs on one side and two long ones on the other, to enable him to keep his perpendicular while browsing on the sides of steep mountains.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 363 (April).

Prock—*contd.*

- 1858 The first person who made mention of "the *Prock*," although not by name, was Captain Jonathan Carver, in whose book the name of Oregon was first given to the river now known as the Columbia.—*Id.*, lii. 313. [This reference is of course a hoax.]
- Proclamation money.** Coin valued according to a proclamation of Queen Anne, June 18, 1704, in which the Spanish dollar was valued at 6s.
- 1735 I do hereby promise to Pay to the said Discoverer the Sum of Thirty Pounds, *P.M.* — 'N.J. Archives,' xi. 432. (N.E.D.—Also 1748, 1772, 1775.)
- 1838 The framers of the Constitution had the ghosts of the colony, *proclamation*, State, and continental money before them.—Mr. Wall of N.J., U.S. Senate, March 23 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 230.
- Professor.** One professing religion. This canting use of the word comes down from the Elizabethan period, but is obsolete in England.
- 1597 Both two having bin *professors* in time past.—Beard, 'Theatre of God's Judgments' (1612), p. 93. (N.E.D.)
- a.1603 I say of *Professors*, as Paul said of the Iewes, He is not a Iewe that is one outward.—'Otes on Iude' (1633), p. 102.
- 1636 *Cakes on the hearth not turn'd*, certaine dow-bak'd *professors*, which have a tongue for *Gcneva*, and a heart for *Amsterdam*; their pretence for old England, and their project for New.—Humphrey Sydenham, Sermon *ad clerum* on 'The Foolish Prophet,' at Taunton in Somerset, June 22 (Lond., 1637, p. 271).
- 1714 Give warning to *professors*, that they beware of worldly-mindedness.—S. Sewall, 'Letter-Book,' 17 Aug. (N.E.D.)
[The N.E.D. also cites Rutherford (1634), Bunyan (1684), Scott (1814), &c.]
- 1748 Noah Hobart published at Boston 'A Serious Address to the members of the Episcopal Separation in New England : occasioned by Mr. Wetmore's Vindication of the *Professors* of the Church of England in Connecticut.'
- 1789 I should have thought [your bible] divine, if the practice of the most zealous *professor* had corresponded with his professions.—Letter purporting to be written by an Indian chief to his friend : *Am. Museum*, vi. 227.
- 1823 [He explained] his reasons for joining no Society of Christian *professors*.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Dec. 2 : from the *N.E. Galaxy*.
- 1826 Each *professor* seemed pertinaciously to exact that the peculiar usages of his church should be adopted.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 112.
- 1829 [The] good examples of some of its *professors* [*i.e.*, Roman Catholics.] *Mass. Spy*, Dec. 30.
- 1840 He had been a *professor* for a good many years, but he didn't seem then to have neither faith nor hope.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 36.

Professor—*contd.*

- 1845 The luxurious living of our rich *professors*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 54.
- 1850 A common "*professor*" was not to be encountered without emotion; but the minister, all in black, was a terrible bugbear.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 82 (Jan.).
- 1856 Prosecuting Attorney: "State, if you please, whether the defendant, to your knowledge, has ever followed any profession." "He has been a *professor* ever since I have known him." "Ah! a professor of what?" "A *professor* of religion."—*Id.*, xlvi. 208 (Aug.).
- 1869 I ain't a *professor* of religion. I guess I could be a *professor* if I chose to do as some folks do.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. 20.
- 1878 "Isn't he a Christian man?" "He's a *professor*, ef that's what you mean; but he ain't a practiser, an' there's the hull world betwixt them two sorts."—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 29.
- 1891 He got round her the eutest way a man can get round a woman—makin' of her talk religion to him, for he wasn't a *professor*.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 71 (Boston).

Prof. A college professor. Slang.

- 1838 The wise ones and the great,
Who guide the helm of state,
Let others praise;
For *Proffs* and Tutors too,
Who steer our big canoc,
Prepare their lays.
Yale Lit. Mag., iii. 144 (Feb.).
- 1855 See PONY. (*Id.*, xx. 188.)

Projectin' Projectin'. Experimenting; playing tricks or experiments in fun or in mischief.

- 1820 A man who goes into the woods, as one of those veterans observed to me, has a heap of little fixens to study out, and a great deal of *projecting* to do, as well as hard work.—Hall 'Letters from the West,' p. 290 (Lond.).
- 1845 He was at once convinced that the boys had been "*projectin*" with him.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 29.
- 1845 You see what comes of your *projectin'* about town, when you ought to be gwine home.—*Id.*, p. 107.
- 1845 I'll blow 'em all to everlastin' thunderation, if they come a *projectin'* about me.—*Id.*, p. 181.
- 1848 "Will you have black or green tea?" ses he. I didn't know whether he was *projectin* with me or not, so ses I, "I want a cup of tea. plain tea, without no fancy colerin about it."—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 62.
- 1848 'Bout this time a Miss Nancy sort of a fellow, what's some relation to the governor, comes *projectin* about among the gipseys.—*Id.*, p. 101.
- 1856 Nex mornin' airly I goes down to the mash [marsh], an' while *proqucin* round I got a shot at some black ducks.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 433 (Oct.).

Propaganda. A scheme for enlightening people concerning politics or other matters.

1800 We have thrown some useful light upon the Illuminati of Connecticut and Massachusetts, and lately upon a similar *propaganda* in Delaware State.—*The Aurora*, Phila., April 17.

Pro-rate. To distribute pro rata.

1860 Mr. Bragg: "[This amendment] requires this company to *pro-rate* passenger fare with all railroad companies, &c." Mr. Cameron: "As to that portion of the amendment in relation to *pro-rating* the fare, we do not care about it."—U.S. Senate, Dec. 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 180/1.

1864 Webster, 1867, 1881, *Chicago Times*. (N.E.D.)

Pro-slave, Pro-slavery. Interested on behalf of slavery.

1843 In the midst of grossest *pro-slavery* action, they are full of anti-slavery sentiment.—J. G. Whittier, 'Prose Works,' iii. 106 (1889, N.E.D.).

1856 I tell you I'm *pro-slave*.—L. W. Spring, 'Kansas,' p. 48. (1885, N.E.D.)

1858 The *Pro-slavers* all went home.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 29, p. 6/4. (N.E.D.)

1862 *Pro-slavery* men seem to suppose that the Ruler of the universe is a *pro-slavery* Being; but, if I have not mistaken Him greatly, He is at least a gradual emancipationist.—Mr. B. F. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, May 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1919/2.

1862 Down in the valley [of Virginia] they are as *pro-slavery* as they are on the sea-coast.—The same, July 1: *Id.*, p. 3038/3.

1863 Its pernicious *pro-slavery* influence [that of the West Point Academy] is felt in every department of the Government.—Mr. James H. Lane of Kas., U.S. Senate, Jan. 15: *Id.*, p. 329/1.

Prospect, Prospecting. To prospect is to examine land, primarily with a view of locating a mining claim.

1845 Nearly all the successful miners commenced with pick and spade, *prospecting*, i.e., turning up the surface of the hills for signs of mineral.—St. Louis *Reveille*, Aug. 18.

1848 Two or three men with a bucket, a rope, a pick-axe, and a portable windlass. . . . [This is] a *prospecting* party.—*N.Y. Lit. World*, June 3 (Bartlett).

1850 He had been on a "*prospecting*" tour, or examining the deep canons of the rivers and ravines for a suitable place to dig.—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 73 (N.Y.).

1853 We were to spend a month in the timber, to *prospect*, as they would say nowadays.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 56.

1860 Miners do not like to branch out *prospecting* at present, but many of my companions intend organizing for a *prospecting* tour during the coming spring.—*Oregon Argus*, Sept. 15.

Prospect, Prospecting—*contd.*

1862 See Appendix XIV.

1880 It was here that I first heard the word "*prospecting*" used. At first I could not understand what Potter meant by the term, but I listened patiently until I discovered its meaning. When gold was first discovered in California, and any one went out searching for new placers, they would say, he has gone to hunt for new gold diggings. But as this... had to be so often repeated, some practical man called the whole process "*prospecting*." The new word was universally adopted.—P. H. Burnett, 'Recoll.,' p. 271.

1907 Those who, in *prospecting* the future of the Catholic organization, debate, &c.—*Church Standard* (Phila.), Aug. 10.

Protracted meeting. A revivalistic meeting extending over several days or weeks.

1835 Mr. Hall advised a *protracted meeting* for four days.—Andrew Reed, 'Journey in N. America,' i. 185.

1837 The origin of *protracted meetings* is the same with the camp meetings of the Methodists. The Methodists gained bravely by the camp-meeting, and the orthodox, fearful of their increase, met them, in the *protracted meeting*, on their own ground.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 353 (April).

1842 *Protracted Meetings.* Walter Scott of Cincinnati and Thomas Taylor of this city will hold a series of *protracted meetings*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 19.

[1850 He was a well-meaning, half-educated, and uncommonly "*protracted*" preacher.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 82 (July)].

1852 I have been at the Methodists' meeting many a time, and have followed up their *protracted meetings*.—H. C. Kimball, at the Mormon Tabernacle, July 11: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 35.

1854 Did you hear this at any *protracted meeting* of Presbyterians?—J. M. Grant, the same, Dec. 17: *id.*, ii. 231.

1855 It's a gentleman that calculates to hold a *protracted meeten* here tonight.—Haliburton, 'Nature and Human Nature,' i. 2. (N.E.D.)

1857 I went to a *protracted meeting*, and took a load of persons with me.... During this time of going to the *protracted meeting*, I had firewood to cut, &c.—Geo. A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 105.

1863 A *protracted meeting* is being held in the Methodist church every evening this week.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, March 19.

1908 We went home feelin' like we'd been through a big *protracted meetin'* and got religion over again.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 24.

Pshaw. See SHAW.

- Pucker.** A condition of annoyance and difficulty. The N.E.D. cites Richardson (1741), and M. Edgeworth (1801).
- 1825 Miriam [was] in a plaguy *pucker*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 202.
- 1826 My wife will be in a fine *pucker* when she finds this sum is exhausted.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 1: from the *Richmond Family Visitor*.
- 1837 A terrier dog in a *pucker* is a good study for anger.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 124.
- 1837 And so, friend, I was in what thee call a *pucker*, not knowing what to do.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' ii. 208.
- 1839 You must make all allowance for my being in such a *pucker*.—'Major Jack on a Whaler': *Havana (N.Y) Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1847 If I am delayed, Blair and Rives will get in a *pucker*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 15.
- Puckery.** Full of small tucks or puckers.
- 1830 I didn't like the set of the shoulders, they were so dreadful *puckery*; but the man said it was alright.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 10.
- Puke.** A Missourian. See 1858.
- 1838 The suckers of Illinoy, the *pukes* of Missouri, and the corn-crackers of Virginia.—Haliburton, 'The Clockmaker,' ii. 289. (N.E.D.)
- 1838 They anticipated a brush with the long-haired "*pukes*,"—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 85 (N.Y.).
- 1843 [He said to the Sheriff:] you damned infernal *puke*, we'll learn you to come here and interrupt gentlemen.—Address by Joseph Smith at Nauvoo, Ill., June 30: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 168.
- 1843 [There was] a small chance of *Pukes* from beyond the father of floods.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 47.
- 1845 See Appendix XV.
- 1845 If I could have a—what do they call us Missourians?—no doubt I should [be] at once relieved.—*St. Louis Reveille*, Sept. 1.
- 1852 Sundry "Hoosiers," "Buckeyes," "Suckers," "*Pukes*," and "Wolvereens," all wide awake, and ready for business.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxix. 344 (April).
- 1856 You can search the house, but as for this *puke* of a Missourian, he shall not come in.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 205 (1857).
- 1857 See PLUG-UGLY.
- 1858 Early Californians christened as "*Pukes*" the imigrants from Missouri, declaring that they had been vomited forth from that prolific state.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 132 (1867).
- Pull.** A jest. Local.
- 1817 Our Jehu was a butt of wit and raillery for every one he met on the road; to use a Georgian phrase, every man, woman, and child that he passed had a *pull* at him.—*Mass. Spy*, May 21.

- Pull.** An advantage arising from influence, usually political.
- 1889 B had a "pull" on the Board, and A had none.—*Christian Union*, N.Y., Jan. 17. (N.E.D.)
- 1910 To the rank favoritism in the Medical Corps, the *Evening Post* has frequently called attention. Some of its officers are sent to the Philippines out of order, so that those with "pulls" may remain in the United States.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 10.

Pull foot. To be off in haste.

- 1825 Yah! how [the Indians] *pulled foot*, when they seed us comin'. Most off the handle, some of the tribe, I guess.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 107.
- 1831 Jerry *pulled foot* for home like a streak of lightning.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 142 (1860).
- 1834 I streaked it out of school, and *pulled foot* for home as fast as I could go.—*Id.*, p. 29.
- 1837 He had *pulled foot* for Baltimore, and sold the rest of his tooth powder.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, March 6.

Pull up stakes. To change one's place of settlement,

- 1830 Our departed emigrants *pulled up stakes*, and returned post haste to the good old town of Springfield.—*Mass. Spy.*, Dec. 15.
- 1866 Four times he had "*pulled up stakes*," and marched still deeper into the forest.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 359.

Pull wool (over one's eyes). To trick, to deceive.

- 1842 General! look sharp, or they'll *pull wool* over your eyes yet.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 29.
- 1843 The attempt of Mr. Darby to "*pull the wool*" over the eyes of the editor of the *Republican* proves clearly, &c.—*Missouri Reporter*, St. Louis, April 1.
- 1847 In short, I'm up to the whole "*wool pulling*" system.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 16.
- 1850 Our neighbor across the river need not attempt to *pull wool* or fur over our eyes.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 151.
- 1854 If Reuben hasn't *pulled wool* over your eyes, then I'm no conjurer.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 95 (Jan.).
- 1856 [Some women will] come it over a fellow, and play the gum game on 'im, and *pull the wool* over his eyes.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 149.
- 1858 Some may think [it is all right] if they can only *pull the wool* over the Bishop's eyes. Orson Hyde in the Mormon Tabernacle, Jan. 3: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 157.
- 1861 We *pulled the wool* over their eyes by making them think we only intended to stay in the camp six days.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 161 (1863).
- 1862 You may love the niggers, but don't try to *pull the wool* over white folks' eyes.—'Major Jack Downing,' June 8.

Pull-back. A reverse, a set-back. Eng. examples, 1591-1742, (N.E.D.). Now dial.

1833 This ere sickness of the President has been a bad *pull-back* to us.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 212 (1860).

Pulque. See quotations; also *Notes and Queries*, 9 S. ix. 226.

1693 The Viceroy Commanded, That the Indian Natives should not...consume any Mays in the making of a Drink common among them, called *Pulche*.—*London Gaz.*, No. 2848. (N.E.D.)

1796 *Pulque* is the usual wine or beer of the Mexicans, made of the fermented juice of the Maguei.—Morse, 'Am. Geog.,' i. 729 (*id.*).

1847 The fermented liquor, called *pulque*, is an excellent beer, though somewhat intoxicating. The muscal, or magney brandy, is distilled from the *pulque*.—'Life of Benj. Lundy,' p. 71 (Phila.).

1910 See SPANG.

Pummy. The pulp of ground apples. Dial.

1850 Before his friends could come to his relief, I had beaten him to a *pummy*.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 181 (Phila.).

Pump-borers. Precise meaning now uncertain.

1844 [And so the Henry Clay men] go on with their Bears, *pump-borers*, coons, virgin heifers, crocodiles, defaulters, and all sorts of both animals and men, in order to get up a drunken crowd...Hackneyed office-hunters, ignorant buffoons, and vulgar songsters, under the trite appellation of *pump-borers*, knife-grinders, and Bear the blacksmith.—Mr. Wentworth of Ill., House of Repr., April: *Cong. Globe*, p. 513, App.

Pumpkin-heads. Round-heads.

1781 Newhaven is celebrated for having given the name of *punkin-heads* to all the New Englanders.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 196. (N.E.D.)

Pumpkin-seeds. Perch or bream.

1854 "Chequits" and sea-bass, blackfish, long clams, "*pumpkin-seeds*," and an accidental eel, all contribute [to the chowder].—*Putnam's Mag.*, iii. 363 (April).

1862 —lazy as the bream,

Whose on'y business is to head up-stream.

(We call 'em *punkin-seed*.) 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd S., No. 2.

Puncheon. See quotations.

a.1790 The earth was often the only floor, but more commonly the floor was made of *puncheons*, or slabs split from logs, hewed smooth on the upper side, and resting bedded upon poles raised above ground. The loft or attic story sometimes had a *puncheon floor*, and a rude ladder in one corner served as a stairway.—Monette, 'History of the Mississippi Valley,' ii. 6 (N.Y., 1848).

Puncheon—*contd.*

- 1807 A floor of *puncheons* or split plank [was] laid, and covered with grass and clay.—P. Gass, 'Journal,' 61. (N.E.D.)
- 1829 Their "*puncheon*" shutters, for glass they had none, excluded the light.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 11 (Boston).
- 1838 The floor is constructed of short, thick planks, *technically* termed "*puncheons*," which are confined by wooden pins.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 189 (N.Y.).
- 1840 The house was constructed of logs, and the floor was of *puncheons*; a term, which, in Georgia, means split logs, with their faces a little smoothed with the axe or hatchet.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 12.
- 1848 See CATS AND CLAY.

Pung. An extemporized one-horse sled or wagon. See 1851.

- 1798 Roxbury . . . that fam'd town which sends to Boston mart The gliding *Tom Pung* and the rattling cart.
'Farmer's Museum' (N.E.D.).
- 1834 A *pung* drove up to the toll-gate.—'Writings,' of R. C. Sands, ii. 152. (N.Y.)
- 1835 The loaded sleigh and the springing *pung*.—*Knick. Mag.*, vi. 442 (Nov.).
- 1836 There has been a flitter of snow this week [in Washington], and the *pungs*, the crates, the sleds, sledges, sleighs, and substitutes would much amuse you to look upon. . . . The driver of a *pung* had a negro boy by his side.—*Boston Pearl*, March 12.
- 1840 I drove on, . . . sitting on top of the mail-bags, which were piled in an uncovered *pung*.—Longfellow, 'Life' (1891), i. 359. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 *Pungs* of butter, oats, mutton, defiled along.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 116.
- 1850 I've looked on frozen carcasses of babies, piled up, like venison, on a hunter's *pung*.—The same, 'Philo.,' p. 164.
- 1851 These were sledges or *pungs*, coarsely framed of split saplings, and surmounted with a large crockery-crate.—The same, 'Margaret,' p. 174 (Bartlett).
- 1857 Broadway is full of sleighs, and "cutters," and "*pungs*," and all snow vehicles.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 103 (Jan.).
- 1858 Two young "suckers" came out of the inn, and jumped into a one-horse *pung* wagon, thick with mud.—*Id.*, lii 539.
- 1907 (Maine). Also a "*woods-pung*." 'Dialect Notes,' iii. 249.

Punk, punky. Punk is the same as "touchwood."

- a.1707 As the East-Indians use Moxa [in blistering] so these burn with *Punk*, which is the inward Part of the Exerescence or Exuberance of Oak.—J. Clayton, 'Virginia,' in *Phil. Trans.* xli. 149. (N.E.D.)
- 1789 Their proneness to fight like *punk*, whenever you attempt to steal their victuals.—*Am. Museum*, v. 298.

Punk, punky—*contd.*

- 1792 [The Indians] raised a blister by burning *punk* or touchwood on the skin.—J. Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 94.
- 1803 Even in New England there is some timber so *punky* that the French saw might easily pass through it, particularly the little State of Rhode Island.—*The Balance*, March 8, p. 75.
- 1821 They made a fire with the aid of a flint and some *punk*: a substance formed by a partial decomposition of the heart of the maple tree; which easily catches, and long retains, even the slightest spark.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 197.
- 1876 The fire is *punky*, and only smokes.—H. Bushnell, 'Life and Letters' (1880), p. 209. (N.E.D.)

Puny. Weak in body for the time being.

- 1866 Me and him like to have fit, and perhaps would, if I hadn't been *puny*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 170.
- 1904 She got so *puny*, she spit up ever' thing she atc.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 163.

Pupelo. A drink distilled from cider.

- 1806 Do you not deny to the poor labourer the common refreshment of a little toddy, and stint him with a glass of *pupelo*?—*Salem Register*, April 7.
- 1851 There were five distilleries for the manufacture of cider-brandy, or what was familiarly known as *pupelo*.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' ch. 7. (N.E.D.)

Push. A combination of low politicians. The term is derived from Australia, where it is applied to gangs of rowdies and young criminals. See a paper on "Larrikins" in the *Church Times*, Sept. 11, 1908. For Australian examples, 1884-1902, see N.E.D., s.v. *PUSH*, sb. 9.

Pusley, Pussley. Purslane, a troublesome weed. The phrase "meaner'n pusley," is common in some parts of the U.S.

- 1854 I flourish, professionally, like *pussley* in a deserted pig pasture.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 14.
- 1861 When boiled [it] is a most delicious and wholesome vegetable, the leaves being like spinach, and the branches in taste resembling sea-kale. In prairie settlements *pussley* is always a standing dish.—N. A. Woods, 'Prince of Wales in Canada and the U.S.,' p. 309. (N.E.D.)
- 1878 It's *meaner'n pusley* to keep you here, and be a livin' on your int'rest money.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 30.

Put one through. To conduct one through an enterprise, a course of study, &c. To put anything through is to carry it to a successful issue.

- 1847 "Elder," says I, "I've come down to have you *put me through*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxx. 563 (Dec.).
- 1852 I rayther think she's sickly, but I shall *put her through* for what she's worth.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' ch. xxxi. (N.E.D.)
- 1854 First Thatcher, then Hadley, then Larned and Prex Each *put our class through* in succession. Presentation Day Songs, June 14: Hall, 'College Words.'

Put one through—*contd.*

- 1854 That's Tutor. . . he'll most likely *put you through* in Latin.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx, 104.
- 1858 [It was he] whose enterprise proposed, and whose energy *put through*, the instituting of the Y.L.M.—*Id.*, xxiii, 332.
- 1858 In a word, I would. in the plebeian, but expressive phrase, "*put him through*" all the material part of life.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast Table,' ch. 3.
- 1858 That was the way he "*put her through.*"—O. W. Holmes, 'The One-Hoss Shay.'
- 1861 Tell him when he starts to *put it through*—not to be writing or telegraphing back here, but to *put it through.*—Letter of President Lincoln to Secretary Cameron, June 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 292/2.
- 1862 I would like to express to this Administration the wish that when they had started they "*put it through.*"—Mr. Daniel Clark of New Hampshire, U.S. Senate, Jan. 13: *id.*, p. 292/2.
- 1862 I'll take keer of the old gentleman, and *put him through*, jest'z if he was my own father.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' pp. 196-7 (N.Y., 1876).

Put out. To go out, to go forth.

- 1843 As my wife's father had considerable land on Blue Fox River, I says one day to Nancy, "I dad, spose we *put out* and live there."—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 172 (Bartlett).
- 1849 [He] picked up three mules for a mere song, and the next day *put out* for the Platte.—Ruxton, 'Life in the Far West,' p. 66.

Q

Quack. A degenerate kind of grass.

- 1909 "I never knew anybody to plant anything here but once," he said. "He put in potatoes, but he mowed the patch for hay. It wasn't first class hay—*quack* never is, and this wasn't even decent *quack*. But it was worth more than any potatoes he could have dug. I shouldn't be surprised to see you get tired of fighting *quack* and make a meadow of it, as he did."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 11.

Quackle. To choke. Now dial. in England and probably obsolete in the U.S.

- 1622 The drinke or something in the cup *quackled* him.—S. Ward, 'Woe to Drunkards' (1627) 22. (N.E.D.)
- 1655 Thou art almost *quackled* with thy tears.—Gurnall, 'Christian in Armour' (1665), i. 72. (N.E.D.)
- 1788 [I have seen the preacher] use the contents [of his snuff-box] with such extravagance as to be almost *quackled.*—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 21.

Quahaug. The round clam, *Venus mercenaria*.

- 1643 Roger Williams mentions the *poquauhock*. (N.E.D.)
 1781 The oysters, clams, *quahogs*, lobsters, crabs, and fish are innumerable.—Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 262 (Lond.).
 1850 He was found clear gone in his chair, after a hearty dinner of eels and *quahaugs*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Money-penny,' p. 36 (N.Y.).
 1881 So seemingly impregnable a victim [of the star-fish] is the *quahaug*.—*Scribner's Mag.*, xxii. 656. (N.E.D.)

Quail. A girl student.

- 1859 [The Freshman] heareth of "*Quails*," he dresseth himself in fine linen, he seeketh to flirt with ye "*quails*," but they know him not.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiv. 291.
 1909 The "*quails*" have been barred at Wesleyan—"quails" is the Middletown University's name for her "co-eds"—and whether one regards coeducation approvingly or otherwise, there is food for reflection in the bitter warfare that has been waged against girl students at Wesleyan for a decade.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 11.

Quaker city. Philadelphia.

- 1844 The sumptuous Corinthian pillars [of Girard college] each one costing a sum that would have endowed a professorship, are the admiration of beholders, and the boast of the *Quaker City*.—Mr. Robert Dale Owen of Ind., April 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 710.

Quaker guns. Wooden dummies shaped like cannon.

- 1809 A formidable battery of *quaker guns*.—W. Irving, 'The Knickerbockers' (1820), iii. 240. (N.E.D.)
 1830 Our six iron six-pounders and six *quakers* (wooden guns), were lying down together in the hold.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 7.
 1862 [They] found that they had been awed by a few *quaker guns*—logs of wood in position, and so painted as to resemble cannon.—J. B. Jones, 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary,' i. 113 (Phila., 1866).
 1863 [It was said] that we had men at the head of the Army who were...too dilatory in attempting to advance, allowing the enemy to deter them from making attacks by the exhibition of "*quaker guns*" and other artful contrivances.—Mr. William Allen of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 85/3, App.

Qualify. To take the necessary oath, provide sureties, &c., before assuming a public office.

- 1857 The new Auditor of the Treasury...*qualified*, and entered upon the duties of his office.—*The Sun*, Balt., Oct. 1 (Bartlett).

Quid, quidism. The Quids were a third party (*tertium quid*) opposed to Madison's administration.

- 1805 Those called the third party, or *Quids*.—Thomas Jefferson, 'Writings' (1830), iv. 45. (N.E.D.)
- 1805 A writer in the last *Quid* paper.—*Intelligencer*, Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 17.
- 1805 The *Quids*, or Third Party, boast of the blackguard Bullies they had provided . . . to insult and abuse persons offering votes contrary to their wishes.—*Id.*, Sept. 17.
- 1805 The Yeomanry of Pennsylvania [will] give Federalism, *Quidism*, and all their allies, a total overthrow.—*Id.*, Oct. 29.
- 1806 The Jacobins, Democrats, *Quids*, and Randolphites.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 28.
- 1807 Let faithless Traitors, and Apostate *Quids*,
Tories of old and sullen angry Feds,
Unite their Interests in one common Cause,
To tread down Virtue, Liberty, and Laws.
Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer, Jan. 6.
- 1807 The Feds, and the little band of *Quids*, in opposition.—Tho. Jefferson to Gov. Claiborne of Miss., Feb. 3.
- 1807 See STEADY HABITS.
- 1807 The name *Quid* was first used in Pennsylvania, to denote a certain party in politics. I wish some one would explain its origin and import.—"Mentor" in *The Balance*, March 24, p. 90.
- 1807 The leaders of the faction denominated *Quid* or Lewisite.—Dewitt Clinton in the *Albany Register: The Balance*, April 14, p. 116.
- 1812 The triangular war must be the idea of the Anglo-men and malcontents, in other words the federalists and *quids*.—Tho. Jefferson to James Madison, May 30.

Quilting-bee. A social quilt-making.

- 1825 Whenever a young she-yankee is "laying out" for a husband, she gives what is called a "*Quilting Frolick*."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 54.
- 1832 The females have . . . meetings called "*quilting bees*," when many assemble to work for one, in padding or quilting bed coverings or comforters.—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Universal Geography,' p. 107 (Boston).
- 1835 He informed us that his wife had got a number of her neighbours with her for a "*quilting frolic*."—C. J. Latrobe, 'The Rambler in N. America,' i. 135 (Lond.).

Quirl, quirked. A quirl is a tangle; to quirl, to involve in a tangle.

- 1787 She thought there was something alive in her side, for she said she plainly perceived a tickling and *quirling* in it . . . She next complained of a *quirling* pain, that would last three or four hours with the utmost violence . . . The *quirling* pain was gone, her swallow was gone also.—*Am. Museum*, ii. 571, 574.

Quirl, quirled—*contd.*

1830 We come out of the [canal] lock, all *quirled* up in a h—l of a twist.—*Northern Watchman*, Nov. 30 (Troy, N.Y.).

1885 The crooks and *querls* of the branches on the floor.—*Harper's Mag.*, lxx. 219. (N.E.D.)

Quirt. A whip. See quotation. 1853.

1851 The young hunter laid his *quirt* to the flanks of the mustang.—Mayne Reid, 'The Scalp-Hunters,' ch. xxxi. (N.E.D.)

1853 The "*quirt*," with its long heavy lash of knotted raw-hide.—C. W. Webber, 'Tales of the Southern Border,' p. 23 (Phila.).

* * * See also Appendix XXIV.

Quit. This word, meaning to leave a place, is commoner in America, than in England. In the sense of leaving off doing anything, it seems to belong to the U.S. (O quit! Quit that!)

1863 If there is to be no conciliation, we might as well *quit* the bill at once.—Mr. John B. Henderson of Mo., U.S. Senate, Jan. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 613/2.

1870 The elders at Nauvoo *quit* preaching about religion.—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 127 (Phila., &c.).

1882 The dog-catchers have *quit* going their rounds.—'Texas Siftings,' p. 62. (N.E.D.)

Quizzism. The art of quizzing. Obsolete.

1810 "*Quizzism*" is certainly a very good-looking word, and may in time become a popular one. . . . We will suppose that the Rev. Dr. Bentley, editor of the *Essex Register*, is the inventor of *quizzism*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 12.

R

Rabble-rouser. A demagogue. Sydney Smith in 1802 uses the phrase "rabble-rousing words." (N.E.D.)

1843 Nothing surpasses the munificent promises of a genuine *rabble-rouser*, just before an election.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 211.

a.1905 (Arkansas.) 'Dialect Notes,' iii. 152.

Rack, n. and v. See quotation 1832. The word occurs in Blundevil (1580) and in Markham (1607). (N.E.D.)

1796 The favourite gaits which all their horses are taught [in Virginia] are a pace and a *wrack*. . . . In the *wrack*, the horse gallops with his fore feet, and trots with those behind.—Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' p. 107 (Lond., 1799).

1816 At Louisa I bought a new horse,—one of your capital *rack-ing* ponies, as they are yeleft.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 103 (N.Y.).

1817 The horses generally pace or "*rack*," as it is called, being taught that mode of going in their breaking.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 61 (Phila.).

Rack, n. and v.—contd.

- 1832 The Americans. . . like a horse to have a shambling sort of half trot, half canter, which they judiciously call a *rack*.—Frances A. Kemble, 'Girlhood,' iii. 257. (N.E.D.)
- 1845 See Appendix II.
- 1888 [The horse] is very affectionate, and he *racks* a mile inside of three minutes.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 187

Racks, The. See quotation.

- 1832 The "*Racks*," so called, along the [Hudson] river, were Dutch names for Reaches. Thus, Martelaers Rack meant the Martyr's reach or struggling place; Lange Rack was Long Reach; and Klauver Rack, Clover Reach, &c.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 27.

Raft. An accidental accumulation of logs and driftwood.

- 1802 The upper *raft* is of considerable magnitude, and covered with grass and other herbage, with some bushes.—A. Ellicott, 'Journal' (1803) p. 189.
- 1829 The professed object of our walk was to see one of those curious collections of logs, called *rafts*, which are formed by the trunks of trees brought down by the freshes in the rainy season.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 382.
- 1837 This is a collection of logs, the most of them floating, lying entirely across the channel, and is 180 feet long and 170 feet wide. It is upheld, as it was doubtless formed, by a few trees which have been uprooted and precipitated into the channel in consequence of the abrasion of the banks by the annual floods. [Other rafts are 325 by 220; 600 by 175, &c.]—Report of Capt. Guion, Jan. 17: *Cong. Globe*, 1842, p. 345, App.
- 1848 Appropriations. . . for the removal of the great *raft* and other obstructions to the navigation of Red River.—Mr. Johnson of La., U.S. Senate, July 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 897.
- 1860 Annually a large amount of timber floats down the Red River; and from the character of the stream it collects in *rafts*, and the *raft* constantly extends higher and higher above each obstruction which is made.—Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, the same, June 23: *id.*, p. 3261.
- 1861 The cost of transportation across the few miles of this [Red River] *raft* is nearly as much as it would be from New Orleans to Liverpool.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, U.S. Senate, Jan. 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 538/2. "Five times as much," added Mr. Benjamin of Louisiana.
- Raft.** A quantity of fowls flying together; a number of persons.
- 1718 Raft-fowl includes all the sorts of small Ducks and Teal that go in *Rafts* along the Shoar.—Lawson, 'Carolina,' p. 150. (N.E.D.)
- 1833 Binny, and Everett, and Gallatin, and a *raft* more of such kinder fellows.—Major Downing, 'Letters' (1835), p. 88. (N.E.D.)
- 1845 "I've bought out the hull grocery," sings out Jake Miller, standin' in cap'n Todd's store with a hull *raft* o' fellers.—*St. Louis Reville*, Sept. 1.

Raft—*contd.*

- 1856 [She] was a sick-lookin' woman, with a whole *raft* of young ones squalling round her.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' p. 210 (Bartlett).
- 1872 She's got a whole *raft* of children now.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 9.

Rag-time. Negro music of an uproarious kind.

- 1901 The coon-song, with its *rag-time* accompaniment.—*Sage Leaf*, April 6. (N.E.D.)
- 1911 The Beethoven Society of Comfortville Relegated *Ragtime* to Its Proper Place and Reformed Hymn Books.—Heading of a paper in *N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 2.

Railroad, v. To expedite, to hurry along.

- 1888 It is not good legislation to *railroad* bills through the house, without having full and intelligent discussion.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).
- 1898 This process of *railroading* a pupil through school.—*Educ. Review*, xv. 465. (N.E.D.)
- 1909 But even a railroad president is entitled to justice in court, and the impression is gaining ground that the effort is to "railroad" Mr. Calloun to prison at any cost.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, May 31.

Raise. To rear children or animals; to grow plants, crops, or vegetables.

- 1601 France . . . can *raise* no good Sailors.—R. Jolmsen, 'Kingdom and Commonwealth' (1603), p. 89. (N.E.D.)
- 1632 Directions . . . when to *raise up* goslings.—Massinger, 'The City Madam,' ii. 2. (*Id.*)
- 1774 Fifty Dollars per head will readily be given for any number of Mules that may be *raised* within this Colony.—*Newport Mercury*, May 16.
- 1775 [The Chickasaw Indians] *raise* abundance of small cattle, hogs, turkeys, &c.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 93.
- 1782 Said Mare was *raised* by the subscriber, but was never measured.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Aug. 6.
- 1786 Negroes and Bacon. To be sold, several likely healthy Negro Girls, from 12 to 17 Years of Age, for Cash, Wet Goods, or reasonable Credit. They have been *raised* in the country, and are sold for no fault. Also a few Hams and Shoulders of Bacon.—*Id.*, Jan. 3.
- 1789 The soil I chuse for *raising* Hemp is a light rich mould.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., April 25.
- 1789 I *raised* [the hogs], and thought, and still think, that I had the best right to them.—*Maryland Journal*, Nov. 13.
- 1789 "Remarks on *raising* calves without new milk." were addressed by Mr. Geo. Logan of Stanton to the Philadelphia county agricultural society.—*Am. Museum*, vi. 102.
- 1789 Out of the same original stock, the Germans who are settled in Pennsylvania *raise* large and heavy horses; the Irish *raise* such as are much lighter and smaller.—*Id.*, vi. 279.

Raise—*contd.*

- 1793 The famous Narragansett Pacing Horse, *raised* by Governor Potter of Southkingston, state of Rhodeisland.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 2. [About this time it was not uncommon to compress local names into one word:—Longisland, Newengland, Newyork, Northcarolina, Westindies, &c. The practice is denounced in the *Analectic Magazine*, v. 233 (Philadelphia, March, 1815) in a review of Lewis and Clarke's 'Travels.' Among the instances there given are Yellowstone River, Grapevines, Chokeycherries, Newyork, Newlondon, Neworleans, and Longisland.]
- 1798 From this one, this single ewe,
Full fifty comely sheep I *raised*.
W. Wordsworth, 'Last of the Flock.' (N.E.D.)
- 1799 A planter who *raises* 20,000 weight of tobacco.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 19.
- 1800 The ox was *raised* in Morris County, Newjersey, by Mr. Fish.—*Mass. Spy*, June 25.
- 1803 One Kernel of Rye, *raised* in the north part of Southampton, produced 148 Straws and 10656 Kernels of Rye.—*Id.*, Aug. 24.
- 1810 I learn that from hence down the Ohio a good deal of cotton was *raised*.—F. Cuming, 'Tour,' p. 135.
- 1817 I was *raised*, as they say in Virginia, among the mountains of the North.—Jas. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 102.
- 1826 The importance of *raising* Bees is not generally appreciated.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 9.
- 1827 The men [were] cultivating corn and *raising* beef and pork in abundance.—*Id.*, July 4.
- 1830 "You *raised* that fine pair of belles, then, as they say at the South?" "I finished them, sir."—Robt. C. Sands, in *The Talisman*, p. 138 (N.Y.).
- 1833 See FIXINGS.
- 1833 They don't *raise* such humans in the Old Dominion.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 91.
- 1838 50 Dollars Reward will be given for Delia, a mulatto woman, about 48 years of age, if apprehended north of the state of Maryland, and so secured that I may get her again. She was *raised* by the late Mrs. Hannah Brent of Fauquier, County Va., and purchased of the executor of the late Eppa Hunton, deceased.—Advt. in *Washington Intelligencer*, March 5: Buckingham, 'America,' i. 281.
- 1842 At that day a child at seven years of age, that could not spin, was set down as not worth *raising*.—Mr. Snyder of Pa., House of Repr., June 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 712, App.
- 1842 How in the deuce does Lancaster *raise* so many smart humans?—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 20.
- 1848 I was hatched in Washington County, Varmount, and *raised* all about the Green Mountings thereaway.—Burton 'Waggeries,' p. 68 (Phila.).

Raise—*contd.*

- 1848 "Where was you *raised* old feller?" "*Raised?*" "Yes, *raised*,—fotched up. You was fotched up somewhere, I reckon."—*Id.*, p. 88.
- 1850 One man, who *raised* the largest cucumbers, and had the most satisfactory children, and drove the prettiest carry-all.—Sylvester Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 46.
- Raise** *cain*. To make trouble generally. The phrase admits of variation. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xi. 65, 137, 237, on RAISE HAMLET.
- 1803 They are all in a fever, because the Republicans don't *raise Hell* and burn the City.—*The Balance*, Feb. 1, p. 59: from the *Phoenix*, Providence.
- 1840 Why have we every reason to believe that Adam and Eve were both rowdies? Because Eve *raised* old Harry, and they both *raised Cain*.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, May 2.
- 1840 Why were our first parents like sugar planters? Because they *raised Cain*.—*Cincinnati Times*, May.
- 1848 They will feel that they have been *raising Cain* and breaking things.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 247.
- 1852 As Miss Ophelia phrased it [Topsy was] "*raising Cain*" generally.—'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' ch. xx. (N.E.D.)
- 1862 It would *raise old Ned* if she were to find K. here.—*Knick. Mag.*, lix. 458.
- 1862 Had Adam been a modern, there would have been a hired girl in Paradise, to look after little Abel, and *raise Cain*.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, June 28.
- 1869 Ef I don't work hard enough now, I'd like to know, without havin' a boy raound *raisin' ginerel Cain*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch 10.
- 1869 I expect Susy's boys 'll be *raising Cain* round the house.—*Id.*, ch. 20.
- 1888 The suggestion has *raised merry Cain* in the bosoms of the indignant saleswomen. — *Long Branch News*, Ap. 7 (Farmer).
- 1901 For the first few days out of St. Thomas, the Yorktown *raised Cain*, because she had a heavy following sea which made her roll very badly.—R. D. Evans, 'A Sailor's Log,' p. 245.
- Raise** a *debt*. To "lift" it; to pay it off
- 1884 A disappointed *raiser* of church debts.—*Harper's Mag.*, June, p. 53. (N.E.D.)
- Raiser**. A grower, a planter.
- 1833 Your father, if I recollect, was a famous *tobacco raiser*.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 238.
- 1847 A *raiser* of huge melons and of pine.
Tennyson, 'The Princess,' p. 87. (N.E.D.)
- Raising**. A building by mutual help.
- 1769 This was proposed to a considerable number of inhabitants assembled at a *raising*.—*Boston Evening Post*, July 27.
- 1773 A large company was collected [at Wilton, N.H.] to *raise* a meeting-house.—*Newport Mercury*, Oct. 11.

Raising—*contd.*

- 1812 At the *raising* of a Court-House in Catskill, N.Y. [an accident happened.]—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 19.
- 1819 [They] were to assist at a bed-quilting he intended to have at his *raising*.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star*: *Mass. Spy*, May 12.

Rake-off. An unlawful profit.

- 1909 What need of more proof that the gardener's drifting to sea was a lie, and that the boatman was in the plot for a *rake-off* on the insurance?—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Ap. 22.
- 1910 Business is rotten. Everybody, from the office boy up, wants a *rake-off* or a tip.—*Living Church*, Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 10. p. 650.

Ralliance. Rallying together. Apparently a word of Thomas Jefferson's coinage.

- 1826 The good Old Dominion, the mother of us all, will become a centre of *ralliance* to the States whose youth she has instructed.—Tho. Jefferson, 'Works' (1859), ix. 509-10 ('Thoughts on Lotteries').

Rambunctious. A ludicrous word signifying a combination of disorder and ferocity, and admitting of variations. Bulwer-Lytton has *Rambustions*, 1853. (N.E.D.)

- 1847 [An old he-bar] is as *ramstuginous* an animal as a log-cabin loafer in the dog-days.—'A Swim for a Deer,' p. 120 (Phila.).
- 1851 The old lady bawled out, "There comes our *ramstuginous* little doctor."—"An Arkansas Doctor," p. 81.
- 1853 They might hurt you, if so be you happened to be *rambustical*.—"Life Scenes," p. 176.
- a.1854 Some men are as mild and peaceable as lambs, while others are as uproarious and *rambunctious* as tigers.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 120.
- 1856 He was a *rambunctious* old turnip.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 612 (Dec.).
- 1856 You *rambunctious* old wool-grower!—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 17.
- 1866 A plan was set on foot to procure a fierce and *rambunkshus* animal from the mountains of Hepsidam.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 54.
- 1876 After a while these *rambunctious* privates learned all about extra duty, half rations, and courts martial.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ii. 226 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1888 A large and *rambunctious* goat had taken up his abode in the cabin.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, March 2 (Farmer).

Ranche, Rancho. A hut; but more generally a farm.

- 1808 When we arrived at the *Ranche*, we soon had out a number of boys, who brought in the horse.—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi,' iii. 254. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 The nearest house... was a *rancho*, or cattle-farm, about three miles off.—R. H. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' p. 35 (*Id.*).

Rancho, Rancho—*contd.*

- 1846 An arroyo, or small rivulet fed by springs, runs through his *rancho*.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw in California,' p. 269 (Lond., 1849).
- 1847 [In Mexico] we set off at day-break, and went 21 miles to a *ranche*.—'Life of Benj. Lundy,' p. 58 (Phila.).
- 1847 We encamped for the night at a *ranche*, where we could nothing but goats' milk.—*Id.*, p. 127.
- 1847 The word *ranche* seems to be employed to designate sometimes a farm, and sometimes a farmhouse or hut; and *hacienda* to designate sometimes an estate or plantation, and sometimes the mansion-house upon an estate.—*Id.*, p. 159.
- 1850 Here we found another encampment of engineers, and hard by a *rancho* of a native.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 38 (N.Y.).
- 1855 [Some will ask,] But is buying a *rancho* embraced in your salvation?—Amasa Lyman at the Mormon Tabernacle, Dec. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 150.

Range. A series of "townships" ranging from north to south. Thus a description of land as in T 2 N, R 3 W means that it is in Township 2 North and Range 3 West of a certain meridian point.

- 1851 If I could only get the township and *range*, I'd make a cahoot business with old D.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' p. 37 (Phila.).

Rank. To outrank, to take precedence of.

- [1842 It won't be long before he fills the place of some one of the drones and cakes who now *outrank* him.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 1].
- [1855 Their vexation increases when they find my guests all *out-ranking* myself.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 532].
- 1860 I shall [submit my reasons], but not until other Senators are heard who *rank* me in age, experience, and wisdom.—Mr. Latham of California, U.S. Senate, Dec. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 27/3.
- 1861 I think there were six officers serving at the navy-yard with Commander Dahlgren; one or two *ranking* him, the others his juniors.—Mr. Henry M. Rice of Minnesota, the same, July 31: *id.*, p. 361/1.
- 1862 His two *ranking* officers were both gone.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 80.
- 1865 "That's right," politely observed Grant; "the President *ranks* us both."—*N.Y. Herald*, in *Morning Star*, May 27. (N.E.D.)
- 1884 Another remark from Bragg was followed by these words from Longstreet: "Yes, sir, you *rank* me, but you cannot cashier me."—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 223.
- 1885 Sherman inquired, "Are you going to call on him?" "No," I replied, "I am not making calls just now." "But I must," said Sherman, "for he *ranks* me."—Adm. Porter, 'Incidents,' p. 130.

Rank—*contd.*

- 1888 Assigning quarters according to rank goes on smoothly for a time, but occasionally an officer reports for duty who *rank*s every one.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 373.
- 1888 It was quite a *ranking* affair, when two full majors conducted the sides [for the buffalo hunt].—*Id.*, p. 610.
- 1899 The *ranking* lady had a sabre which her chief had received as a present.—The same, 'Boots and Saddles,' p. 137.
- 1901 Serjeant-Major Ross, the *ranking* man of the party.—W. Pittenger, 'Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 100.

Rare. Imperfectly cooked, underdone.

- 1655 A *rare* Egg any way drest is lightest of Digestion, a hard Egg is most rebellious.—Moufet and Bennet, 'Health's Improvement,' p. 137.
- 1823 Accommodations at Siasconset are hardly get-at-able, wood is a scarcity, wine a mystery, and a *rare* beefsteak a despaired-of treasure.—*Nantucket Inquirer*, Oct. 28.
- 1833 I'll trouble you for a slice of that venison,—take it *rare*, if you please.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 40.
- 1836 [Certain persons] in calling for boiled eggs, instead of ordering them to be done *rare*, order them to be boiled soft.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, April 19.
- 1836 Roast beef, and let it be *rare*, screamed another.—*Id.*, Nov. 7.
- 1840 Let your pork be *rare*, and your beefsteaks burnt up to a cinder.—Advice to "Helps," *Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, April 13.
- 1847 Touching the raw meat, our *rare* roast beef will serve instead.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 25 (Phila.).
- 1855 I hate a "skeeter" as I do the devil;
It is a very flying fly of evil.
You're dunned for ever by its bill of fare,
And fairly overdone, or done too *rare*.
Knicker. Mag., xlvi. 312.
- 1856 "Do you like your eggs done *rare*?" asked the landlady. I had never heard the word in my life, yet I answered, "Yes."—*Id.*, xlvii. 249 (March).
- 1859 The *rare* beefsteak and eggs disappear at a rate which would alarm any but boating men.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiv. 306.

Rare-ripe. Early or prematurely ripe.

- 1794 What *rare ripe* corn will you be able to save, to what I sent home last Spring?—Geo. Washington to Mr. Pearce, Aug. 17: 'Memoirs Long Island Hist. Soc.' (1889), iv. 103.
- 1819 When a boy, I was presented with a fine *rare-ripe* peach.—*Mass. Spy*, June 9.
- 1860 Brunette, with a *rare-ripe* flush in her cheeks.—O. W. Holmes, 'Elsie Venner,' p. 75. (N.E.D.)
- 1866 President Lincoln said of a precocious boy that "he was a *rare-ripe*."—Lowell, 'Biglow Papers,' Introduction.

- Rat.** A politician who deserts his party. The word was used by Earl Malmesbury in this sense in 1792, and this use may have originated with him.
- 1800 Pray sir, what is the meaning of the words, "*Rats, Rats, Rats,*" in your last *Centinel*? [It is explained as meaning those who, deserting an apparently sinking ship, resigned their offices.]—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 2.
- 1800 Two weeks later, appears a comical letter from "An Old *Rat-catcher*" to "William Duane, *Rat-catcher* to their Majesties the People of the U.S."
- 1800 We could tell some curious things of this federal *Rat* [Kittera].—*Id.*, Aug. 5.
- 1800 A great big *Rat*, John Lawrence, Esq., has resigned his seat as a senator from New-York in the Senate of the U.S.—*Id.*, Aug. 22.
- 1800 John Reed of Mass. is labelled as "Another, and a Black *Rat*."—*Id.*, Sept. 5.
- 1800 "Register of *Rats* Augmented" by 14 names.—*Id.*, Oct. 7.
- 1800 "Another Voracious *Rat*."—Heading of a short article concerning Oliver Wolcott.—*Id.*, Nov. 28.
- 1800 Register of *Rats* Augmented.
Rats thrown Over Board.
About to jump Overboard.
Id., Dec. 16.
- [1812 I think the old hulk [England] in which you are is near her wreck, and that, like a prudent rat, you should escape in time.—Tho. Jefferson to Jas. Maury, Ap. 25, from Monticello].
- 1826 It revived the the recollection of the "*ratting*" (as the English phrase it) among the "minority-men," some twelve or fourteen years ago.—John Randolph to Dr. Brockenbrough, Jan. 6 : 'Life,' ii. 263 (1851).
- Rat.** See quotation. 1855. (Printers' term.)
- 1824 Loren Webster, chief ink-dauber in a *rat*-printing office at the west ; Ralph Walby, nothing at all but a *rat*-printer.—*The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., March 6.
- 1853 Resolved, That any member belonging to the Society, accepting a situation, and working for less than these rates, shall be treated by us as a dishonest man, and [we] hold it our privilege to publish him to the world as a "RAT" : Resolution of the Printers' Convention held in Portland, Oregon, June 11.
- 1855 Perhaps our readers ask, what is meant by the term "*rat*." It is a term recognized by the printing fraternity, and is applied to those who work at less rates than honest printers can afford.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 4.
- 1856 Any institution that holds out inducements to *rats* must be nearly gone in.—*Sacramento American*, n.d.
- 1860 The use of the words "*Rats*" and "*Ratting*," in the sense referred to, is, I believe, confined to printers.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 431 (Oct.).

Rat—*contd.*

1881 The *rats* who refuse [to strike] suffer accordingly.—*The American*, No. 73. (N.E.D.)

1892 [He said] that *rats* were still employed in the *Tribune* office.—*The Nation*, N.Y., Aug. 11. (*Id.*)

Ratification meeting. A public meeting held to signify approval of the result of an election.

1848 Mr. Niles of Conn. compared the proceedings of the day with those of a *ratification meeting*.—U.S. Senate, July 3: *Congressional Globe*, p. 893.

Rattled. Flurried, confused.

1869 I think he was slightly *rattled* by the formidable appearance of an escort.—J. Ross Browne, 'Apache Country,' p. 282.

1887 Girls of good physique. . . . are much less liable to "get *rattled*," than those who are weak and ill.—*Scientific American*, Feb. 12. p. 106. (N.E.D.)

1888 No wonder the members of the City Council get *rattled* by the rush and roar of business.—Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, March 7 (Farmer).

1896 We can do it, 'if we don't get *rattled* and lose our heads.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 210.

1902 He was powerful *rattled*, runnin' round like a dog after its tail.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 215.

1910 The plight of Ohio's *rattled* Republicans is enough to win grimy tears from the stony basilisk.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 10.

Rattler. A rattle snake.

1827 [They] are harmless, unless it be now and then an angered *rattler*.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 249. (N.E.D.)

1878 Another told of stirring up an immense *rattler* while he was hoeing corn.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 133.

1910 In the North Carolina mountains, where *rattlers* are as plentiful as long-legged natives, the man considers a flask of "mountain dew" a necessary companion at all times, even if he is not a habitual drinker.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Aug. 1.

Rave. A vertical side-piece in a sled.

1851 It was astonishing to see how [the man] had gnawed the *rave* of the sled. (Note) the railing.—J. S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 106 (N.Y.)

1886 The *rave bolts* (in a bob sleigh) extend upward from the runners in front and rear of the knees, and the *raves* rest between the ends on the bottom of the recess.—*Scientific American*, Feb. 27, p. 130. (N.E.D.)

Raw-hide. A whip cut out of a hide.

1829 She took down a *raw hide*, and kept the whip moving.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 16.

1835 Very few planters would permit [their negroes] to be whipped on the bare back with a *raw-hide*, or cowskin, as it is called.—Dr. J. W. Monett in App. to Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 287.

1856 Power for Lion; pelf for Unicorn; *raw-hides* for John, ha! ha!—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 359 (April).

Razee. To cut down. Used primarily of reducing the size and rank of a vessel.

- 1837 It's mostly owing to my being so tall. I wish I was *razced*, and then it wouldn't happen.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 77.
- 1837 He was like a man *razced* or cut down.—Marryat, 'The Dog Fiend,' ch. 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1842 When a bill should appear, *razcing* all salaries *pro rata*, Mr. Gordon of N.Y. would consider it: House of Repr., March 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 321.
- 1843 My wife will *razce* the [shoe] straps, and then the affairs will look masculine enough.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 195.
- 1844 Tell the carpenter to *razce* a couple of water-casks, for I want to lay in a store of fat turtle.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 101.
- 1846 One *razce*, two frigates, &c.... In twelve months, two small frigates could be *razced* to large corvette sloops.—Mr. Fairfield of Maine, U.S. Senate, June 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 253.
- 1847 The "Chicken Mauma" was persecuting the Cherokee advocate with her *razced* (i.e. reduced) offers.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxix. 496 (June).
- a.1854 Human life is *razced* to the pitiable period of threescore years and ten.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 127.

Razor. See quotation.

- 1848 A pun, in the elegant College dialect, is called a *razor*, while an attempt at a pun is called a *sick razor*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiii. 283.

Razor-shell. A species of clam.

- 1792 The *Razor-shell* clam, "Solen Ensis," is mentioned by Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 183.
- 1882 In America, Solen ensis is called the *razor clam*.—Simmonds, 'Dict. of Useful Animals.' (N.E.D.)

Read out. To turn out of a political party. The phrase is apparently derived from some kind of sectarian excommunication.

- 1841 Mr. Alford of Georgia warned the "tariff bugs" of the South that, instead of their *reading him out of church*, if they did not mind, he would *read them out of church*.—House of Repr., June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 133.
- 1841 Mr. Wise of Virginia was glad that they were not to be *read out of the Whig church* because they were willing to vote with the Loco Focos against a protective tariff.—The same, July 31: *id.*, p. 275.
- 1842 [Mr. Crittenden] seemed disposed to *read* the Senator from Virginia *out of the Whig Church*.—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., U.S. Senate, April 8: *id.*, p. 283, App.

Read out—*contd.*

- 1842 Mr. Wright of N.Y. did not except to the appellation of Loco-foco, but insisted upon his right to define the meaning of the term. . . . Under his definition of it, the fathers of that church, in its early days *read him out*, and would not recognize his membership.—U.S. Senate, May 31: *id.*, p. 473, App.
- 1843 We are not for *reading him* [Gov. Reynolds] *out of the party* yet.—*Missouri Reporter*, St. Louis, Feb. 3.
- 1844 According to the base imputations made by the political hucksters, one would think that all such were *read out of the party*.—Mr. Wentworth of Illinois, House of Repr., April: *Cong. Globe*, p. 510, App.
- 1846 A good deal had been said about *reading out* of the Democratic church members of the Democratic party.—Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi in the House of Repr., Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 320. [One of his earliest speeches in Congress:—on the Oregon question.]
- 1860 They proceeded formally to *read* [Fernando Wood] *out of the party* as a "disorganizer."—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 3, p. 2/1.
- 1860 Delusion [Delazon Smith] has regularly *read Judge Williams out* of the Democratic party. The judge *read Delusion out* several months since.—*Oregon Argus*, Sept. 15.
* * This was George H. Williams of Oregon, afterwards (under Grant) Attorney General of the U.S.

Reading-Houses. See quotation.

- a.1743 The Presbyterian places of meeting in Virginia were at first called *Reading Houses*.—W. H. Foote, 'Sketches of Virginia' (1850), pp. 122-127.

Real. Really.

- 1718 An Opportunity of doing a *real good* Office.—J. Fox, 'Wanderer,' No. 17, 116. (N.E.D.)
- 1827 The Yankee will say of a young lady, "She is a *real pretty* girl, but she is as homely as a basket of chips."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 28: from the *Berkshire American*.
- 1840 We have dry goods merchants in Missouri, whose store a *real strong* man could run a stick through, and hang over his shoulder, and walk off with.—Mr. Benton in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 123, App.
- 1846 A *real good* horse. [For full quotation see YANKEE].
- 1848 [One girl] thought me *real mean* for uttering such sentiments.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 147.
- 1851 We once overheard her tell No. 1 that she was *real sick* of her.—T. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 108.
- 1872 [The baby] was only *real sick* for two or three days.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 9.
- 1878 We had a *real good* sermon today, hadn't we? I call that a most an excellent sermon; but 'twan't *real perfect*.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 7.

Real—*contd.*

- 1878 He got *real obstopolous* one day.—*Id.*, ch. 15.
 1878 I didn't feel *real cherk* this week, so't I didn't go to sewin s'ciety.—*Id.*, ch. 27.
 1908 They sung out the same hymn-book, and looked *real happy*.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 148.

Rebeless. See quotation.

- 1863 A new word appears in the newspapers, which had not been thought of by Lindly Murray when he wrote his grammar. We refer to the word "*rebeless*," a female rebel.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Jan. 29.

Reckon. To think, to "guess." The N.E.D. quotes Sir R. Cecil (1603), Richardson (1748), Foote (1776). Now Dial. in England; and more used in the south than in other parts of the U.S. See Appendix XXV.

bef. 1811 "My good friend," said I, "am I on the right road to Walpole?" "Yes," replied the man, "You are on the right road; but I *reckon* you must turn your horse's head, or you'll never get there." [This was in New England].—Bernard, 'Retrospections,' p. 320.

bef. 1811 One of them was very severe upon all aristocratical institutions. "Aha!" he exclaimed, "In them ere places I *reckon* they'll call a chap 'highness' who an't not above five feet in his shoes; and then again another mister 'excellency,' who keeps a gal, perhaps, and never goes to meetin'." [This was in N.Y.].—*Id.*, p. 351.

1812 See CUTE.

1819 Asking very civilly, "Can we breakfast here?" I have received a shrill "I *reckon* so."—Letter, Oct., 1819, in *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 8, 1823.

1828 [I asked] whether he was in the habit of receiving strangers. "I *reckon* so," was the answer.—T. Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' i. 10 (Phila.).

1840 See ROCK.

1852 The New Englander calculates, the Westerner *reckons*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 177.

1855 See CLEVER.

1855 Boys say with us, and everywhere, I *reckon*, "You worry my dog, and I'll worry your cat."—Dr. Ross of Tennessee, in the "New School" General Assembly at Buffalo.

1859 I kind o' liked her from the very fust. I *reckon* she did me too, but not to-once I expect.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 206 (Feb.).

1863 If you can take this [slave] property by compact I *reckon* you cannot take it against the consent of the owners without making just compensation to them.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, Feb. 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 783/3.

1890 See VARMINT.

1908 She met Sam on the way out, and says she, "Sam, what do you *reckon*? My quilt took the premium."—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 68.]

Recommend, n. A written recommendation.

- 1827 "Have you got any blank *recommends* for scholars?" "No, sir; my *recommends* are all prizes."—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 28: from the *Dover Republican*,
- 1833 Wunt vote for nobody 't he don't like, no matter who gives him a *recommend*.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 69.
- 1833 I want you should give me a *letter of recommend* to Philadelphia, as I ruther guess I shall go back that way.—*Id.*, i. 80.
- 1851 Let our Elders carry their *letters of rcommend* in bold relief.—*Frontier Guardian*, Nov. 28.
- 1852 I had not been very particular in seeking *rcommends* as I went along; but I had a *recommend* from Governor [Brigham] Young.—Elder John Taylor at the Mormon Tabernacle, Aug. 22: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 20.
- 1894 I think he would give it an autograph *recommend*.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 351. (N.E.D.)
- 1907 The present compiler, in visiting the Mormon Tabernacle &c., in Salt Lake City, presented a letter from one of the Federal Judges: on which the custodian remarked, "That's a good *recommend*."

Record. A man's past history.

- 1856 A candidate must have a slim *record* in these times.—Horace Greeley, Speech on Lincoln, March 20. (N.E.D.)
- 1863 I do not propose today to go over my *record*. It has been made before the country and the world; there let it stand.—Mr. Zachariah Chandler of Mich., U.S. Senate, Feb. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 935/2.

Record, to break the. To surpass prior exploits.

- 1909 Mr. T. gathered four deputies together, and started in his motor car for the scene of the trouble. All city and county *road records were smashed* in that run across the city, a distance of seven miles. It was done in about ten minutes.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 28.
- 1909 [Taft inauguration]. Washington is filled with a *record-breaking* throng, whose disappointment today [on account of bad weather] knew no bounds.—*Id.*, March 4.

Record, travel out of the. To go outside the alleged facts of the case.

- 1770 In legal phrase, the [court] cannot *travel out of the record*.—Lord Chatham. (N.E.D.)
- 1772 If I stated the merits of my letter to the King, I should imitate Lord Mansfield, and *travel out of the record*.—Preface to 'Junius's Letters.' (*Id.*)
- 1840 He will speak to a point that is pertinent, and not *travel out of the record*.—W. L. Garrison, 'Life,' ii. 430. (*Id.*)
- 1848 We are of the opinion that Mr. Prentiss *travelled out of the record* in the use of the offensive expressions complained of.—Shields, 'Life of Prentiss,' p. 402 (1884).

Red cent. The smallest copper coin. Used contemptuously, like "doit," or "bawbee." See also NARY RED.

- 1848 I've sunk a very pretty sum
In rides and sweetmeats past,
And haven't now the first *red cent*,—
She drained me to the last.
'Stray Subjects,' p. 60.
- 1848 A hull day lost, snack; and not a *red cent* made yet.—
Id., p. 82.
- 1852 At last I didn't have a *red cent*, so I was obleeged to sell
my nag to get money enough to come home with.—
'Solomon Slug, &c.,' p. 150 (N.Y.).
- 1852 It was a great catch for Miss L., without a *red cent* of her
own.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 144
(N.Y.).
- 1853 It is a great consolation to me that we do not owe the
Gentiles *one red cent*.—Brigham Young, May 8: 'Journal
of Discourses,' i. 110.
- 1853 We do not now owe a single *red cent*.—The same, June 5:
Id., i. 256.
- 1856 I told him no title was worth a *red cent* in this country.—
Knick. Mag., xlviii. 318 (Sept.).
- 1857 Mac went aboard the Stockton boat, without a "red" in
his pocket.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 29.
- 1857 Has it cost [Dr. Bernhisel] thousands of dollars to gain his
election? No; it has not cost him a single dollar; no,
not so much as a *red cent*.—Brigham Young, Sept. 13:
'Journal of Discourses,' v. 228.
- 1858 [He had in the Bank] not a dollar! not a dime! not
a *red cent*!—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 25 (Jan.).
- 1861 "That don't change matters a *red cent*, stranger," says
the American in Charles Lever's 'One of them,' p. 134.
- 1878 Feelin's ain't worth a *red cent* without they come to facts.
—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 12.

Red dog. The most worthless of the private banks, about 1837-1860, were styled "*red dog*."—'Magazine of Western History,' iii. 202.

See WILD-CAT, 1841, 1842, 1853.

Red money, Black money. Scrip printed in black or red.

- 1782 Specie, *red money*, Virginia or Maryland Tobacco will be
received in Payment.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Sept. 10.
- 1782 The House is against taking either *black or red Money* in
Payment for Taxes, which in a little time will render both
good for nothing.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 31.
- 1783 Specie, State certificates, Continental State, *black or red
money*, pork, corn, wheat, or tobacco, will be taken in
payment.—Advt., *id.*, Jan. 14.
- 1787 Cash given for *black* and Continental State *Money*.—
Advt., *id.*, Sept. 28.

Red or **Redd up**. To set to rights; to clean up. The N.E.D. furnishes 16th c. Scottish examples. The word came into the U.S. by means of settlers from Scotland.

1842 I never used to *red up* their chamber without thinking of it.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 12.

1896 "You got your front room *red up*?" "No; I ain't had time to *red up* anything."—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 132.

Redemptioner. An immigrant who had to work out his passage-money after landing. The N.E.D. gives examples 1775, 1796, 1805. See the account given of them by Bülow, translated in *The Port Folio*, ii. 354 (Phila., Nov. 13, 1802).

1784 Just arrived in the ship *Harmony*, from Cork, upwards of 200 *Redemptioners* and Servants, whose Times of Servitude are to be disposed of.—Adv't., *Maryland Journal*, May 25.

1784 A man had for some time carried on a profitable traffic by purchasing *redemptioners* and driving them up the country.—*Id.*, Oct. 5.

1784 Healthy German *Redemptioners* just arrived in the ship *Capellen tot den Pol*, from Rotterdam.—Adv't., *id.*, Nov. 9.

1788 [He] took with him a white servant, a recently purchased *redemptioner*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 18.

1796 The system in question is described by Isaac Weld, 'Travels through N. America,' pp. 69-70 (Lond. 1799).

See also Watson, 'Historic Tales of Philadelphia,' pp. 234-8 (1833).

1812 [Mr. Randolph] supposed another [instance] in the case of a *redemptioner* sold at Philadelphia.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 30.

Red-eye. Strong cheap whiskey.

1837 [The Indians seldom] passed the prairie, except to sell their skins, and purchase "*red eye*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iii. 12.

1851 That's the best *red-eye* I've swallowed in er coon's age.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' &c., p. 74.

1853 I promised the overseer a new covering and a jug of "*red-eye*" if all went straight.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 121.

1888 Corn juice, *red-eye*, obtained from the still of the deacon at whose house he preached.—*Missouri Republican*, March 8 (Farmer).

Red-horse. A Kentuckian.

1833 The spokesman was evidently a "*red horse*" from Kentucky, —C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 207 (Lond., 1835).

Reed-bird, **Rice-bird**. See quotation 1795.

1747 [The] *Rice-birds* go to Carolina annually [when] Rice begins to ripen.—*Phil. Trans.*, xlv. 438. (N.E.D.)

1775 Meadow larks, fieldfares, *rice birds*, &c., are very frequently had.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 114.

Reed-bird, Rice-bird—*contd*

- 1777 Next comes in Sir H—y Cl—ton,
With looks as fierce as De'el o'er Lincoln
And swore he'd make the *rice-birds* think on.
Md. Journal, Dec. 9.
- 1795 A variety of small birds, among which the *reed bird*, or American ortolan, justly holds the first place.—W. Priest, 'Travels in the U.S.' (1802), p. 90. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 Critiques are as plentiful and gregarious as the Jersey *reed birds*.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii. 258 (1852).
- 1862 These islands [in the Delaware River] are pushed over in skiffs at high tide by sportsmen when shooting *reed bird* and rail.—Mr. John C. Ten Eyek of N.J., U.S. Senate, July 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3246/3.
* * The bird is evidently alluded to by Andrew Burnaby in his 'Travels in North America,' 1775, p. 25 :—
The *Sorus* is not known to be in Virginia, except for about six weeks, from the latter end of September: at that time they are found in the marshes in prodigious numbers, feeding upon the wild oats. . . . In a short time [they] grow so fat as to be unable to fly, and the Indians go out in canoes and knock them on the head with their paddles. They are rather bigger than a lark, and are delicious eating.

Register. A registrar. The N.E.D. supplies examples, 1531-1816.

- 1804 Samuel Bartlett, *Register* of Deeds in Cambridge.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24.
- 1806 *The Balt. Ev. Post*, Feb. 20, p. 2, prints "A Summary of Monies received and paid by the *Register*."
- 1816 On Monday there will be a second trial for the choice of a *Register* of Deeds.—*Id.*, Aug. 21.
* * The word is still thus used.

Regular built. Thorough.

- 1816 I can do this without forfeiting my character, as a "*regular built*" traveller.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 105 (N.Y.).
- 1827 English boys. . . are well-bred, and can converse, when ours are *regular-built* cubs.—Scott, 'Journal,' Jan. 31. (N.E.D.)
- 1837 He is the "generalized idea" of a "*regular-built* Loafer." —'Harvardiana,' iii. 301.

Regulators. Bodies of men assuming authority to rid the community of undesirable persons, and themselves in many cases violating the law. The N.E.D. gives examples 1767, 1768, 1771. See Mr. Albert Matthews's letter on 'Lynch Law,' in the N.Y. *Nation*, Dec. 4, 1902, p. 441; also W. H. Foote, 'N. Carolina,' ch. 2 (N.Y., 1846), and John H. Wheeler, 'Hist. Sketches of N.C.,' i. ch. 8, ii. ch. i. (Phila., 1851).

Regulators—*contd.*

- 1768 A letter from Pine-Tree Hill (S.C.) contains the following intelligence, viz : The *Regulators* have fixed upon the 5th of next month to have a meeting here to draw up their grievances. . . . The *Regulators* from the Congarce, Board, and Saludy Rivers are not to proceed to town, unless sent for by their brethren.—*Boston Evening Post*, Oct. 17.
- 1769 We learn from North-Carolina that the People in that Province, who stile themselves *Regulators*, tied the Sheriff of Orange County to a tree, and gave him 500 Lashes ; they likewise obliged him to Eat the Writ they found in his Possession.—*Boston Weekly News-Letter*, May 4.
- 1770 A violent insurrection in Orange County, among a sett of men who call themselves *Regulators*, and who for some years past have given infinite disturbance to the civil government of this province, but now have sapped its whole foundation.—Letter from Newbern, S.C., with details concerning the outrages committed by the “*Regulators*” : *id.*, Nov. 12.
- 1770 We hear from Bound Brook that one William Daniels [beat his wife]. . . . and a Number of Persons, who are termed there *Regulators*, went to Daniels, and taking him out of his Bed whipp'd him [so that he died].—*Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 5.
- 1771 The *Regulators* in the back settlements [Cross Creek, N.C.] have given his Excellency and the troops under his command battle. . . . The *Regulators* will not stand to the laws of the country, but want to make laws of their own.—*Mass. Spy*, June 27. [The engagement took place at Almancee.]
- 1771 A Fan for Fanning, and a Touchstone for Tryon, being an Account of the Rise and Progress of the so much talked of *Regulators* in North Carolina.—Advt of a pamphlet : *Mass. Spy*, Nov. 7.
- 1775 About 1770, the extreme difficulty of bringing criminals from remote settlements to a legal condemnation induced numbers, stiled *regulators*, to take the law into their own hands.—W. Gordon, ‘*Hist. Am. Revol.*,’ ii. 101 (Lond., 1788).
- 1780 About the year 1772, a small number of people in the back parts [of N. Carolina] rose in arms, under the name of *Regulators*, against the Government.—John Adams to Mr. Calkoen, Oct. 10.
- a.1792 [When horse-thieves and other vagabonds were about], the citizens formed themselves into a regulating party, commonly known as *regulators*, whose duty required them to purge the neighbourhood of such unruly members.—Monette, ‘*Hist. of the Mississippi Valley*,’ ii. 17 (1848).
- 1800 *Regulators* were appointed by the Fire companies to attend the Fire Association in Philadelphia.—*The Aurora*, April 17.

Regulators—*contd.*

1820 About 1770, Gov. Tryon headed an expedition against the *Regulators* in N. Carolina,—insurgents in the west counties.—Note to the Hartford ed. of John Trumbull's 'McFingal,' p. 125.

[1827 Being without a *regulator* [the children] indulged in hilarity, profanity, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, May 23].

1833 Hence originated the institution called the *Regulators*, formerly common on the remote frontiers, where the influence of the general government was not felt, and where there were as yet no local authorities.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 167.

1840 In the Revolution he leaned to the British side, and the "*regulators*" consulted together about dressing the doctor in a suit of homespun, vulgarly (*sic*) called tar and feathers.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' i. 24 (Hartford, Conn.).

1844 A parcel of men who were committing various acts of violence under the authority of "Lynch," or, as they styled themselves, *Regulators*.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Nov. 8.

1846 In April 1767 these men passed the Rubicon; and from being called a mob, or insurgents, were known by the name of *Regulators*.—'Sketches of N. Carolina,' by W. H. Foote, p. 52. [See more at large pp. 51-67.]

Reliable. This word, to which Worcester objected in 1860, is illustrated in the N.E.D. by examples 1569 (Sc.) 1624, &c. See also Mr. Fitzedward Hall's treatise on English adjectives in *-able* (Trübner, 1877).

Relief notes. Notes issued by the State of Pennsylvania.

1842 See Appendix XXVIII.

1853 See KEYSTONE STATE.

Rendition. Rendering, surrendering. Used in various senses, 1601-1716: N.E.D.

1859 You are against the *rendition* of the black man, and give up the white man.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 108 (1865).

1860 The subject of the *rendition* of fugitive slaves can be adjusted.—Letter of Judge John A. Campbell to the people of Alabama.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 86 (1861).

1860 The same article of the Constitution stipulates also for the *rendition* by the several States of fugitives from justice from the other States. Declaration of Independence of So. Carolina.—*Id.*, i. 98.

1860 The States in their sovereign capacity should be responsible for the *rendition* of fugitive slaves.—Mr. Rhett in the So. Carolina Convention.—*Id.*, i. 213.

1860 It is the duty of the Postmaster General to enforce the prompt *rendition* of . . . quarterly accounts.—Report of the Postmaster General, Dec. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 12/1, App.

Rendition—*contd.*

- 1861 There has been difficulty about the *rendition* of fugitives from justice.—Mr. Howard of Michigan, House of Repr., Feb. 26 : *id.*, p. 1226/3.
- 1861 If a Southern slave holder seizes his slave in Massachusetts and proves his claim to him, the Personal liberty law offers not the slightest obstacle to his *rendition*.—Unnamed authority, cited by O. J. Victor, i. 138.
- 1861 The *rendition* of fugitives from justice has at all times been a source of much irritation between the States.—Majority Report of the Congressional Committee of Thirty-three.—*Id.*, i. 212.
- 1865 It requires a complete *rendition* of Reason to believe &c.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxx. 268.

Renig. To back out.

- 1853 All have bolted, *renigged*, and gone it helter-skelter, to a man.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 28.

1903 South Eastern Missouri : 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 326.

Reservation. A tract of land reserved for occupation by Indians : *e.g.* "the Umatilla reservation" in Oregon.

- 1830 Without touching the *reservation* round Jadiville.—Galt, 'Lawrie Todd' (1849), p. 186. (N.E.D.)
- 1841 Their *reservations* became surrounded by white people.—Catlin, 'N. Am. Indians' (1844), ii. 102. (N.E.D.)
- 1861 The plan of allotting portions of their *reservations* to the individual members of the tribes has been found by experience to result beneficially.—Report of the Secretary of the Interior, Nov. 30 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 12/3, App.
- 1863 The *reservation* the Indians now have [in Minnesota] is very peculiarly situated.—Mr. Henry M. Rice of Minn., U.S. Senate, Jan. 26 : *id.*, p. 517/1.

Residenter. A resident. Sc., 1678, 1875, N.E.D.

- 1812 They were ceded... as an appendage to the possession of every *residenter* in the vilage.—Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana' (1814), p. 127. (N.E.D.)
- 1838 By the present degenerate race of villagers, the "old *residenters*" [are regarded] as wonderful beings.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 190 (N.Y.).
- 1840 The majority of the old "*residenters*" were freeholders.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 24 (Lond.).
- 1854 He said he was an old *residenter*, and had in fact grown up with the country.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 83.
- 1856 One of the Jackson county boys, an old *residenter*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 5.

Resurrect. To revive. The word is found in the Annual Register for 1772, p. 174. (N.E.D.)

- 1852 I never want that to be *resurrected*.—Brigham Young, March 4 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 33.
- 1852 [You have not] power to *resurrect* yourselves.—Brigham Young, Aug. 28 : *id.*, vi. 275.
- 1852 You will never obtain your *resurrected* bodies, until you bring you spirits into subjection.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 14 : *id.*, i. 355.

Resurrect—*contd.*

- 1853 The world of *resurrected* beings, and the world of spirits, are two distinct spheres.—Elder P. P. Pratt, April 7: *id.*, i. 9.
- 1854 He had never heard of such tricks of trade as sending out coffins to the grave-yard, with negroes inside, carried off by sudden spells of imaginary disease, to be "*resurrected*" in due time, grinning, on the banks of the Brazos.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 93.
- 1854 Bates said [the word] was "rejuvify," that is, "drag out," "*resurrect*."—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 189.
- 1855 Until I have received my *resurrected* body.—Brigham Young, quoted in the *Olympian* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Feb. 24.
- 1857 I should feel worse than I do, if I knew that Joseph was *resurrected*, and had not paid us a visit.—Brigham Young, March 15: 'Journal of Disc.,' iv. 286.
- 1857 I do not think that many ever suppose that animals are going to be *resurrected*.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2: *id.*, v. 137.
- 1859 A short time ago the cry was, "[Henry A.] Wise is dead and never can be *resurrected*."—*Richmond Whig*, Sept. 23, p. 4/8: from the *Staunton Vindicator*.
- 1860 We appeal to every Democrat. . . . to pause before he takes the fatal leap into *resurrected* Know-nothingism.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Aug. 21, p. 2/1.
- 1861 Mr. Marmaduke Johnson said, at the Electoral Dinner: "I could take [South Carolina] by the neck, and throw her into the bottomless pit, never to be *resurrected*."—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 25, p. 2/2.
- 1861 I shall not stop to *resurrect* the bones of John Brown.—Mr. Harris of Virginia, House of Repr., Feb. 6: *Cong. Globe*. p. 153, App.
- 1861 Where did this [higher] law come from? It made its appearance at the time the Mormon Bible came up; it seemed to rise with it, as if then *resurrected*.—Mr. Aaron Harding of Ky., the same, Dec. 17: *id.*, p. 30/3, App.
- 1863 The succeeding history of the Navy-yard,—of the *resurrected* guns and restored frigate Merrimac.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii., 113.
- 1869 During the ten days or a fortnight we stayed [in Naples], one paper was murdered and *resurrected* twice.—'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. 3.
- 1877 I fought for the conspiracy, but that issue is dead. It will never be *resurrected*, at least in my day.—*Corr.*, *Boston Herald*, Sept. 23 (Bartlett).
- 1906 [This may be] only a *resurrecting* in epitaph what was truth in its day.—Percival Lowell, 'Mars and its Canals,' p. 130.
- 1907 "Where? Where?" cried Marco, leaping up like one *resurrected*.—*Church Standard*, Phila., Oct. 12, p. 775.
- 1909 They are certain that the moment [Isio] is executed one of his followers, calling himself Isio *resurrected*, will start trouble in the mountains.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 11.

Resurrection notes.

- 1838 This term was applied to the proposed re-issue of the notes of the Bank of the U.S. by the U.S. Bank of Pa. (Biddle's Bank).—See *Cong. Globe*, App., pp. 80, 299, 310.

Retiracy. Retirement.

- 1840 Preparations were made for *retiracy*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 71.
- 1843 I'd a powerful sight sooner go into *retiracy*, nor consent to that bill.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 74.
- 1847 Kit North in a state of *retiracy*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxx. 450 (Nov.).
- 1851 If we didn't elect him, I'd go into *retiracy*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 341 (1860).
- 1862 If Hayti instead of Russia had been selected by a former Cabinet officer for his dishonorable *retiracy*, there would, I admit, be a sort of fitness of things.—Mr. Samuel S. Cox of Ohio, House of Repr., June 2 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 2503/2.

Revelator. One who has a revelation.

- 1801 They shall have their part (saith John the *Revelator*) in the lake which burneth.—*Mass. Spy*, May 20.
- 1840 The prophet Daniel and the *revelator* John.—*Millennial Star*, June, p. 28.
- 1844 He had become like a millstone upon the back of Joseph Smith, Prophet, Seer, and *Revelator*.—W. Woodruff in *The Prophet*, N.Y., Oct. 19.
- 1845 We are informed by John the *Revelator* that &c.—*The Prophet*, April 5.
- 1849 What the *Revelator* hath said of the Holy City.—Whittier, 'Prose Works,' i. 142. (N.E.D.)
- 1852 All the Prophets and *Revelators* that have ever lived upon the earth.—Brigham Young, March 4 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 32.
- 1866 The Mormon will put his trust in Joseph, as a natural seer and *revelator*.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. 35.

Reverend set. See quotation. Local.

- 1833 They placed their shoulders against the long poles, one end of which was loaded with iron, and, making what was called a "*reverend set*," walked steadily to the stern of the broad-horn, propelling her forward at the same time.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 145 (Lond.).

Rice-bird. See REED-BIRD.**Rich-weed.** See the N.E.D.**Riddle-land.** See quotation.

- 1818 And what is *riddle land*? That which is of so open and loose a texture as to let the rain falling on it pass through it.—Address of Timothy Pickering to the Essex Agricultural Society : *Mass. Spy*, Oct. 14.

Ride (a man) on a rail. A mode of expulsion in accordance with Lynch law.

1854 I guess they would give me a coat of tar and feathers, and *ride me on a rail*.—Orson Hyde at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 80.

1866 Others proposed giving him a good coat of tar and feathers, and *riding him out of town on a rail*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 251.

Ridiculous. By a strange perversion, this word is used by rustics in N. England, Kentucky, Missouri, &c., in the sense of abominable, outrageous; see 'Dialect Notes,' i. 23, 79; ii. 327. A similar use is found in Herefordshire. (N.E.D.)

1833 It would be *ridic'ulous* if it should be a bar [said the Kentuckian], them critters sometimes come in here, and I have nothing but my knife.—*Knick. Mag.*, i. 90.

1834 "Why, sir," said an Illinois man to me, "those Indians behaved most *ridiculous*. They dashed children's brains against the door-post; they cut off their heads, &c."—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 267 (Lond., 1835).

1890 *Ridiculous* is used in Barbadoes, where many old-time expressions survive, to mean strange, unexpected, untoward. A man once informed me that the death by drowning of a relative was "most *ridiculous*."—A correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. ix. 453.

Rifle. (Sometimes RIPPLE). A small "rapid"; a place where the current flows swiftly over submerged rocks or trees or sand-bars.

1796 These places are called by the inhabitants "*Riffles*"; I suppose, a corruption of the word "ruffle," as the water is violently agitated in those parts.—F. Baily, 'Journal of a Tour' (1856), p. 149. (N.E.D.)

1806 In some of the *ripples*, the water runs at the rate of ten miles an hour; and a boat will go at the rate of twelve without any other assistance than the steering oar.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' i. 92 (Lond., 1808). Also p. 173.

1814 This *ripple*, like all others on the Missouri, is formed by high sand bars, over which the water is precipitated.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Journal,' p. 215.

1824 The grounding of the Paragon on the rocky *riffle* at Sandy Island, and detention of the Mayesville, . . . shew the amount of that obstruction.—*Cincinnati Emporium*, Feb. 26, p. 3/2.

1826 You hear of the danger of "*riffles*," meaning probably ripples, and planters, and sawyers, and points, and bends, and shoots, a corruption, I suppose of the French "chute."—T. Flint, 'Recoll.,' p. 15.

1843 *Ripples* are often indices of an ascending sawyer, and also of shoals.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 50.

Rifle—*contd.*

- 1843 [Captain Guion] says there are six rapids or “ripples” in the first hundred miles, in ascending from the mouth [of the Des Moines river]. . . . Slight rapids, termed by the boatmen *ripples*.—Mr. Edwards of Missouri, House of Repr., July 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 243, App.
- 1851 Strike down thar [in the river] outside that little *rifle*.—‘Adventures of Capt. Suggs,’ &c., p. 154.
- 1878 The two streams, the clear and the muddy, run side by side for nearly twenty miles, when a series of *riffles* and sharp turns mingles them freely in a fluid of pale orange tint.—J. H. Beadle, ‘Western Wilds,’ p. 206.
- 1888 They ran across some pretty rapid *riffles* in the river of life.—Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, March 7 (Farmer).

Rifle, make the. To cross the rifle; metaphorically, to attempt a thing successfully.

- 1859 I guess they’ll make the *rifle*.—Mrs. Duniway, ‘Captain Gray and his Company,’ p. 235 (Portland, Oregon).
- 1862 See Appendix XIV.
- 1875 If I can’t make the *rifle*, I want to git to Washington Territory yet.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 557 (May).
- 1887 (Lit.) Fighting the stream at intervals, but “making the *rifle*,” or crossing the rapid.—M. Roberts, ‘Western Avernus,’ p. 202. (N.E.D.)
- 1902 I don’t want to kill a man fer jest tryin’ to steal an’ not *makin* the *rifle*.—W. N. Harben, ‘Abner Daniel,’ p. 230.

Rifle shirts. Those worn by riflemen.

- 1776 The enemy’s lookouts, perceiving our men close upon the lower part of [Gwyn’s] island cried out, “the *shirtmen* are coming,” and scampered off.—*Providence Gazette*, Aug. 17, p. 1/3
- 1793 “1520 *Rifle Shirts*” were advertised for, *inter alia*, by the Treasury Department: *Gazette of the U.S.*, Aug. 24.

Rig. A carriage or private conveyance.

- 1885 One part of the team (or “*rig*,” as they say west of the Hudson).—*Transactions*, Am. Philol. Assoc., xvi., 110.

Right away. Immediately. A phrase possibly imported from the S.W. of Ireland.

- 1818 I have been slick in going to the stand *right away*.—H. B. Fearon, ‘Sketches of America,’ p. 5. (N.E.D.)
- 1818 He ordered me to turn out every coloured man from the store *right away*.—*Id.*, p. 59. [For fuller quotation see Boss].
- 1825 I’d sooner die like a dog, *right away*.—John Neal, ‘Brother Jonathan,’ i. 195.
- 1825 [They believed the evacuation of New York to be] a genuine Yankee trick, which was to end “*right away*” in their being roasted alive, or barbecued.—*Id.*, iii. 137.
- 1850 “Will you be good enough to look after rooms?” “I will.” “*Right away?*” “*Right away*,” and as evidence of his sincerity he stretched his legs to set out.—Cornelius Mathews, ‘Moneypenny,’ p. 48 (N.Y.).

Right away—*contd.*

- 1854 If your doctrine is carried out, . . . I want a dissolution *right away*.—Mr. Butler of N. Carolina, U.S. Senate, March 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 323, Appendix.
- 1889 Their intense fervor to do something *right away* to humble the haughty enemy made them unmindful that they must first go to school and learn the art of war.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 210 (Boston).

Right on the goose, Sound on the goose. Sound, from a Southern point of view, on the slavery question.

- 1855 The democracy of other counties may rest assured that Thurston [county] is "*right on the goose*," and that "Sam" is winked out beautifully in this latitude.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, June 29.
- 1855 In these days of Buntlinism, it is a common thing to hear men boast that some fellow has "seen Sam" or is "*Right on the Goos?*"—*Id.*, July 6.
- 1856 All persons who could not answer "*All right on the goose*," according to their definition of right, were . . . threatened with death.—Mrs. Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 252.
- 1856 There is, in fact, but one question asked, and that is, "Do you endorse the peculiar institutions of the South?" or, as they define it, "Are you *all right on the goose?*"—G. D. Brewerton, 'War in Kansas,' p. 399.
- 1856 A slight German accent did not prevent him from being *sound*, as he said, "*on ter coose question*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 287 (Sept.).
- 1857 Look at the National Democrats who come here "*sound on the goose*," and who have since been forced to take position with the Free State Party.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kansas, Nov. 7.
- 1857 They crowded around Governor Geary, eager to ask questions, volunteer advice, and ascertain satisfactorily, whether in their own chaste phrase, he was "*sound on the goose*."—J. H. Gihon, 'Geary and Kansas,' p. 105.
- 1862 No'thun religion works wal North, but it's ez soft ez spruce, Compared to ourn, for keepin *sound*, sez she, *upon the goose*. 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1866 Me and you are about even on *the goose question*.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 47.
- Rile.** To disturb, to annoy, to irritate.
- a.1734 [This] was what *roiled* him extremely.—North's 'Lives.' (N.E.D.)
- 1825 Be the niggers raily up, or no? rather *ryled*, I guess, in Carrylynee [Carolina].—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 104.
- 1825 Bein' afeard he might *ryle* my blood, I begins for to whistle a toone or two . . . And so, being a little miffed, I gets *ryled* by-an-by like anything.—*Id.*, i. 158-9.
- 1833 You seem to be a leetle *ryled* yourself.—Never was half half so mad before,—*ryled* all over, inside and out.—*Ryled?*—To be sure, *ryled*,—ructious,—there ye go agin.—*Id.*, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 13-14.

Ringtail roarer, Real Roarer—*contd.*

- 1859 One Porter "bantered" a friend to write his epitaph, with this result :—
 " Here lies James D. Porter,
 Who lived as he hadn't orter,
 But as a Methodist exhorter
 Was a regular *ringtail snorter*,"
Oregon Argus, Dec. 10.
- 1862 A Bald'in haint no more 'f a chance with them new apple-
 corers,
 Than folks's oppersition views against the *Ringtail Roarers*.
 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

Riprap. To lay down loose rock.

- 1848 The cost of *rip-rapping* would be about \$80,000.—'Docu-
 ment of N.Y. Aldermen,' Nov. 9 (Bartlett).
- 1888 The government has *rip-rapped* the banks of the river.—
Portland (Me.) Transcript, March 14 (Farmer).

Ripstaver, &c. A first-rate person or thing.

- 1833 In ten minutes he yelled enough, and swore I was a *rip-
 stavur*.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 144 (N.Y.).
- 1846 What a *rip-snorting* red head you have got!—*Yale Lit.
 Mag.*, xi. 336.
- 1856 "Hallo, Judge," said Major H., "that's a *rip-roaring*
 hat you've got."—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 19.

Rising, the rise. Rising means "more than." The rise is the excess.

- 1775 To be sold, an elegant little black Mare, *rising* six years.—
Mass. Gazette, Feb. 13.
- 1802 Strayed from the subscriber on Sunday the 7th instant,
 a red cow *rising* four years old.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*,
 Sept. 13.
- 1805 Superior is a bright bay, with a star and snip, *rising* nine
 years old.—Advt., *id.*, June 7.
- 1805 Young Merry Andrew is now in high plight, a beautiful
 dark bay, *rising* six years old.—*Id.*, June 14.
- 1809 Didn't I give fifteen guineas for him, barring the luck
 penny, at the fair of Knoockeeroghery, and he *rising* four
 year old at the same time?—Maria Edgeworth, 'Ennui,'
 ch. vi.
- 1817 "How much wheat did you raise this year?" "A little
rising of 5,000 bushels."—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from
 the South,' ii. 121. (N.E.D.)
- 1823 Taken up by Daniel Munro, one Sorrel Mare, supposed to
 be *rising* four years old.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, March 25.
- 1824 The amount received for the Greek cause is not certainly
 known to us. We have understood it to be *rising* of \$400.
 —*Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*, Jan. 30.
- 1825 I brought with me to this country *rising* of 2000 guineas.
 —J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 85 (N.Y.).

Rising, the rise—*contd.*

- 1840 Squintus Curtius is *rising* nine.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 260.
- 1842 Look at the last legislature. They did not hold on above two months, and passed *rising* of two hundred laws, and didn't work o' Sundays neither.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' ii. 67.
- 1843 Brother George counted the strokes of his arm upon the gushion, and thinks he *rosc* a hundred in the course of the sermon.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 82.
- 1845 I do not propose to number [the States yet to be admitted] but I set them down at twenty *and the rise*.—Mr. Porter of Michigan, U.S. Senate: *Cong. Globe*, p. 154, Appendix.
- 1847 My sister Lizzy, then about a year old, while I was a little *rising* three.—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 15.
- 1848 James Smithson bequeathed to the U.S. *rising* half a million of dollars.—Bartlett.
- 1848 Gen. Kearny is a man *rising* fifty years of age.—Edwin Bryant, 'California,' p. 375 (Lond., 1849).
- 1851 "How many chieckens have you?" "The *rise* of seventy and three hens a settin'."—'Captain Suggs,' p. 157.
- 1853 "He's a nice family hoss." "Heow old is he?" "He's *risin'* six years."—'Life Scenes,' p. 192.
- 1854 He pretended to be thirty and *the rise*, but was at the least fifty.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 171.
- 1854 *Rising* six feet in his stockings, large-boned, angular, muscular, . . . he was as active as a panther.—*Id.*, p. 313.
- 1856 Ther was *risin'* a hundred verses on't.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 15.
- 1861 Gen. Harney is a little *rising* fifty years old.—*Oregon Argus*, Feb. 9.

Roach, roach up. To trim a horse's mane, or a man's hair, to within an inch or two of the skin.

- 1776 Strayed or stolen, a sorrel horse,—*roach'd* back, 3 white feet, &c.—Advt., *N. Eng. Chronicle*, Jan. 25.
- 1781 A Black Horse, about 13 and an half hands high, half *roach* main, &c.—Advt., *Royal Georgia Gazette*, March 8.
- 1818 His mane has been divided, and laid on both sides of his neck, and that part that laid on the left side cut off as if to *roach* him.—Advt., *Missouri Gazette*, Dec. 25.
- 1833 His hair was *roached*, and he wore an air of much dignity.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 38 (N.Y.).
- 1844 The two [other horses] with *roatched* backs, and ears glued to their necks, were scrambling.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 176.
- 1854 His hair was *roached up*, and stood as erect and upright as his body.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 108.
- 1889 I *roached* his mane and docked his tail.—*Century Mag.*, p. 335. (N.E.D.)

Road-agent. A highwayman.

- 1866 *Road-agent* is the name applied in the mountains to a ruffian who has given up honest work in the store, in the mine, in the ranch, for the perils and profits of the highway.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. 14.
- 1869 This organization became known as "*Road Agents*," from the fact that they committed most of their depredations on the routes of travel; and to this day no other term is applied to highway robbery in the Far West. They numbered over fifty desperate men, all well armed and skilled in the use of weapons, and had besides probably a hundred or more outside allies and dependents.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 230.
- 1881 The great distances between the settlements enable the "*road agents*" to have a fine time of it.—*Macmillan's Mag.*, xlv. 124. (N.E.D.)
- 1890 It could hardly be expected that a well-traveled road like this, over which so much treasure was being transported, should be free from the inquisitive eye of the *road agent*.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of Cal.,' p. 208 (N.Y.).

Road-bridge. A bridge traversable by waggons.

- 1819 A salute was fired from a *road-bridge* by a detachment of artillery.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 3. [Opening of the Erie Canal].

Robin's alive. See quotation.

- 1816 [He] fares pretty much like the person in whose hand the fire goes out in the play of '*Robin's alive*, as live as a bee.'—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 78 (N.Y., 1817).

Rock. A stone. Hence to rock a person is to stone him.

- 1712 I lay'd a *Rock* in the North-east corner of the Foundation of the Meeting house. It was a stone I got out of the common.—S. Sewall, 'Diary,' April 14. (N.E.D.)
- 1803 A large *rock*, ten feet long, and about five square, was rolled from its bed.—*Mass. Spy*, June 29.
- 1833 [In Boston] every shop is a store, every stick a pole, every stone a *rock*, &c.—John Neal, 'The Down Easters,' i., 26.
- 1835 [He] groped round in the dark till he found several little *rocks*, which, when placed on the edge of the tent cloth, kept it tolerably firm.—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 31 (N.Y. 1836).
- 1836 "Salem-er! Salem-er! jacket over coat,—*rock* him! *rock* him!" cried the boys of Marblehead, "*rock* him round the corner."—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Aug. 30.
- 1838 It is one of the peculiarities of the dialect of the people in the westernmost states, to call small stones *rocks*. And therefore they speak of throwing a *rock* at a bird, or at a man.—Samuel Parker, 'Tour,' p. 48 (Ithaca, N.Y.).

Rock—*contd.*

- 1840 Old brother Smith came to my house from Bethany meeting in a mighty bad way with a cold and a cough ; and it was dead o' winter, and I had nothin' but dried yerbs, such as camomile, sage, pennyroyal, catmint, horehound, and sich; so I put a hot *rock* to his feet, and made him a large bowl o' catmint tea, and I reckon he drank most two quarts of it through the night.—Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 193.
- 1842 The lady said, "The little boy threw a *rock* at the President," : on which I expressed my surprise, thinking he must be an infant Hereules, to hurl a rock : when she replied, "O no ! it was a very small rock, and therefore the injury was very slight." I found afterwards that they say a house is built of *rock*, the streets are paved with *rock*, and the boys throw *rocks* at sparrows, and break windows by throwing *rocks*.—Buckingham. 'Slave States,' ii. 133.
- 1842 A *Rock* fell on him. A man named J. E. while working at the Summit Hill Coal Mine, had his left foot awfully crushed by a large stone.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 17.
- 1851 He 'gin pickin' up *rocks* an slingin' um at the dogs like bringer.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 52.
- 1853 [In the South] when man or boy is pelted, the recipient of projectile favors is said to be *rocked*, unless wood be put in requisition, and then he is chunked.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 116.
- 1855 New Hampshire [said the Missourian], that's where they grind the sheeps' noses so as for 'em to get 'em between the *rocks* and feed.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., May 26.
- 1855 The happiness of the younger [child] was abated only by the caution which the mother occasionally gave it, *not to swaller the rocks*, which she threw from among the coffee.—E. W. Farnham, 'Prairie Land,' p. 67.
- 1862 We had one of our men . . . decoyed into a house by the guerillas. His brains were beaten out with *rocks*.—*Ohio State Journal*, quoted in *Cong. Globe*, p. 3160/1.
- 1863 Some one told me that he threw a *rock* at a lame dog at Willard's the other night, and knocked down two brigadier generals ; and it was not a good night for generals, either.—Mr. James W. Nesmith of Oregon, U.S. Senate, Feb. 4 : *id.*, p. 713/3.
- 1879 The white troops were incensed against [the negro soldiery] and often "*rocked*" them while walking their posts.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 397-8.
- 1888 His retreat was accompanied with every sort of missile,—sticks, boots, and *rocks*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 209.
- 1901 We saw that the hounds were about to overtake us, and we prepared for battle by stopping in a stony place, and getting a pile of *rocks* ready.—W. Pittenger, 'Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 329.

Rocks. See POCKET FULL OF ROCKS.

Rockaway. See quotation 1852.

1846 Dr. P. has driven by me in a *rockaway*.—Lowell, 'Letters' (1894), i. 121. (N.E.D.)

1852 The long-tailed bays were left harnessed to the *Rockaway*,—a sort of light omnibus, open at the sides, and very like a *char-à-banc*, except that the seats run cross-wise, and capable of accommodating from six to nine persons.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 81 (N.Y.).

Rocker. A rocking-chair.

1855 [He was] seated in the nice large *rocker* drawn up before [the fire].—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 98 (1857).

1857 She sat down in the *rocker* at one end of the table.—Olmsted, 'Journ. Texas,' p. 49. (N.E.D.)

Rocket. A concluding cheer. See also TIGER.

1868 The following extract from the *New York Times* was printed in the *Standard*, Nov. 18, and is to be found also in *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. ii. 605.

A SIGNIFICANT CHEER.—The inaugural address of Dr. M'Cosh (late of Belfast), the new President of Princeton College, New Jersey, on the 27th ult., occupied nearly two hours in its delivery, but the interest of its subject matter, the vigour and terseness of its language, its practical common sense, the numerous happy allusions and telling hits interspersed through it, held the closest attention of the audience to the close, and hardly half a dozen left the building until it was finished. He speaks with a very strong Scotch accent, and is by no means a graceful orator, but he produced throughout a most favourable impression upon all his hearers, and especially upon the students, one of whom shouted as the speaker closed, "Long live President M'Cosh," and then proposed three cheers, which were given with a will, followed by the usual tiger and "*rocket*." The *rocket*, by the way, is a thoroughly Princeton institution, and as such deserves a word of description. It is given with a f-z-z-z—boom—a—h! The first exclamation is supposed to imitate the flight of a rocket in the air; the second the explosion, and the third the admiring exclamations of the enthusiastic spectators as they witness the burst of coloured fire. It is believed this species of vocal pyrotechnics originated in the army; but wherever it came from, the effect of it, as given by a couple of hundred students who have "given their minds" to perfecting themselves in the art, is ludicrous in the extreme.

Rolling land. That which gently undulates.

1818 A distance of seven miles, over a *rolling*, but not hilly country.—W. Darby, 'Tour to Detroit,' p. 168 (1819).

1819 The lands lie *rolling*, like a body of water in gentle agitation.—Schoolcraft, 'Lead Mines,' p. 26. (N.E.D.)

Rolling land—*contd.*

- 1819 *Rolling* is a term [used in the West] relative to lands. We are not to understand by the word a turning round, but a diversified surface.—David Thomas, 'Travels,' p. 230 (Auburn, N.Y.).
- 1821 On the south side of the Missouri is an extensive tract of *rolling* country.—E. James, 'Rocky Mt. Exped.,' ii. 343. (Phila., 1823).
- 1827 The face of the country is, generally, *rolling*.—John L. Williams, 'W. Florida,' p. 5 (Phila.).
- 1833 My way led through oak openings of *rolling land*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 166 (Lond., 1835).
- 1833 Our next stage carried us over a *rolling* prairie to Laporte.—*Id.*, i. 222.
- 1834 The country is a *rolling* prairie for part of the way between the Demora and San Miguel.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches,' &c., p. 39 (Boston).
- 1835 The road winds through a "rolling" country.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 166.
- 1861 For nearly a mile, large *rolling* fields extend down to the Warrenton turnpike.—Gen. McDowell's report of the battle of Bull Run, Aug. 4: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 256 (1863).
- 1888 We found the country about Austin [Texas] delightful. The roads were smooth and the surface *rolling*.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 220.

Rolling off a log. A metaphor of what is easy,

- 1847 That's it, said Tom, got him as easy as *rolling off a log*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 162.

Roll-way. A place for logs to roll down in.

- 1878 This will avoid the usual delay of breaking *rollways*.—*Lumberman's Mag.*, March 16. (N.E.D.)

Room, Roomer. To room is to occupy a room. A roomer occupies a room, without boarding.

- 1828 She *rooms* with me, and is very . . . agreeable.—Mrs. Stowe, Letter in 'Life' (1889), ii. 41. (N.E.D.)
- 1836 He is a Senior, and *rooms* just above me.—'Harvardiana,' iii. 76.
- 1846 We *roomed* directly under Tutor K.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 330.
- 1847 Seven years ago, I *roomed* in this room.—*Id.*, xii. 114.
- 1887 Complaint had been made by some of the *roomers*.—*Ohio State Journal*, Sept. 2. (N.E.D.)

Roorback. A false report circulated for political purposes. See quotations 1844.

- 1844 The *Albany Journal* published what purported to be an extract from 'Roorback's Tour through the Western and Southern States,' in 1836, containing libellous matter concerning James K. Polk. This 'Tour' was made up from that of Featherstonhaugh.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 26.
- 1844 The *Roorback* stories of the Whig partizans do not hang together.—*N.Y. Post*, Sept.

Roorback—*contd.*

- 1844 Do you remember, sir, the story which was circulated in all the federal papers of the North and West,—said to be taken, I think, from the travels of one *Roorback*—to this effect: that the aforesaid *Roorback* was travelling in the South; that he saw upon the banks of Duck River an encampment of negroes, with their drivers, proceeding to the southern market; and that these negroes were branded with the initials “J. K. P.,” and were the property of James K. Polk, the democratic candidate for president of the U.S. ? This was a base forgery. I shall next advert to the gold humbug, which originated also in the *Roorback* mint.—Mr. Henley of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 76, App.
- 1844 THE ROORBACK FORGERY has been traced to a Mr. Linn of Ithaca, N.Y., a violent abolitionist and an intemperate man.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 3.
- 1852 Let me raise my warning voice, and say to my Southern friends, beware of these Birney *Roorbacks*.—Mr. Olds of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 327.
- 1857 “A *Roorback* from the East.”—Heading, *S. F. Call*, May 5.
- 1858 “The *Roorback*.”—Heading, *Oregon Weekly Times*, Oct. 2.
- 1860 “Opposition *Roorback*.”—Heading of an item in the *Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 6, p. 4/2.
- 1876 It was a poor day for *roorbacks* yesterday. First, Prof. Lowell was going to vote for Tilden, and then he—wasn't. Second, President Grant had declared that the vote of Louisiana ought to be thrown out, and then he—hadn't. Third, Governor Hayes promised all sorts of strange things, and then he—didn't. These were short-legged lies, all of them; and they soon got out of breath.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. (Bartlett).
- 1884 The *Herald* and *Globe* abound in *roorbacks* which are designed to influence the vote in Maine.—*Boston Journal*, Sept. 6. (N.E.D.)

Rooster. “The cock that crowed in the morn.”

- 1806 The New-York *Rooster*—may he continue to crow!—*The Balance*, July 22, p. 227.
- 1829 The old *rooster* commenced a shrill shout of triumph.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 23.
- 1833 Sargent Joey flew round like a ravin' distracted *rooster*.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 216 (1860).
- 1840 [One of the standards of the N.Y. delegation to the Bunker Hill Convention] represented an inverted rooster, labelled Chapman, with the words:—
 “Crow, Chapman, crow
 For the party laid low
 By the log-cabin boys
 Of old Tippecanoc.”

Boston Atlas, Sept. 11.

Rooster—*contd.*

- 1842 The *Rooster* as a pictorial sign of Democratic victory; also the "Old Coon on his Beam Ends"—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, July 20: also the *Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 11, 1858.
- 1844 Balanced on one leg, there stands the same old *rooster*, upon the very block where so many of his progeny had suffered under the hand of remorseless Betty.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 182.
- 1847 As mean as a *rooster* in a thunder shower.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 7.
- 1851 He stole his mother's *roosters*, to fight them at Bob Smith's grocery.—'Adventures of Simon Suggs,' &c., p. 14 (Phila.).
- 1853 There was a *rooster* on the fence, flapping his wings and crowing like a Trojan.—*Oregonian*, Aug. 20.
- 1854 [He is] driven by his wife, just as our old *rooster* is driven about by that cantankerous crabbed Dorking hen.—J. W. Spaulding, in the *Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 23.
- 1854 The gray of each morning was first heralded by a famous *rooster*.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 110.
- 1855 It was a bird about the size of a large *rooster*, with no tail, no comb, and no steel gaffles.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 43 (Jan.).
- 1857 Mass' Porte! day is breakin',—*roosters* been a-crowin' dis hour.—D. H. Struther, 'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 214 (N.Y.).
- 1857 Perched upon a staff, a few feet above the ridge-pole, was a weathercock, fashioned out of a piece of board in the shape of a *rooster*.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 107.
- 1860 "Crow, Chapman, Crow!"—Heading of an article in the *Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/5.
- 1862 The leading Democratic paper of my State published a handbill with a large crowing *rooster*, announcing in his jubilant proclamation that they had buried me so deep, the resurrection would never find me.—Mr. John P. Hale of New Hampshire, U.S. Senate, May 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1956/2.
- 1866 In the world's broad field of battle,
 In the great barn-yard of life,
 Be not like the lazy cattle,
 Be a *rooster* in the strife.
"Broadfellow" in *The Tea Tray*, Newport, R.I., Aug. 10.
- Root, rooter.** A noisy partizan attending base-ball and other field games.—Mr. James W. Bright in the *N.Y. Nation*, June 2, 1898, suggests that the word comes from dial. "rout," to shout (p. 422).
- 1907 Every *rooter* took him with a megaphone.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Nov. 16.
- 1909 Perhaps no Boston player has been so dramatic an idol of the *rooters* as this genial player.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, March 4: from the *Boston Post*.

- Root.** To make one's way as a hog does. Hence the phrase, "Root, hog, or die."
- 1833 I started mighty poor, and have been *rooting* 'long ever since.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 116 (N.Y.).
- 1833 I was *rooting* my way to the fire, not in a good humour.—*Id.*, p. 164.
- 1848 I wish to ask the gentleman if the Whigs are the only party he can think of, who sometimes turn old horses out to *root*. Is not a certain Martin Van Buren an old horse, which your own party have turned out to *root*? And is he not *rooting*, a little to your discomfort, about now?—Mr. Abraham Lincoln of Illinois, House of Repr., July 27: *Congressional Globe*, p. 1042, Appendix.
- 1836 Go it with a looseness,—*root, little pig, or die*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 18 (1846).
- 1853 Obligated to go upon the *root-hog-or-die* principle.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 195.
- 1857 He was making a furious attempt to sing the words of the 'Evening Hymn to the Virgin' to the classic air of "*Root, Hog, or die*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 421 (April).
- 1859 One Ohio wagon bears the inscription, *Root, Hog or die*.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 166.
- 1870 *Root hog or die*. This is the refrain of each of the nine verses of 'The Bull-Whacker's Epic.'—J. H. Beadle, 'Life in Utah,' p. 227 (Phila., &c.).
- Ropes, the.** The "modus operandi" of any thing. A nautical phrase originally.
- 1840 The captain, who "*knew the ropes*," took the steering oar.—R. H. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' ch. ix. (N.E.D.)
- 1850 The belle of two weeks standing, who has "*learned the ropes*" [at Saratoga].—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' ii. 186 (1852).
- 1850 [The dog] is elderly, *knows the ropes*, and has a sober twinkle in his grayish eye.—'The Nag's Head,' p. 44 (Phila.).
- 1853 [Captain W. B. had opened a restaurant]. The Captain *knows the ropes*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, April 9.
- 1854 [They] *understand the ropes* about town.—Mr. Trout of Pa., House of Repr. [For fuller citation see BORER.]
- 1856 Your uncle's been in Ohio, and *knows the ropes*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 411 (April).
- 1857 [He was] just getting under way and *learning the ropes* in the store of Mr. Coolidge Claffin.—*Id.*, xlix. 38 (Jan.).
- 1857 He informed me that he would look out for me on board ship, and *teach me the ropes*.—*Id.*, l. 7 (July).
- 1860 I became acquainted with a young gentleman who *knew the ropes*.—*Id.*, lv. 111 (Jan.).
- 1862 "The gentleman appears to be green," replied an old member, who *knew the ropes*.—*Id.*, lx. 225 (Sept.).
- 1866 He opines that we shall do well to stay a few days in Atehison, during which he will *put us up to the ropes*, and fix us generally in Prairie politics.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. i.

Roram. A kind of hatters' cloth.

- 1796 Richard Robinson has on hand an assortment of Beaver, Castor, and *Roram* Hats.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 2.
 1799 "A white *roram* hat." Description of an escaped prisoner.—*Farmer's Register*, Greensburg, Pa., Sept. 6.
 1804 Advt. for two runaway blacksmith's apprentices. One had on "a new *roram* hat," the other "a half-worn *roram* hat with a buckle and ribband."—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Jan. 14.
 1807 [A runaway apprentice] had on and took with him a suit of summer clothes of a bluish ground, a black silk waist-coat, and a new *roram* hat.—*Id.*, July 3.
 1848 Purchasing a white *roram* hat.—Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 231.

Rose-bug. A rose-fly.

- 1800 He suggests that the *Rosebug* is the pre-existing state of those worms.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 1.
 a.1817 An insect. . . . not unlike a *rosebug* in form, but. . . . handsomer.—T. Dwight, 'Travels in N. England' (1821), ii. 398.
 1818 Swarms of small yellow bugs, resembling what is called the *rose-bug*, are making serious ravages among the fruit-trees [in Maryland].—*Mass. Spy*, June 24.
 1842 *Rose-bugs*, leaf lice, slugs, and every description of insects upon bushes, vines, and flowers.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, July 6.
 1849 Today picked my Isabella grapes. Crop injured by attacks of *rose-bug* in the spring. Whether Noah was justifiable in preserving this class of insects?—Lowell, Introduction to 'The Biglow Papers.'

Rose-fever. A summer catarrh.

- 1851 This complaint [hay-asthma] is known in the U.S., and is called there *rose-fever*.—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 336.

Rough house. A state of disorder or insurrection.

- 1895 They might be goin' to hev considerable *rough house* — a fuss, I mean, sir.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 540. (N.E.D.)

Rough necks. Rowdies.

- 1836 You may be called a drunken dog by some of the clean shirt and silk stocking gentry; but the real *rough necks* will style you a jovial fellow.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 58.

Roundabout. A large chair.

- 1844 [He sat] in a large flag-bottomed "*roundabout*," on the opposite side of the fireplace.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 175.

Roundabout. A coat or jacket encircling the body.

- 1819 He had, when he escaped, a dark cloth *roundabout* coat and purple or brown pantaloons.—*Missouri Gazette*, St. Louis, Feb. 17.
 1821 [Ten Cents reward for a runaway black boy, who] had on a drab colored *roundabout*, wool hat, and grey colored pantaloons.—*Pennsylvania Intelligencer*, Harrisburg, Jan. 5.

Roundabout—*contd.*

- 1839 I was dressed in a white *roundabout*, and trowsers of the same.—*Chemung* (N.Y.) *Democrat*, Oct. 2.
 1850 He wore a red shirt, and a *roundabout*, sometimes called a monkey-jacket.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 18.
 a.1853 There is no knowing but I may wear a *roundabout*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 27.

Rounder. A habitual criminal.

- 1881 A "*rounder*" from Baltimore, who claimed to have "influence" with the Maryland delegation, was paid five thousand dollars.—*Boston Globe*, Aug. 30.
 1891 The regular *rounders*...are beginning to receive long sentences.—*Boston Journal*, July 7. (N.E.D.).

Round-up. A "corral" on a large scale.

- 1878 These cattle, having run wild, are collected by a grand "*round-up*."—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 437.
 1886 The general *round-up* tomorrow.—*Phila. Times*, May 3 (Century Dict.).

Roustabout. A rough fellow who does occasional jobs.

- [1746 In 'An Exmoor Scolding,' *Gent. Mag.*, xvi. 353, one woman calls another "a rubacrock, rouzeabout, platvooted, zidlemouthed swashbucket."]
 1868 As the steamer was leaving the levee, about forty black deck-hands or "*roustabouts*" gathered at the bows.—*Putnam's Mag.*, p. 342. (N.E.D.)
 1875 I want a slush-bucket and a brush; I'm only fit for a *roustabout*.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times on the Mississippi,' *Atlantic Mag.*, March, p. 286.
 1877 The vagabonds, the *roustabouts*, the criminals, and all the dregs of society.—*Harper's Weekly*, March (Bartlett).
 1890 The Century Dict. cites the *N.Y. Sun*, March 23: "an old Mississippi *roustabout*."
 1910 It should be easy to obtain the services of a dozen American *roustabouts* to man the quick-firing gun, and serve as a bond of sympathy between Gen. Chamorro and the United States, and a possible reason for American intervention in case of emergency.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Aug. 25.
 1911 Another old-time institution—the steamboat *roustabout*—may pass away in the near future. The Upper Mississippi River Improvement Association declared the other day its undying hostility to the *roustabout* for loading and unloading steamboats, and went on record as in favor of his being superseded in the steamboat business by mechanical contrivances which, it was said, would reduce the cost of handling freight and the uncertainties of getting labor at the big wharves. Singing at his work, the *roustabout* was a rather picturesque character, but there would be no great grief over his passing.—*Chattanooga Times*, Oct.

Route. A fixed local plan for newspaper delivery.

- 1850 Go upstairs, and tell W. to give you the St. John's Park *route*. He'll fix your pay.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Money-penny,' p. 119 (N.Y.).

Row to hoe. A business to accomplish.

- 1835 I never opposed Andrew Jackson for the sake of popularity. I knew it was a hard *row to hoe*; but I stood up to the rick.—Col. Crockett, 'Tour,' p. 69 (Phila.).
- 1836 I have a new *row to hoe*, a long and a rough one; but, come what will, I'll go ahead.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 28.
- 1836 One worthy was discharged from the [theatrical] company and compelled to commence *hoeing another row*.—*Id.*, p. 95.
- 1846 If you're arter folks o' gumption,
 You've a darned long *row to hoe*.
 'Biglow Papers,' No. 1.

Rowdy. A ruffian.

- 1819 No legal inquiry took place, nor indeed ever takes place amongst the *Rowdies*, as the Backwoodsmen are called.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days' (1823), p. 179. (N.E.D.)
- 1819 The hunters, or Illinois *Rowdies*, as they are called, are rather troublesome.—*Id.*, p. 277.
- 1819 Mr. B. said the *Rowdies* had threatened him with assassination.—*Id.*, p. 284.
- 1819 When the English first came to Evansville settlement, these *Rowdy* labourers had nearly scared them out.—*Id.*, p. 316. [Faux furnishes other examples.]
- 1824 The riotous roisters, or, as they are here called, *rowdies*, will fight for the mere love of fighting.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 93 (Boston).
- 1825 We had a blow-out last Sunday, and half a dozen troublesome fellows they call justices were done for by the brave *rowdies*.—James K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 198 (Lond.).
- 1833 Tom was beginning to become what in this part of the country is called a "*Rowdy*," that is to say a gentleman of pleasure, without the high finish which adorns that character in more polished societies.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 45 (Phila.).
- 1840 See RAISE CAIN.
- 1842 If New York should place herself where some of her *rowdy* citizens have placed themselves.—Mr. Miller of New Jersey, June: *Cong. Globe*, p. 789, Appendix.
- 1845 If you marry [said she] marry a *rowdy*; marry anything but a quiet man in love with abstractions.—'Lowell Offering,' v. 28.
- 1846 John Van Buren is a *rowdy*, the associate of *rowdies*.—W. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of Martin Van Buren,' p. 148 (Boston).
- 1850 He is classed with free negroes, *rowdies*, and low-flung draymen.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 122 (Phila.).
- 1856 So far from being a *rowdy*, he is a young man whose manners and appearance would render him distinguished in any assemblage.—'Household Mysteries,' N.Y., cited in *Knicker. Mag.*, xlviii. 416.
- 1860 I greatly desire that [Cache Valley] may be filled with Saints, and not with *rowdies*.—Brigham Young, June 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 291.

Rowdy—*contd.*

- 1863 Report had it that three thousand Virginians and a large body of Maryland *rowdies* were enlisted in the enterprise.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 72.
- 1864 A mass of swearing, gaming, drinking *rowdies*.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 19.

Rowdy, v. to bully. Obsolete.

- 1825 Being regulated, and *rowdied*, and obliged to cut down trees as big round as a hogshead.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 209 (London).

Rubbers. Rubber overshoes.

- 1855 [The soil is clayey]. So, besides the burden of *rubbers*, one has to carry no little portion of the native earth.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 160 (1857).

Rullities. Doughnuts. Dutch.

- 1832 Garnishing their table with "Malek and Suppaw'n," with *rullities*, and their hands with long stemmed pipes.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 127.
- 1844 He received a *rooletjeer* (doughnut) from the kind hand that had supplied this diurnal want of nature for the last forty years.—Miss Sedgwick, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 79 (N.Y.).

Rum, Rum-hole. See quotations.

- 1858 *Rum* I take to be the name which unwashed moralists apply alike to the product distilled from molasses and the noblest juices of the vineyard. Burgundy "in all its sunset glow" is *rum*. . . Sir, I repudiate the loathsome vulgarism as an insult to the first miracle, &c.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' ch. viii.
- 1863 There is in a village a *rum-hole*, which is destroying the peace and happiness of the community.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxviii. 139.
- 1872 The State of New York alone, we believe, uses the term *rum-holes* for its smaller grog-shops.—De Vere.

Run. To conduct, to manage; to put forward and support a candidate or a "ticket."

- 1789 It was agreed to *run* the following ticket in their respective Districts.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 2.
- 1800 With regard to the person to be *run* [with Mr. Jefferson] as Vice President, there appears some difference of opinion.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 5.
- 1800 General Pinckney is no longer *run* as Vice-President; it is the avowed object of the federal party to make him President.—*Id.*, Dec. 5.
- 1806 The person whom the Cheethamites will *run* for next Governor.—*The Balance*, April 29, p. 131.
- 1816 A numerous meeting of Germans agreed to *run* Col. Isaac Wagle, a German and a true republican, [as their candidate for the commissionership].—*Farmers' Register*, Greensburg, Pa., Oct. 10.
- 1825 [They] talk of *running* him for the next Governor.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 85.

Run—*contd.*

- 1827 "*Running a Bank.*"—Heading in the *Providence American: Mass. Spy*, Oct. 3.
- 1828 What are we to think of the proposition by the Adams Convention at Harrisburg to *run* [J. A. S.] as V. President of the U.S. ?—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 12, p. 3/5.
- 1859 We have never had the misfortune to *run* (or "*be run,*" as the phrase is) for Congress.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liv. 372 (Oct.).
- 1861 From a man [Mr. Lincoln] who is taken up because he is an ex-rail splitter, an ex-grocery keeper, an ex-flatboat captain, and an ex-Abolition lecturer, and is *run* upon that question, I would not expect any great information as to the Government which he was to administer.—Mr. Louis T. Wigfall of Texas, U.S. Senate, March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1400/1.
- 1861 On being asked whether he would urge the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, Mr. Lincoln said, "Well, I suppose I will have to *run the machine* as I find it."—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 252.
- 1874 The collateral occupation of "*running a chowder mill,*" as the phrase goes.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 309 (Sept.).
- 1888 The young Emperor of Germany is inflated with the idea that he was born to *run the universe*.—*Texas Siftings*, Sept. 22 (Farmer).
- 1890 I would be too smart to *run* another rancho in this country.—Vandyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' p. 19.

Run into the ground. To pursue a topic which is exhausted; to carry a thing too far.

- a.1826 [A young Missouri Senator] was asked how low the mercury fell in his locality. He promptly replied, "It run into the ground about a foot." Hence arose the saying, "*running it into the ground.*"—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 46 (N.Y., 1880).
- 1851 Well, you've fairly *run it into the ground* now, says Uncle Joshua.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 340 (1860).

Runnagee. A vagabond. Local. †

- 1866 Railroads don't suit a *runnagee* like an old-fashioned dirt road. Ever since this everlasting war, I have been partial to a forked dirt road, for it gives a poor *runnagee* choice of direction every few miles.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 108.

Runner. A smooth long piece of wood used instead of a wheel when snow is on the ground.

- 1765 To be sold, a light fashionable four-wheeler Carriage, with *Runners* to the same.—*Boston-Gazette*, July 22. (N.E.D.)
- 1781 [Also called a slider.] The sleigh-box hangs on four posts standing on two steel *sliders*, or large *scates*.—Sam. Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' p. 320 (Lond.).

Runner—*contd.*

- 1789 [They] are raised upon what are called *runners*, which elevate them about two feet.—Anburey, 'Travels,' i. 142 (*id.*).
- 1802 A lad, seated on the fore part of a sleigh load of goods, was suddenly pitched off before one of the *runners*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 24.
- 1853 Moon-lit nights, when steel-shod *runners* glance over the crisp snow.—"Lewis Myrtle," 'Cap Sheaf,' p. 94 (N.Y.).
- 1854 Ere through the first dry snow the *runner* grates.
James R. Lowell, 'An Indian-Summer Reverie.'
- 1851 [This accident] probably threw the teamster under the *runner*.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 106 (N.Y.).
- 1852 The *runners* gritted over the bare planks.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 143.
- 1857 I left in a hackney carriage, the wheels whereof had turned into *runners*.—Geo. H. Derby, 'The Squibob Papers,' p. 145 (1865).
- Runner.** An agent or tout for a hotel, a boat, &c.
- [1784 Men who, by getting in with the *runners* of the Bank, or by other means, find out who is pressed for the day, and extort the most enormous discounts.—Letter from "Loelius," *Maryland Journal*, Dec. 14.]
- [1800 A couple of *runners* attended a numerous meeting, and made their usual display of eloquence upon the occasion.—*Mass. Mercury*, June. 27: from the *Dartmouth* (N.H.) *Gazette*.]
- 1824 Our wholesale property-speculators and their gentry in livery, called *runners*.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 21.
- 1835 [At Oswego] a struggle began between the *runners* of the two boats.—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 31 (N.Y., 1836).
- 1840 The landlords, *runners*, and sharks in Ann Street learned that there was a rich prize for them down in the bay.—R. H. Dana, 'Before the Mast,' ch. xxxvi. (N.E.D.)
- 1853 The Louisville papers come down pretty heavy upon the St. Louis *runners*, and St. Louis people in general . . . A better and more peaceable set of men does not reside in this city, than our steamboat *runners*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 24.
- 1853 Two ruffians last night assaulted a *runner* for the City hotel, and nearly killed him.—*Id.*, June 20.
- 1857 We shall assume that the landlord's jackals (or "*runners*") have succeeded in inveigling a house-full of newly-arrived seamen into his den.—T. B. Gunn, 'N.Y. Boarding Houses,' p. 278.
- 1866 The night being bleak and chilly, it was sweet to hear the cry of the *hotel-runner* (a tout is here called a *runner*) "Any one for Planter's House?"—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. i.

Runner. A black snake.

1838 A black snake, about seven feet long, of the kind which the people [of Connecticut] call *runners* or choking-snakes.—Dr. Todd of Vt., in R. M. Bird's 'Peter Pilgrim,' i. 223 (Phila.).

1855 Push forward, quick as a *runner* (black snake) when I say the word.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 456 (N.Y.).

Running-board. A narrow gangway along each side of a keel-boat.

1820 See KEEL.

1826 The waves came in on the *running-boards*, as they are called, of the boat, at times two feet deep.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 218.

Runway. See quotation.

1839 [The buck was] in search of a "*run-way*," which would carry him back again into the depths of the forest.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 105 (Lond.).

Rush. A street encounter. This is a college word, probably American; though Mr. Henley, referring to the topic of Reform, "feared there would be an ugly rush some of these days." [See *Punch's* cartoon, April 30, 1859.]

1860 As a basis, a *Rush* tacitly assumes that it is promoting a rivalry that is proper and praiseworthy.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxvi. 22.

Rush. A good recitation. College slang.

1860 Take the word *cramming*, and, with the rest of its family, *rush*, *fizzle*, *flunk*, and *pony*, it tells at once the secret of college life.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 143.

1860 Some cue that will enable colloquy men to save an inglorious fizzle, and philosophicals to make a triumphant *rush*. . . . When we leave College, nobody will care whether on a particular day we *rushed*, *fizzled*, or *flunked*.—*Id.*, 399, 403.

1862 If they *rush* as well in their lessons as they do in front of the Gymnasium, their marks will be very high.—*Id.*, xxviii. 37.

1866 P. told him that good scholars were looked upon here as mere *rush-lights*.—*Id.*, xxxi. 229.

S

- Sabbaday, Sabberday.** A corruption of Sabbath day, erroneously used for Sunday.
- 1833 He makes poetry himself *sabbadays*,—made more poetry 'an you could shake a stick at.—John Neal, 'The Down Easters,' i. 135.
- 1833 *Id.*, i. 45. [See HALVES, THE.]
- 1834 He used to go to the North meeting three times every *Sabba'day*.—*Vermont Free Press*, Aug. 9.
- 1848 Capt'ing, I sorter recking it ain't entered into your kalkilation as this here is *Sabberday*.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 16 (Phila.).
- α.1848 There is nothing irregular in nature, because it is round, as I told you last *Sabberdy*.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 194.
- Sachem.** From its original meaning, of an Indian chief, this word came to be applied to political leaders, especially in connection with Tammany.
- 1773 It is whispered that the *Sachem* has it in contemplation to go home soon. [Note. Some one prominent in Massachusetts politics.]—J. Adams, 'Works' (1854), ix. 335. (N.E.D.)
- 1774 The *Sachems* must have a Talk upon this matter—upon Them we depend to extricate us out of this fresh difficulty [as to the importation of Tea].—*Boston-Gazette*, March 7.
- 1805 Well met, fellow freemen! let's cheerfully greet
The return of this day with a copious libation;
For liberty still, in her chosen retreat,
Hails her favorite Jefferson chief of our nation—
A chief in whose mind
Republicans find
Wisdom, probity, honor and firmness combined.
Let our wine sparkle high while we gratefully give
The health of our *Sachem*, and long may he live!
First verse of a Fourth of July song: *Balt. Ev. Post*, July 3, p. 3/2.
- 1817 There is a respect due to our *sachems*, which this vulgar state of things diminishes. [Allusion to the ill-bred mob of visitors at the White House, after Mr. Monroe became President].—*Mass. Spy*, April 2.
- 1819 This toast astounded not only their *Sachem*, William Mooney, but put the whole wigwam into confusion.—*Id.*, March 10.
- Sack.** A pocket-bag.
- 1888 Albert carried in a *sack*, tucked in his hip pocket, 890 dols., mostly in double eagles.—*Troy Daily Times*, Jan. 31 (Farmer).
- Sack.** A fund used for bribery: a "barrel."

Sage-hen. The female of the sage-grouse.

1878 The only game in most of that region is jack-rabbits and *sage-hens*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 173.

1878 The morning note and flutter of the *sage-hen* were occasionally heard.—*Id.*, p. 177.

Sail in. To pitch in, to go ahead.

1889 A man must dismiss all thoughts... of common-sense when it comes to masquerade dresses, and just *sail in* and make an unmitigated fool of himself.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 561. (N.E.D.)

Sakes alive! A meaningless interjection.

1846 "Law *sakes alive*," was the reply, "I ain't no how."—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Western Clearings,' p. 78. (N.E.D.)

1853 The old woman exclaimed "*My sakes alive!*"—*Knicker. Mag.*, xli. 273 (March).

Salamander. A "fire-eater."

1861 In 1856 the *salamanders* called a halt.—*Oregon Argus*, March 23.

Salamander. See quotation.

1859 The species [of *Geomys*] are termed "gophers" in the west, but in Georgia and Florida, they are almost universally called "*salamanders*."—S. F. Baird, 'Mammals of N. America,' p. 371. (N.E.D.)

Saline, Salina. A salt pond. Examples, 1450-1888, N.E.D.

1806 [Salt River] received its name from the number of *salines* on its banks, which impregnate its waters.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels,' iii. 3. (N.E.D.)

1806 [They] make salt at a neighbouring *saline*; coffee from the wild pea; and extract sugar from the maple tree.—*Id.*, iii. 4 (Lond., 1808).

1822 There is a *saline* near this place; but we could not ascertain its position.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6: from the *Detroit Gazette*.

1826 There seems to have been a competition between the *salines* of New York and those of Kenhawa.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 24.

Saloon, Saloon-keeper. A saloon is a drinking-place.

1879 The publicans, or *saloon-keepers*, as they are called in America.—G. Campbell, 'Black and White,' p. 242. (N.E.D.)

1884 [Two men] demanded drinks in the *saloon*.—*N.Y. Herald*, Oct. 27. (N.E.D.)

Salt, v. See quotation. Ogilvie's Dict. (1882) has "to salt an invoice."

1870 To prepare a mine in such a way that it may appear to be extremely rich in valuable mineral is called "*salting*" it.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 269 (Lond.).

Salt River—*contd.*

- 1844 Mr. Kennedy of Indiana feared his colleague, instead of viewing the land of promise from "Pisgah's top," had been looking up the valley of *Salt river*.—The same, Dec. 20: *id.*, p. 37, App.
- 1848 You may depend upon it (says he) *Salt River* runs up stream; and I suppose that is the only river in America that does run up stream.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing' (1860), p. 319. [And see the whole of Letter lxii.]
- 1849 Gulielmus Lloyd Garrison, *Liberator*, qui nuper apud Londinum (adjuvante Dan O'Connell) *Americanos up Salt River rowavit*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxiii. 549 (June).
- 1854 "For the head waters of *Salt River*."—Heading, *Weekly Oregonian*, June 10.
- 1855 Let Gaines and Strong, who came round the Horn together, be shipped to the head waters of *Salt River*.—*Olympia (W.T.) Pioneer*, June 29.
- 1856 Hang the scrimpton, I rowed him up *Salt River*, and he's gone home a little lighter than he came.—'A Kentucky Story' in the *San Francisco Call*, Dec. 9.
- 1860 From 1860 to 1868, broadsides, &c. were published in Philadelphia, under the titles of "*Salt River Express*," "*Salt River Gazette*," "*Salt River Mare's Nest*," &c.; also tickets "for *Salt River direct*."

Sam. A term used in connection with the Know-nothings, who professed extraordinary patriotism and zeal for "Uncle Sam."

- 1855 Now, Sam, if you have no religion of your own, as you spell your name B-h-o-y, where is prescription to stop?—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June.
- 1855 See COON. See RIGHT ON THE GOOSE.
- 1855 An individual, masked under the vulgar name of "*Sam*," furnishes now just a good deal more than half the pabulum wherewith certain legislators and journalists are fed.—*Putnam's Mag.*, v. 533 (May).
- 1856 When the frosts of November shall visit us, the immortal "*Sam*" will have passed away from the earth. Born of bigotry and intolerance, he was conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity. His strange birth, rapid growth, violent life, and sudden death, will form an interesting study for the future...historian.—Mr. Marshall of Illinois, House of Repr., Aug. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1228, App.
- 1856 Bartlett quotes a parody of 'The Burial of Sir John Moore,' entitled 'The Burial of *Sam*,' from the *Washington Evening Star*, Nov. 3.
- 1860 A few years since [he] was a very officious Democrat; then he saw hopes for office in an American organization; and he crawled into the caves, garrets, and cellars where "*Sam*" congregated; took all the horrid oaths, and learned the secret grips of that order.—Mr. Montgomery of Pa., House of Repr., Jan. 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 515.

Sam Hill. A euphemism for the devil.

- 1839 What in *sam hill* is that feller ballin' about?—'Major Jack on a Whaler,' *Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, Aug. 21.
- 1868 He had bought him a little hobtailed mouse-colored mule, and was training him like *Sam Hill*.—Leavenworth (Kas.) paper, quoted in 'Following the Guidon,' p. 142.
- 1909 How in *Sam Hill* can she do it? She's just as hot when she gets to bilin' p'int as she'll ever be.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 12.

Sam Patch. A famous jumper. See quotations.

- 1827 They saw a man making towards the edge of the precipice. [He] stood perfectly erect, and in this posture threw himself from the rock into the river. . . . The man, whose name is *Samuel Patch*, said that Mr. Crane had done a great thing, and he meant to do another.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 17: from the *N.Y. Evening Post*.
- 1829 The jumping of the illustrious Mr. *Samuel Patch* of New Jersey. [Then follows an account of the Niagara jump.]—Letter to *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*, dated Oct. 8.
- 1829 *Sam Patch* jumped down the falls at Rochester on the 6th inst. in presence of 10,000 gapers.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 18.
- 1829 His last jump at Genesee Falls, N.Y.—*Id.*, Nov. 25.
- 1834 A facetious monody on him, by Robert C. Sands: 'Writings,' ii. 347.
- 1836 He had chalked out his course so sleek in his letter to the Tennessee legislature, that, like *Sam Patch*, says I, there can be no mistake about him, and so went ahead.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 16 (Phila.).
- 1838 Why did you play *Sam Patch*, and jump into the river?—B. Drake, 'Tales,' &c., p. 54 (Cincinnati).
- 1839 [The American people must] at all times have an idol to worship, and a clown to laugh at; they must have occasionally a *Sam Patch*, a Morgan, an Abolitionist, or an Occola, to marvel at, and to talk about.—Mr. Sevier of Arkansas, U.S. Senate, Feb. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 186, App.
- 1854 Afore you could say *Sam Patch*, them hogs were yanked aout of the lot, kilt, and scraped.—*N.Y. Spirit of the Times*, n.d.

Samp. See quotations.

- 1643 Nashump, a kind of meale pottage, unpartch'd. From this the English call their *Samp*, which is Indian corne, beaten and boild, and eaten hot or cold with milke or butter.—Roger Williams, 'Key,' p. 11 (Bartlett).
- 1672 The blew Corn. . . . is light of digestion, and the English make a kind of loblolly of it, to eat with milk, which they call *Sampe*; they beat it in a Morter, and sift the flower out of it; the remain[d]er they call Homminey.—Josselyn, 'New England Rarities,' pp. 52, 53 (Bartlett).
- 1857 I'll show you the *samp* you had for breakfast.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 138.

Sand. Courage, pluck.

- 1883 Good solid man he was too, with heaps of *sand* in him.—*Harper's Mag.*, p. 202 (Bartlett).

- Sauce, Sarce, Sass.** Vegetables. See also LONG SAUCE.
- 1802 Here's a plenty of all sorts of *sauce*, excepting sour crout.—*Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1810 If you are as fond of *saucc*, as I am, you will plant more potatoes, beans, peas, &c.—Robert B. Thomas, 'The Farmer's Almanack,' May (Boston).
- 1819 I was asked what *sauce* I would choose for my meat, which was good corned beef; I found that this *sauce* consisted of carrots, turnips, and potatoes.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star: Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1821 T. Dwight quotes *sauce*, *saacer*, *saucy*, as Coekneyisms.—'Travels,' iv. 279.
- 1825 From sweet corn, pumpkin pies, and *sarse* (vegetables) to buckwheat cakes and goose's gravy. . . . A quantity of *long*, *short*, and *round sauce*, or "sarse," i.e. carrots, turnips, and potatoes.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 72, 76.
- 1836 [He] talked to me about living at home on codfish, and potatoes, and cider, and pies, and all sorts of *sass*.—Beverly Tucker, 'The Partisan Leader,' p. 318 (N.Y., 1861).
- 1837 Behind comes a "sauce-man," driving a wagon full of new potatoes, green ears of corn, &c.—Hawthorne, 'Twice-Told Tales' (1851), i. 249 (Bartlett).
- Savage as a meat axe.** Very savage.
- 1835 A little dried up man, who was whetting his knife against the side of the fire-place, and looking as savage as a *meat axe*.—James Hall, 'Tales of the Border,' p. 58 (Phila.).
- 1840 When the Virginy elections was up, he was as *savage as a meat ax*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 184.
- 1842 He was as keen and *fierce as a meat axe*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 10.
- 1842 Ridin' makes one as *savage as a meat axe*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 126.
- 1851 [He] looked at me right plum in the face, as *savage as er meat axe*.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 149.
- 1857 He looked as *savage as a meat axe*, till she began to cry and take on.—J. C. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 88.
- Savagerous.** Strong and savage. In S.E. Missouri, vigorous = fierce: 'Dial. Notes,' ii. 335.
- 1832 A woman, present at Mrs. Drake's theatrical toilet, picked up the stage dagger, and said, "What! do you really jab this in yourself *sevagarous*?"—Mrs. Trollope, 'Manners,' &c., i. 182.
- 1837 The strongest man in Kentucky, and the most *sevagarous* at a tussle.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 96 (Lond.).
- 1840 "Pretty *scvirgous*, but nothing killing yet," said Billy Curlew, as he learned the place of Spivey's ball.—Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 207.
- 1843 The Editor [of the *Age*] calls his *savagerous* enemy a remarkably pious and moral young man.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 25.

Savagerous—*contd.*

- 1848 He felt considerable streaked at bein' roused out of his mornin's nap for nothin' ; so altogether he felt sorter wolfish, and lookin' at the stranger darned *savagerous*, says he, Who the hell are *you* ?—Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 16 (Phila.).
- 1849 The turtle popped out its head, and rolled its eyes, while a sort of wheeze issued from its *savagerous* mouth.—*Frontier Guardian*, Aug. 8 : from the *Odd Fellow*.
- 1852 [This will] rouse 'em to do somethin' *savagerous*.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 37 (Phila.).
- 1854 The hog was quartered, grabbed, and carried off on another block, and then a set of *savagerous* lookin' chaps layed it and cut and skirted round.—N.Y. *Spirit of the Times*, n.d.
- a.1855 [The lion] once fiercely contended for the crown with a very *savagerous* creature called the Youknowcan.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 263.
- 1866 Habeas Corpus is when suspended, the most *savagerous* beast that ever got after tories and traitors.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 54.

Savannah. A meadow. See quotation 1775.

- 1705 Large spots of Meadows and *Savanna's*, wherein are Hundreds of Acres without any tree at all.—Beverly, 'Virginia,' ii. 8.
- 1775 The *savannah's* are in this country of two kinds. . . . [The first] are a kind of sinks or drains for these higher lands. . . . The other *savannahs* are chiefly to be found in West Florida, they consist of a high ground, often with small gentle risings. . . . There is generally a rivulet at one or other, or at each end of the *savannahs*.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 23.
- 1803 We are approaching those vast *savannas* through which flow "the Western waters."—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'Journal of a Tour,' April 14, p. 26 (Boston).
- 1812 The prairies or *savannas*, and alluvia, scarcely constitute two fifths of the state.—H. M. Brackenridge, 'Views of Louisiana,' p. 158.
- 1821 In a far region, beyond the *savannahs* in the South-West he breathed his last.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 194.
- 1823 These *savannas* or prairies (but among the people of New England called swamps) resemble large flat plains.—Geo. W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 47 (New-Bedford).
- 1837 A piny glade, diversified with cypress swamps, grass *savannas*, and ponds.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 140 (N.Y.).
- 1838 See WHIP.
- 1854 The *savanna* is perfectly level, clothed in perpetual verdure,—except in winter, when it is covered with water,—and abounds in a great variety of flowers.—W. Flagg, *Mag. of Horticulture*, Sept. (Bartlett).

- Save.** To make sure of ; to kill ; to capture.
- 1833 [On the buck came] at an easy lope, until he reached the top of a little knoll. Then he halted, wheeled round, and stood perfectly still. I fired, and down he fell. In a moment he rose and dashed off ; but I knew I had *saved* him.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1833 "Well, you've beaten your enemy [a rattlesnake]." "Yes, I reckon I've saved him."—*Id.*, p. 151.
- 1833 [The boy watched the struggles of his victim, a large bear.] until the latter sank exhausted in the mire, when he screamed. "Bill, come back, I've *saved* him."—The same, 'Legends of the West,' p. 212.
- 1839 He has frequently preached at a place, and before he commenced pointed out some fine horse for his friend to steal ; and while he was preaching and praying for them, his friend would *save* the horse for him.—'Hist. of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 30 (N.Y.).
- 1853 I do not think we *saved* a single Mexican, but those whom we got at the first discharge.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 149.
- Saw wood.** To attend to one's own affairs.
- 1909 Mr. Sullivan should take down his copy of Livy, and read what happened to Hannibal at Capua while the defeated Romans were busy *sawing wood*.—N.Y. *Ev. Post*, April 15.
- Sawyer.** A tree-trunk in a river bed, which oscillates with the current : see quotations 1833, 1838.
- 1801 Mr. Beall and some others got on a *sawyer*, but a second tree falling drove them all under water.—*Mass. Spy*, July 29.
- 1817 See PLANTER.
- 1822 And ev'ry breath the farmer drew,
His last two snags convulsive heave
Like Mississippi *sawyers* weave.
Missouri Intelligencer, Oct. 1.
- 1826 Sometimes you are impeded by vast masses of trees, that have lodged against *sawyers*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 91.
- 1829 [Another man] had got upon the end of a snag or "*sawyer*."—*Mass. Spy*, April 1.
- 1833 In the middle of the river was a large *sawyer*, an immense log, the entire trunk of a majestic oak, whose roots clung to the bottom, while the other end, extending down the stream, rose to the surface.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 139 (Phila.).
- 1833 More than once he lost both boat and cargo by running on the snags and *sawyers* of the Mississippi.—*Id.*, p. 153.
- 1838 Sometimes a huge *sawyer* heaves up its black mass above the surface, then falls, and again rises with the rush of the current.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 65 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Boats frequently pass over these "*sawyers*," as they go down stream, pressing them down by their weight.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xvi. 462 (Dec.).

Sawyer—*contd.*

- 1844 "It takes a man, stranger," said a Mississippi fireman, "to ride one of these here aligator boats head on to a *sawyer*, high pressure and the valve soldered down."—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 10.
- 1846 There ain't a dry rag among us, and the straw's as wet as a Mississippi *sawyer*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxviii. 313 (Oct.).
- 1847 I seized Molly as she came floatin' towards me, and stuck her upon my *sawyer*, while I started for an adjinin' snag.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 110.
- 1851 And then there are the poor trees, twisting and twirling and tossing about in the rapid stream (sometimes roots uppermost) which form the dreaded "snags" and "*sawyers*" of the Mississippi voyagers.—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 114.
- 1857 [The wire workers and schemers] will fetch up agin a snag or a *sawyer* one of these days.—*San Francisco Call*, Feb. 17.

Saybrook platform. A series of propositions affirmed by a Congregational synod which met at Saybrook, Conn., Sept. 9, 1708: substantially the same as those set forth in 1648, and called the Cambridge platform. Hence came the practice of giving the "right hand of fellowship," on behalf of the people, at congregational ordinations: Peters, 'Hist. of Conn.,' pp. 143, 314 (Lond., 1781).

- 1863 On the 9th Sept. 1708, the first Synod of Connecticut met at Saybrook, and adopted the celebrated "Saybrook Platform," laying its planks so well that, though burdens have been laid upon it, and missiles hurled at it, still it stands.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 112: paper on 'Old Saybrook.'

Say-so. A bare assertion; an "ipse dixit."

- 1804 If the Democrats' *say-so* could make Mr. Jefferson a Christian, he would long ago have been one of the greatest in our country.—*The Balance*, Oct. 30, p. 347 (Hudson, N.Y.).
- 1844 How could they know that they had handled and hefted as many of the leaves as said [Joseph] Smith translated? Certainly on no other grounds than his "*say so*," which is good for nothing.—D. P. Kidder, 'Mormonism and the Mormons,' p. 53 (N.Y.).
- 1852 Your own *say-so* will be enough.—James Weir, 'Simon Kenton,' p. 93 (Phila.).
- 1862 Have we had any such experience [of these gentlemen's wisdom] that we can take it upon their bare *say-so* against the testimony of [experts]?—Mr. William P. Fessenden of Maine, U.S. Senate, March 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1400/1.

Scads. A slang term for money.

- 1856 See SARDINE.
- 1902 I could raise a few *scads*, to he'p keep up yore intrust an' taxes.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 146.
- 1903 You'll find a buckskin purse, with some *scads* in it, in the bag. So long.—F. Bret Harte, 'Trent's Trust.'

- Scalage.** An abatement in payment. Not in the Century Dict.
- 1853 Those claims [are to be paid] according to the *scalage* of the State of Texas. . . . Those creditors who have their *scalage* at the highest rate will take issue of stock. . . . [This] is the sum requisite to pay all the demands according to their face, before the *scalage* took place. . . . Gentlemen will come in, who have got their *scalage* at 87 and a half cents on the dollar.—Mr. Clarke and Mr. Houston, U.S. Senate, March 1 *Cong. Globe*, p. 961.
- Scalawag.** A worthless fellow. "A favorite epithet in western New York," says Bartlett (1848), "The word is not found in the Slang Dictionary, or in Matsell's 'Vocabulum' (1859).
- [1851 He wants to command the votes of this pack of poor *scatterwags* that he proposes to appoint.—Mr. Carter of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 259].
- 1854 (A name for poor cattle). The number of miserable "*scallawags*" is so great that. . . . they tend to drag down all above themselves to their own level—*N.Y. Tribunc.*, Oct. 24 (Cent. D.). The N.E.D. suggests that this may have been the original use of the word.
- 1854 An old chap who might be classed as one of the genus "*scalawag*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xliv. 103 (July).
- Scalp, to have one's.** To obtain a signal victory over an opponent ; to oust him from office.
- 1850 I understand that the hon. member said he would either have our votes or our *scalps*. I know not the precise meaning which is to be attached to this humane and elegant expression, if he really used it. It might be well perhaps to refer it for inquiry to the committee on Indian affairs.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., Feb. 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 190, App.
- Scarcity Root.** The mangel wurzel, a kind of beet. It is mentioned by this name in the *Gentleman's Mag.*, Nov., 1787. (N.E.D.)
- 1789 Pumpions, or pumpkins, afford more nourishment than the potatoe or [the] *scarcity root*.—*Am. Museum*, vi. 327.
- 1821 It is named by Dr. Dwight among New Zealand vegetables.—'Travels,' i. 47.
- 1821 Some years ago, we were acquainted with the Red *Scarcity Root*. It is now dignified by the name of mangle wurtzel.—*Mass. Spy*, April 11 : from the *N.Y. American*.
- Scatter-gun.** A fowling-piece.
- 1839 I have a choice *scatter-gun*, and one fine pistol.—'Hist. of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 140 (N.Y.).
- Scattering.** Scattered. The votes at the tail-end of the returns are said to be scattering. In 1806, by a transcriber's error, these votes were in one case credited to "Mr. Scattering."
- 1798 The votes stood as follows : Brown, 214 ; Tillinghast, 33 ; Champlin, 230 ; Scattering, 3 ; *The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 5.
- 1800 *Id.*, Dec. 16.
- 1806 Are we uncorrupt when we reject the people's votes, when *Mr. Scattering* is put on the list as a man ?—*Mass. Spy*, July 9.

Scattering—*contd.*

- 1806 A facetious letter from the participle *scattering*: *id.*, July 30.
- 1806 *The Boston Repertory*, Aug. 1, prints a ballad from the *Farmer's Museum*, to the tune of 'Unfortunate Miss Bailey':
Oh! Mr. *Scattering*, unlucky Mr. *Scattering*,
He took to counting false returns, and thought of Mr. *Scattering*.
- [1808 The Federal Senators are certainly chosen, unless *scattered* votes are uncommonly numerous.—*Mass. Spy*, May 4].
- 1808 Democratic "*Seats*," 26.—*Id.*, Nov. 9.
- 1821 The settlements in these places are still very *scattering*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mt. Exped.', ii. 346 (Phila., 1823).
- 1824 I have taken the same course with the *scattering* trees on the farm.—*Mass. Yeoman*, March 10.
- 1824 —The jostles and stumbles in walking at night thro' streets with solitary *scattering* lamps, and those half-lighted.—*The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., May 15, p. 40/2.
- 1824 There were but half a dozen *scattering* votes in all.—*New Bedford Mercury*, May 28.
- 1833 The *scattering* houses around its borders assured me that this was Prairie Ronde.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 212 (Lond., 1835).
- 1834 We saw in the evening plenty of *scattering* bulls, all with their faces turned to the south.—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 68 (Boston).
- 1837 *Scattering* houses formed an irregular village all the way.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 160 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Gentlemen may specify a *scattering* Abolitionist, here and there, who occasionally co-operates with the Democratic party from local causes.—Mr. Watterson of Tennessee, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 104, Appendix.
- 1869 A long rough table with *scattering* fruits and dishes upon it.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' ch. 19.
- School-ma'am.** A school-mistress.
- 1840 At the age of fifteen we were qualified for the responsible station of "country *schoolma'ams*."—'Lowell Offering,' i. 74.
- 1857 It is like the *school-ma'm* who came to a difficult word, and, not understanding it herself, told the child to say, "hard word," and pass on.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Sept. 13: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 241.
- 1864 Before this day of larger ideas, to be a *school-ma'am* was to be a stiff, conceited, formal, critical character.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 254.
- 1878 He up an' married one o' them *school-marms* sent out from Boston.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 188.
- 1906 If there is a sweet exhibition on earth, it is to see a little *schoolmam* on her way to and from the scene of her duties, so garlanded about with sweet, devoted childhood, that her modest footsteps are absolutely retarded.—*Tombstone* (Arizona) *Epitaph*, Dec.

Schooner. See PRAIRIE SCHOONER.

Schooner. A large glass of beer.

1886 Only one *schooner* stands on the table—*Boston Journal*, July 21, 2/4. (N.E.D.)

Scoop. The front part of an old-fashioned bonnet of the Georgian period; also the bonnet itself.

1800 In the *Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, May 28, a writer mentions

“The Wig, the *Scoop*, the bolster'd breast,
And Waist almost two inches long.”

1800 Whereupon “*Delia*” replies, June 4:—

“Strephon, your Satire's a weak twig;
To Female Power Mankind must stoop;
Full in your face I'll hurl my Wig;
My Maid shall beat you with my *Scoop*.”

1824 A huge black bonnet, with a *scoop* as large as the run (? rim) of a butter tub.—*Salem Observer*, April 3.

1846 [Her head] was honored with an ancient “*straw scoop*.”—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 304 (Oct.).

Scoop. A shallow bay.

1821 A noble sheet of water, festooned by elegant *scoops*, separated by handsome points and promontories.—T. Dwight, ‘*Travels*,’ iv. 144.

Scoot. To go about rapidly; to be off.

1856 A Southern or Western man, when he goes *skewtin* about buying goods in business hours, keeps his eye-teeth skinned.—*Knick. Mag.*, March (Bartlett).

1858 The captain he *scooted* round into one port an' another—down to Caraccas, into Rio, &c.—*Atlantic Mag.*, March (*Id.*).

1859 The doorkeeper, having made his haul, had “*scooted*.”—*Oregon Argus*, April 16.

Scophilites. See quotation. Not in Century Dict.

1855 The *Scophilites*, a banditti, which at the opening of the revolutionary discontents in Carolina, had carried crime and terror to many a happy homestead.—W. G. Simms, ‘*The Forayers*,’ p. 54 (N.Y.). [See also pp. 217-18.]

Scow. A broad flat-bottomed boat. Du. Schouw.

1788 Between [Spires] and Carlsruhe we pass the Rhine in a common *skow* with oars.—Tho. Jefferson, *Tour from Paris to Amsterdam*, &c., April 15: ‘*Works*,’ ix. 393 (1859).

1819 These boats or flat-bottoms, so called, are generally constructed in the form of *scows* or ferry flats.—Benjamin Harding, ‘*Tour through the Western Country*,’ p. 6 (New London, Conn.).

Scrabble, n. and v. Scramble. A rough and tumble fight.

1794 It is said we are like the Frenchman, who in a *scrabble* swore he would have another hem to his shirt, and in the very *scrabble* lost his shirt.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Feb. 21.

1822 [The boy] *scrabbled* up in a rage, and fell upon his brother with his fist and teeth.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 27.

Scrabble, n. and v.—contd.

- 1825 I was a little ahead, *scrabblin'* over some rotten logs.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 111.
 1830 There was a great deal tougher *scrabble* to elect him, than there was to choose the Speaker of the House.—Seba Smith, 'Major Jack Downing,' p. 65 (1860).

Scrap, Scrape. A rough encounter; a "muss."

- 1812 A scouting party got into a *scrape* with the same number of Indians.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 19.
 1904 They will need all they can get, before they get through with this *scrap*.—Claiborne, 'Old Virginia,' p. 215.

Scrapple. Bacon chopped up with corn meal, and fried in cakes.

- 1890 Pennsylvania. 'Dialect Notes.' i. 75.

Scratch a ticket. To strike out some names, thereby voting only for a part of the ticket.

- 1847 He never *scratched* the regular ticket.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 382 (April).
 1861 See BOLT.

Screed. A long speech or dissertation.

- 1855 *The Knickerbocker Magazine* prints "Another Amusing *Screed*."—xlv. 433 (April).
 1857 This is a long "*screed*," but it occurred to us, and we thought we would jot it down.—*Id.*, l. 528 (Nov.).
 1861 Here are two legal "*screeds*."—*Id.*, lviii. 280 (Sept.).
 1875 If he were talking about a trifling letter he had received seven years before, he was pretty sure to deliver the entire *screed* from memory.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times on the Mississippi': *Atl. Mag.*, May, p. 572.
 1881 "Mr. Gibson's *Screed*."—Heading of an article on his report concerning the Post Office Frauds: *Washington Post*, Nov. 24.

Scrouge. To squeeze one self forward. See CROWD.

- 1798 Upstairs I *scrouged* to the front.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 13.
 1821 T. Dwight quotes *scroudge* as a Cockneyism.—'Travels,' iv. 279.
 1830 You're too monstrous inquisitive,—you *scrouge* too hard.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from the *N.Y. Constellation*. (Given as a Southernism.)

Scrub-ball. A ball patronized chiefly by negroes.

- 1837 [He reported] that Massa Captain Ross was engaged at a *scrub-ball*, given in honor of "de fair sec."—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 261 (March).

Scruff. The nape. The Century D. cites Mayhew, 1851.

- 1807 Chauncy seized him by the *scruff* of the neck, and threw him overboard into the Boat.—*Intelligencer* (Lancaster, Pa.), July 28.
 1856 'Varmount' lit on him like a fierce cat, seizing him by the *scruff* of the neck.—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 17.

[An inquirer, Dec., 21, wishes to know what part of the human neck is called the *scruff*, not finding the word in Webster.]

Sculpin. See quotation, 1832; and *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 335.

1769 Whether the ninety two tom-cod and seventeen *scalpions* are yet digested.—*Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 16.

1832 The *sculpion* (*Cottus quadricornis*) is common about the mouths and salt water harbours of our rivers; is fond of fish-offal, and the refuse of ship-cookery.—Williamson, 'Hist. of Maine,' i. 163.

1859 Now the *Sculpin* (*Cottus Virginianus*) is a little water-beast which pretends to consider itself a fish, and, under that pretext [swallows] the bait and hook intended for founders.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' ch. 1.

1873 Ugly and grotesque as are the full-grown fish, there is nothing among the finny tribe more dainty, more quaint and delicate, than the baby *sculpin*.—Celia Thaxter, 'Isles of Shoals,' p. 86.

Scunner. A combination of fright and dislike.

1862 He seems to have preserved . . . a lasting *scunner*, as he would call it, against our staid and decent form of worship.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

Sea island cotton. That grown along the South Carolina coast.

1837 Much of [Leon County] might be profitably cultivated, especially with *sea island cotton*.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 131 (N.Y.).

Seat, v. To allot land to an owner.

1748 "An Act of the Assembly of Virginia, for *seating* and cultivating new lands" is referred to in a notice signed G. Washington.—*Maryland Journal*, April 20.
See also UNSEATED.

Seawant. Wampum.

1641 An ordinance of New York, sanctioned by Governor Keift, states that "a great deal of bad *seawant*, nasty rough things," were in circulation.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 34 (1832).

1657 In 1657 the *seawant* (wampum beads) were publicly reduced from six to eight for a stuyver, which is twopence.—*Id.*, p. 35.

Secesh. Secessionist.

1862 [Many a one] whose son has died in camp or fallen in battle, and in the *secesh* cause.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, March 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1215/3.

1862 See JAYHAWKER.

Secesher. One who seceded from the Union.

1862 [Kentucky] never placed herself in direct active hostility with the Government of the U.S.,—at least the Union men did not; all the *seceshers* did.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, March 13; *Cong. Globe*, p. 1213/2.

Secessia. The region of secession.

- 1862 "General Lucius Desha"—who has lately been to *secessia*,—"Captain Richard Hawes"—who is now in *secessia*, and who was formerly member of Congress from the Ashland district.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, March 13 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1215/1.
- 1863 [This bill] would allow all the three years forces to be spared from the State to meet the enemy in *secessia*—in the seceded States themselves.—The same, Jan. 5 : *id.*, 187/1.

Second. Junior. (See also THIRD.)

- 1803 "Daniel Heywood, *2d.*" and "Wm. Caldwell, *2d.*" are mentioned in a notice.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 2.
- 1805 A notice is signed
"Jonas Sibley.
Jonas Sibley, *2d.*"—*Id.*, Sept. 11.
- 1821 All persons are cautioned not to harbour or trust David Rich, David Attwood, Ezekiel Davis, *2d.*, Margaret Moore, &c., Paupers of the town of Oxford.—*Mass. Spy*, April 18.

Second table. See quotations.

- 1850 On railroads [the negroes] occupy the second-class car, and upon steamboats they are seated at the "*second table.*"—*N.Y. Mirror*, cited by Mr. Stanton : *Cong. Globe*, p. 500.
- 1856 The idea here conveyed is that, if we vote for Mr. Buchanan, we shall come in at the *second table*, and can never expect to sit at the first table.—Mr. Jones of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Aug. 9 : *id.*, p. 2015.

Sectional, sectionalism. Phrases used principally with reference to the antagonism between North and South.

- 1836 Mr. Benton deprecated the *sectional* tone which had pervaded a part of this debate.—House of Repr., May 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, Appendix.
- 1842 Some of the powers conceded to the Federal Government related only to *sectional* interests,—controlled interests in which very few of the states participated.—Mr. Henry Clay, U.S. Senate, Jan. 28 : *id.*, p. 185.
- 1845 As it regards the *sectional* quality of the question [of the annexation of Texas], if there be anything *sectional* in it, I deny that the South shall appropriate it. . . . As far as *sectional* interests are concerned, we of the Mississippi Valley have the highest claim.—Mr. Bowlin of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *id.*, p. 95, App.
- 1850 I accord with that party which is known as the free Democracy of the U.S.,—a party which is sometimes *sectional*, but which I trust will not remain for ever *sectional*.—Mr. Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Jan. 10 : *id.*, p. 133.
- 1850 The very idea of this equilibrium [of power, as between North and South], is founded on views of *sectional* jealousy, *sectional* fear, *sectional* hostility.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., May 8 : *id.*, p. 523, App.

Sectional, sectionalism—*contd.*

- 1860 Slavery was strictly a *sectional* interest. If this could be made the criterion of parties at the North, the North could be united in its power, and thus carry out its measures of *sectional* ambition, encroachment, and aggrandizement.—Address of South Carolina to the Slave-holding States: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 109 (1861).
- 1861 It was a fatal day for the country when a *sectional* party was formed.—Mr. Bigler in the U.S. Senate: *id.*, i. 261.
- 1861 A great many personal ambitions, and a great many *sectional* interests [are brought into conflict].—Mr. Seward in the Senate: *id.*, i. 315.
- 1861 *Sectional* war, declared by Mr. Lincoln, awaits only the signal-gun to light its horrid fires all along the borders of Virginia.—*Richmond Inquirer*, March: *id.*, ii. 10.
- Seed.** A worthless fellow. (Yale.)
- 1849 One tells his jokes, the other tells his beads;
One talks of saints, the other sings of *seeds*.
Yale Banger, Nov.: Hall, 'College Words' (1856).
- 1849 But we are "*seeds*," whose rowdy deeds
Make up the drunken tale.
Yale Tomahawk: *id.*
- Seek-no-furthers.** A species of apples.
- 1856 The orchard with its pendent limbs heavy with "*seek-no-furthers*."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 364 (April).
- Seen** for saw. Rustic.
- 1796 So fine a sight (says Yankee to his friend)
I swear I never *seen*—you may depend.
Address at the opening of the N. York Theatre.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Sept. 30.
- 1840 I never *seen* taller lying than that at a ward meeting.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xv. 378 (May).
- 1842 See FRICKLE.
- 1847 Arter supper I *seen* the boys was in for a frolic.—'Sketches,' edited by W. T. Porter, p. 168 (Phila.).
- 1850 We spoke of Major Andre. Oh, said the old lady, I *seen* him more'n fifty times. He was a handsome man, and he was a kind man. I *seen* [him] myself when he was a swingin', and I *seen* him when he was dug up.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxvi. 87 (July).
- Selectmen.** Officers in New England corresponding to aldermen. See *Notes and Queries*, 9 S. iv. 169, 238, 311.
- 1685 "At a meeting of the *Selectmen*, the 6th November 1685, Agreed, with respect to the Rev. Mr. Cobbet's funeral, &c."—'Records of Ipswich,' Mass., i. 108: *Mass. Yeoman*, March 10, 1824.
- 1764 The *Select Men* have not given this liberty.—*Boston Evening Post*, Feb. 6.
- 1766 The *Selectmen* met in the Afternoon at Faneuil Hall.—*Id.*, May 26.
- 1774 He was ordered by the *Selectmen* round to the ferry.—*Id.*, April 11,

Selectmen—*contd.*

- 1784 [They wished it] to be carried on the shoulders of *Selectmen*.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 21.
- 1812 He saw four Sailors who voted twice each, and the *Selectmen* never objected, nor stopped any one of them.—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 10.
- 1817 The name of the elegant new street heretofore called Cheapside has been altered to Market Street, by consent of the *Selectmen*.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, June 26.
- 1821 [In Connecticut, the inhabitants of each town] choose not exceeding seven men, inhabitants, able, discreet, and of good conversation, to be *Selectmen*, or Townsmen, to take care of the order and prudential affairs of the town.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 243 (New Haven, Conn.).
- 1826 I considered Moses an unsafe man to be at large, and I advised his father to complain of him to the *Selectmen*.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 11.
- 1857 She rejoined us, accompanied by Elder Pierson and Brothers Davis and Allen: who filled the offices respectively of carpenter, blacksmith, and postmaster; and who were at that time in the full exercise of the important functions of *selectmen* of the village.—*Knick. Mag.*, i. 237 (Sept.).

Semi-occasionally. Infrequently.

- 1854 He preached *semi-occasionally* at a private house.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 323 (March).
- 1854 [He was] walking the hospital but *semi-occasionally*, and seeing life in Paris very constantly.—*Putnam's Magazine* (Bartlett).
- a.1854 *Semi-occasional* intoxication.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 90.
- 1858 Our mails [arrive] only *semi-occasionally*, or now and then.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, Aug. 27.
- 1876 The shelves being a foot deep, books...that are only wanted *semi-occasionally* can be arranged behind other books.—*Scribner's Mag.*, Feb., p. 488 (Bartlett).

Seneca root. See quotation.

- 1806 *Seneca*, or *rattle snake root*, which has been celebrated as a specific in the cure of croup.—*Mass. Spy*, April 30.

Send-off. A valedictory expression of good-will.

- 1888 [We went] in a special car to St. Louis; so we had a *gay send-off* for our new home.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 339.

Sense, v. To perceive, to understand, to appreciate.

- 1849 "Do you *sense* what you are doing, Jack?" said she. "*Sense* it, Susy," replied B.,—"I do, to the letter."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 201 (March).
- 1853 Their spirit presses his heart; he *senses* it.—Orson Hyde at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 125.
- 1856 You must know what sort o' a man Deacon Whipple was, or you won't *sense* the joke.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 28.

Sense, v.—*contd.*

- 1857 When any beast in the woods gets the start o' me and this here snorter [the speaker's dog], he's smart now,—do you *sense* that?—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 68 (Jan.).
- 1857 We all *sense* this in a degree, because it has always been taught to us.—Brigham Young, Nov. 29: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 95.
- 1891 I jest had to set and knit daytimes, and *sense* the lonesomeness.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 331 (Boston).
- 1899 Of late years she had not seemed to "*sense*" the inferiority, so to speak.—Mary N. Murfree, 'The Bushwhackers.'
- 1908 People are *sensing* the demand for experts in this important field of religious education.—*Bibliotheca Sacra*, Oberlin, Ohio, July, p. 472.
- 1909 Can it be that the Governor *sensed* the desires of the bulk of the citizens?—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Aug. 2.

Serape. A Mexican shawl.

- 1888 They usually had the Mexican *serape* strapped to the back of the saddle; or, if it was cold, they put their head through the opening in the middle, so woven for that purpose.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 213.

Set-back. A reverse.

- 1888 Commerce received a *set-back* from which it has not yet recovered.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 4 (Farmer).
- 1909 The notion that the anti-liquor movement has suffered a temporary *set-back* at the South was severely shaken by occurrences reported yesterday in three Southern States.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Aug. 2.
- 1909 Reform's temporary *set-back* in New Jersey is seized upon by ex-Gov. Murphy in order to announce his candidacy for the United States Senate.—*Id.*, Nov. 8.
See also BACK-SET.

Seven by nine. Inferior, third-rate. The phrase probably originated from the size of common window-glass. In R. Cumberland's 'The West Indian,' i. 2, the same combination of figures has an opposite meaning. The house-keeper says, "See what a bill of fare I've been forced to draw out; seven and nine, I'll assure you, and only a family dinner, as he calls it." (1771.) This is unexplained.

- 1794 "7 by 9 and 6 by 8 Window Glass" advertised by Daniel Waldo at the Brick Store in Worcester.—*Mass. Spy*, May 22.
- 1800 Nine windows, with 20 pains of glass, each of the size of 7 by 9, were beaten in.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 18.
- 1840 What was the state of the [White House] receiving-room? There was not a mirror, even a common *seven-by-nine* mirror, in it.—Mr. Lincoln of Mass., House of Repr., April 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 334.
- [1843 Another size of glass was 8 by 10.—See R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 254.]

Seven by nine—*contd.*

1846 [The charge was] re-echoed by every little paltry *seven by nine* Loco-foco print, and every brawling bar-room politician.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Dec. 24 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 86.

1854 I was led to believe that he was some great 7 by 9 politician or lawyer.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 22.

1855 A series of diminutive windows, consisting of four panes of *seven-by-nine*.—'Captain Priest,' p. 47.

1862 [This attempt to abolish the franking privilege] is a *seven by nine* measure of reform. It is a measure of reform that is not demanded.—Mr. Hendrick B. Wright of Pa., House of Repr., Jan. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 260/1.

* * * See a note by Mr. Forrest Morgan in *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xii. 38.

Seventy-six men. See quotation.

1821 They have been clamorous to be led to battle, until the enemy was in sight, and will then usually run away. These are what in our newspapers were commonly called '76-men.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iii. 192, *note*.

Seven-up. A card game, otherwise called "all-fours."

1856 He was a-raftin' saw-logs ; playin' "seven-up" ; and hoss-racin'.—*Knicker Mag.*, xlviii. 545 (Nov.).

1856 Songs and shouts and terrible stoups of liquor were employed to relieve "seven-up" and other gambling games.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 407 (N.Y.).

Shab off. To put off in a shabby way. Rare.

1840 I hold the people in too much esteem to *shab them off* with anything of a secondary quality.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 61.

Shack. A wooden cabin.

1907 These young missionaries keep in touch with each other, visiting the farmers and emigrants in their homes and *shacks*.—Letter to *Church Standard*, Phila., Aug. 31, p. 568.

1909 The Italians had their families living with them in the mountain *shacks*. . . . Only one crime of violence has been committed . . . ,—an Italian was murdered in his bunk by his *shack-mate*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 4.

Shadbelly. A Quaker coat.

1842 "What do you ask for this ?" said a gentleman in a *shadbelly* coat.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, March 18.

1843 Disrobing themselves of coats, *shadbellies*, and jackets.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 176.

1854 He had doffed the eassock, or rather the *shadbelly*, for the gown.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 67.

1874 His coat is straight-breasted,—*shad-bellied*, as the profane call it.—Edward Eggleston, 'The Circuit Rider,' p. 146 (Lond., 1895).

Shad-frog. See quotation.

1827 The *shad-frog*, speckled, and green frogs, are confined usually to the water.—John L. Williams, 'View of W. Florida,' p. 29 (Phila.).

Shade-tree. One planted to give shade.

- 1806 It is to be regretted that a *shade tree*, useful and ornamental as the poplar, should be in danger.—*The Balance*, July 22, p. 228.
- 1835 No state surpasses [Mississippi] in the beauty, variety, and rapid growth of its ornamental *shade-trees*.—Ingraham, 'The South-West,' ii. 101.
- 1838 A large square, which is covered with green grass, and adorned with *shade-trees*.—Samuel Parker, 'Tour,' p. 32 (Ithaca, N.Y.).
- 1844 [It was Gen. Washington's purpose that the larger spaces should be] planted with ornamental *shade-trees*.—*Cong. Globe*, p. 468: Report on Public Buildings.
- 1847 *Shade-trees* and green grass-plots are no part of religion or politics.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 278.

Shadow, v. To watch closely.

- 1877 The detectives followed two men whom they had been *shadowing*, from Prince Street to the office of the American Express Company.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Jan. 4 (Bartlett).
- 1888 A man calling himself Dr. Adams has been *shadowed* by Boston detectives.—*Boston Globe*, Feb. 6 (Farmer).
- 1910 The questions showed that Moe had been carefully *shadowed* since Tuesday. [Allds bribery case.]—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 10.

Shagbark. A species of hickory; also the nut it bears.

- 1792 [Among the walnuts is the] *Shag-bark* (*juglans cineria*?) The fruit is preferable [to that of the common hickory], being larger, and having a softer shell.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 100-101.
- 1796 The *shagbark*, English walnut, &c., are very plenty.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 23.
- 1802 The growth of the *shagbark* walnuts has been remarkably slow.—*Mass. Spy*, March 10.
- 1821 Hickory: Varieties, White, Red, *Shag-bark*, Walnut, Pignut, Bitternut, Beetlenut.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 40.
- 1854 The squirrel on the shingly *shag-bark's* bough.—J. R. Lowell, 'Indian-Summer Reverie.'
- 1846 And proud was I to pound the crackers, or to stone the plums, or crack the *shag-barks* with flat irons.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 93 (July).
- 1850 We knew a Wall-street bank-messenger, whose feet looked like two parcels of *shag-bark* walnuts, tied up in small leather bags.—*Id.*, xxxv. 557 (June).
- 1851 A deep box, containing "black" and "*shagbark*" walnuts, chestnuts, *chinquapins*, and hazel-nuts.—*Id.*, xxxvii. 183 (Feb.).

Shake, a fair. A fair deal.

- 1839 Sir, in a "*fair shake*," there is a Republican majority [in New York State].—Mr. Fry of Pa., House of Repr., Jan. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 89, App.
- 1847 Now you know, father, that wasn't a *fair shake*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 59 (Boston).

Shake a stick at. A comical expression (see quotations) used in describing a large quantity of anything.

- 1818 We have in Lancaster as many Taverns as you can *shake a stick at*.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Aug. 5.
- 1830 There's no law that can make a ton of hay keep over ten cows, unless you have more carrots and potatoes than you can *throw a stick at*.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 10.
- 1833 More spots on him than you could *shake a stick at*, between now an' everlastin'.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 18.
- 1833 He makes poetry himself sabbadays,—made more poetry an' you could *shake a stick at*.—*Id.*, i. 135.
- 1833 [I have] a right to the country about here, as much as I can *throw a stick at*.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 77 (Lond.).
- 1833 More fine pictures than you could *shake a stick at* in a week.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 213 (1860).
- 1836 *The Claremont Eagle* says that a flock of wild geese flew over that village, so near that you could *shake a stick at them*. . . . How long was the stick?—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Oct. 22.
- 1840 There are more pretty women in Raleigh than you could *shake a stick at*.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 23.
- 1843 Our queen snake was retiring, attended by more of her subjects than wo even dared to *shake a stick at*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 85-86.
- 1850 As for every sort of knave and villain, there's more than you could *shake a stick at* in a whole day.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Money-penny,' p. 32 (N.Y.).
- 1851 The whappinest, biggest, rustiest, yaller moccasin [snake] that ever you *shuck er stick at*.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 69.
- 1866 I'm going where there's more folks to mend shoes for than you can *shake a stick at*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 286.

Shake-poke. See quotation.

- 1841 When a small boy, I went to school in a Scotch-Irish neighborhood, and learnt many words and phrases which I have not met with since; among the rest was *shake-poke*. [When a meal-bag] is nearly empty, it is turned upside down and shaken; and the meal that comes out last is called the *shake-poke*. . . . The last child [of a family], like the last meal, is called a *shake-poke*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Aug. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 380.

Shakes. Long rough-cut shingles.

- 1845 It was a small one story house, shingled with what they call "*shakes*" all over the West and Southwest.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 164.
- 1855 There was no saw-mill, and whatever houses they made . . . were of logs and "*shakes*."—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 99 (1857).

Shakes—*contd.*

- 1910 In April, 1857, Clark discovered, and brought into public notice the main or upper group of the Mariposa big trees. In the same month he built his first cabin near the crossing. It was constructed on the old frontier American plan, with the chimney outside and a roof of "shakes," held in place by "weight-poles," the logs unhewn and substantial in size.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, March 28.
- Shakes, the.** A section of country bordering on the Mississippi, near New Madrid, where earthquakes, a hundred years ago, left large fissures.
- 1812 These earthquakes, which occurred in Dec. 1811, are graphically described in Pierce's 'Account,' Newburyport, 1812.—(Brit. Mus. 7109b. 43.)
- [1823 "Shakes," as these concussions are called by the inhabitants, are extremely frequent.—E. James 'Rocky Mt. Exped.,' ii. 325.]
- 1833 [They] asked me if I didn't want to go down to *the shakes*, and take a bear hunt. I told 'em I didn't care much about it, but if they wanted to go I'd go with them; so next morning we fixed up, got our pack horses, and off we started for *the shakes*. We pitched our tent right on the bank of one of those lakes made by the shakes, and commenced hunting.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 108. See also pp. 65, 81.
- * * The catastrophe at New Madrid is described by J. K. Paulding in 'The Banks of the Ohio,' i. 223-30 (1833).
- Shakes, great.** Of great consequence. The term has been referred to the Arabic *shakhs*, a man, with small probability; and Dr. Brewer traces it, with equal improbability, to *shake*, an inferior right of commonage. See *Notes and Queries*, 3 S. ii. 52; 5 S. viii. 184; xii. 369, 473. Byron uses the phrase in a letter to Murray, Sept. 28, 1820 (*Century Dict.*). And in 1816 Lord Broughton (*Diary*, Aug. 2) notes that a piece of sculpture at Malines was said to be *nullæ magnæ quassationes*: *Notes and Queries* 11 S. iii. 338. The phrase may or may not be an Americanism. Some earlier quotation may yet be found.
- 1825 I'm no *no great shakes* at braggin',—I never was.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 195.
- 1833 *No great shakes*, tho', after all, continued he, with a long nine in his mouth.—The same, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 45.
- 1834 There is *no great shakes* in managing the affairs of the nation.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 55.
- 1837 Any how, his legs are *no great shakes*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 199.
- 1840 We don't think it *any great shakes*, Corporal.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 7.
- 1842 If the steeple of St. Peter's, with its new peal of bells, did not vibrate, it would certainly be a proof that it was *no great shakes*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Nov. 5.
- 1843 I think myself *considerable shakes* of a shot.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 38.

Shakes, great—*contd.*

- 1844 You cracked Tompkins up. Tompkins pretends to be *great shakes*, don't he?—J. C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy, &c.,' p. 137.
- 1846 An' its a consolation, tu, although it doosn't pay, To heve it said your'e some *gret shakes* in anykin' o' way. 'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1846 Experience has proved to many a demagogue, who had exclaimed against it before getting into office, that \$8 per day... was *no great shakes*.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, House of Repr., July 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1119.
- 1848 None of these towns along here on the Canady side ain't *no great shakes*.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 175.
- a.1853 A petticoat is *no great shakes* after all, when it hangs fluttering on a clothes-line.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 133.
- 1857 We incline to the belief that the coming comet will be "*no great shakes*" after all.—*San Francisco Call*, May 8.

Shaking Quakers. The Shakers.

- 1784 The people in the Western part of this State, who stile themselves *Shaking Quakers*, have of late (it is said) utterly disclaimed the use of any kind of garment when engaged in their religious exercises.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 1.
- 1785 A Cause brought by a Miss Eggleston against one Reuben Rathbun, an exhorter among the people called *Shaking Quakers*, for defaming her.—*Id.*, July 7.
- 1785 Died at Nesqueunia about three weeks since, the woman who has been at the head of the sect called *Shaking Quakers*, and has assumed the title of the Elect Lady.—*Massachusetts Centinel*, Oct. 2.
- 1787 The tenets of the community are set forth in the *American Museum*, i. 148-150.

Shanty. A small wooden house or room.

- 1820 [These people] lived in what is here called a *shanty*. This is a hovel of about 10 feet by 8, made somewhat in the form of an ordinary cow-house.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour' (Ohio), New Haven, 1822, p. 31. (See also p. 55.)
- 1822 Almost every vacant spot has been occupied by a shop or *shanty* of some kind.—*Boston Patriot*, Sept. 7.
- 1836 When we entered the *shantee*, Job was busy dealing out his rum, and I called for a quart of the best.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 17 (Phila.).
- 1836 I noticed many a . . . fellow force his skeary nag up to the opening in the little clapboard *shanty*.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 14 (1846).
- 1839 "The contractors upon the Brunswick and Alatanaha Canal are desirous to hire a number of Prime Negro Men until the 1st January 1840. . . . These negroes will be employed in the excavation of the canal. They will be provided with 3½ pounds of pork or bacon per week, and lodged in comfortable *shantees*."—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' i. 137 (1842).

Shanty—*contd.*

- 1840 These numerous "*shanties*" are the homes of the miners.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 502 (May).
- 1844 The whole gang were conveyed to the Mayor's office, a small *shantee*, with one large window and door.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 179.
- 1847 [The boy was] lying on some straw at the mouth of the *shantee*.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 12 (Boston).
- 1850 [They were] barely in time to save their *shantee* from a come down on their heads.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 14 (N.Y.).
- 1855 A low kind of *shantee* projected from the door several feet back, which served for pantry, milk-house, pig-pen, poultry-house, and possibly stable in winter.—E. W. Farnham, 'Life in Prairie Land,' p. 64.

Shanty, v. To occupy shanties. Rare.

- 1840 You see the comfort to a man, who *shanties out* as much as I do, of having a home all fixed and ready for you.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 96-97 (Lond.).
- 1857 They *shantied* on the outlet, just at the foot of the lake.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 197.

Shanty-cake. An ash-cake.

- 1847 The backwoodsman [must have] his "chicken-fixins" and "*shanty-cake*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxi. 223 (March).

Shares, on. On a bargain of sharing the crop.

- 1817 To be let, *upon Shares* or Hire, a Farm, containing 200 acres of excellent land.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 29.
- 1822 I work my little *on Shares*; what belongs to my landlord I never *touch*.—*Id.*, Jan. 23.
See also HALVES.

Sharpshin. A small and worthless hawk.

- 1804 "Three *Sharpshins* Reward" offered for a runaway apprentice.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, July 14.
- 1822 The celebrated Dr. Caustick, who edits a paper in Vermont, has lately given the alarm about tight pantaloons, and it is understood that the ancient and honorable families of the Sheepshanks, Bandy-legs, Knock-Knees, Bow-legs, and *Sharp-shins*, &c., of that patriotick State at once took arms against the innovation.—*Mass. Spy*, July 17: from the *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*.
- 1829 This inconsiderable claim—for it is not of the value of a *sharpshin*.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 93 (N.Y., 1851).

Shaver. See NOTE-SHAVER.**Shaw, Pshaw!** An expression of impatience or contempt, nearly obs. in England.

- 1825 *Pshaw*, it is a common trick.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 122.
- 1837 "*Pshaw!*" says some reader of this diary.... "*Pshaw*, Henry!" replied he.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 153, 158 (Feb.).
- 1845 O, '*shaw*, 'taint gwine to rain, no how, and I'm all fixed.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 165.

Shaw, Pshaw!—*contd.*

- 1846 She hollered fur her fiddler, but oh, *shaw*, he couldnt do hir a bit of good.—‘Quarter Race,’ &c., p. 89.
- 1846 *Shaw*, now, Brooks, don’t press upon a body in this uncivil way.—*Id.*, p. 147.
- 1846 [At last they said]: *Pshaw!* there’s going to be no fight after all.—Mr. Miller of N.J., U.S. Senate, March 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 569, Appendix.
- 1848 Talk of a locomotive at full speed, *pshaw!* that is a tortoise to a mad steer. The “critter” took a bee-line for home.—‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 78.
- 1850 *P’shaw*, gal, your wits are turned through going to school.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 216 (Sept.).
- 1856 I shall say either “C’est fini,” or “O *shaw*, I know’d it.”—‘Phoenixiana,’ p. 107.
- 1857 *Pshu!* nonsense! will nothing satisfy you?—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 499 (May).
1862. See GRASS WIDOW.

Shayites, Shaysites. The adherents of Daniel Shays. As to his rebellion, 1786-7, see Geo. R. Minot’s ‘History of the Insurrections in Massachusetts,’ 1778.

- 1786 “Shays: a rebel eclogue” appeared in the *Mass. Centinel*.—See Buckingham, ‘Specimens of Newspaper Literature,’ ii. 41-44 (Boston, 1850).
- 1787 Hail Congress, Conventions, Mobs, *Shayites*, and Kings, With Bankrupts, and Knowye’s, and all pretty things.
Maryland Journal, Dec. 21: from the *American Museum*.
- [1787 The stupid fury of Shays and his banditti.—‘Observations on Shays’s Rebellion.’—*Am. Museum*, ii. 319.]
- 1788 Rouse, ye *Shayites*, Dayites, and Shattuekites!
Rouse, and kick up a dust before it is too late.
Maryland Journal, Feb. 29.
- 1792 [He] acts like one of those who were called warm *Shaysites*, in whom there was much guile.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 13.
- [1813 You never felt the terrorism of Chaise’s Rebellion in Massachusetts.—John Adams to Tho. Jefferson, June 30, from Quincy.]

Sheaf knife. A knife used in binding sheaves.

- 1849 A *sheaf knife* gleams along the painter; it is severed.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 154.

Shebang. A common shanty or tent.

- 1867 By common consent, if any one had complaints to make, he carried them to the *shebang* of Big Peter.—W. L. Goss, ‘A Soldier’s Story,’ p. 153.
- 1871 Many a poor fellow, who enlisted to do hard fighting, . . . was carried out from his *shebang* to his long home.—*Oce-land Monthly*, March (Bartlett).

Shecooney. Trickery. Probably a corruption of chicanery.

- 1845 ‘This town’s got a monstrous bad name for meanery and *shecooney* of all sorts.—‘Chronicles of Pineville,’ p. 47.

Sheepskin. A college diploma.

- 1843 We arnt no hirelins like them high-flowed college *sheepskins*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 141.
- 1843 I never rub'd my back agin collige, nor git no *sheepskin*, and allow the Apostuls didn't nithur... This here new testament's *sheepskin* enough for me.—*Id.*, ii. 139-40.
- 1845 He not only lost the valedictory, but barely escaped with his "*sheepskin*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 74.
- 1854 [He] receives his *sheepskin* from the dispensing hand of our worthy Prex.—*Id.*, xix. 355.
- 1862 Some of us [have] no aspirations beyond an easy course, and a *sheepskin* after four years.—*Id.*, xxvi. 147.

Sheer. Very thin; gauzy.

- 1799 Ye advocates of a treaty, what think you of this *sheer* trick?—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 21.
(Italicized in the original.)
- 1825 Her bosom was covered with "*shire* muslin," exactly the most becoming veil.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 164.
- 1856 "Wonderful thin, though." "*Sheer*, ye mean; that's what they call *sheer*, a very desirable quality in lining cambriek."—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 11.
- 1902 Stately Aunt Swan, in her Quaker garb of mode satin and *sheerest* muslin, stepped into her carriage.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 7.

Shell drive, shell road. One made principally of oyster-shells.

- 1873 From the depot the omnibus rolled along the *shell road* [at Galveston] as smoothly as if upon glass.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 798 (Phila., &c.).
- 1888 To the General, the best part of all our detention was the *shell drive* along the ocean.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 273.

Shellbark. A species of hickory.

- 1817 On the prairie, post oak (*Quercus obtusiloba*) black jack, ...and *shell bark* hickory (*Juglans squamosa*).—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 257.
- 1832 [The Indians used] chesnuts, *shellbarks*, walnuts, persimons, huckleberries, &c.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of New York,' p. 55.
- 1840 He came nigh catching me stealing nuts off a *shell-bark* tree.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' i. 271 (Hartford, Ct.).

Shell-pot. See quotation.

- 1790 A negro man, saw, and caught, a small turtle, or what is more generally known [in Virginia] by the name of *shellpot*.—*Mass. Spy*, June 24.

Sherrivalleys. Coarse trousers worn by farmers.

- 1802 The only two articles of this description, which cross the annalist of America, are those of admiral Parker, and the legitimate *sherry-vallies* of General Lee.—'The Port Folio,' ii. 81 (Phila.).
- 1833 He with the woollen cap, that is just raising his blue cotton froek to thrust his hand into the fob of his *sherrivalleys*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 104-5 (Lond., 1835).

Sherry-cobbler.

1809 Washington Irving. See COCKTAIL.

Shifty. Tricky. (Perhaps of American origin.)

1783 Ran away, a Negro Man, named Pompey, very artful and *shifty*.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 18.

Shilling. Usually 12½ cents, sometimes more. See YORK SHILLING.

1791 A dollar consists only of the small number of six *shillings*.—*Mass. Spy*, April 28.

Shin round. To bestir oneself.

1845 The Senator was *shinning round* to get gold for the rascally bank-rags which he was obliged to take.—*N.Y. Comm. Advertiser*, Dec. 13 (Bartlett).

1856 I will wallop him [said the virago] if he don't *shin round*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Drod,' p. 39.

Shin up. To climb.

1852 In the moving it will be advisable to "*shin up*" a tree.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 6.

1859 Crows generally know about how far boys can "*shin up*," and set their household establishments above that high-water-mark.—'Professor at the Breakfast Table,' ch. 9.

1888 I *shinned up* that tree so quick that I made the bark fly.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 6 (Farmer).

Shine, take a. To take a liking.

1850 He had "*taken a shine*," to the daughter of a staid old deacon, who used frequently to invite him to dinner.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 273 (March).

1853 All the girls *take a shine* to Ellick.—'Turnover: a tale of New Hampshire,' p. 37 (Boston).

1862 I've tuk a middlin' kind er *shine* to you, and I don't want to see yer neck broke, long er me.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 17 (N.Y., 1876).

1888 A girl I liked (indeed, I had *taken quite a shine* to her).—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 293.

Shiners. Gold coins.

1810 One hundred Eagles was the price;

I paid the *shiners* in a trice.

The Repertory, Oct. 16: from the *Hampshire Federalist*.

1824 The Dutchmen in Albany are not so weak and illiterate as to throw away their *shiners* for the trash of a Cockney.—*The Microscope*, Albany, May 22.

1827 The New Yorkers were much puzzled the other day at one of our little country banks paying out \$13,000 in *shiners*.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 3: from the *Providence American*.

Shines, to cut. To "cut capers"; to play tricks.

1830 Has your skipper begun to *cut any shines* yet?—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 34.

1839 We *cut a few shines* with the girls, and started to the tavern.—'Hist. of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 69 (N.Y.).

1840 Well, I didn't care about trading; but you *cut such high shines* that I thought I'd like to back you out.—Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 28.

Shines, to cut—contd.

- 1840 After *cutting other shines*, he was taken to the watch-house.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 3.
- 1842 It is said that some females in England *cut up a shine* in order to go to Botany Bay, where they are sure of finding husbands.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Sept. 15.
- 1844 A wild bull of the prairies was *cutting up shines* at no great distance.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxiii. 550 (June).
- 1851 He was er *cuttin up shines* worse nor er bob-tail bull in fly-time.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 72.
- 1851 My horse snorted, he kicked, he rared up, and *cut more shines* than a snapping-turtle on hot iron.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 87.
- 1856 Look you, old woman, don't be *cutting any shines* now.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 387 (N.Y.).
See also MONKEY SHINES.

Shingle. A wooden tile.

- 1705 Their common covering for Dwelling-Houses is *Shingle*, which is an Oblong Square of Cypress or Pine-Wood.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iv. 53.
- 1766 A Stamp Clearance from the Schooner Defiance, with 70,000 Boards, 50,000 *Shingles*, and 10 Horses.—*Boston Evening Post*, March 10.
- 1769 [The wind sent] Spars, Boards, and *Shingles* flying.—*Id.*, March 27.
- 1775 *Shingles* of cypress and white cedar are sold at about 10s. per thousand.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 182.
- 1783 I will take in pay wharf-logs, cord-wood, locust-post, fence-rails, plank scantling, *shingles*, &c.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, March 11.
- 1784 Old Chelicothe is built in form of a Kentucke station, that is, a parallelogram or long square; and some of the houses are *shingled*.—D. Boon, in John Filson's 'Kentucke,' p. 102.
- 1788 Twenty very comfortable houses, made of round logs and covered with long *shingle*, are already erected in the town [of Marietta, Ohio].—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 11.
- 1789 *Shingles* are quoted at 10s. per M.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, N.Y., April 22.
- 1796 They are convinced of the pernicious consequences of building with wood and covering with *shingles*.—*Id.*, July 2 (Phila.).
- 1802 Dr. French of Conn. has invented a *Shingle Dressing Machine*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 17.
- 1806 For sale, about 200 M. *shingles* in Barre, 100 M. in Templeton, and 200 M. in Winchendon.—*Mass. Spy*, March 19.
- 1817 [The man] mostly employed himself in making *shingles* (wooden tiles), at which he earned a dollar and a half per day.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 72 (Phila.).
- 1822 The wood used was part of a cypress *shingle*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 7.
- α.1848 He will slap them all with the *shingle* of reproof, and send them sobbing to their beds of shame.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 247.

Shingle. To lay shingles on a roof ; also, to cut hair.

1857 I'm great on cutting hair. I don't s'pose there's anybody in the settlement can *shingle* like me... By the way, don't you want your hair cut ? I don't know how I'm going to get along, unless you do have it jest *shingled*.—
—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' pp. 232-3.

Shingle. A sign-board, particularly one put out by a lawyer.

1842 One William Dermott hoisted his *shingle* yesterday, at the corner of 13th. and Centre Streets, bearing the following inscription :—

I William Dermot lives here
And sells good
Porter, ale, and beer.
I makes my sign a little wider
To let you know
I keeps good cider.

Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, May 18.

. It is to be feared that Dermot did not compose these lines, for they occurred on a tavern-sign in Bristol, with slight verbal difference, about the year 1820. See *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. ii. 325.

- 1842 [M. P. Y. then occupied] a small office with a *shingle* on the shutter, designating him an "attorney at law" and all that. When Mr. F. again called for his money, the *shingle* had absquatulated from the shutter.—*Id.*, June 29.
- 1843 Lawyers stuck up their *shingles* at every county seat and village, from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains.—'Nauvoo Neighbor,' July 19: from the *Cleveland Herald*.
- 1845 Elkanor Bunker was a lawyer. His "*shingle*" had gone up the day before.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxvi. 221 (Sept.).
- 1848 Did not the cobbler's wife bustle about and feel consequentially happy when her lame-legged spouse hung out his little *shingle*?—*Id.*, xxxi. 224 (March).
- 1848 He set up a *shingle* in Broadway some sixteen years ago, with a small assortment of animals, which he exhibited.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 115.
- 1848 Doctors and dentists from the U.S. have stuck up their *shingles* in Mexico.—*N.Y. Comm. Advertiser*, Dec. 24 (Bartlett).
- 1852 I walked out to find out whar the President's *shingle* stuck out.—'Solomon Slug, &c.,' p. 148.
- 1852 Ichabod was employed by a fellow charged with the crime of perjury, three days after he had nailed up his *shingle*.—*Id.*, p. 156.
- 1853 A young man who for a short time figured as Counsellor-at-Law, Solicitor-in-Chancery, and Proctor-in-Admiralty. At least so his *shingle* indicated.—*Knick. Mag.*, xli. 511 (June).
- 1854 The particular community in which the Squire had set up his *shingle*.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 288.

Shingle—*contd.*

- 1855 Here I've been now these six months, spoiling the prettiest *shingle* you ever saw on a brick wall. [This was a doctor of medicine].—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 31 (Jan.).
- 1857 They never had a *shingle* hung up in Wall-street or thereabouts.—*Id.*, xlix. 42 (Jan.).

Shinner. See quotation. Local.

- 1844 Certain cunning men, citizens, or residents of the districts, and not farmers at all, have purchased shabby looking carts, backed them up among the wagons, and every market day made them regular stands for the sale of beef, mutton, veal, &c. These men are called "*shiners*."—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 11.

Shinning. Impoverished; needing money.

- 1862 The Government must go into the streets *shinning* for the means [to pay its debts], like an individual in failing circumstances.—Mr. Elbridge G. Spaulding, of New York, House of Repr., Jan. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 526/1.
- 1863 Mr. Chase assumed the [U.S. Treasury] chest to find it in a "*shinning*" condition.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 234.

Shinplasters. Paper currency.

- 1824 We advise our friends to exchange their "*shin plasters*" for "solid charms" as soon as may be.—*The Microscope*, Albany, May 15.
- 1837 Jan. 21. Another night's reflection may metamorphose me into an inflexible advocate of *shinplasters*.—Chas. L. Livingston, to Jesse Hoyt.—W. L. Mackenzie, 'Life of M. Van Buren,' p. 181 (Boston).
- 1837 The *shinplasters* which are now so current throughout the country have received the appropriate name of "hickory leaves."—*Pennsylvania Republican*, June.
- 1837 "Since they've monopolized my sheer of fun, they can't do less than give me a *shinplaster* to go away."....It would not do. He was compelled to retire *shinplasterless*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' pp. 218-19.
- 1837 The *Shin Plaster* City.—From present appearances we should judge that Philadelphia was in a fair way to obtain the above elegant appellation.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 7, p. 2/1.
- 1837 Mr. Calhoun asked what sort of a currency we had now. Was not the whole country flooded with currencies of all kinds: with *shinplasters* of all sorts, sizes, and shapes?—U.S. Senate, Sept. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 54.
- 1837 When Mr. Benton saw the honest and industrious mechanic toiling from morning until night cracking stone, and paid in wretched irredeemable paper and *shinplasters*, he felt indeed that the people had no representation.—The same, Oct. 11: *id.*, p. 124. He also alluded (p. 132) to "that pestilential compound of lampblack and rags, yecept *shinplasters*, which now infests the land."

Shinplasters—*contd.*

- 1838 I would not aid and abet the swindling *shinplaster* makers out of pure spite to our own state safety-fund banks.—Letter to *The Jeffersonian*, Sept. 15. p. 244.
- 1838 Mr. Chas. Stearns, who whilom figured as the getter-up of some Illinois *shinplasters* which he advertised would be redeemed in this city.—*N.Y. Transcript*, Jan. 29: Buckingham, 'America,' i. 163.
- 1839 Gold does not expel silver, but small bank notes and *shinplasters* do expel it.—Mr. Benton, U.S. Senate Feb. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 167.
- 1840 We are not troubled with *shinplasters*, in the common acceptation of the term; but we have plenty of small notes of country banks.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 13.
- 1840 The gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. Adams] had said it was a horrid affair to pay these laborers in *shinplasters*. All I have to say is that [he] has a very strange idea of *shinplasters*. . . . [Is] a certificate given to a laborer, specifying merely the amount of labor performed, a *shinplaster*?—Mr. Jones of Va., House of Rep., May 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 371.
- a.1848 The indignant squatter of the west, whose home is surrounded by briars, bears, Indians, and *Brandon shinplasters*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 273.
- 1852 [The merchants] wood flood this valley with *shinplasters*, and take away our gold. . . . I do not want any *shinplasters*. I am a Democrat, and believe in hard currency.—Ezra T. Benson, at the Mormon Tabernacle, Sept. 12: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 248-9.
- 1853 Who is Thos. Brown, that has foisted about two or three millions of "*shinplasters*" upon the community? We are told he is a very clever young man, and a clerk at Page and Bacon's.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 26.
- 1853 That letter looks like a dokiment chock full of *shinplasters*.—'Life Scenes,' p. 123.
- 1857 A mass of silver, with two or three aged and crumpled *shin-plasters*, adorns the centre of the table.—*Knicker Mag.*, xlix. 524 (May).
- 1861 The idea of keeping up our credit by the issue of *shinplasters* is all gammon.—Mr. W. P. Cutler of Ohio, House of Rep., July 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 283/1.
- 1862 The currency of New Orleans was in a condition deplorably chaotic. Omnibus tickets, car tickets, *shinplasters*, and Confederate notes, the last named depreciated 70 per cent by the fall of the city, were the chief mediums of exchange.—James Parton, 'Butler in New Orleans,' p. 413.
- 1862 An' nooze is like a *shinplaster*,—it's good ef you believe it.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

Shinplasters—*contd.*

1863 The *shinplaster* [issued by a local firm] looks as if a piece of tissue paper was dyed in indigo, and the lettering pressed on after the paper was pretty roughly used.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Jan. 29.

1867 Though not acknowledging any superiority, at that time, of the value of greenbacks over their *shinplaster* currency, [the Confederates] much preferred the former in payment to their own.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 36.

* * * See also WILD-CAT.

Shirk. To bestir oneself, to be active. Rare.

1843 As for H., let him *shirk* himself. — Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 71.

1850 He sends him off next morning to *shirk* for himself.—The same, 'Money-penny,' p. 157.

Shirtee. A "dickey."

1818 A shirt, if you can afford it. But if you can't, then a *shirtee*, with pretty broad ruffles.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Aug. 5.

Shirt-men. See quotation.

1775 Col. Woodford had not more than 300 *shirt-men* (as they call the riflemen, on account of being dressed in their hunting shirts).—W. Gordon, 'Hist. Am. Revol.,' ii. 112 (Lond., 1788).

* * * See also RIFLE-SHIRTS.

Shoat. A half-grown pig; a person of no account.

1699 A contributor to *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. ii. 526, furnishes the following example:—

"Stolen out of a Yard in Theobald's Park, Hertfordshire, in Cheshunt Parish, on Thursday night the 16th of this Instant, Five *Shotes* for store, with a large Sow; the latter valued Forty Shillings, the *Shotes* about 25s. a-piece; traced as for as Enfield Chace. If any Tidings can be given to John Armsby, of the said Park, or to Mr. Richard Eams, Pewterer, at the Black-Bell in Fenchurch-street, London, so as they may be recovered, or their value, shall have Two Guinea's Reward and reasonable Charges."—*Flying Post*, No. 603, March 21-23, 1699.

1775 Two large *shoats*, 10s. a piece.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 193.

1778 I defy him to say that I have ever been detected with any hogs, *shoats*, or pigs, marked or unmarked, in my pen.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 13.

1801 The dangers of a roasting past,
She saw thee rear'd a handsome *shoat*;
Saw thee a full-grown hog at last.

And heard thee grunt a deeper note.

Verses addressed to a Hog: 'The Port Folio,' i. 352 (Phila.).

1823 The lightning conveyed itself to the stable, where it killed a fine *shoat*.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, May 16.

hoat—*contd.*

- 1824 Our brightest belles and beaux might please
 Inhabit caves and trunks of trees,
 On roots and acorns dine like *shoots*,
 And sup on buds and leaves, like *goats*.
New England Farmer's Boy, New Year's Address.
- 1840 Two pale-blue, dry, boiled fowls, boiled almost to dis-
 memberment, upon a dish large enough to contain a
 goodly-sized *shote*.—Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 107.
- 1840 Two or three loafers—poor *shoots*—were brought up and
 fined for sleeping on the streets.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis,
 June 23.
- 1843 [He showed the dog] how to worry infant pigs, then saucy
shoots, and finally true hogs.—R. Carlton, 'The New
 Purchase,' i. 196.
- 1846 They decreased in quality and weight down to lean *shoots*
 and small pigs, most of them so feeble, as to be hardly
 able to raise a squeal or grunt without laying down or
 leaning against the wall.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,'
 ii. 309.
- 1847 I hurried home to put up three *shots* and some turkies
 to fatten for the inn-fare.—'Billy Warwick's Wedding,'
 p. 102 (Phila.).
- 1848 If you don't go for, and with, the party, you are considered
 as possessing no more patriotism than a Cincinnati
shoot.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 217.
- 1853 I'll jest give two of the fattest *shoots* in all Illinois, ef
 you'll only find me a feller that belongs to one of the
 second Virginia families.—*Weekly Oregonian*, March 12.
- 1853 Pharoah's wife (the Scripture allow me to quote)
 Cast her eyes on Joseph, on whom she did doat,
 And, failing the man, she hung on to the coat.
 But your man, incog.,
 Vas less of a saint, and more of a *shote*,
 And vent the whole hog.
Daily Morning Herald, St. Louis, July 2. (The use
 of *v* for *w* is due to the influence of Charles Dickens.)
- 1853 A well-born *shote*, judiciously developed by green veget-
 ables and grain, and matured upon chestnuts, forms no
 mean dish.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 396 (Oct.).
- 1855 His complexion somewhat [resembled] that of a very
 clean and well-conditioned white *shoot*.—*Putnam's Mag.*,
 v. 316.
- 1856 You might as well satisfy the hunger of *shoots*.—*Knick.*
Mag., xlvii. 54 (Jan.).
- 1856 I've lost horses—and I've lost cows—and I've lost likely
 calves and *shoots*.—*Id.*, xlviii. 426 (Oct.).
- 1862 —You elect for Congressmen poor *shots* that want to go
 Coz they can't seem to git their grub no otherways than so.
 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1862 Your Belmonts, Vallandighams, Woodses, an' sech,
 Poor *shots* that ye couldn't persuade us to tech.
Id., No. 4.

Shoat—*contd.*

- 1862 It means that we're to sit down licked,
That we're poor *shotes* an' glad to own it.
Id., No. .
- 1889 The wandering *shote*, the hen-roosts, the Virginia fence,
and the straw-stack, came to be regarded as perquisites
of the Union army.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and
and Coffee,' p. 155 (Boston).
*** See also Appendix XIX.

Shoddy, adj., as applied to persons. Inferior, contemptible.

- 1862 The anxiety of the "*shoddy*" politicians to assail that
address.—Mr. W. A. Richardson of Ill., House of Repr.,
July 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3164/1.

Shoke. See quotation.

- 1856 Puncheon floors was good enough below, and *oak shokes*,
split out by hand, kivered the chamber floor.—*Weekly
Oregonian*, Sept. 27.

Shook, Shaken. Taken to pieces.

- 1767 Joshua Hacker carries goods in Sloops between Providence
and Newport: *inter alia*, "An Empty Hhd." for 5*d.*, and
"A *Shaken Hhd.*" for 2*d.*—*Boston Post-Boy*, Dec. 14.
- 1768 "A few large *shook* hogsheads" advertised.—*Mass.
Gazette*, June 9.
- 1769 A few barrels Herring and Mackrel, and *shaken* Hhds.—
Boston-Gazette, Feb. 20.
- 1770 "*Shaken* Hhds" and "Pine Bolts" for sale.—*Id.*, Jan.
29.
- 1774 To be sold, . . . *shaken* hogsheads, window-frames and
sashes. &c.—*Newport Mercury*, May 30.
- 1799 White Oak and Red Oak hogshead *shooks*.—Advt., *Mass.
Mercury*, Feb. 19.
- 1808 There were many hhd. of *shook* headings; . . . to empty
the molasses and *shook up* the hhd.—*The Repertory*,
Nov. 25.

Shooting iron. A gun or a pistol.

- 1833 See SHOT-GUN.
- 1834 In spite of your silver-mounted *shooting iron*.—'Novel-
lettes of a Traveller,' ii. 175 (N.Y.).
- 1839 [I have seen him] with this unpretending *shooting-iron*.—
C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 86 (Lond.).
- 1846 He said his old *shooting iron* would go off at a good imita-
tion of a bear's breathing.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Bob Herring:
Quarter Race, &c.,' p. 135.
- 1847 The settlers generally conceded that his "*shooting-
iron*" was particularly certain.—'Streaks of Squatter
Life,' p. 117.
- 1853 Drop yer *shootin' iron*, or ye'll get more'n ye send.—
Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 51.

Shop, v. To imprison.

1678 A main part of [a bum-bailiff's] office is to swear and bluster at their trembling prisoners, and cry, "Confound us, why do we wait? Let us *shop* him."—'Four for a penny,' Harl. Misc., iv. 147. (Davies, quoted in the 'Century Dict.')

1844 It is claimed that General Jackson was guilty of a contempt of court for saying that he had "*shopped*" [Judge Hall].—Mr. Dean of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 60, App.

1844 He took the responsibility of "*shopping*" him; and when he had *shopped* him, he very politely put him out of his lines, and told him to keep out.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, the same, Jan. 2: *id.*, p. 94.

Shop, omission of 's before: Barber shop, butcher shop, tailor shop, &c. This is very frequent. Compare butcher-knife, doctor-stuff.

[1853 Doctor-stuff. See SLICK.]

1858 I found copies stuck upon every *blacksmith shop*. [See DOGGERY.]

[1888 A short *butcher-knife* kept company with the pistol.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 475. See also BUTCHER-KNIFE.]

Shore or beach, one's. A portion of the shore land owned privately.

1778 Found between Sparrow and Clapham-point, on *the subscriber's shore*, a round castor hat.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, July 21.

1784 I do, in this most public manner, forbid all persons landing a seine on *my beach*.—Advt., *id.*, March 23.

Short Shoulder. An undisputed proposition. Rare.

1849 I believe it's reduced to a positive "*short shoulder*" that the Jersey Quakers eat more pickled sturgeon than any other class of people.—*Knicker Mag.*, xxxiii. 543 (June).

Shote. See SHOAT.

Shot-gun. A fowling-piece.

1820 "Luck's like a *shot-gun*, mighty uncertain," is a common saying, and indeed the poor *shot-gun* is a standing butt of ridicule [as compared with a rifle].—James Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 86 (Lond.).

1833 This is a poor shooting-iron for a man to have about him, —it might do for young men to "tote" in a settlement, but it's of no use in the woods,—no more than a *shot-gun*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 262 (Phila.).

1862 We have been told sometimes that [the Confederate soldiers] are armed with *shot-guns*.—Mr. John B. Henderson of Mo., U.S. Senate, July 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3222/3.

Shoulder-hitter. A bully.

1858 [They went out] to rid the City of Francisco of the pestilential presence of a band of *shoulder-hitters* and ballot-box stuffers.—*N.Y. Tribunc*, Sept. 30 (Bartlett).

Shuck, shucking. To shuck corn is to pull it from the stalk. Hence to shuck also means to disrobe, to make a clearance, &c.

- 1823 A large party assembled to effect a *corn shucking*, something like an English hawkey, or harvest home. *Corn shucking* means plucking the ears of Indian corn from the stalk, and then housing it in cribs for winter use.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 211 (Lond.).
- 1834 The farmers occasionally employed the mountaineers to lend a hand at harvest, *shuck corn*, raise log-houses, or do any sudden job.—'Novellettes of a Traveller,' ii. 144 (N.Y.).
- 1848 I *shucked* out of my old clothes, and got into my new ones.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 117.
- 1848 After *shuckin out* the passengers and baggage, they tuck to the steamboat.—*Id.*, p. 178.
- 1851 Arch he hopped down off'n his ole hoss, and commenced *shuckin* his self fur er fight.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 151.
- 1856 The cussed fever and ague had jist *shucked* his meat clean off, till he looked like a skinned coon.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 144.

Shucks. The strippings of maize, nut-shells, pea-pods, &c. Hence applied to worthless persons.

- 1811 The straw and the *shucks*, after the stacks are in, will bestow a cover impenetrable to draught.—*Mass. Spy*, June 12.
- 1837 He thumped round the deck like a cat shod with *walnut shucks*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 220.
- 1845 A Texas feather bed is said to be made of corn cobs and *shucks*.—*St. Louis Revue*, Dec. 29.
- 1847 He ain't wuth *shucks*, and ef you don't lick him for his ommannerly note, you ain't wuth *shucks*, nuther.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 135.
- 1848 The deep shade, whar the water is sleepin still and dark as a nigger baby in a *shuck-pen*.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 147.
- 1848 They mought as well looked for a needle in a *shuck-pen*, as to try to find him in sich a place.—*Id.*, p. 175.
- 1849 [Interior of Georgia.] The family all lay together on the *corn-shucks*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 117 (Aug.).
- 1851 I kalkilated them curs o' hisn wasnt worth *shucks* in a bar fight.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 51.
- 1853 Morris whipped his customer until his hide was so blistered as to scarcely hold *shucks*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 16.
- 1854 [I have often watched a fox-squirrel] eating nuts, and throwing the *shucks* on the ground, with all the gravity of a judge.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 44.
- 1856 [When C. V. eats baked peanuts], shells, "*shucks*," and "chads" fly on either side.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 347 (Oct.).
- 1857 "Not worth *shucks*."—Head-line, *Oregon Weekly Times*, Nov. 10.

Shucks—contd.

- 1860 *Shucks* wanted. The subscriber wishes to purchase any quantity of good dry *Shucks*. He prefers them in bales.—Adv't., *Richmond Enquirer*, May 11, p. 1/1.
- 1860 We enjoyed in common our *shuck-mattress* and scanty quilts.—*Knick. Mag.*, lv. 613 (June).
- 1862 Fer such mean *shucks* ez creditors are all on Lincoln's side.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.
- 1903 The chairs were ancient Shaker rockers, some with homely "*shuck*" bottoms.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 4.
- 1909 Mr. Stewart tells an amusing story of Lincoln's reception of Alexander H. Stephens at Fortress Monroe to discuss the question of peace. Stephens, a little man, was much bundled up in several layers of clothing when he arrived. The President looked down at him while he was unwinding himself, and then remarked, wonderingly: "Well, that's a mighty little ear for so much *shucks*."—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 26.

Shun-pike. A side road.

- 1862 The bec-line track to heaven an' fame,
Ez all roads be by natur', ef your soul
Don't sneak through *shun-pikes* so's to save the toll.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.

Shut. Rid.

- 1845 Never mind, we'll get *shut* of him.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 34.

Shut. Quiet.

- 1856 In an instant all were *shut* as mice.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii, 617 (Dec.).

Shut pan. To close one's mouth.

- 1799 Instead of saying grace decently, as he used to do, he called out *attention—handle arms*—and for grace after dinner—now *shut pans*.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 2.
- 1833 *Shut pan*, and sing small, or I'll throw you into the drink.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 213 (Lond.).
- 1833 If I didn't make 'em *shut their pans* quicker than a flash of lightning.—*Id.*, ii. 92.
- 1835 I *shut pan* on the subject, and fell to eating my dinner.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 102.
- 1841 No one rose. No one broke silence. *Shut pan* seemed to be the word of command on the left side of this chamber.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, July 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 123, App.
- 1853 Spicer raised his hand to stop the speech, but the lawyer wouldn't *shut pan*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 139.
- 1855 "Now jest stop, Axy," said he; "jest *shet pan* now I tell ye; and don't open your face again."—*Putnam's Mag.*, vi. 246 (Sept.).

- Shyster.** A pettifogging lawyer; a contemptible rascal.
- 1856 If these two "*shuysters*" on the other side could get one more drink down your throat, you couldn't travel at all.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 434 (April).
- 1857 The *shysters*, or Tombs lawyers, were on hand, and sought to intercede for their clients.—*N.Y. Tribune*, March 13 (Bartlett).
- 1857 One Mr. D. P. has borrowed a *shyster* for his amanuensis.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 19.
- 1860 A kind of twopenny *shytering* smartness and snap-judgment genius.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lvi. 458 (Nov.).
- 1863 By actual experiment in the recent draft we know that "*shysters*," as they were called by some one here the other day, men in the cities, scoundrels, sold themselves as substitutes, and within a day or two deserted and went to another camp, again sold themselves as substitutes, and then deserted, and so they went from camp to camp.—Mr. John Sherman of Ohio, U.S. Senate, March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1443/2. (This use of the word is peculiar).
- 1870 There are a few [brokers] of the *shyster* class, who are ready to break their word, when they can shield themselves from prosecution under the pretence of illegal rates.—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 123 (Boston).
- 1881 [Mr. Wayne MacVeagh] has chosen to shower favor and confidence upon a notorious criminal court *shyster*, jury-packer, and witness-corruptor, to whose debased mind an honorable thought is as alien as soap and water are to his filthy person.—*Washington Critic*, Sept. 10.
- 1881 Verily, the United States Treasury is a fat goose, to be plucked in the name of reform by an army of *shysters* and detectives.—*Id.*, Dec. 23.
- 1882 He fights so shy of real trials that he may aptly be termed a *shyster*.—*Washington Republican*, Jan. 9.
- 1910 Whether or not Bingham's dismissal was intended to make easier the work of *shysters* and their ilk, it is well known that the *shysters* interpreted it thus and need some strong act of repression to correct the notion.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 10. See also STEERER.
- Sick.** This word is still commonly used, as it is in the A.V., where an Englishman would now say "ill" or "unwell."
- 1778 Ross had been *sick* at Spooner's house, and was kindly treated there.—*Maryland Journal*, Supplement, May 19.
- 1788 O'Neil went ten miles off, and told one Poor that Mr. Cleary was *sick*, and would not live long.—*Id.*, April 1.
- 1809 The friend of James had been *sick*, and drooping a considerable time.... He sat out (*sic*) on his journey; his *sick* friend felt relieved.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 16.
- 1813 I am too old and *sick* to be drafted from the militia.—*Boston-Gazette*, March 22.
- [1813 General Dearborn, being quite *ill*, was to have left for Albany.—*Id.*, June 24.]

Sick—contd.

- 1830 The masters of American merchantmen will seldom believe that a man is *sick*, till the agonies of death take place.—Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 33.
- 1861 The resolutions were rushed through the Senate of New Jersey when four members were *sick*.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. Southern Rebellion,' i. 356.

Sickle-ham, Sickle-hammed. Having slender hams shaped like a sickle.

- 1840 You see [him] mounted on his crop-eared, bushy-tailed mare, the obliquity of whose hinder limbs is described by that most expressive phrase, "*sickle hams*."... Our militia general, with his crop-eared mare, with bushy tail and *sickle hams*, would frighten a hundred Alexanders.—Mr. Thomas Corwin of Ohio, House of Representatives, Feb. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 785, App.
- 1848 The horse was snip-nosed, big-headed, ewe-necked, swag-backed, hog-rumped, *sickle-hammed*, timber-limbed, knock-kneed, and clump-footed.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, the same, April 25 : *id.*, p. 668.

Side-track, v. To set on one side, to shelve.

- 1888 [The men] who get *side-tracked* are those who start in life in an occupation for which they have no natural aptitude.—*Sturdy Oak* (Boston), May (Farmer).
- 1910 Mr. Hughes, it is said, longs for the comforts and ease of private life. We are inclined to think that a plan to return there permanently would evoke a storm of protests only a little less vociferous than would his *side-tracking* on the Supreme Court bench.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

Side-walk. A walk by the side of a street or road, whether simply trodden down, or boarded, or paved. A word much needed in England.

- 1817 The posts are placed directly in the path upon the *side walk*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 5.
- 1825 Charleston has neither pavements nor *side-walks*.—J. K. Paulding, 'John Bull in America,' p. 20 (Lond.).
- 1828 A paper entitled "*Side-walks*" appeared in *The Yankee*, Portland, Maine, April 16.
- 1832 [The streets of Pompeii] differ from the streets in the towns of modern Italy, in the circumstance of having *side-walks*.—E. C. Wines, 'Two Years and a Half in the Navy,' ii. 80 (Phila.).
- 1834 The wheels were running on the curbstone edge of the *sidewalk*.—Grant Thorburn, 'Life and Times,' p. 105 (Boston).
- 1841 The *side-walk* along its front should be flagged.—Mr. Woodbridge of Michigan, in the U.S. Senate, August : *Cong. Globe*, p. 447, App.
- 1843 Our *side-walk* for a mile was paved with wood. This pave was used in miry times.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 306.

Side-walk—*contd.*

- 1844 The only additional expense was in widening the *side-walks* about thirteen feet.—Mr. Miller of New Jersey, U.S. Senate, Feb. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 280.
- 1848 I got a most all-fired skeer, that made me jump clear off the *side-walk* into the street.—Major Jones's, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 63 (Phila.).
- 1848 See **HERN**.
- 1855 The *side-walk* (what a misnomer!) is covered [with merchandize].—'Captain Priest,' p. 237.
- 1864 You will take care of your *side-walk* in the winter.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 327.

Sidlings.

- 1840 These are explained as being, in Michigan, inequalities in the roadway.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 64.

Siege, hard siege. A period of sickness or trouble.

- 1862 We had a *siege* of it.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 558 (May).
- 1902 For a while they have a *siege* of discontent.—W.N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' pp. 57-58.
- 1908 She was as pale and peaked as if she had been through a *siege* of typhoid.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 9.

Sign. A trace of trail.

- 1855 Say that I'm hard after *sign* (trail-track) and that I'm mighty hopeful. . . . He could find very decided *signs*, where you and I would see nothing but smooth surface.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' pp. 446-7, 465 (N.Y.).
- 1860 He informed us that he saw Shawnee "*signs*" about.—J. F. H. Claiborne, 'Life of Gen. Sam. Dale,' p. 18 (N.Y.).

Sign-off. To leave one denomination for another.

- 1878 Any one that for any cause had a controversy with the dominant church [in New England] took comfort in the power of "*signing off*" to another.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' ch. 3.

Silver-bugs. Men who "hollered" for an unlimited silver coinage.

- 1893 "*Silver-bugs* and silverolatry."—Heading of an Editorial in *The Nation*, N.Y., lvi. 466.

Sin to Moses, Sin to Crockett, &c. This phrase, which is disappearing, is equivalent to "a caution to snakes."

- 1833 The way he fights is a *sin to Crockett*.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 30 (N.Y.).
- 1835 Well now, the way that ar cotton goes is a *sin to Crockett*.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 140.
- 1838 "Ay, ay, sir; it's a *sin to Moses*, such a trade [as mine is]," said the stoker.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 71.
- 1848 The way she gulped arterwards, and stared, was a *sin to Davy Crockett*.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 22 (Phila.)
- 1853 There was fifes and fiddles, brass horns and everything, and the way they puffed their jaws and worked their arms was *no sin to Moses*.—A Hoosier at a Fancy Ball: *Daily Herald*, St. Louis, May 20.
- 1861 The way some of your city wags stuff our honest clod-hoppers is a *sin to Moses*.—*Oregon Argus*, March 23,

Sink, ⁻sink-hole. See quotations.

- 1816 The only entrance into the [Mammoth] Cave is from the bottom of what the inhabitants call a "*sink*," which is a deep cavity in the earth, at the bottom of which there is generally a large current of water.—Letter to *Mass. Spy*, July 17.
- 1817 In many parts of this [Missouri] country there are great numbers of what the inhabitants call "*sink holes*." They are circular, but diminish toward the bottom, and resemble an inverted cone. Some of the large ones are so deep that tall trees, growing at the bottom, cannot be seen until we approach the brink of the cavity.—John Bradbury, '*Travels*,' p. 248 (Liverpool).
- 1823 The country about St. Louis....abounds in *sink-holes*, sometimes of great depth.—E. James, '*Rocky Mountain Expedition*,' i. 58 (Phila.).
- 1833 We tied our horses and mules in a *sink hole* between us and the river.—'Narrative of James O. Pattie,' p. 35 (Cincinnati).
- 1837 The balance of this country consists of pine barrens, intersected with ponds and *sink holes*.—John L. Williams, '*Territory of Florida*,' p. 130 (N.Y.).
- 1838 The horses were ordered behind a *sink hole*, and the detachment charged....amid a galling fire from the Indians.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, June 16, p. 144.
- 1838 There are many of these circular lakes or "*sinkholes*," as they are termed in Western dialect, which, as they possess no inlet, seem supplied by subterraneous springs, or from the clouds.—E. Flagg, '*The Far West*,' i. 192 (N.Y.).
- 1839 Those remarkable conical cavities which are generally known by the name of "*sink-holes*" in the western country.—C. F. Hoffman, '*Wild Scenes*,' ii. 234 (Lond.).
- 1846 [They] are impressed with the belief that we have reached the "*Sink*" of St. Mary's River: that is, the place where the waters of the river cease to flow, and disappear in the dry and thirsting sands of the desert.—Edwin Bryant, '*What I saw of California*,' p. 185 (Lond., 1849).
- 1860 [She] perceived a *sink-hole* immediately at her feet, and dropped silently into it.—'Life of Gen. Sam. Dale,' p. 20 (N.Y.).
- 1878 Salt lakes, alkaline "*sinks*," and mud flats alone relieve the dreary monotony.—J. H. Beadle, '*Western Wilds*,' p. 105.

Sir, Sirree. See NO SIR and YES SIR.

- 1861 [Mrs. Lincoln] is profuse in the introduction of the word "*Sir*" in every sentence, which is now almost an Americanism, although it was once as common in England.—W. H. Russell, '*Diary*,' March 28.

* * * This use of the word is still rather common among half-educated people, to which class Mrs. Lincoln belonged. It is also used in an old-fashioned way, in talking to persons of dignified position.

Six-Shooter—*contd.*

- 1876 A negro, whose knowledge of the country notably expanded at sight of a *six-shooter*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' ii. 275 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1888 [Fred agreed] to give the alarm by firing his *six-shooter*.—'Forest and Stream,' March 15 (Farmer).

Size one up. To take one's measure.

- 1890 In his rough vernacular, he wanted to *size him up*, and see if he was really soldier enough for him to "foller."—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 28.
- 1909 He *sized up* Hezekiah, and seemed to know what was passing in his mind.—*Judge*, Feb. (N.Y.).

Size one's pile. To estimate, sometimes to reduce to little or nothing, the money a man has.

- 1847 You see I thot I'd *size his pile*.—'Billy Warwick's Courtship,' p. 94 (Phila.).
- 1854 The jury shortly after returned into court with a verdict which "*sized their pile*."—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 113.

Skedaddle. To scatter, to flee from an enemy. The word, which is of uncertain origin, came into use in the early days of the civil war.

- 1861 No sooner did the traitors discover their approach than they *skedaddled*, a phrase the Union boys up here apply to the good use the seceshers make of their legs in time of danger.—Corresp. of *Missouri Democrat*, Aug. (Bartlett).
- 1862 *Skadaddle* is a newly-invented word, now greatly in vogue among our brave soldiers on the Potomac. It is equivalent to the verb to "absquatulate," and is like that other army verb [to vanose] which our soldiers brought from their campaign in Mexico.—*Oregon Argus*, Jan. 18.
- 1862 Where is the accuser of that committee? I hope he has not *skadaddled* after making his speech.—Mr. B. F. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, April 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1736/2.
- 1862 The term "*skedadle*" is a legitimate derivation from the Greek verb *skedassa* or *skedazo*: perfect tense, *eskedaka*: meaning to rout or disperse.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, May 10.
- 1862 When the old secessionists tried to chase [the Israelites] the Lord opened the Red Sea, and told them to *skedaddle*.—*Nashville Union*, n.d.
- 1862 The old feller had to "*skedaddle*," as they say in these days.—'Major Jack Downing,' Aug. 14.
- 1862 See Appendix XIV.
- 1863 "*Skedaddle*" would not apply to a body of troops scattering [?] though its common (vulgar) definition in parts of Britain, where it is said to have originated, applied primarily to the act of potatoes, apples, &c., falling from carts.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Jan. 29.

Skedaddle—*contd.*

- 1863 The rebel provisional government of Kentucky, . . . after the battle of Shiloh [was] *skedaddling* round through West Virginia and East Tennessee, without a local habitation, but with more name than it was entitled to.—Mr. G. H. Yeaman of Ky., House of Repr., Feb. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 128/2, App.
- 1863 Dame Rumor says our *skedaddlers* have been heard from, and that they are in Canada, sawing wood for a colored family for their board.—*Lorain County News*. n.d.
- 1863 He said his head-quarters were in the saddle.
But Stonewall Jackson made him *skedaddle*.
Soldiers' Song: J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' p. 71 (1889).
- 1885 There, sir, you will likely recognize that; it is the sword of one of your officers who *skedaddled* off that Indian mound.—Admiral D. D. Porter, 'Incidents of the Civil War,' p. 164.

Skeer. To scare. Rustic.

- 1799 An object so hideous as to *skeer* him out of his wits.—*The Aurora*, Phila., March 6.

Skeery. Timid, afraid, cautious.

- 1836 I noticed many a centaur of a fellow force his *skeary* nag up to the opening in the little clapboard shanty.—'A Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 14 (1846).
- [1845 I was *scary* and bashful at first, in meeting with a young and beautiful creature like her.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 108.]
- [1846 Somehow, the boys appeared a little *scary*.—'A Quarter Race,' &c., p. 120.]
- 1846 The South's safe enough, it don't feel a mite *skeery*.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 5.
- 1847 I ain't easy *skeer'd*, but I own up that old fellow did kind a make me *skeery*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 144.
- 1851 My! I feel so *skeary*-like, for I've never been aboard one of these steaming boats.—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 108.
- 1854 [She said] the Squire ought to be pretty *skeery* how he married any body.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 137.

Skeezicks. A ludicrous word, nearly equivalent to "chap."

- 1850 And though Kister, that *skeezicks*, with Hall at his back
Should come again thieving, they'll take the wrong track.
Frontier Guardian, Oct. 2.
- 1856 A correspondent of the *Weekly Oregonian*, March 29, signs himself "The same old *skeezicks*." [See also 'Dialect Notes,' i. 62, 218; ii. 147.]

Skeezicks—*contd.*

1858 At a meeting in Indiana, a speaker named Long responded to a loud call and took the stand. But a big, strapping fellow persisted in crying out in a stentorian voice, "Long! Long!" This caused a little confusion; but, after some difficulty in making himself heard, the president succeeded in stating that Mr. Long was now addressing them. "Oh! he be d—d!" replied the fellow; "he's the little *skeezicks* that told me to call for Long." This brought down the house.—Washington *Evening Star*, Nov. (Bartlett).

Skin, v. To copy, to plagiarize. (Yale.)

1837 A student is said to *skin* a problem, when he places the most implicit faith in the correctness of his neighbor's solution of it, or at least sufficient to warrant bestowing upon it the rites of adoption.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 138 (Feb.).

1846 He has passively admitted that he has *skinned* from other grammarians.—*Yale Banger*, Nov. (Hall, 'College Words.')

1849 The youth who so barefacedly *skinned* the song referred to.—*Yale Tomahawk*, Nov. (The same.)

1850 That remarkable prophecy which Horace so boldly *skinned* and called his own.—'Burial of Euclid' (The same.)

1855 Flashed all their weapons bare,
Flashed all their pens in air,
Wasting the paper there,
Skinning from ponies, while
All the Profs wondered.

Yale Lit. Mag., xx. 188.

Skipjack. A contemptible person.

1850 Who are they but mangy *skipjacks*, half-baked upper-crusts?—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 218.

1853 I would suggest that the management would do well to look after such *skipjacks*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 8.

1878 I'd as lieves take care o' two on 'em as that *skip-jack* of a girl of his'n.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 27.

Skipple, Skipple-stone. See quotations.

[1713] The wheat they carried on men's backs to Schenectady, each man carrying his *skipple* to his load.—John F. Watson, 'Annals of New York,' p. 61 (1846).

1796 Not far from Albany, among the Dutch,
A *skipple-stone* is used to balance weight
On horse-back borne.

The Aurora, Sep. 13.

1796 These lines appeared on the same day in the *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., with other verses:

In France they lately had a *skipple-stone*, &c.

1824 [We imagine] the beautiful Mrs. O., holding a *skipple* of seed corn in her striped petticoat.—*The Microscope*, Albany, Feb. 28.

1901 See also 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 147,

Skunk, v. To beat thoroughly.

- 1848 In the second hand of the third game I made high, low, and game, and "*skunked*" him outright.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 135.
- 1853 A severe defeat at the game of draughts, was formerly, and probably is now, termed a "*skunk*." The man was "*skunked*."—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 349.
- 1890 I never told you, boys, how I got *skunked* out of a good claim, did I?—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 250.

Skunk cabbage.

- 1816 In the *skunk cabbage* [the flowers] are inconspicuous.—*Analectic Mag.*, vii. 254 (March).

Skunk horse. See quotation.

- 1805 A couple of impostors are exhibiting a piebald or *skunk horse*, which they call a zebra, at the price of two shillings for grown persons.—*The Balance*, Oct. 22 (p. 339).

Skunk's purgatory. See HORSE-HEAVEN.

Slab-sided. Having long, lank sides.

- [1809 My grandfather having been kidnapped, and severely flogged by a *long sided* Connecticut schoolmaster.—Washington Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.' (1812), ii. 28].
- [1809 A crew of long-limbed, *lank-sided* varlets.—*Id.*, ii. 170.]
- 1817 He was what is usually called a tall *slabsided* Virginian.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 122 (N.Y.).
- 1823 A large *slabsided* negro girl.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 22.
- 1825 "Hold in! or you're jam up, I swar," cried out a long, *slabsided* Virginian.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 303.
- 1848 A brace of legs formed the underpinning to a long *slab-sided* body, otherwise of generous proportions.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 102.
- 1848 A long-legged, *slab-sided* specimen of humanity entered the cell.—Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 169.
- 1852 He observed in the seat before him a lean, *slab-sided* Yankee, every feature of whose face seemed to ask a question.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxix. 283 (March).
- 1856 The Massachusetts man will tell you that the real *slab-sided* whittler is indigenous to Vermont and New Hampshire, from the mountains of which he descends like a wolf on the fold, to prey amid the fertile fields which lie green before him.—*Id.*, xlvii. 267 (March).
- 1867 You didn' chance to run aginst my son,
A long *slabsided* youngster with a gun?
Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story': *Atl. Monthly*, Jan.

Slackwater, v. To reduce to the level of ebb tide.

- 1862 If you *slackwater* the Susquehanna a few hundred miles up into New York, and then build a canal to Lake Erie, you will have navigation for your gunboats.—Mr. Thaddeus Stevens of Pa., House of Repr., June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3033/1.

Slang. Careless, foolish talk.

- 1806 The *slang* of well-wishing is not uncommon among our modern great men.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Nov. 21.
- 1812 There is much cant and *slang* abroad now-a-days, about "Ministers of the Gospel" meddling with politics in the pulpit.—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 27: from the *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*.
- 1824 The editor can be nothing short of a very Joe Miller,—at least he must have thumbed him closely for years, to obtain such infinite wisdom, and boundless flow of *slang*.—*The Microscope*, Albany, May 22.
- 1827 The men collected under a thick foliated walnut, and began a *slang* about politics.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 22: from the *Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle*.
- 1828 Such "*slang*" does not comport with the character of a soldier.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 5, p. 1/5.
- 1828 [Mr. Wright's] speech consisted of a dull medley of worn out party *slang*, the grossest misrepresentations, &c.—*Id.*, Feb. 14, p. 2/1.
- 1828 In Pennsylvania particularly they have adopted [a sham speech of Andrew Jackson] as a part of their electioneering of *slang*.—*Id.*, Aug. 29: p. 3/4.
- 1836 The idea of irresponsibility of the Senate was suited to the newspaper *slang* of the country.—Mr. Leigh in the U.S. Senate, April 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 279.
- 1837 The cant and *slang* of the present day is against banks and corporations.—Mr. Thompson of S. Carolina, Sept. 27.—*Id.* p. 294, Appendix.
- 1837 I know that this last objection has been scouted as mere *slang*, as part of a mere "rabble," and unworthy of notice.—Mr. Mason of Virginia, Oct. 11.—*Id.*, p. 216, App.
- 1840 A tirade of newspaper *slang* and pot-house vituperation.—Mr. Tappan of Ohio, in the U. S. Senate, Feb. 25: *id.*, p. 230, App.
- 1840 Sir, said Mr. Weller of Ohio, I have never before listened to such miserable *slang* as fell from the lips of the gentleman from Connecticut,—such contemptible stuff. (The Speaker here called Mr. Weller to order.)—House of Repr., Feb. 26: *id.*, p. 195, App.
- 1840 Such *slang* and slander make no more impression on the minds of the honest-hearted and sturdy Democrats, than the falling of a sun-parched leaf upon the Rocky Mountains.—Mr. Watterson of Tennessee, the same: *id.*, p. 375, App.
- 1841 Mr. Clark of New York said all this log-cabin *slang* was quite out of date.—The same, June 22: *id.*, p. 92.
- 1841 [The idea that President Harrison was removed by a dispensation of Providence] is ferocious, impious *slang*.—Mr. Arnold of Tennessee, the same, Aug. 25: *id.*, p. 451, App.
- 1846 I am sick of the *slang* of theories attempted to be arrayed against a system under which the people are prosperous.—Mr. Ewing of Tenn., the same, June 27: *id.*, p. 993, App.

Slang—*contd.*

- 1855 [Few men] could endure the *slang* and misrepresentations which [Dr. Bernhisel] has endured.—Brigham Young, June 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 318.
- 1859 One paper will repeat the old *slang*, that it is opposed to abolitionism at the North on one hand, and to the fire-eaters of the South on the other.—*Corr. Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 11, p. 2/4.
- 1861 If the Senator [Douglas] chooses to impeach men's motives and deal in that kind of *slang*, he may do so.—Mr. B. F. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1395/3.

Slang-whanger. A careless, foolish talker or writer.

- [1809 "Federal *Slangwhanging*."]—Title of a political squib in the *Essex (Mass.) Register*, May 20.]
- 1810 He thought the most effectual mode would be to assemble all the *slang whangers* [editors] great and small... Let any fleet, however large, be but once assailed by this battery of *slang whangers*, and &c.—Salmagundi, in the *Mass. Spy*, May 2.
- 1810 Some pitiful *slangwhangers* are pretending a great deal of sympathy [for dogs].—*The Repertory*, Boston, Aug. 14.
- 1813 Being considerable of a "*slang-whanger*" myself, I at once determined, &c.—*The Stranger*, Albany, Oct. 9, p. 135.
- 1840 The term traitor had been applied to him by political *slangwhangers*.—Mr. Tallmadge of N.Y., U.S. Senate, Feb. 25: *Cong. Globe*, p. 230, App.
- 1841 Mr. Pickens of S. Carolina said that the distinguished and venerable gentleman [Mr. J. Q. Adams] had stooped to play a second part to the miserable, contemptible Irish *slangwhanger*, Daniel O'Connell: House of Representatives, *id.*, p. 266.
- 1843 It is hardly possible that any Southern *slangwhanger* will be able to set the Mississippi on fire.—*Nauwoo Neighbor*, May 24.
- 1856 Poets of an imitative school are all so many *slangwhangers*, repeaters of a stereotyped phraseology.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 336 (N.Y.).
- 1862 Men know the character of their Government, and they also know that "coercion" and "subjugation" is mere ad captandum, idle and unmeaning *slangwhanging*.—Mr. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Jan. 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 586/2.

Slantindicular. In a slanting direction.

- 1832 This is sorter a *slantindickelar* road, stranger [said the Yankee].—'Memoirs of a Nullifier,' p. 37 (Columbia, S.C.).
- 1833 He looked up at me *slantendicular*, and I looked down at him *slantendicular*; and he took out a chaw of turbaccur, and said he, "I don't value you that."—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 144.
- 1835 [He] makes his bivouac under a *slantindicular* shed, lighted up most romantically by a large watch-fire.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 30 (Phila.).

Slantindicular—*contd.*

- 1836 She looked a kind o' *slantindicular* at him, and I think he kissed her.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 27.
- 1846 I blazed away and sort a cut [the bear] *slantindicularly* through his hams.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.' p. 137.
- 1847 I'd shot him through the breast, but sorter *slantindickler*.—'Chunkey's Fight,' p. 138 (Phila.).
- 1852 [The snowstorm] came down by spells, perpendicular,—then crossed over and "went it" *slantindicular*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 25.
- a.1853 What gives [the giraffe] such a "*slantingdicular*," inclineplanish appearance is the superabundant architecture resting upon his forward pillars.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 258.

Slapper. A shutter.

- 1843 The bolts were faultless, but the shutters or *slappers* were warped and swollen.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 37.

Slash, slashes. Marshy land.

- 1819 *Slashes* means flat clayey land which retains water on the surface after showers. From this comes the adjective *slashy*.—David Thomas, 'Travels,' p. 230 (Auburn, N.Y.).
- 1833 "Is there a ferry here?" "Oh no, sir, it's nothing but a *slash*." "What's that?" "Why, sir, just a sort o' swamp."—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 190 (Phila.).
- 1833 There's a powerful chance of the biggest bull-frogs you ever see, down in the *slash* yonder.—The same, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 152.
- 1849 The mill boy of the *slashes* went to the mill with his bag of corn, and the streamers hanging out behind. The woman asked him why his mother did not put a patch on. "Why," said he, "she is busy at a sewing society, making clothes to be sent to the Greeks."—Mr. Sawyer of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 215.

Slatchy. See quotation. Local.

- 1890 A *slatchy* sky, when the blue appears through clouds.—'Dialect Notes,' i. 9.

Slate. A proposed "ticket"; a programme of nominees.

- 1877 The facts about the latest Cabinet *slate* . . . are interesting as showing what is thought . . . as to the course of President Hayes in choosing his advisers.—*N.Y. Tribune*, March 1 (Bartlett).

- 1893 "*Slates*" have been arranged, in which all conflicting claims have been nicely adjusted.—*The Nation*, N.Y., lvi. 158.

Slaw. Raw cabbage, sliced. [See also COLD SLAW.]

- 1861 I wanted to leave the *slaw*; but S. said, "No; *slaw* and oysters was man and wife."—Theodore Winthrop, 'Cecil Dreeme,' p. 157 (N.Y., 1856).

Slazy, Sleazy. Thin, almost worn through.

- 1820 I can foresee the time when our fine twilled linen shall be as much superior to the bleached linen imported, or the *sleazy* humhum, as they are to a cobweb.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 5.
- 1839 [Dudley Marvin, of the bar of Western New York], was ingenious in twistifying the statements of the opposing witnesses, and covering up the *sleazy* spots in his own woof of testimony.—*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Sept. 11.
- 1856 It's *slazy*, though, ther ain't much heft to't.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 11.
- 1894 I'd rather stick to this old *sleazy* mou'nin for Tom, than flaunt round in white muslins.—F. Bret Harte, 'Col. Starbottle's Client.'

Sled, v. To "coast" on a sled. [The noun is old, being found in Marlowe's 'Tamburlaine the Great,' Act I. Sc. i. See also the voluminous controversy on "the sledded Polack" of 'Hamlet,' summed up by Dr. Furness.]

- 1832 The western end of Garden Street, New York, was a hill called Flatten-barrack,—a celebrated place for boys in winter to *sled* down hill.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 119.
- 1833 There was much *sledding* down the streets and hills descending to Pegg's run.—The same, 'Hist. Tales of Philadelphia,' p. 157.

Slew. To warp over.

- 1848 Some times the bote would *slew* over to one side like it was gwine to spill us all out.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 176.

Slewed. Drunk. A slang word which has fallen into disuse.

- 1837 Night is the time for those
Who, when they take their wine,
By redness of the nose,
Or any other sign,
Give evidence, whence we conclude
That they're unquestionably *slew'd*.
Knick. Mag., ix. 201 (Feb.).
- 1837 According to the *Philadelphia Ledger*, a man has been found in the gutter of one of the streets of that city who, like Goliath of Gath, was *slewed with a sling*.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 7, p. 2/1.
- 1846 We found Frank, as he expressed it, "not drunk, but shlightly *shlewed*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 282.
- 1856 "[Goliath] was a giant, but he had a weak head." "How so?" "Why, to get so easily *slewed*." "That was owing to the strength of the sling."—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 13.

Slewer, n. See quotations. Now obsolete.

1848 They say here [in Philadelphia, that the servant girls] ain't nothing but *slewers*, but I seed sum that I would tuck for respectable white galls if I had seed em in Georgia. *Slewers* or whatever they is, they is my own color, and a few dollars would make 'em as good as their mistresses.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 107.

1848 [On the Hudson] you may call pore white men and wimmin waiters servants, *slewers*, or anything you please, but you must take monstrous good care how you speak to the free niggers.—*Id.*, p. 147.

Slick. A variant form of *sleek*, meaning smooth, neat, easy; also smoothly, quickly.

1604 [The horse] has a buttock has *slick* as an eel.—Marlowe, 'The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus.'

1650 Sure I am this city [the New Jerusalem], as presented by the prophet, was fairer, finer, *slicker*, smoother, more exact, than any fabric the earth afforded.—Fuller, 'Pisgah Sight of Palestine,' ii. 190: cited by Trench, 'English Past and Present,' Lecture V.

[1806 Thus happy I hoped I should pass

Sleek as grease down the current of time.

Spirit of the Public Journals (Balt.), p. 114.]

1807 You are getting too *slick*. What a charming thing it is to see men under good discipline.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Oct. 16: from the *Georgia Monitor*.

1816 Out jumped a gentleman more than commonly *slick*, so much so that he drew the attention of the company.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 4: from the *Connecticut Courier*.

1817 I have saved the county two hundred dollars *slick*.—*Id.*, Jan. 22.

[1817 I late was a slave to your rosy-red cheek,

Your blue-rolling eye, and your cherry-red lip,

Your clean white silk stocking, your ancle so *sleek*,

Your air and your figure, from shoulder to hip.

Id., Dec. 10.]

1818 He would send me off *slick*.—H. B. Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 59. (For fuller quotation see Boss.)

1823 In the eyes of the Americans, Uncle Sam is a right *slick*, mighty fine, smart, big man.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 126 (Lond.).

[1833 Tim Needles in Chatham Street, could splice [a torn coat] *sleek* enough, I guess. It's a right down screamer, though, — ain't it?—*American Monthly Mag.*, i. 395 (Aug.).]

1833 See VARMEN.

1834 It was so *slick* a counterfit, the Captain didn't know himself.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 73.

1835 We are told in the good book that hell's gate is a mighty *slick* place, and easy to get into.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 56 (Phila.).

Slick—*contd.*

- 1837 Prudence guessed strawberries and cream were *slick*. Jonathan thought they wa'n't so *slick* as Pru's lips.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 4, p. 2/3.
- 1840 We should think that the roads in Greece would be as "*slick* a, ile."—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 7.
- 1842 All who wish to get clear of bristles on the face can be accommodated in the *slickest* manner by Purnell, rear of the arcade.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 5.
- 1845 Jest let me light on him, if you want to see how *slick* Georgia kin top out old Virginy.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 140.
- 1848 The ginerall dove into the whirlpool, and down they went right *slick*.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 14.
- 1849 I met at the ball the man of my heart,
Who inspireth these verses so *slick* and so smart.
Knick. Mag., xxxiii. 14 (Jan.).
- 1851 Ay, they are right desperate chaps, them, exclaimed the jailer :—I reckon them furriners [they were Mexicans] 'ud think no more of 'murdering a man right *slick*, nor you would of walloping your nigger.—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 121.
- 1853 You might all manage to get on as *slick* as goose-grease without as much doctor-stuff as would physic an adolescent spider.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 76.
- 1854 Up thar all glides on as "*slick*" as goose-grease.—*Id.*, iv. 70.
- 1855 "Open the fixin," says he, pointing to a cupboard; "there you'll find the tools as 'll do it *slick*."—*Oregon Weekly Times*, July 21.
- 1857 "How did I dance?" "Like a nation." "What did Mose Jewell say about me?" "He said you looked as *slick* as a candle, and *slicker* tew."—*San Francisco Call*, Feb. 4.
- 1888 My stock is complete and I am anxious to sell. If your pocket-book is over burdened, bring it down here, and I will clean it out as *slick* as David did Goliath.—Advt. in a Eugene (Oregon) paper, July.
- 1909 The wind carried away the roof as *slick* as a whistle, but without hurting anybody.—*Chicago Tribune*, April.
- Slick**, v. To make smooth, in a good or bad sense; usually to set in order.
- 1839 On the day they published that they would *slick* him, he had cighteen friends who came to his assistance.—'Hist. of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 20 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Mr. F. was *slicked* up for the occasion.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 243.
- 1841 Mr. Cram took out of his pockèt a wooden comb, and began to "*slick down*" his hair.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvii. 38 (Jan.).
- 1847 H. went to work, loading up his big bore, with as much care as a girl fixes herself when she *slicks* up.—'The Great Kalamazoo Hunt,' p. 44 (Phila.).

Slick v.—*contd.*

1867 Then he said, "Is this my farm?" "Don't you know it?" says I. "It looks more *slicked up* than ever it used to be," says he.—Dr. E. E. Hale, in *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 109 (Jan.).

Slim. Poor, meagre, attenuated.

1809 Adams's intellects are very small indeed, and his education very *slim*.—'Trial of David Lynn and others,' p. 15 (Augusta, Maine).

1837 Tuesday will be a *slim* "quarter day" to many of the landlords.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Aug. 2, p. 2/3: from the *N. Y. Sun*.

1848 I never felt so *slim* in my life.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 195.

1857 It may be a *slim* thing for me to say, but I've got a notion, &c.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 157.

1862 The season was late, as the corn was mighty *slim*.—'Major Jack Downing,' April 15.

1868 My landlord attributed the *slim* attendance to a camp-meeting that was in successful operation about two miles from town.—Sol. Smith, 'Autobiography,' p. 92.

1869 There was a slim chance at least that he reached the shore.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. 29.

Slim, Sagacious.

1818 The *slimmest* gentleman in New York would not come to his store.—H. B. Fearon, 'Sketches of America,' p. 59. (For fuller quotation see Boss.)

1848 —I wish I may be cust
Ef Bellers wuzn't *slim* enough to say he wouldn't trust.
'Biglow Papers,' No. 9.

Slim-witch. A fictitious ghost.

1859 When did it get wicked to make *slim-witches*? It's only a month since you helped me yourself.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 367 (April).

Sling. A drink concocted with spirits.

1788 [From drinking toddy] he proceeded to drink grog. After a while nothing would satisfy him but *slings* made of equal parts of rum and water, with a little sugar. From *slings* he advanced to raw rum, and from common rum to Jamaica spirits.—Dr. Rush of Philadelphia in the *Mass. Spy*, July 31.

1788 Rum, whisky, brandy, gin, stinkibus, bitters, toddy, grog, *slings*, and fifty other liquors, all come under the denomination of spirits.—Dialogue between a Sword and a Hog's-head of Spirits: *Maryland Journal*, Nov. 21.

1804 And when deprived of every shift
Paine takes a *sling*, and gives a lift;
For though, when sober, Tom is dull,
Stupid, and filthy as a gull,
Yet give him brandy, and the elf
Will talk all night about himself.

Mass. Spy, Jan. 25: from the *Connecticut Courant*.

Sling—*contd.*

- 1806 The cordial drop, the morning dram, I sing,
The mid day toddy, and the evening *sling*.
Mass. Spy, July 16.
- 1819 Some of the company called for a *sling*, which I found to be a compound of whiskey, sugar, and water.—“An Englishman” in the *Western Star*: *id.*, May 12.
- 1823 Jo. Tipler used to say that eleven glasses of *sling* before breakfast were as good as a thousand.—*Id.*, Nov. 5.
- 1824 [We] talked politics, and drank two *slings* till eleven.—*The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., April 3.
- 1824 A traveller entering a tavern called loudly for a *sling*. “Beware, honey,” said an Irishman, Goliah fell by a *sling*, and so may you.—*Mass. Spy*, July 14.
- 1825 I ceased altogether taking my *sling* and toddy, and laid aside my smoking apparatus.—*Id.*, Feb. 16.
- 1826 When I got home, Moses made some *sling*, which we drank together.—*Id.*, Oct. 11.
- 1827 Ven Tafid vent out to fight vid Goliah, he dook nothing vid him put one sling; now don’t mistake me, mine frients: it vas not a *rum sling*; no, nor a *gin sling*; no, nor a *mint vater sling*; no, it was a sling mate vit an hickery shtick.—A Dutch sermon, from the *Cincinnati Parthenon*: *id.*, July 25.
- 1829 The morning bitters—the noon-tide dram—the evening *sling*—have withered the finest flowers in nature’s garden.—*Id.*, July 8.
- 1839 “Had he nothing in his hand?” “He had nothing, sir, but a glass of *brandy sling*.”—*Daily Sun*, Cincinnati, May 22.
- Slink.** A contemptible fellow; a coward. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. viii. 27, 117.
- 1845 “I despise a *slink*!” “Who do you call a *slink*?” demanded Jones. “Every dog knows his own name when he hears it, sir,” replied the major.—‘Chronicles of Pineville,’ p. 139.
- 1857 Poor cursed *slinks*! do they not know that we were raised among them?—George A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Sept. 13: ‘Journal of Discourses,’ v. 225.
- 1860 A selfish, false-hearted, and malicious *slink*.—*Oregon Argus*, May 19.
- 1860 Any *slink* can be a pro-slavery Democrat.—*Id.*, Sept. 8.
- 1866 Here’s a passel of *slink-hearted* fellows who played tory just to dodge bullitts.—C. H. Smith, ‘Bill Arp,’ p. 143.
- Slink**, v. To abandon. Obsolete.
- 1807 The Spectator, in his day, attacked the hooped petticoat. Were he now alive, he would see the ladies have *slinked* that, and become rather lank.—“Mentor,” in *The Balance*, May 5, p. 137.

- Slip.** A place for a vessel beside a wharf ; also a narrow pew.
- 1796 The abominable custom of filling up *slips* and docks with similar materials.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Aug. 6.
- 1796 The whole block of buildings included between that *slip* [Coffee-house Slip, New York], Front Street, and the Fly Market.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 13.
- 1820 The *slips* were filled with hogsheads, barrels, spars, staves, shingles, crates, and lumber of every description, which the water and immense cakes of ice carried high up, where they were left on the fall of the tide.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 26 : from the *N.Y. Daily Advertiser*.
- 1832 The *Slips*, so called, were originally openings to the river, into which they drove their carts to take out cord-wood from vessels. (Coenties Slip, Beekman's Slip, Burling Slip, &c.).—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 172.
- 1838 The *slips* [in the Mormon Temple at Kirtland, Ohio], are so constructed as to permit the audience to face either pulpit at pleasure.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 113 (N.Y.).
- 1840 Selling or renting the pews, *slips*, or sittings for money.—*Millennial Star*, Aug., p. 103.
- 1843 Some half a score of the fair sex came tumbling into the *slip* behind me.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, viii. 123.
- 1850 See PICARON.
- 1853 A young gentleman who had occupied a vacant *slip* in the broad aisle.—*Oregonian*, July 2.
- 1854 Antiquated gentleman in same *slip*.—*Id.*, Dec. 9.
- Slip up.** To miscalculate ; to come to grief.
- 1854 Some men think the way is to get as many wives as they can ; now they may *slip up* on that.—Orson Hyde at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 8 : 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 67.
- 1904 I *slipped up* on my calculations this time.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 21.
- Slipe.** A distance.
- 1843 Certain gentlemen must be made to know that they do not begin to be the party, "by a long *slipe*."—*Missouri Reporter*, May 19.
- Sliver.** A splinter.
- 1826 The sword-fish's sword was much *slivered* in passing through [the vessel's keel]. . . . The circumference was 8½ inches, some *slivers* being lost.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 30 : from a Sag Harbor paper.
- 1845 Where he was assaulted, are evidences of broken *slivers* from the rails on the fence.—*Nauvoo Neighbor*, June 25.
- 1850 [Jenny Lind] doesn't "shake" like a windy *sliver* on a chesnut rail of a Virginia fence in the country ; she sings.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 380 (Oct.).
- 1853 Mat, just light that *sliver* in the fireplace.—*Id.*, xli. 502 (June).
- 1856 Your shot struck me on the collar-bone, and *slivered* it as if it had been paper.—*Id.*, xlviii. 135 (Aug.).

Sliver—*contd.*

1875 A snag that would snatch the keelson out of this steam-boat as neatly as if it were a *sliver* in your hand.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times,' *Atlantic Monthly*, March, p. 286.

1890 I hadn't one thing to get dinner with, not even a *sliver* of dry wood.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 295.

Slop over. To be unduly sentimental and "gushing."

1910 If any new meaning is to be read by the affair into the worn phrase, "the ingratitude of republics," we think it is that they are not so much ungrateful as awkward. Even when they want to do fine things, they do not always know how to go about it. In the present instance, it may be that a republic which unguardedly *slopped over* in connection with the wrong man feels particularly tongue-tied when it comes to expressing thanks to the right man.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 10.

Sloshing about. See quotations. Mr. Bartlett gives an example from the *Montgomery (Ala.) Mail*, 1857.

a.1854 [The planets] would all knock off work at once, and either play sick, or go "*sloshing about*" the heavens in the most rancantankerous sort of style imaginable.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 69.

1862 *Sloshin around* is jest goin rite through a crowd, an mowin your swath, hitten rite an left everybody you meet.—'Major Jack Downing,' Oct. 6.

Slouch. An ordinary person or thing.

1823 She was one of our pretty fashionable little creatures, whom we adore, but who are not to be obtained, or even wooed, by a common *slouch*.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, May 27.

1869 It ain't no *slouch* of a journal.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' ch. 4.

Slough or **slue.** See quotations.

1845 There are some low ravines (in the country called *slucs*) which are filled with water during freshets, and at these points the bottoms are overflowed.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 99 (Cincinnati, 1847).

1846 [The rivers empty into the Bay] by several mouths or *sloughs* as they are here called. These *sloughs* wind through an immense timbered swamp.—E. Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 304 (Lond., 1849).

1850 Now commenced the operation of warping through the *slough*, rendered necessary by the strength of a current like a mill-race.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 117 (N.Y.).

1850 A few miles further on, we came to what is termed a "*slough*," or lateral branch [of the river].—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 54 (N.Y.).

1855 It was right good luck that we didn't get *slued* [caught in a freshet] afore we got to town.—E. W. Farnham, 'Prairie Land,' p. 49.

1855 You can't do it, the road is so wet, and the *slue* so full of water. There's a *slue* right out here that you couldn't get across at all.—*Id.*, p. 52.

Slug. A fifty dollar gold piece.

- 1853 The "*slugs*" have completely annihilated the small gold in this vicinity, and silver is entirely out of the question, —more scarce than "*slugs*."—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Courier*, Jan. 1.
- 1853 We hope our farmers and stockraisers will have their eyes open, and their "*slugs*" ready, to enter into a successful competition with the speculators of California. —*Id.*, July 16.
- 1857 You'll find it here, —cash or check,—*slugs*, rags, or dollars.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 35 (Jan.).
- 1858 It is immaterial what the idol is, whether it is what the Californians call a *slug*, or whether it is a twenty-dollar gold piece.—Brigham Young, Feb. 7: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 195.
- 1862 Many a not unseemly octagonal *slug* had been offered me.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 37 (N.Y., 1876).

Slump, n. and v. A word indicating the progress of a man in the mire; applied to the failure of a college student; and, latterly, to a heavy fall in the price of stocks. [See *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. xii. 413.]

- 1804 And shrubs and trees, if e'er they grew,
Have lost their foothold, and *slump'd* through.
Mass Spy, Jan. 25: from the *Connecticut Courant*. (The allusion is to the Louisiana purchase.)
- 1847 In fact, he'd rather dead than dig; he'd rather *slump* than squirt. (Harvard)—Hall, 'College Words,' 1856.
- 1850 Move carefully! It is a slip, or a *slump*, all the way through.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 12.

Slung-shot. See quotations [1842] and 1876.

- 1842 Davis's companion struck him three violent blows with a *slung-shot* over the head.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 29.
- [1842 One of them, with a bullet slung in a handkerchief, which he had before used, struck him over the head.—*Id.*, Oct. 21.]
- 1848 Whoever attempts to force his way, shall receive a silent *slung-shot* or a pistol-ball.—'Asmodeus,' p. 32 (N.Y.).
- 1850 A blow from a *slung-shot* or crowbar will silence him for ever. . . . He received from his Captain a leather strap some two feet in length, with a heavy ball of lead neatly sewed in one end, called a "*slung-shot*."—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 220, 302.
- 1855 [He struck him] with a piece of iron, or a *slung-shot*, upon his head, cutting a deep gash in it.—Sara Robinson, 'Kansas,' p. 76 (1857).
- 1858 The electors [in Baltimore] are shot down or knocked down with *slung-shot*, as they go to deposit their ballots.—Mr. Hatch of New York in the House of Repr., Feb. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 731, App.
- 1876 A large number of knives and *slung-shot* (made by putting stones in woolen stockings) were detected.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 141.

Small potatoes. Persons or things of no account. A phrase apparently invented by David Crockett.

- 1836 This is what I call *small potatoes*, and few of a hill.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 25 (Phila.).
- 1842 Taking the benefit [of the Bankrupt Act] is a *small potato* business.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 6.
- 1842 The Criminal Court is famous for side-bar chit-chat, small-talk, choice epithets from one *small potato* lawyer to another, &c.—*Id.*, May 4.
- 1842 The notorious *small-potato* pipe-layer was asked whether he could swear away the character of the young gentleman.—*Id.*, May 26.
- 1843 Certain *small-potato* patriots on the stump.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' ii. 84.
- 1846 An old bachelor, being laughed at by a party of pretty girls, told them that they were *small potatoes*. "We may be *small potatoes*," replied one of the maidens, "but we are sweet ones."—*Oregon Spectator*, Feb. 19.
- 1847 Are you merely *small potato* politicians, living upon the ephemeral popular impulses of the moment, and eight dollars a day?—Mr. Wick of Indiana in the House of Repr., Jan. 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 263.
- a.1848 Political foes are such very *small potatoes*, that they will hardly pay for skinning.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 199.
- 1852 It makes me feel like digging *small potatoes*, and few in a hill.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 394 (1860).
- 1855 If there is anything more disgusting than another, it is the effort of *small potato* politicians, political demagogues, and party pinps, to dub men as "Hon. Mr. So and So."—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 22.
- 1862 [Jacob] never'd thought o' borryin from Esau like all nater,
An' then confiscatin' all debts to sech a *small pertater*.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.
- [1880 (Mr. Ruskin's) knowledge of the spirit of the present age turns out to be *mighty small pumpkins*.—'Texas Siftings,' June 23 (Farmer)].

Smaller. An ordinary-sized drink of liquor.

- 1836 The thimble conjurer, having asked the bar-keeper how much was to pay, was told that there were sixteen *smallers*, which amounted to one dollar.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 83 (Phila.).
- 1842 Every puppy that would be keeled over with a *smaller* of rum and 'lasses turns up his nose at him.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Jan. 3.

Smart. Clever, tricky.

- 1823 A propensity to cheat and deceive is the boasted characteristic of the *smart* man.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 115.
- 1823 *Id.*, p. 126. (See UNCLE SAM.)

Smart—*contd.*

- 1824 A *Smart* Little Girl, Aged six years, whose father is absent, wants a place till she is eighteen years old.—*Advvt., Somerset (Me.) Journal*, Jan. 16, p. 4/3.
- 1859 The gentlemen from New York are quicker, and to use a common word in my country, *smarter* than we are in Pennsylvania.—Mr. Cameron of Pa. in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1215.
- 1861 A "*smart*" but unprincipled person. See K.G.C.
- 1890 See TENDER-FOOT.
- Smart**, usually RIGHT SMART. A large quantity of anything. Southern.
- 1842 I asked whether the people made much maple-sugar [in Virginia] when a planter answered, "Yes, they do, I reckon, *right smart*," meaning in great quantities.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 327.
- 1855 Thar hain't been much rain lately, but thar's *right smart* of snow, and its about half melted now.—Farnham, 'Travels in Prairie Land,' p. 361.
- 1856 I sold *right smart* of eggs dis yer summer.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. 39.
- 1890 [He said the water had been] on the rise *right smart* of time already.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 292.
- Smart Aleck**. A conceited fellow. The phrase is reported to 'Dialect Notes,' vols. ii., iii., and ix., from Arkansas, Alabama, Nebraska, Missouri, New York, and Pennsylvania.
- 1873 [I saw] at least a score of "*smart Alecks*" relieved of their surplus cash.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 140 (Phila., &c.).
- Smart as a steel trap**. Exceedingly quick and ready.
- 1830 A feller with an eye like a hawk, and *quick as a steel trap* for a trade.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 49 (1860).
- 1833 He'd come home again as *smart as a steel trap*.—*Id.*, p. 234.
- 1856 [A little girl] with sparkling, intelligent eyes, thin, expressive lips, and as "*smart as a steel trap*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xviii. 311 (Sept.).
- 1866 A blue-eyed girl, as neat as a new pin, and as *smart as a steel trap*.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 271.
- Smile**, a drink. **To smile**, to take a drink.
- 1850 Hast ta'en a *smile* at Brigham's?—Harvard Poem: B. H. Hall, 'College Words, &c.,' p. 435 (1856).
- 1852 I imbibed a final "*smile*" to my own health, and left my allies alone.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xvii. 144.
- 1855 The "crowd" was invited into the hotel, and one general *smile* entirely absorbed the [wedding] fee.—*N.Y. Tribune*, Jan. 31 (Bartlett).
- 1861 If we except the bibulous indulgence sometimes known by that name, I have not seen a man *smile* since I have been here.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 174 (Aug.).
- 1865 The man in the office [at the Tremont House] never *smiles*—in any point of view.—George H. Derby, 'The Squibob Papers,' p. 140.

Smile, a drink—contd.

- 1870 [This gentleman] asked me to *smile*. I had learned by experience that this is the slang phrase for taking a drink. I "*smiled*" all the more readily, because the morning was intensely cold.—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 337.
- 1888 We took a *smile* of old Bourbon apiece.—Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, Feb. 6 (Farmer).
- 1890 Let's go over the way and take a *smile* first, and then we'll see about it.—Van Dyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' p. 148.

Smoke-pipe, smoke-stack. The chimney of a steamboat or of a locomotive.

- 1844 She has neither paddle-wheels nor *smoke-pipe*.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 61 (Phila.)
- 1856 Objects not unlike the inverted "*smoke-pipe*" of a steam-car.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 276.
- 1857 The curling of the smoke from the *smoke pipe* of a boat, against the clear night air.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 559 (Dec.).
- 1861 Another [shot] passed between the *smoke-stack* and [the] walking-beam of the engine.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 215.
- 1862 A shell might [by chance] be thrown in such a manner as to fall into the *smoke-pipe* of the Merrimac or the Monitor.—Mr. James Dixon of Conn., U.S. Senate, March 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1425/1.
- 1869 The passengers were huddled about the *smoke-stacks*.—Mark Twain, 'Innocents Abroad,' ch. 5.
- 1876 Our engineers went to work at once to repair the *smoke-stack*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 355.
- 1878 The steerage-passengers walked the deck, or stood around the *smoke-stacks* for warmth.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 401.
- 1884 If we had had a *smoke-stack*, and proper boiler fronts, &c., how we would have made a smash of those fellows!—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 163.

Smudge. A fire burned in order to create a dense smoke and drive away insects.

- 1840 Kindling first some dry leaves, he scraped the moss from a moist stump, and, covering up the flame with the damp materials, the thick fumes of this "*smudge*" soon caused the insects to disappear.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 97 (Lond.).
- 1856 We went ashore and made a "*smudge*," to protect ourselves from the mosquitoes.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvi. 294 (Sept.).
- 1858 So freshly does he write, that we, too, chat amidst the *smudge-fires*.—*Id.*, li. 110. (Jan.)
- 1888 Eliza brought old kettles with raw cotton into our room, from which proceeded such *smudges* and such odors as would soon have wilted a northern mosquito.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 77.
- 1888 A *smudge* at the end of the wagon was rising about me, to drive away mosquitoes.—*Id.*, p. 124.

Snag. A submerged tree obstructing navigation. When it sways with the current it is called a SAWYER, q.v.

- 1819 I knew by the steam, that so spitefully curled
Around the old boat, that a sand-bar was near ;
And I said, if there's *snags* to be found in this world,
The eye that is coozy may look for them here.
St. Louis *Enquirer*, Oct. 6.
- 1822 See SAWYER.
- 1840 A rock itself, sharpened and set by art, could be no more dangerous than these dread "*snags*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xvi. 463 (Dec.).
- 1842 Mr. Linn of Missouri said that from the point where he lived he could see the wrecks of seven steamboats. Such must be the case where two or three thousand *snags* are accumulated. — U.S. Senate, June 22: *Congressional Globe*, p. 666.
- 1846 The steamer *Nimrod*, when at Horse Shoe cut-off, encountered a *snag* at night. The *snag* shivered, the fragment passing upward, and tearing away a considerable portion of the boiler deck. Both chimnies were knocked down. The hull of the *Nimrod* is one of the staunchest on the river, and was not injured in the least.—*St. Louis Reveille*, March 24.
- 1846 The navigator's arm grew strong as he guided his rude craft past the "*snag*," or sawyer, or kept off the no less dreaded bar.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 332.
- 1847 You must steer clear of me in your speechifications, or mayhap you will strike a *snag*.—Sol Smith, 'Adventures,' p. 144.
- 1851, 1857. See SAWYER.
- 1867 The sharp stems, often entirely under water, form *snags*, the special horror of Missouri navigation.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 20.
- 1875 See SLIVER.
- * * * See also Appendix XXI.

Snagged. Caught on a snag.

- 1838 Many steamers have been damaged by striking the wrecks of the *Baltimore*, the *Roanoke*, the *William Hulburt*, and other craft which were themselves *snagged*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 27 (N.Y.).
- 1842 *Steamboat snagged*. The Cincinnati papers say that the steanboat *Nonpareil* was "*snagged*" a few days ago at the "Grave Yard," and sank.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Nov. 29.
- 1844 I have been *snagged* once and on fire twice.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 181. (For fuller quotation see BULLY-BOAT.)
- 1845 Steamboats are about ten days coming from New Orleans to St. Louis, when they are not blown up or *snagged* on the way.—*Bangor Mercury*, n.d.

Snagged—*contd.*

- 1851 In the papers you will often see whole columns headed "*Snagged*," containing a melancholy list of boats that have had that unpleasant and unnecessary operation gratuitously performed upon them. There follows sometimes, a list of "Boilers burst."—Lady E. S. Wortley, 'Travels,' p. 112.
- 1852 He wanted to get me *snagged* up for a while, so that he could get the start of me.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xl. 318 (Oct.).
- Snag-boat.** See quotation, 1853. These boats were called by the river-men "Uncle Sam's Tooth-Pullers."—(E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' 1838, i. 84.)
- 1843 The *snag-boat* had been invented twelve or fifteen years ago, for the removal of logs and trees. . . . Rocks and hard bars did not require *snag-boats*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, Jan. 17 : *Congressional Globe*, p. 165.
- 1853 These *snag-boats* have a double bottom, like to our ferry boats. They run up to a snag or sawyer, from down stream, force it up straight, if it be inclined by the course of the current, fasten to it by a chain, and drawing it on the deck [cut it] by machinery into lengths of perhaps eight feet, and then cast [it] overboard.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 405.
- 1853 As I once said to Sydney Rigdon, our boat is an old *snag boat*, and has never been out of snag harbor, but it will root up the snags, run them down, split them up, and scatter them to the four winds.—Brigham Young, June 19 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 189.
- 1911 There are a few sections of our marine strength that are seldom heard of. One is composed of the *snagboats* on the Mississippi. The men who man them do not seek publicity and are never given any medals or tablets for battle efficiency. The John N. Macomb arrived in Vicksburg early in the week from St. Louis, and on her trip from Memphis to Vicksburg she destroyed 187 snags. These snags are trees and driftwood which gather in the shallows or channels and menace navigation. If they are not carefully watched, they become so large that they deflect the current and make old charts valueless. Ever since the first steamboat sailed the great river these snags have been the terror of captains. Sixty were removed from one section of the river near Bolivar by the Macomb on her last cruise.—*Springfield Republican*, November.
- Snake**, v. To go, conduct, or drag in a sinuous manner.
- 1829 It was so contrived that logs, sixteen feet in length, could be drawn, or as it is technically phrased *snaked* into church, and a fire kindled along the whole length.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 21 (Boston).
- 1844 I've *snaked* it about these woods for a week, looking for a squire to hitch us.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.

Snap judgment, snap vote. One delivered or taken hurriedly and without consideration.

- 1841 This extra session of Congress, called in time of peace to take *snap judgments* on the American people.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, June 14 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 42, App.
- 1841 The American people...will never quietly submit to this *snap judgment*, which would rivet upon them and their children such an odious institution [as the Fiscal Bank].—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., the same, July 7 : *id.*, p. 162, App.
- 1841 To proceed under such circumstances is to take the people by surprise, and spring a *snap judgment* upon them.—Mr. Benton, the same, July 27 : *id.*, p. 199, App.
- 1845 It has been said that, in pressing this matter, we would take a "*snap judgment*,"—we would get the start of the American people.—Mr. Yancey of Alabama, House of Repr., Jan. 7 : *id.*, p. 88, App.
- 1850 [This] was a case in which one half of the Union had no opportunity of being heard ; you took *snap judgment* on them.—Mr. Downs of Louisiana, Senate, Feb. 18 : *id.*, p. 167, App.
- 1850 We are not to be taken by surprise, and these important measures forced upon the country by a *snap judgment*.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, House of Repr., Aug. 12 : *id.*, p. 1563.
- 1860 A kind of twopenny shystering smartness and *snap-judgment* genius.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 458 (Nov.).
- 1861 It was only yesterday I endeavored to get a "*snap judgment*" opened up, which B. had taken against us.—*Id.*, lvii. 298 (March).
- 1861 I do not want to take a *snap judgment* on anybody, but I do not intend that merchants shall send orders out and have them filled before this [tariff] bill takes effect.—Mr. Charles Sumner of Mass., U.S. Senate, July 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 319/1.
- 1888 A *snap viva voce vote* is taken.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, Feb. 16 (Farmer).

Snap law. See quotation.

- 1863 [In Massachusetts, until 1840] we had in operation a terrible system, sometimes designated a *snap law*, by which a creditor could go, even in the night, and strip the debtor of everything he had in the world.—Mr. Amasa Walker of Mass., House of Repr., Jan. 7 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 226/1.

Snapper. A snapping-turtle.

- 1796 The gogling eye, the hause hole nostrils, and the crocodile throats of the gentle *snappers* or mud turtles in the Jersey market...Some of our cheery fish mongers declare that a *snapper* will live many days after he is dead.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 17.

Snarl. An entanglement.

- 1825 There being a pootty consid'r'ble *snarl* of gals, I guess, the supper was bravely furnished.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 76.
- 1825 In they goes, both on 'em, plump into a *snarl* o' Mohawks camping out.—*Id.*, i. 105.
- 1825 Ever seed a *snarl* o' black sneks thawin' out—in sugar time—under a pooty smart rock heap?—*Id.*, i. 143.
- 1834 I'm afraid they'll git the Government in a plaguy *snarl*, afore I git there.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 87.
- 1834 Folks have been thinking a good while there was a pesky *snarl* of rats round the Post Office.—*Vermont Free Press*, June 28.
- 1839 There's nothin in this wide world like wimen when a man's got into a *snarl*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iv. 361.
- 1847 You've got yourself into a Kingdom-come *snarl*, if you only know'd it.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 102.
- a.1848 There are snares, as well as *snarls*, in her dark flowing tresses.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 140.
- 1853 You make me think of a child that is trying to make rope of a parcel of old thrums, until he gets the whole into *snarls*.—Brigham Young, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 133.
- 1856 A cheaper minister, and one that hadn't such a *snarl* o' young ones.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 23.
- 1862 Things have been in a kind of a dubbel and twisted *snarl* here lately.—'Major Jack Downing,' May 13.

Snarl, v. To entangle. Hence to unsnarl is to unravel, to disentangle.

- 1814 [Cutting it all round] prevents the hair from *snarling*.—*Analectic Mag.*, iv. 64 (July).
- 1824 Seeing her *snarled* hair, [he] said that her head looked as if she had six mice nests built in it, and the seventh was building.—*Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, June 1: from the *Boston Telegraph*.
- 1852 The clay is refractory and snappish; it will break, and snap, and *snarl*.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 161.
- 1856 I think he is *unsnarling* some twine which he hath purchased and tangled. . . . I have many *snarled* lines, and they shall be at thy service.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvi. 261 (Sept.).
- 1861 He appears with his hair long, bushy, *snarled*, dirty, and hanging about his shoulders.—Brigham Young, Feb. 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 123.

Snide. Mean, contemptible. Originally college slang: 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 61.

- 1888 [In Missouri, in 1836] contractors never performed a *snide* job.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 15 (Farmer)

Snifter. A drink of spirits. Slang.

- 1848 Cobblers for the party,—*snifters* for the crowd,—or slugs for the entire company.—‘Stray Subjects,’ p. 110.
- 1856 An elderly female, drawing a black pint bottle from the pocket of her dress, proceeded to take a *snifter*.—Derby, ‘Phoenixiana,’ p. 148.
- 1856 [They promised to leave], if he would take one more “*snifter*.”—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 426 (Oct.).
- 1857 He rewarded the man for his rejoinder, by giving him the price of two *snifters*.—*Id.*, l. 664 (Dec.).
- 1858 Wise sages of the olden time
With introverted vision look;
But ah! a pip is not a dime,
And for mixed “*snifters*,” can’t be took.
Id., li. 215 (Feb.).

Snoop. To prowl about. Dutch, *Snoepen*. The word appears under various forms.

- 1834 [He] didn’t want any rascally Indians to come *snooping* for hogs about the place.—C. F. Hoffman, ‘A Winter in the Far West,’ ii. 28 (Lond., 1835).
- 1834 We’ve got an old trunk up-chamber full of troubles,—old laws, and treaties, and contracts, and state-claims; and whenever we want any powder, all we’ve got to do is to open that, and *snook* among old papers, and get up a row in no time.—‘Major Jack Downing,’ p. 119.
- 1854 She walks out arm-in-arm with her cousin that’s been *sneping* round on a visit.—H. H. Riley, ‘Puddleford,’ p. 92.
- 1888 She told him the detectives might *snoop* along if they wanted to.—St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, April 13 (Farmer).
- a.1899 There was a play-actress thar, has been *snoopin’* round here twice since that young feller came.—F. Bret Harte, ‘Convalescence of Jack Hanlin.’

Snorter. About the same as a REAL ROARER.

- 1842 He’s a *snorter* when he’s riz.—*Knick. Mag.*, xix. 66 (Jan.).
- 1857 See SENSE.
- 1859 See RINGTAIL ROARER.

Snowball. The guelder rose.

- 1820 The rose and the *snowball* trees [were] scattering their leafy honours to the frosts of the Autumn.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 30: from the *New Brunswick Times*.

Snow-plough. See quotation. The powerful ploughs used on the railroads in winter are constructed on the same principle as of old.

- 1792 When a deep snow has obstructed the roads, they are in some places opened by an instrument called a *snow-plough*. It is made of planks, in a triangular form, with two side-boards to turn the snow out on either hand.—Jeremy Belknap, ‘New Hampshire,’ iii. 79.

Snub, snubber. See quotations. In New Jersey, a boat's rope is fastened round the snubbing-post: 'Dialect Notes,' i. 334.

1846 I felt the cold nose of the captain of the band [of sharks] *snubbing* against my side.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 37.

1853 A *snubber*, may it please the court, *snubs* the boat when she heaves to on the heel-path shore, and unships the whiffletrees in passing a lock.—*Weekly Oregonian*, March 12: from an Albany, N. Y., paper.

Snug, v. To establish snugly. Obs.

1795 [He will] keep up his credit and character, till he has *snugged* himself into a good estate.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., March 7.

1850 She has no sister to nestle with her, and *snug* her up.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 17 ('Century Dict.').

Soap-lock. A side-lock. See first quotation.

a.1838 It was the fashion of the boys at the Leasburg Academy to wear their hair cut short behind,—shingled, it would be called now,—and long in front, coming down, when parted, below the ears, sometimes as far as the collar. These were called *soap-locks*.—Claiborne, 'Old Virginia,' p. 26 (1904).

1840 *Soap-locks* and short petticoats will shortly be banished.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, June 25.

1840 The cambrie ruffles had vanished, the watch-chains had disappeared, the *soap-lock* had cut him, or had been cut by him.—New Orleans *Picayune*, Oct.

1842 Just fancy Bill, with his small head topped by a weather-beaten hat, and his gin-bloated face relieved by two greasy *soap-locks*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, April 6.

1853 See HOOSIER.

1857 I felt her raven tresses mingling with my own *soap-locks*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 443 (Nov.).

1861 So as to give their disheveled *soap locks* a peculiarly forked and warlike appearance.—*Oregon Argus*, Aug. 10.

Soap-lock. A town rowdy: persons of this class having adopted the fashion just described.

1840 In that living, moving, ranting band, the boys, negroes, loafers, and a new species of the same animal, familiarly known in the city of New York as *soap-locks*, took the lead, and the rear was brought up by dismissed office-holders, disappointed office-seekers, mustached Terriers, perfumed exquisites, with here and there a gentleman from both political parties, who had been drawn out by curiosity to witness their uproarious proceedings.—Mr. Watterson of Tennessee, House of Representatives, April 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 376, App.

1840 The hostility between the Yankee *soap locks* and the Dutch musicians, in regard to the Ellsler serenade, has come to a happy termination.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, Sept. 12.

Soap-lock—*contd.*

- 1842 It is said that seven dandies and a *soaplock* have fallen in love with the beautiful mermaid exhibited at the Boston Museum.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Oct. 28.
- 1844 Their husbands shall be men; not things, but men; not wasp-waisted coxcombs and tight-laced *soap-lock* dandies.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., May 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 517, App.
- a.1848 You will behave yourselves as men, patriots, and gentlemen should; and not like *soaplocks* and rowdies.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 164.
- 1850 I would give my first \$100 fee to be in at the dissection of a "broken *soaplock* heart."—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 31 (Phila.).
- 1852 There is something very "Bowery-boy"-ish in a question asked by one "*soap-lock*" of another.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 187 (Aug.).
- 1888 When I first came to this city, the dangerous class was the *soap-lock*.—*Troy Daily Times*, Feb. 3 (Farmer).

Sobby. Marshy and wet.

- 1878 There was a halt during the night in a piece of stunted woods. The land was low and *sobby*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vi. 209.

Sober Dissenter. A phrase used in the old laws of Connecticut.

- 1781 Formerly, when a *Sober Dissenter* had a suit in law against a churchman, every jurymen of the latter persuasion was by the court removed from the jury, and replaced by *Sober Dissenters*.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 297. (See also pp. 317-318.)

Sociable. An evening entertainment, usually given to enable the members of a congregation to meet each other.

- 1890 Their wildest idea of dissipation was a *church sociable*, or a couple of tickets to opera or theatre.—*The Century*, xl. 272.
- 1891 Those manifestations of the gregarious instinct of Americans which are called "*socials*," or "*sociables*."—Editorial on "Socials": *The Nation*, N.Y., liii.'290.

Sock, v. To strike heavily.

- 1833 The first time they got him down, I *socked* my knife into the old bear.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 93.

Sockdologer. A heavy blow; sometimes, a fine specimen secured by a fisher or a hunter.

- 1837 I hit him one polt,—it was what I call a *sogdologer*,—that made him dance like a ducked cat.—R. M. Bird, 'The Hawks of Hawk-hollow,' i. 105 (Lond.).
- 1840 Tim gives him a *sockdologer* and two side-winders, and leaves him for dead on the spot.—*Daily Penman*, St. Louis, May 14.
- 1842 This seemed to be a "*sockdologer*," which translated into Latin means a *ne plus ultra*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xix. 123 (March).
- 1848 As I aimed a *sockdologer* at him, he ducked his head.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 41.

Sockdologer—*contd.*

- 1853 A prospectus of a sham paper, "*The Sockdologer*," was put forth.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Oct. 22.
- 1853 [Brother A., who had heard the presiding elder at another time request the congregation to sing the Doxology], with equal solemnity occasioned among his hearers a bursting of buttons and hook-eyes that would have done honor to Peggotty, by announcing that they would "sing the *Sockdologer*, and dismiss." An actual fact.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 537 (Nov.).
- a.1854 Pray, brethren, that [the devil] may get such a *sockdologer*, this time, as will knock him into eternal subjection.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 282.
- 1854 The successful fisherman, staggering under the weight of a regular "*sockdologer*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 536 (May).
- 1857 It is a "*sockdologer*" against all that hubbub wisdom which prefers the line of safe precedents, &c.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 5.
- 1860 Anti rushed on, with great force, and planted a *sockdologer* on the bridge of Wheel-horse's sneller.—*Oregon Argus*, June 16.

Soft drinks. Those containing no alcohol.

Soft Snap. See SNAP.

Solar plexus. A knock-down blow.

- 1910 We have long been waiting [said Senator Grady] for the opportunity to get in a *solar plexus* blow on our friends, the opposition.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 3.

Solid. A solid man is a man of property and position. To get solid with any one is to acquire influence.

- 1799 The *solid* men of Boston town.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Jan. 8.
- 1863 At the vast meeting held in New York city, April 20th [1861], almost every "*solid*" man of the city participated.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 105.
- 1888 [It would afford him] an opportunity to get *solid* with the politicians.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 24 (Farmer).

* * * An old song in ridicule of Pitt ends thus:—

Solid Men of Boston, banish strong potatoes,
Solid Men of Boston, make no long orations,
Solid Men of Boston, go to bed at Sun down,
And never lose your way, like the loggerheads of London.

See *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vi. 483.

Some. Somewhat, to some extent; often used in the sense of greatly, considerably.

- 1785 A tall fellow, . . . stammers *some* in his speech.—Run-away advt. in the *Mass. Spy*, April 28.
- 1817 His clothes were *some* bloody.—*Id.*, Oct. 1.
- 1819 \$150 Reward. . . . Virgil, a stout built, likely fellow, about 30 years of age, . . . has worked *some* at the blacksmith's trade.—*St. Louis Enquirer*, Oct. 23.
- 1825 [You are] on the huffy order, *some*, to night.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 385.

Some—*contd.*

- 1826 The hog did squeal *some*, it must be confessed; but not more than the occasion seemed to justify.—*Mass. Spy*, June 21.
- 1829 The fishes must have stared *some*, I reckon, when [Sam Patch] popped in so suddenly upon the unvisited kingdom.—Letter to *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*, dated Oct. 8.
- 1836 "I have practised drawing *some*," said Joan.—*Boston Pearl*, Jan. 2.
- 1840 I should think your dam was broke *some*; I see the water in the creek looks dreadful muddy.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 205.
- 1841 His hair was *some* inclined to grey.—'Old Grimes.' [See Appendix, No. XVI.]
- 1843 He tried gammon. *some*, but Smutch and I was too much for him.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 273.
- 1843 He had travelled *some* upon the Eastern continent.—'Lowell Offering,' iii. 107.
- 1847 [He] was *some* at a whisky drinking.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' &c., p. 30 (Phila.).
- 1847 I'm *some* in a bar fight, and considerable among panthers, but I warn't no whar in that fight with Jess.—*Id.*, p. 132.
- 1849 We don't remember a closer or severer winter since that in which the old Tribune office burned down, which was admitted by the oldest inhabitant to be *some* in the way of cold winters.—*N.Y. Tribune*, May 15 (Bartlett).
- 1849 I think he's crazy, *some*, doctor.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiv. 208 (Sept.).
- 1851 Squire P. had a daughter, and the said daughter was "*some*."—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 160.
- 1852 Colonel Easy had inherited an easy property, and, when young, dashed *some*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 432 (May).
- 1852 Several persons were named as being "*some*" in a rough-and-tumble fight.—*Id.*, xl. 547 (Dec.).
- 1853 We heard a story the other night, that we thought "*some*" at the time.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Jan. 14.
- 1853 Hurrah for our captain! He's *some* in a brier-patch.—C. W. Webber, 'Tales of the Southern Border,' p. 173 (Phila.).
- 1854 They are certainly more than "*some*," out West.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 323 (March).
- 1854 [He] is *some* on flattery, especially when he has an ax to grind.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 9.
- 1855 As he is rather a gay lark, I think I shall avoid him *some*. 'Fudge Doings,' i. 68.
- 1856 Hiran was *some* on horses, numerous at billiards, immense at ten-pins, and considerable among the politicians.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 271 (March).
- 1857 I always did say, although we did get licked *some* at first, we beat them in the long run.—*Id.*, l. i. (July).

Some—*contd.*

- 1857 I've a tolerably thick hide, but if [the mosquitoes] didn't bite me *some*, I wouldn't say so. . . . May be we didn't kick and tussle about, and tear up the sand on the beach of the lake *some*.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' pp. 170-1.
- 1862 Our lives in sleep are *some* like streams that glide
'Twixt flesh an' sperrit boundin' on each side.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 6.
- 1862 See JAYHAWKER.
- 1866 For five dollars a lawyer can luminize *some*, and more akkordin to pay.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 166.
- 1878 I've wrestled *some* after godliness along back.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. xxx.
- 1907 The Philippine Islands are a practice-ground for our military, which would cost *some* less if at home, but not much.—*The Oregonian*, Sept. 30.

* * See also Appendix XVI.

Some pumpkins. The opposite of SMALL POTATO: a person or thing of consequence.

- 1846 One of them thinks he's got a scrub [horse] that's *some pumpkins*.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' &c., p. 118.
- 1848 General Cass is *some pumpkins*, and will do the needful in the office line, if he is elected.—*N.Y. Herald*, June 21 (Bartlett).
- 1851 We went on until the third or fourth set, and I thought I was "*some pumpkins*" at dancing.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 97.
- a.1852 Man has a head upon his shoulders that is "*some BIG punkins*" compared with his brother orang-outang.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 27.
- 1852 She gave a big ball, and we, being *punkins*, were of course among the invited.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 216 (N.Y.).
- 1853 "Got a smart chunk of a pony thar." "Yes, *Sir*, he is *some punkins* sure; offered ten cows and calves for him; he's death on a quarter.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 44.
- 1835 [He] was immediately allowed to be "*some pumpkins*," inasmuch as he was a southerner, rich, young, and handsome.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlii. 55 (July).
- 1854 He seems to imagine a judge "*some pumpkins*," and to be very tenacious of titles.—*Weekly Oregonian*, July 22.
- 1854 We are now satisfied that Oregon is *some pumpkins* in the way of hills, dales, [and] mountains.—*Id.*, Aug. 19.
- 1854 It will be seen that the Cow Creek mines are "*some pumpkins*."—*Id.*, Oct. 28.
- 1854 I don't dispute but that the old Governor is *some punkins*.—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 311.
- 1855 See them 'ere watermelons as big as a bushel basket,—wouldn't they call 'em "*sum punkins*" down East?—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., May 26.

Sophomorical—*contd.*

- 1854 Students are looked upon as being necessarily *sophomorical* in literary matters. *Williams Quarterly*, ii. 84: B. H. Hall, 'College Words,' 439 (1856).
 1873 Am I not a little less *sophomorical* than I used to be?—W. S. Tyler, 'Hist. Amherst Coll.,' 498.

Sore-head. A discontented, "disgruntled" person.

- 1862 [He] sed it done very well for some *sore-hed* Dinmyerat.—'Major Jack Downing,' April 29.
 1862 What will the "*soreheads*" say now?—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Oct. 16.

Sort of, Sorter. In a manner; "kind of."

- 1833 It *sort o'* stirs one up to hear about old times.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 50 (Phila.).
 1833 [The carriage had] *sort o'* silk curtings.—*Id.*, p. 185. (For fuller quotation see FIXINGS.)
 1843 The sight of the cheerful *porgies* comin' up on the hook may *sort o'* revive you.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 34.
 1846 I give Jule a kiss to *sorter* mollify my natur, an put her in heart like, an in we walked.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 85.
 1846, 1847 See SLANTINDICULAR.
 1847 Next mornin' it was *sorter* cloudy and warm.—'Chunkey's Fight,' p. 133 (Phila.).
 1848 See SABBERDAY. See SAVAGEROUS.
 1855 I'll be durned if I didn't feel like *sorter* stealin' a hoss sometimes.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, May 12.
 1860 Children always have a half-notion that animals and insects, and for that matter a great many unanimated things, can *sort of* see as we do, *sort of* think.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 290 (Sept.).
 1860 The Lane-men "*sorter*" grinned satisfaction.—*Oregon Argus*, July 28.
 1866 Congress have *sorter* compromised the fuss by our increas ing bonds to \$50,000.—C. H. Smith, 'Bill Arp,' p. 69.

Sot. A corruption of *set* or *sat*, originally English, used in the U.S. in a more or less ludicrous way. Dr. Dwight in 1821 quotes it as a cockneyism: 'Travels,' iv. 280. [See also Appendix XII.]

- 1776 June 5th. I *sot* out from Falmouth this morning. 6th. *Sot* out towards Plymouth. 9th. *Sot* out from Plymouth.—'Thomas Hutchinson's Diary,' ii. 67 (1886).
 [1822 She couldn't blush, 'cause she'd got no fan,
 So she *sot* and grinn'd at the dog's meat man.
 Hudson's 'Comic Songs,' Collection, 4, Lond.]
 1833 The elegantest carriage that ever mortal man *sot* eyes on.—James Hall, 'Legend of the West,' p. 185. (For fuller quotation see FIXINGS.)

Sot—*contd.*

- 1837 Why don't you buy a digestion of the laws, so as to know what's right and what's wrong? It's all *sot* down.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 189.
- [1841 I'm thinking jest now we're *besot* all round with troubles.—W. G. Simms, 'The Kinsmen,' i. 122.]
- 1853 If Mr. S. was alive, you wouldn't get the colt so cheap, for he *sot* everything by him. He's *sot* his pedigree down in the family Bible.—'Life Scenes,' p. 192.
- 1854 Well, the judge *sot*, and the jury *sot*, and the witnesses were brought on.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xliii. 92 (Jan.).
- 1855 In testimony of which fact,
For want of room at bottom,
Our hands and names here on the back
Deliberately we've *sot* 'em.
Id., xlv. 211 (Feb.).
- 1856 See KERDASH.
- 1857 Well, Squire, I *sot* right down on a stone.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 197.
- 1857 In strugglin' up [the deer] *oversot* me.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 171.
- 1861 Her mouth was pale and *sot*, like she was bitin' somethin' all the time.—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 67 (July).
- * * * See Appendix XII. See also *Ursot*.

Soul-driver. An opprobrious name applied by the abolitionists to overseers of slaves.

- 1818 A few evenings since, two men, in the character of *soul drivers*, lodged in the jail [at Martinsburg, Va.] for safe keeping, five negroes.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 4.
- 1849 [She was grateful] for the prospect that she would soon cease to tremble at the thought that the *soul-driver* would tear from her the object of her tenderest affections.—Mr. Giddings of Ohio in the House of Repr., Feb. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 127, App.

Soul sleepers. See quotation.

- 1860 "*Soul Sleepers*" is the name of a new sect which has recently made its appearance at Fairfield, Iowa. . . . They are opposed to churches, deny the divinity of Christ, teach that the soul is a material substance, and sleeps with the body until the resurrection.—*Richmond Enquirer*, June 12, p. 4/7.

Soumarkee, Soomarkee, Sumarkee. A copper coin of almost no value. The word is probably derived from the Fr. *sou*. A marked or defaced *sou* would be commercially worthless.

- 1826 Who the d——l would give a *sumarkee* to read the newspapers after breakfast?—*Mass. Spy*, July 5: from the *Louisiana Advertiser*.
- 1830 [He said] I was not worth the tenth part of a *sous-marquée*, or ten scales of a red herring.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 29 (Phila.).
- 1855 It's all clear again, for the deacon 'll save every *soomarkee* on't for the children.—*Putnam's Mag.*, v. 410 (April).

- Sound on the goose.** See RIGHT ON THE GOOSE.
- Soup.** Political favour, otherwise called "pap."
- 1841 The promise of *soup* is a powerful influence over a hungry partisan, whose conscience has become deadened by the ups and downs of political life.—Mr. Weller of Ohio in the House of Repr., July 10 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 149, App.
- Sour on**, v. To abandon, "to go back on."
- 1862 Guess the M.P. will "*sour*" on William C., when he has seen him for about fifteen minutes.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Nov. 20.
- 1863 Several of the boys about town talk of turning over a new leaf. Their programme is to "*sour*" on smoking, chewing, and drinking.—*Id.*, Jan. 1.
- Sour crout.** German Sauer Kraut. A preparation of cabbage boiled in weak vinegar.
- 1789 Can she split wood, reap grain, make bread, beer-soup, and *sour kraut*?—"Peter in Hesse," *American Muscum*, v. 92.
- 1789 I am happy to inform you that by the strength of good beef and pork, and the vivacity of *sour crout*, I have once more a chance of establishing arbitrary power.—Speech of the Emperor of Lilliput, *Id.*, v. 297.
- 1800 An advertisement of the "Beef Steak and Oyster House, at the sign of the Sorrel Horse, in Branch-Street (commonly called *Sower Crout Alley*) a little to the northward of *Sassafras Street*": *The Aurora*, Philadelphia, Jan. 18.
- 1802 Here is a plenty of all sorts of sauce, excepting *sour crout*.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., Feb. 2, p. 33.
- 1806 Some of [Simon Snyder's] neighbors might have spoken of him as raising a great number of cabbages, and making excellent *sour kraut*.—*The Balance*, Jan. 28, p. 25.
- 1809 —To furnish them with no supplies of gin, gingerbread, or *sour crout*.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.' i. 214 (1812).
- 1818 A jolly Dutchman from the Hague, grumbling because there was no *sour crout* on the table.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 26 : from the *National Advocate*.
- 1824 From the happy days of *zour kraut* and buttermilk to these depraved modern days of hasty-pudding and molasses.—*The Microscope*, Albany, May 15.
- 1829 It is said the Dutchman get cloyed with her name, so dissonant with his beloved *sour-kraut* and buttermilk.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 4.
- 1840 See JOHNNY-CAKE.
- 1841 If Mr. Fillmore will visit Kinderhook [Mr. Van Buren's place of residence] I am sure he will be welcomed there to the best *sour crout*.—Mr. Ingersoll of Pennsylvania, in the House of Repr., July 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 210, App.
- 1856 I used for to like *crout*—once-t, but I don't keer for no *crout* now. No Sir-ee! I'm down on *crout* like a nigger preacher on the wices of white folks.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii., 616 (June).

Souse. Head cheese.

1801 Thy ears and feet in *Souse* shall lie.—'Verses addressed to a Hog,' : *The Port Folio*, i. 352 (Phila.).

1839 I have often heard [your mammy] say she could not bear to make *souse* out of hog's ears that had been torn by dogs. I will therefore take the dogs off, and leave you to tole or drive the hogs out.—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 16 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 374, App.

1839 A recipe for *souse* is given in the *Farmers' Monthly Visitor*, i. 74 (Concord, N.H.).

1854 " [I can] give you mush, *souse*, slapjacks, boiled pork," continued Bulliphant.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 147.

1883 The compiler of this glossary, being in Pennsylvania, was at a table where the landlady, addressing a boarder, said, "Mr. Strouse, will you have some *souse*?" The answer being a negative one, the compiler remarked, "That makes rhyme; Mr. Strouse refuses the *souse*." Ah, but that's not all, said C. G. at once; here it is in full :

"Mr. Strouse refuses the *souse* ;

Souse, Strouse,

Strouse, *Souse* ;

Abstemious Strouse,

Oleaginous *Souse*."

Sozzle. A slattern. Rarely used.

1854 Mrs. Bird, who was a great *sozzle* about home, was now decked out with as many ribbons and streamers as a May-pole.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 119.

1878 See FELLOWSHIP.

Sozzle, v. To make moist ; to be moist.

1845 She sat down and *sozzled* her feet in the foam.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' p. 8.

1852 Shabby, slipshod sisters sat silently and sadly sweating in the shade, while soiled and *sozzling* shirt-collars and sticky shirts stuck to such sap-heads as stirred in the sun.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xl. 183 (Aug.): from the *Springfield Republican*.

Spade-fish. See quotation.

1805 There is also a curious fish called the *Spade-Fish*. It is furnished with a bony weapon projecting from the nose, from six to ten inches in length, and from two to five in width: thin, and like a narrow shovel.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'State of Ohio,' pp. 116-117.

Span. A pair of horses driven together.

1769 Wanted, a SPANN of good Horses for a Curricule.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Oct. 2.

1806 A good opportunity for a gentleman who wishes a very excellent horse to match for a *span*.—Advt., *The Repository*, Boston, Aug. 15.

1819 I was at a loss to understand what he meant by a *span* ; but I found he meant his pair of horses, or creatures as he called them.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star* : *Mass. Spy*, May 12.

Span—*contd.*

- 1824 He will shoe oxen at two dollars a yoke, and single horses for a dollar; or two dollars a *span*.—Advt., *Rouse's Point Harbinger*, Feb. 7.
- 1851 I saw two dandies in a light wagon coming up, driving a *span* of horses most furiously.—Joel H. Ross, 'What I saw in New York,' p. 168 (Auburn, N.Y.).
- 1857 How I longed for a dashing American cutter, with a *span* of fast horses!—Bayard Taylor, 'Northern Travel,' p. 155.
- 1859 I would say to a gentleman who insisted on keeping a *span* of horses, a carriage, and a footman, if you will have them, feed them.—Mr. Hale of New Hampshire, U.S. Senate, Feb. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1038.

Spang. An expletive signifying fullness or completeness of action, like the occasional use of the word "full."

- 1843 Nancy she'd stay alone a readin Scott's Family Bible, so that she got three times right *spang* through it, from kiver to kiver.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 173.
- 1848 Bimeby a sort of skim-milk lookin feller cum and tuck a seat rite close by her, and looked her rite *spang* in the face.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 30 (Phila.).
- 1848 I do blieve, if it hadn't been so early in the mornin, I should went *spang* to sleep while Billy was takin my beard off.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 61.
- 1848 Every now and then I run *spang* agin sunbody.—*Id.*, p. 70.
- 1848 The fust thing I know'd, I cum in an ace of jumpin *spang* off the steeple into the tree-tops below.—*Id.*, p. 85.
- 1910 Pulque shops [in Mexico] seem created for the benefit of blind men of bibulous tendencies. They exude, even the best and cleanest of them, a sour odor which is penetrating and far-reaching. If one thirsts for pulque, let him follow his nose and it will bring him right *spang* up against the bar where peons stand guzzling the milky fluid at 2 centavos per large glass. All of the sweet savors of Araby combined could make slight headway against the reek of a pulque shop.—*New York Evening Post*, July 21.

Spanner. An iron wrench used by firemen.

- 1844 He had no fancy for riots, or for being hit over the head with brass trumpets and iron *spanners*.—Joseph C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy,' &c., p. 11 (Phila.).
- 1856 You might have split their skulls wid a *spanner*, an dey wouldn't er known what tapped 'em.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 616 (June).

Spat. A quarrel, a tiff.

- 1804 [London news.] The late *spat* between Mr. Pitt and Mr. W. Pulteney.—*The Repertory*, Boston, April 27.
- 1848 Many is the hour we have whiled away together with schemes of mischief, or in kindly *spats*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 83.
- 1850 The bull-dogs settled private *spats*.—Lowell, 'The Unhappy Lot of Mr. Knott,'

Speak out in meeting. At first literal; then to express one's opinions openly.

1830 O dear, I *spoke out in meeting*, said she.—*Mass. Spy*, June 23: from the *Newbury Gazette*.

1830 [The time] when their children [those of the Bengalese], as with us, shall "*speak in meeting*," and "relate their experience," before they have acquired English enough to ask for a piece of bread and butter.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 41.

1853 We would fain draw a veil over what followed. But a strict regard for truth compels us to "*speak right out in meetin*."—'Life Scenes,' p. 210.

Speak-easy. An unlicensed drinking-shop. The word seems to belong to Philadelphia.

Speck. A dish made partly from pork fat (Pennsylvania).

1809 He goes out almost every week to eat *speck* with the country folks; thereby showing that a democratic governor is not to be choaked with fat pork.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Sept. 12.

Spellbinder. See first quotation.

1888 The "*Spellbinders*" end of the Republican party in this vicinity had its innings of rejoicing last night. It took the form of a dinner at Delmonico's, and there were just 111 "*Spellbinders*" present. Each one was a campaign speaker, and had in his time held an audience "*spell-bound*," or thought he had. Hence their title.—*New York World*, Nov. 15.

1891 And who, in Kansas at that time, was not an orator? I believe they call them "*Spellbinders*" in these modern, slangy, and degenerate days.—'Kansas Hist. Collections,' v. 52 (1896).

1908 Party *spellbinders* are lustily declaiming.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 22.

1910 Lee Fairchild, a campaign "*spellbinder*," newspaper and magazine writer, and "man about town," died on Saturday morning at Roosevelt Hospital of pneumonia.—*Id.*, March 21.

Spelling-bee. A contest in spelling.

1872 See ch. IV. of 'The Hoosier Schoolmaster,' entitled, "Spelling down the Master."

Spike team. A three-horse team, one horse leading.

1849 Mr. Root of Ohio thought a *spike team* would drive just as well.—House of Repr., Dec. 6: *Cong. Globe*, p. 8.

Spile. A spicket; a post driven into the ground.

1824 This, in the language of the proverb, is saving at the *spoil*, and losing at the bung-hole.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 18.

1843 Every *spile* becomes a speaker of his praises; every shutter swings open with a proclamation of his virtues.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 122.

1843 [He was] laboriously employed on a report on the subject of *spiles* and pier-heads.—*Id.*, p. 199.

Spile—*contd.*

- 1862 I guess the Lord druv down Creation's *spiles*
'Thout no gret helpin' from the British isles.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.
- 1866 They're drivin' o' their *spiles* down now, sez she,
To the hard grennit o' God's fust idee.
Id., No. 11.

Spindle City, The. Lowell, Massachusetts.

- 1858 A letter from Lowell says the "*spindle city*" is gradually resuming its steady hum of industry.—*Scientific American*, Jan. 23 (Bartlett).

Spit-box, Spittoon. See also CUSPADORE.

- 1840 A well-dressed gentleman picked up a China *spittoon*.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, July 11.
- 1841 With their clean, checked, home-made pocket-handkerchiefs spread in their laps, and their *spit-boxes* standing in a row between them [the Shakers] converse about raising sheep, &c.—'Lowell Offering,' i. 339.
- 1843 A fine porcelain *spit-box* he stamped into a thousand fragments.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, viii. 141.
- 1845 I found the pew elegantly carpeted with white and green, two or three mahogany crickets, and a hat-stand, but no *spit-box*. I thought of using my hat for a *spit-box*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 102.
- 1857 They would sit together for hours at a time, with a *spit-toon* between them, discussing the various topics of the day.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 119 (Aug.).

Spilt the ticket.

- 1842 See TICKET.

Splurge. A noisy fuss; a "sensation."

- 1834 What a *splurge* (said a Kentucky representative, in one of the favorite and most expressive words of Western invention)—what a *splurge* she makes!—Robert C. Sands, 'Writings,' ii. 179 (N.Y.).
- 1845 [Members of Congress] should not forget what Senator Benton was shinning around, making what they call in Missouri a great *splurge*, to get gold.—*N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*, Dec. 13 (Bartlett).

Splurge, v. To make a splurge.

- 1848 Let us hear no more that you will commence writing when the editors have done *splurging*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xiv. 43.
- 1848 To *splurge* is defined as "to expatiate at large, to appeal to broad and general principles."—*Id.*, xiv. 144.
- 1857 A paper entitled '*Splurging*': *id.*, xxii. 129-134.
- 1857 [He] had made some tall calculations as to the amount of glory he should raise, while *splurging* round at home in that coat.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 41 (Jan.).

Spondulicks. A slang term for money.

1857 See Appendix X.

1863 Those ordering job work should come down with the *spondulicks* as soon as the work is done or delivered.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Jan. 29.

1876 Now let's have the *spondulicks*, and see how sweet and pretty I can smile upon you.—*Harper's Mag.*, April, p. 790 (Bartlett).

1902 The one with the *spondoolix* wonders harder than the one who has none.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 58.

Spook. A ghost. Dutch.

1801 If any wun you heart shool plunder,
Mine horshes I'll to Vaggon yoke,
Und chase him quickly ;—by mine dunder
I fly so swift as any *spook*.

Hans's letter to Noche, *Mass. Spy*, July 15. (An anticipation of 'Hans Breitmann.')

1833 Pshaw, who ever heard of a *spook* eating ?—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' iii. 40 (Lond.).

1842 I sometimes fancy I hear him a-clatterin' the ghosts of dishes in the entry, as tho' he was bringin' in a *spook-dinner*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, March 7.

1842 All the answer which could be obtained from the agitated domestic was "*der spukes ! der tefil !*"—*Id.*, May 18.

a.1853 There did I see a *Spook*, sure enough,—milk-white, and moving round. —Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 158.

1882 A resident of Pennsylvania remarked, in the compiler's hearing, that A. B. was "ugly enough to tree *spooks*."

1896 You look just 's if you'd seen a *spook*.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 160.

1909 His brain seems to be persistently haunted by the *spooks* of Gadshill.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 11.

Spool. A reel.

1816 An almanac, a comb case, and several *spools* of cotton.—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 7 (1817).

1857 She shook out a *spool* of silk, and a sugar almond.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 185 (Feb.).

1878 "Sit down," she said, pushing a heap of cloth, scissors, *spools*, and patterns off a chair. —Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 8.

Spoons. A dunce. College slang.

1860 [If he] makes a dull recitation, he is denominated a regular "*spoons*," a complete "squirt," and anybody but an addlehead would have known that.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 192.

- Sport, Sportsman.** Beside their legitimate use, illustrated in quotations, 1802, 1803, 1852, 1853, these words have acquired a sinister meaning. [See especially 1861.]
- [1802] His debut is perhaps intended to shew us that he is a *sportsman*, by the use of the word "Bevy" of hungry expectants: of which number he vows in Yankee phrase that he's not one.—'Letters to Alex. Hamilton,' p. 8.]
- [1803] The park and the other neighbouring patches of wood were filled with *sportsmen* [who shot many pigeons].—*Mass. Spy*, April 13.]
- 1835 I was able to inform him that his new acquaintance was Lee, the famous Virginia *sportsman*, as they politely term such blacklegged cattle.—'Life of Thomas Singularity,' p. 43 (Lond.).
- [a.1852] A wounded duck beset by the *sportsman's* dog.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 57].
- [1853] Where is the *sportsman*?—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 10. The word is here used of a hunter.]
- 1861 Today, as I was going down Broadway, some dozen of the most overdressed men I ever saw were pointed out to me as "*sports*": that is, men who lived by gambling houses and betting on races.—W. H. Russell, 'My Diary,' March 23.
- 1861 "Why, they told me they were *sportsmen*." "You greenhorn," said my brother, "were you thinking of fox-hunting or partridge-popping?" "*Sportsman*," in America means sharper, gambler, thief, swindler, gallows-bird.—*Harper's Weekly*, Sept. 21.
- 1878 What I particularly admire in the "*Sports*" is the fine morality they display in always having the loser in the wrong.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 104.
- Spotted lands.** See quotation.
- 1845 The lands of Missouri were called *spotted lands*; one strip was good, and another bad.—Mr. Jameson of Missouri, House of Repr., Feb. 4: *Cong. Globe*, p. 242.
- Spread oneself.** To do one's utmost; also, to boast.
- 1857 Why don't you take up some line, *spread yourself* on it, and go your die?—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 277 (March).
- 1857 He'll *spread himself* beyond all bounds. He'll shine beyond endurance upon the strength of [killing] this bear.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 235.
- Spread-eagle.** A term applied to extravagant, "high-falutin'" oratory.
- 1858 The sermon was a splendid failure,—a much ado about nothing,—and is yet laughed at as the "*Spread Eagle* sermon." The fewer such "swelled heads," as they call them in Kentucky, preach in Saratoga, the better.—*Harper's Weekly*, Aug. 28.
- 1861 A friend observed to me...that I could hardly expect under the [present] circumstances to regale my auditors with the usual amount of *spread-eagleism*.—Henry James, 4th of July oration at Newport, R.I.

Spree. A frolic, a carousal, usually associated with drinking. Hence *spreeing* means "going on a drunk."

- 1834 He is not quarrelsome, even when he gets caught in what they call in the West "a *spreec*."—Albert Pike, 'Sketches, &c.,' p. 32 (Boston).
- 1834 [They] think as much of an Indian encounter as a city blood does of a "*spreec*" with the watchman.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 74 (Lond., 1835).
- 1863 He magnanimously resolved to *spreec* it with the quarter [dollar].—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, viii. 356.
- 1845 In the "*spreec*" one of my horses was shot with a ball in the knee.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 32 (Cincinnati, 1847).
- 1846 As we were nearly all green in the business of packing, and many of our animals were quite wild, we frequently had running and kicking "*spreecs*," scattering the contents of our packs over the prairie.—*Id.*, p. 123.
- [In these two examples there is no allusion to drinking.]
- 1846 [He had] struck him with a fire-brand, and burnt his body in several places, during a drunken *spreec*.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 73 (Phila.).
- 1864 You came in the neighbourhood with a cigar in your mouth, and a reputation for *spreeing*.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 229.
- 1877 Tom Adams, who drove the brick-yard waggon, and whose *spreecs* were mighty in length and magnitude.—John Habberton, 'The Barton Experiment,' p. 10 (Lond.).
- 1878 We found a party of Pueblos on a general *spreec*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 242.
- 1902 After a protracted *spreec* [he] usually came home with peace-offerings.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 204.

Spry. Lively, active, alert.

- 1789 [The snakes] were not so *spry* as in summer season, so none escaped being killed.—*Maryland Journal*, March 10.
- 1815 Pray be *spry*, sir, said I, for there's no knowing what my wife may do.—*Mass. Spy*, June 28.
- 1825 He was not "over *spry*" (active), but nobody thereabouts could match him at a "dead lift."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 116.
- 1846 I've lived here man and boy 76 year eum next tater diggin, and thair ain't nowheres a kitting *spryer*'n I be.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 1.
- 1856 Beautiful eyes, which sparkled *spry* with common-sense.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 617 (June).

Spunk. Courage or audacity. Hence SPUNKY. The noun is used by Goldsmith; and in Dec., 1806 Constable wrote to Murray, "We are not remarkable for want of *spunk*." But it is more frequent in America than in Great Britain.

- 1794 The word "*spunk*" signifies courage, when there is no danger.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 10.

Spunk—*contd.*

- 1796 No dog run mad, or Indian drunk.
Could ever rival thee in *spunk*.
The Aurora, Phila., May 7.
- 1798 We expect Smith will be dismissed from the service as wanting *spunk* to go to the necessary lengths.—*Mass. Mercury*, July 24.
- 1806 He please the ladies! very good;
Why then I wouldn't, if I could,
So notable my *spunk* is;
I'd let them sooner seek gallants
From Afric's coast and that of France,
Brisk Sans Culottes—or monkies.
Mass. Spy, Sept. 24.
- 1811 Here's a health to the rights of New England,
Here's the true Yankey *spunk* of New England.
Id., July 10.
- 1816 I was conscious that my superior "*spunk*" and activity
would set me equal with my bully.—*Id.*, Feb. 26.
- 1823 If you meet a chaise or team, never trouble yourself to be
civil, but show your *spunk*, and dash along, and drive it
out of the way.—*Id.*, Nov. 5: from the *Portland Gazette*.
- 1824 Here is *spunk* as well as ingenuity.—*Mass. Yeoman*, Feb. 25.
- 1840 They might be for making him take sides, which he hadn't
the *spunk* to do.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Quodlibet,' p. 111.
- 1840 That excellent qualification, known and revered through
New England under the expressive name of "*spunk*."—
Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 175.
- 1842 He made his teeth meet in one of his captor's arms, and
was as *spunky* as a young crocodile.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*. Jan. 1.
- 1843 Our countrywomen possess what a Yankee would call
"*spunk*," but want a true consciousness of patriotic
independence.—'Lowell Offering,' iii. 205.
- a.1850 Any girl of *spunk* would have done the same.—Dow,
Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 237.
- 1857 I like your *spunk*, but it don't count in a fight with crazy
folks.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 286.
- 1857 She mounted the reversed apple-butter kettle;—"I don't
want to go West, I don't; I don't want to leave old
Virginnny; and I won't leave, if there's a man among ye
that has *spunk* enough to ask me to stay.—D. H. Strother,
'Virginia Illustrated,' p. 207.
- 1860 The old tea-drinking ladies of '76 had more *spunk* than
we.—Letter to the *Oregon Argus*, July 21.

Spun-truck. See TRUCK.**Squab boat.**

- 1800 The yankee built *squab boat* skipper is obstinate.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Oct. 15.

Squantum. See quotation, 1832.

- 1812 The *Squantum* Celebration will be this day, at the old celebrated spot... We understand that the antient celebrators of the *Squantum Feast* will be honored with the presence of their illustrious friends, Caleb Strong and William Phillips.—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 24.
- 1817 There is an annual festival observed in the neighbourhood of Boston, which is called the *Feast of Squantum*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 6.
- 1822 Announcement that the *Squantum Festival* will be held at Long Pond, Aug. 28. "Ample provision will be made for guests, every one of whom is requested to furnish himself with a knife and fork."—*Id.*, Aug. 14.
- 1826 The annual *Squantum Feast* will take place on Friday, near the Floating Bridge at Long Pond.—*Id.*, Sept. 6.
- 1832 The feast of *Squantum* is held annually on the shore to the E. of Neponset Bridge, at a rocky point projecting into Boston Bay, about 5 miles from the city. The observance of this festival is on the wane. *Squantum* was the name of the last Indian female who resided there; and, when the feast is held with the ancient ceremonies, a person comes forth dressed as Squantum herself, and harangues the people in the metaphorical manner of the Indians. During the late war, when political parties were violent, *the feast of Squantum* was attended by crowds, and in fact both parties had a distinct celebration. Some of the ceremonies consisted in brightening the chain of peace, and in burying the tomahawk in a place indicated by the representative of *Squantum*. A Sachem too, dressed in blanket and moccasins, would sometimes assume the direction of the feast. The Indian phraseology is affected, and the notification of the feast sets forth that the "wigwam will contain all the good things of the sea and sand," and it is commonly dated at the new moon of the month of string-beans.

It is "a feast of shells," and the refreshments are lobsters, clams, oysters, quahogs, and every fish that is covered with a shell, together with the fish soup called chowder. It is common to eat these only with clam shells instead of spoons, and it is not held to be proper to drink from anything but wood.—S. G. Goodrich, 'System of Universal Geography,' p. 106 note (Boston).

Square. A city block, bounded by four streets. The other use is also familiar, as in the cases of Madison Square, New York, and Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia.

- 1784 Nine or ten lamps will abundantly lighten every *square* [in Baltimore].—*Maryland Journal*, Oct. 19.
- 1796 You had mortgaged to him *squares* 545 and 546 of your [Washington] property. On one of these *squares* I erected two houses.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Oct. 19.

Square—*contd.*

- 1796 Citizens of New York, you have been witnesses to the sudden destruction of a rich *square* in the center of the city, by the devouring element of fire.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Dec. 14.
- 1800 The President, on Friday forenoon, walked several *squares* through the city.—*The Aurora*, Phila., June 23.
- 1804 The adjacent houses, and in fact the whole *square*, were considered in the most imminent danger.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 3.
- 1809 Fire destroyed upwards of a *square* of the best part of [Richmond].—*The Repertory*, Boston, April 7: from the *Alexandria Gazette*.
- 1823 Sam gained considerably, and when he had got about two *squares* he took up an alley.—*Mass. Spy*, July 2.
- 1825 A whole *square* would burst into a blaze at once. By *squares*, in the city of New York, are meant blocks.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 137.
- 1828 The whole of that well-built *square*, lying between Market and Dock Streets, and between Front Street and the river (in Wilmington, N.C.) is destroyed.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 2, p. 4/2.
- 1830 The "milky way" marked the gutter current for more than a *square*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 10.
- 1835 The "*squares*" [in New Orleans] occasionally form pentagons and parallelograms.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' i. 91.
- 1836 Before he can get to the distance of five *squares*, he is totally off soundings, and lost in the fog.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, July 25.
- 1837 Not a word was said, while they walked several *squares*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 149.
- 1838 The boy led off in fine style, nor was he overtaken until he had run four or five *squares*.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, Feb. 16, p. 2/4.
- 1848 After bumpin along for 'bout half a *square* I found myself in the street.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 127.
- 1853 The best amusement is to see a dirty-faced little urchin of some four years run with a long strip of paper, reaching two *squares*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 633 (Dec.).
- 1859 It was an immense distance down to Trinity Church, which he obstinately refused to desert for Trinity Chapel, only five *squares* off.—*Id.*, liii. 471-2 (May).
- 1859 He is in the city, and not only that, but only three *squares* from the Capitol.—Mr. Taylor of Louisiana, House of Repr., Dec. 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 190.

Square. Used colloquially for Squire.

- 1844 When we get you back, the *square* will make you suffer for it.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 52.
- 1850 Look o' here, *Square*, one o' them quarters you gin me last was a pistareen.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 179 (Feb.).

Square—*contd.*

- 1851 You don't say so ! Then *you* must ha' got it, *Square*.—*Id.*, xxxvii. 554 (June).
- 1851 I drive you, *Square*, and I don't do nothin' else.—*Id.*, xxxviii. 80 (July).
- 1852 He could give the "*Square*" fifty, and beat him.—*Id.*, xxxix. 469 (May).
- 1857 Well, *Square*, I don't feel in fighting trim.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 55. (Numerous examples occur on pp. 65-70, 154-7, &c.)
- 1867 Wal, *square*, I guess so. Callilate to stay ?—Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *Atlantic*, Jan.

Square meal, Square fight, &c. Full, fair, complete.

- 1854 He has a good *square* quarter of a century yet to devote to the welfare of this country.—Mr. Mike Walsh of N.Y., House of Repr., May 19 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1231.
- 1856 It was a *square*, straight-out, unsoftened Democratic victory.—Mr. English of Indiana, the same, Dec. 17 : *id.*, p. 108, App.
- 1856 I never ate a lunch in all my life without taking a *square* drink.—San Francisco *Call*, Dec. 25.
- 1863 The principal excitement today [at Colorado city] was a *square* fight between two good sized individuals.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Feb. 5.
- 1867 Wednesday morning we were furnished with a *square meal*, so called in military parlance.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 98.
- 1869 The transition from the luxurious tables of the East to the "*square meals*" of the West is fortunately gradual.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 30.
- 1869 About ten o'clock p.m., we reached the first "home station," and we were there to try our first "*square meal*."—*Id.*, p. 58.
- 1869 Such a thing as a *square* stand-up fight for a train has not occurred in all the Indian depredations this year.—*Id.*, p. 179.
- 1869 "Look here ! For fifty cents you can get a good *square meal* at the Howling Wilderness Saloon."—J. Ross Browne, 'The Apache Country,' p. 348.
- 1869 They wanted what they term in California "a *square meal*."—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. 3.
- 1872 I don't think she done a *square* day's work in two years.—J. M. Bailey, 'Folks in Danbury,' p. 37.
- 1883 As for food, it was too delicate. To tell the *square* truth, we were not satisfied.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi. 334.
- 1888 The General determined for once to have, as the soldiers term it, one "good *square meal*."—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 699.
- 1909 In most cases the man is chiefly concerned with his three *square meals* a day. Home represents to him four walls, and nothing more.—N. Y. *Evening Post*, April 29.

Squarely. Fully and plainly.

1860 [This] means simply and *squarely*, that you intend either to rule or [to] ruin this Government.—Speech of Mr. Wade of Ohio in the U.S. Senate, Dec.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 89 (1861).

Squash. A vegetable marrow.

1683 The artificial produce of the country is...peas, beans, *squashes*, pumkins, &c. Letter of William Penn, 16th. of 8th. mo.—Watson's 'Philadelphia,' p. 63 (1830).

1705 Vetches, *Squashes*, Maycocks, Maracocks, Melons, &c.—Beverly, 'Virginia,' ii. 17.

1705 *Squash*, or *Squanter-Squash*, is the name [of Macocks] among the Northern Indians, and so they are call'd in New-York and New-England.—*Id.*, ii. 27.

1775 The shield shaped *squash* of the north would prove a beneficial addition.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 131.

1792 The only objects of [Indian cultivation] were corn, beans, pumpkins, and *squashes*, which were planted by their women.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 93.

1806 A *squash* was produced in Hallowell, this season, which measured five feet and five inches in circumference.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 29. [Similar item, Nov. 4, 1807.]

1817 The Maha's cultivate corn, beans, melons, *squashes*, and a small species of tobacco.—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 69 (Liverpool).

1818 A *Squash* was raised in Hallowell, weighing 54 lbs....A *Squash* has been raised in Newburyport, weighing 77 lbs.A *Squash* weighing 77 lbs. is advertised to be seen in New York.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 14.

1821 *Mammoth Squash*. Raised in the garden of Capt. Jonathan Nelson,—a *squash* weighing 103 lbs., and measuring six feet one inch in circumference.—*Id.*, Oct. 21.

Squatter. A person settling on land without legal title. Under acts of Congress, bona fide squatters on Western lands became Pre-emptors.

1809 This unceremonious mode of taking possession of new land was technically termed *squatting*, and hence is derived the appellation of *squatters*.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' i. 188 (1812).

1810 If the nation were put to action against every *Squatter*, for the recovery of their lands, we should only have law suits, no lands for sale.—Thomas Jefferson, 'The Batture at New Orleans': Works, viii. 588 (1859).

1810 The *squatters* of New Hampshire have been busy again.—*The Repertory*, Boston, Oct. 2: from the *Baltimore American*.

1814 A set of arrant *squatters*, that settled just where it suited them.—*Analectic Mag.*, iv. 53 (Phila.).

1821 A *squatter* is a person who plants himself in the wilderness upon any piece of ground which he likes, without purchasing it of the proprietor. Large tracts have been occupied in this manner.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' ii. 221.

Squatter—*contd.*

- 1825 They had been "smoking out a *squatter*," i.e., a person who had "squatted" himself down upon the vacant land which was then a matter of dispute.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 219.
- 1829 See WOOD, WOOD UP.
- 1830 The downeast monster that furnished abundant food for conjecture to all *squatters* between Portland pier and 'Quoddy inclusive, some two years ago.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 42.
- 1836 Mr. Clay disclaimed any intentional disrespect to *squatters*, but hardly thought they would have saved the Capitol unless they had given up the habit of squatting.—U.S. Senate, March 31 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 217, App.
- 1836 The gentleman was more comprehensive than he (Mr. King of Georgia) was, in his application of the term *squatters*, for he applied it to the first settlers of Jamestown, to the pilgrims, and even to Columbus ; and he said it was the *squatters* who saved New Orleans, and would have conquered at Bladensburg, had they been there.—The same, June 9 : *id.*, p. 432.
- 1838 Individuals of that singular class termed "*squatters*" ; those hardy pioneers who formed the earliest American settlements along our Western frontier.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 206 (N.Y.).
- 1840 If there is one class of citizens among the people of the West, more honest and patriotic than their neighbors, they are the hardy *squatters*.—Mr. Davis of Indiana, House of Repr., April 30 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 443, App.
- 1852 We will take up the land, and, as they used to say in the States, "become *squatters*," and we will become thicker on the mountains than the crickets ever were.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 7 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 296.
- 1857 Until 1855, the settlers were usually termed *squatters* by the San Francisco papers.—See *S. F. Call*, April 2.

Squatter sovereignty. A term applied to the doctrine advocated by Stephen A. Douglas, that the territories should settle the slavery question for themselves ; but sometimes used more widely.

- 1855 Resolved, that we, the *Sovereign Squatters* of Kansas, do not believe, &c.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., Jan. 27.
- 1855 [In Southern Illinois] many of these wise men have exercised their "*squatter sovereignty*" for the last forty years.—*Knicker Mag.*, xlv. 422 (April).
- 1856 What they call "*squatter sovereignty*," I call "popular sovereignty" ; you may call it by whatever name you please ; I am in favor of all the sovereignty that there is in the Kansas-Nebraska bill.—Mr. Watkins of Tennessee, in the House of Repr., May 6 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1126.

Squatter sovereignty—*contd.*

- 1857 I refer to "pre-empting," known in former times as squatting, from which arose that new term in political parlance, *squatter sovereignty*.—Letter from Nebraska in the *National Intelligencer*, July 1 (Bartlett).
- 1857 *Squatter sovereignty* in Kansas means military rule and outside interference.—*Herald of Freedom*, Oct. 10.
- 1857 *Squatter sovereignty* is defined to be the entrance of six full-dressed ladies into a large omnibus, and taking exclusive possession of it, while eighteen spare gentlemen are forcibly expelled.—*S. F. Call*, April 1.
- 1859 I do not hold that *squatter sovereignty* is superior to the Constitution. I hold that no such thing as sovereign power attaches to a territory while a territory.—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 23 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1246.
- 1859 Ossawattonie sympathy and *squatter sovereignty* are exponents of the same doctrine, the same intolerant spirit which denies to property in slaves the protection of law.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 15, p. 2/1.
- 1860 [Mr. Douglas] has given to *squatter sovereignty* all the popularity that it possesses in the South.—*Id.*, May 22, p. 2/2.
- 1860 Regarding "*Squatter Sovereignty*" as a nickname invented by the Senator and those with whom he acts, which I have never recognised, I must leave him to define the meaning of his own term.—Speech of Mr. Douglas, May 17.
- 1860 I know well where the Wilmot proviso and *squatter sovereignty* would lead.—Mr. Iverson of Georgia in the U.S. Senate, Dec.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 75.
- 1884 See FREE-SOILER.
- Squire.** [See also SQUARE]. A magistrate or justice. The term is often used loosely.
- 1784 My brother, *Squire* Boon, was wandering through the forest.—D. Boon in Filson's 'Kentucke,' p. 53.
- 1790 *Squire* Varnum [lost] 28 acres of winter grain. . . *Squire* Barns of Chelmsford, had 148 squares of glass broken.—*Mass. Spy.*, Aug. 5.
- 1800 If this meets your mind, *squire*, say so.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 2.
- 1810 Accordingly *Esq.* Whitebush and Col. Browntush were unanimously chosen to put on the sheep's clothing.—*Mass. Spy.*, July 11.
- 1812 This same *Esq.* Kettle is a man who now invites them to meet at Concord. . . The minutes were taken by the Council [*sic*] employed against Capt. Pool, and not by said Justice Kettle.—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 10.
- 1814 A Publick Vendue of an Equity of Redemption at *Esquire* Gould's Tavern in Phillipston.—*Mass. Spy.*, July 27.
- 1817 He is not in the least danger of receiving an uncivil answer, even if he should address himself to a *squire* (so justices are called).—John Bradbury, 'Travels,' p. 320.

Squire—*contd.*

- 1822 It was proposed by some of them to couple themselves, and go to a young Justice and be married. This it was thought would be fine fun, and a clever joke on the young *Squire*.—*Mass. Spy*, May 22: from the *New-London Advocate*.
- 1825 No titles for me, that imply subordination. 'Squire, 'Squire! I'd as lief be anointed "moderator," "se-lect-man," as you call it, or corporal, or deacon.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 62.
- 1829 It is a justice's commission, and gives you henceforth the dignified title of *Esquire*.—*Mass. Spy*, May 20: from the *Evening Chronicle*.
- 1843 I went directly to the office of the *Esquire*.—'Lowell Offering,' iii. 200.
- 1844 I've snaked it about these woods for a week, looking for a *squire* to hitch us.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.
- 1846 I thought you looked like a *squire*—kind of.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 144 (Aug.).
- 1851 *Esquire* Crocker had been in the country but a short time.—Gustavus Hines, 'Oregon,' p. 138.
- 1854 See GALLOWSES.

Squirm. To twist about like a snake.

- 1804 Some of the late victorious party have discovered *squirmings* of resentment.—*The Balance*, Dec. 25, p. 410.
- 1820 Who of us has not *squirmed* and squeezed to avoid labour as a curse?—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 23: from the *Connecticut Courant*.
- 1839 That denial was by a *squirming* from under the responsibility of answering in an honorable way the charge of being guilty of falsehood.—See *Congressional Globe*, March 4, p. 211.
- 1839 Did you ever see anything which came from that quarter *squirm* afore a big headed or bullying varmint?—*Havana (N.Y.) Republican*, July 10.
- 1839 My stars and garters, if [the whale] didn't give sich a *squirm*, and roll'd over and over.—Major Jackson board a whaler.—*Id.*, Aug. 21.
- 1845 We care no more for the report than to show up the *squirming* of ungodly men.—*Nauvoo Neighbor*, Feb. 12.
- 1846 It was now the minister's turn to *squirm*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 273 (Sept.).
- 1847 Come along, my fine fellow, and give up *squirming*.—'Tom Pepper,' i. 78.
- 1848 The lobster was fresh caught, and proved to be very unruly, *squirming* and writhing about.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 57.
- 1849 The gambler "*squirmed*" under the gospel truth; yet he contrived to sit the sermon out.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxiii. 64 (Jan.).

Squirm—*contd.*

- 1852 And from the boys a stifled shout
Rung through the cheerless room,
And much the urchins *squirmed* about
In thinking of his doom.
Yale Lit. Mag., xvii. 233.
- 1855 How I did wince, and *squirm*, and wiggle, and joggle,
and hang on!—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlv. 306 (March).
- 1857 He *squirmed* on his back toward the door; ground the dirt
into the garment; tore it beside.—*Id.*, l. 424 (Oct.).
- 1858 Touch a dollar of theirs, and they will *squirm*.—Brigham
Young, Jan. 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 175.
- 1859 This intense valor [on the part of Mr. Seward] shrinks and
squirms. It does not come up to the point.—Mr. Toombs
of Georgia in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 25: *Cong. Globe*,
p. 1356.
- 1862 Ef Jon'than dont *squirm* with sech helps to assist him,
I give up my faith in the free-suffrage system.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 5.
- 1867 Good fourth-proof brimstone, that'll make em *squirm*.—
Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story': *Atlantic*, January.

Squirt. A failure in recitation; or one who fails. College
slang. See **Spoors**.

- 1872 I know what you're thinking—you're thinking this is a
squirt. That word has taken the nonsense out of a good
many high-stepping fellows. But it did a good deal of
harm too, and it was a vulgar lot that applied it oftenest.
—'Poet at the Breakfast-Table,' ch. ix.

Staboy. An exclamation addressed to hounds. See Mr. C. R.
Gaston's paper in 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 347-8.

- 1774 *Stu boy, Stu boy*, seize 'em, Jowler, seize 'em.—*Mass. Spy*,
Dec. 29. (Possibly a misprint.)
- 1850 Ten emulous styles, *staboyed* with care,
The whole among them seemed to tear.
Lowell, 'Unhappy Lot of Mr. Knott.'

a.1854 Let slip the dogs of war, and I for one will hallo "sta!
boy," till the heavens turn green.—Dow, Jun., 'Patent
Sermons,' iv. 83.

Staddles. Clumps of trees; also foundation-frames. Eng. dial.

- 1819 I observed that small *staddles* of hickory was thriftily
growing.—Benjamin Harding, 'Tour through the Western
Country,' p. 9 (New London, Conn.).
- 1823 I observed, where the fire had made such ravages, that
small *studdles* [*sic*] of hickory were growing very thrifty.—
George W. Bedford, 'Letters from the West,' p. 48 (New
Bedford).
- 1848 Lonesome ez *staddles* on a mash [marsh] without no hay-
ricks on.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 9.
- 1850 There was not probably a clean-bodied, fair-topped
staddle within six miles, that Mysie had not taken par-
ticular note of.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 227.

Staddles—*contd.*

1856 Zephaniah was about the homeliest looking *staddle* that ever sprouted from the old Varmount stock.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 2.

1857 Four little *staddles* with the bark off ain't quilting frames, and the women know it.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 241.

Stag party. The same as BUCK PARTY.

1856 A party of old bricks who are keeping up a small *stag party* of their own at the end of the room.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 407 (April).

Stake and rider fence. A fence made with crossed stakes and rails laid on them, the highest of which is the "rider."

1829 [He met] a man in a lane with a *stake-and-rider* fence on each side.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 11: from the *Georgia Courier*.

1839 He had no sooner straddled the *rider*, than his aspect suddenly changed. Note. "The highest rail which rests upon the stakes of the fence."—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 374, App.

Stakes, to pull up. To change one's "location."

1841 If this stranger is to receive countenance, then I *pull up stakes*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvii. 33 (Jan.).

Stalled. Detained on the road for a long while by snow or accident.

1888 Many trains are *stalled* between stations. The officials said that forty trains were snowed in.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, March 14 (Farmer).

Stalwarts. The followers of Roscoe Conkling in the political campaign of 1878-9; uncompromising Republicans generally.

1881 Judging from the tone of the [paper] which Brady owns and manages, he is a "*Stalwart* of the *Stalwarts*," and a cantankerous Republican of the straitest sect.—*Boston Globe*, Aug. 29.

1881 [Cook] is a shrewd criminal lawyer, a *Stalwart* in politics, and not inclined to the Blaine faction.—*New York Sun*, Nov. 16.

1882 There are many elements in the make-up of the average *Stalwart* which we do not consider essential to the truest symmetry.—*Washington Critic*, Jan. 21.

1888 The *Stalwarts* have made no indictment against Judge Gresham.—*Chicago Inter-Ocean*, March 28 (Farmer).

Stampede. A rush of panic-stricken cattle; hence a rush of frightened soldiers or other persons. The word was much used in the Civil War.

1846 A *stampede* sometimes seizes the herd, and then with upturned heads and glaring eyes the animals rush along, making the earth tremble under their feet.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Mysteries of the Backwoods,' p. 15 (Phila.).

1848 Old Hicks, shouting, "A *stampede*!" glided behind the trunk of a huge tree.—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 107 (N.Y.).

1852 Nearly a hundred slaves had made a *stampedo*, as the Western men say.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 62 (N.Y.).

Stampede—*contd.*

- 1853 It is not the intention of this article to alarm the hotel proprietors . . . by this impending *stampede* in fashionable life.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ii. 264 (Sept.).
- 1854 In consequence of a *stampede* of the democracy [*sic*] for the mountains, the boat did not leave at the time appointed.—*Weekly Oregonian*, June 10.
- 1854 Such a fluttering of muslin, such a screeching, and such a general *stampede*, I never heard or witnessed.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 12.
- 1858 The wild and mysterious hyperbolic phantasm of enthusiasts would create a furor and *stampede*, run riot over the safeguard of American liberty,—the constitution, —stab to the very vitals the great incentives which clustered round the spot that gave birth to the mighty instrument, mock their primitive fathers and mothers, sing the requiem to the death-knell of Liberty, and gormandize over the destruction of the confederacy.—*Knickerbocker Mag.*, li. 209 : a piece of "tall talk" extracted from the *Madisonian* (Jackson, Tenn.).
- 1858 [There seems] to have been a considerable *stampede* of slaves from the border valley counties of Virginia.—*Baltimore Sun*, April 9 (Bartlett).
- 1859 "Almost a *Stampede*." Heading in the *Rocky Mountain News*, Auraria and Denver, Oct. 6, when the miners at Gregory were surprised by a snow-storm.
- 1860 An old horse, which otherwise could hardly be whipped along, will sometimes, in a *stampede*, dash off so furiously as not to be overtaken.—J. C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 173 (S.F.).
- 1860 The result has been a tremendous *stampede* of German voters in Southern Indiana.—*Oregon Argus*, Aug. 4.
- 1861 "The Prospective *Stampede* from Virginia." Heading of an item relating to the threat of certain gentlemen in Amelia County to join the Southern Confederacy.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Feb. 28, p. 2/2.

* * See also Appendix XXIV.

Stampede, *v.*, to cause to rush as in a stampede.

- 1860 The Indians first attempted to *stampede* the stock.—*Oregon Argus*, Nov. 24.
- 1864 They thought they could *stampede* us ; but we belonged to the army of the Potomac.—*Harper's Weekly*, Oct. 8.
- 1890 The Indians often drove the buffalo to a bluff, knowing that, if *stampeded*, they would leap down the steepest declivity.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 267.

Stamping-ground. The place of a man's exploits.

- 1839 I made my way from Milledgeville to Williamson County, the old *stamping-ground*.—'History of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 70 (N.Y.).
- 1853 This bay and the bayou were, as a Texan would say, his *stamping-ground*.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 246.

Stand. A site or place for any kind of business.

- 1787 A Bargain will be given in that excellent *stand* now occupied by Mr. Mark Pringle.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 25.
- 1788 Notice “to those who would wish for the best *Stand* for a Dry or Wet Store.”—*Id.*, July 25.
- 1796 “A valuable *Stand* for Business” advertised in *The Aurora*, Phila., May 14.
- 1796 “For sale, a capital *stand* for business.”—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Dec. 19.
- 1799 “To be let, that fine *stand* in State-Street.”—*Advt.*, *Mass. Mercury*, Jan. 15.
- 1799 Two valuable *Stands* for Business to be sold.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Dec. 17.
- 1801 To be sold, That noted *Stand* lying within a few rods of Warwick Meetinghouse, containing about 36 acres of good Land, . . . all conveniently situated for a Public House, for which it has been improved for some years past.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 28.
- 1803 The House is large and commodious, and acknowledged by all to be one of the best *stands* in the State for a Tavern.—*Id.*, Feb. 16.
- 1805 To Rent, That well known, and eligible *stand*, the Cross Keys Tavern.—*Advt.*, *Balt. Ev. Post*, April 5, p. 3/3.
- 1805 A good *Stand* for a Westindia and English Goods Shop.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 4.
- 1806 *Id.*, March 26, Advertisements: “That pleasant *stand* for a Tavern.” “A beautiful *stand* for a Trader.” “That excellent *stand* for business, situate in Spencer.” “That noted *Stand*, which has been improved as a Tavern for a number of years past.”
- 1806 *Id.*, May 28. “A good *Stand* for a Physician and Surgeon.”
- 1816 *Id.*, Dec. 11. “The Tavern *Stand*, lately owned by Charles Angier, situate on the Worcester Turnpike.”
- 1821 *Id.*, Dec. 26. “An excellent *Stand* for a Goldsmith and Watch Repairer, in the centre of the town of Athol.”
- 1827 Uncomfortables. . . . To hear of a fine *stand* for business, and on calling to find it engaged.—*Id.*, Feb. 21.

Stand pat, Stand-patter. To stand pat, in politics, is to adhere unflinchingly to a high tariff.

- 1908 Under a spreading black slouch hat
The grim *standpatter* stands ;
He smokes a very strong cigar,
One of Havana’s brands.
And turns a deaf ear to the meek
Revisionists’ demands.
Year in, year out, he still *stands pat*,
And will not budge a jot ;
He cools his neck with chunks of ice
Whenever it is hot,
And thinks the man who hankers for
Revision should be shot.

Chicago *Record-Herald*, Oct.

Stand pat, Stand-patter—*contd.*

1908 If the Republican party has "*stood pat*" on the tariff, it must also be said that the Democrats, destitute of leadership and divided in purpose, have been unable to organize an able and intelligent Opposition.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 2.

Stand round. Usually, to be actively employed. But see 1840.

1840 I cleared about \$2 a day; but I should have made more by *standing round*, i.e. watching the land-market for bargains.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvi. 205 (Sept.).

1853 The old woman has gut some fire an' tow abaout her. She makes Armbus *stand raound* pooty well, too.—'Turn-over: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 56 (Boston).

Stand the racket. To endure stress or strain. An attempt has been made, without an atom of probability, to refer this to the Low-Latin *rachetum*, thief-bote. See *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. xi. 365; xii. 72.

1830 After *standing the racket* he did last winter, he need never to fear anything.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 87 (1860).

1834 Major, will them accounts of the Post Office *stand the racket*, or not?—*Id.*, p. 195.

Stand up to the rack. To face the situation boldly.

1835 It was a hard row to hoe; but I *stood up to the rack*.—Col. Crockett, 'Tour,' p. 69 (Phila.).

1835 I had hard work; but I *stood up to the rack*, fodder or no fodder.—*Id.*, p. 137.

1843 The democratic party would *stand up to the rack*, fodder or no fodder.—Mr. Gordon of N.Y., House of Repr., Jan 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 125.

1854 [They] allers *stands up to the rack* at the end of an execution.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 157.

Stansberry reproof. A beating (?).

1839 Mr. S. was determined to give him a *Stansberry reproof* as soon as he could meet him on the street.—'History of Virgil A. Stewart,' p. 173 (N.Y.).

Star actor, preacher, &c. A chief or eminent one.

1857 We want a real old fashioned *star preacher*, one that will knock down and drag out all that stands in his way.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 30.

1910 Mr. Osborne then put his *star witness* on the stand.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 10.

1910 The *star witness* of the trial was one Howard B. Simpson of Spokane, who is a capitalist there, and who knows every one of the gang.—*Id.*, March 21.

1910 Hogan, of Yale, is dead. *Star athlete* and deputy of street cleaning.—*Id.*, March 24.

- Star bid, star route, &c.** See 1854. The Star Route prosecutions for conspiracy furnished large material for the newspapers in 1881-2.
- 1854 A "*star bid*" is where a party agrees to carry the whole mail on a certain route for a certain sum of money.—Mr. Jones of Louisiana, House of Repr., April 20: *Cong. Globe*, p. 959.
- 1862 [Mr. Gurley] flew from Fremont to Ohio, with the "certainty, celerity, and security" of a *star bid* in the Post Office Department.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 224 (1865).
- 1881 "How soon will the *Star Route* cases be brought to trial?" is the question heard on all sides.—*Washington Post*, June 4.
- 1881 The contest of the *Star Route* men to extricate themselves from the prosecutions at Washington begins to look tragical.—*Cincinnati Enquirer*, June 24.
- 1881 If the *star route* thieves are not pushed to the wall and convicted, the people of the U.S. will blame the Government.—*N.Y. Times*, Oct. 28.
- 1881 The *Star Route* Frauds. How justice is made to miscarry.—*N.Y. Sun*, Nov. 16.
- 1882 The *Star Route* cases involve a great many people in a great many places,—including both ends of the Capitol.—*Philadelphia Press*, March 18.
- 1882 Mr. John A. Walsh, whose name has become prominent in connection with the *star route* trials in Washington, was in town yesterday.—*N.Y. Herald*, Aug. 23.
- State-House.** The government house of a State. See a monograph by Mr. Albert Matthews, tracing the word to Virginia, 1638, and disproving its alleged Dutch origin: 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 199-224.
- States, The.** A term at one time much used in the far West, distinguishing the organized States from the Territories. Oddly enough (see 1856, 1860, 1862) "America" was occasionally used in the same way.
- 1826 She had seen families of fashion and opulence, from "*the states*," as they call them, and from old France, settled [at New Madrid].—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 228.
- 1845 Here we met Dr. White, a sub-Indian agent, accompanied by three others, on their way from Oregon to *the States*.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' Sept. 3, p. 50 (*Cincinnati*, 1847).
- 1854 President Young says he does not know of but one old bachelor in all the Territory of Utah, and he has gone to *the States*.—Orson Hyde, at the Mormon Tabernacle, Oct. 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 84.
- 1855 Some say that this fellow-feeling between him and the marshal results from the fact that he was a doggerly-keeper in *the States*.—*Weekly Oregonian*, April 7.
- 1856 In *America*, a man would as soon venture to go into his neighbour's house and steal a chair, as to retain one accidentally left there by a previous occupant.—Brigham Young, April 20: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 323.

States, The—contd.

- 1857 (n.d.) A man writing from Southern Oregon to the N.Y. *Tribune* says that some of the people are going to California, and "others are talking of going back to *America*."
- 1860 We'll go back to *America*,
Dressed up so slick and fine O,
And when there's anything to pay,
Pop goes the Rhino.
Rocky Mountain News, Denver, April 11.
- 1860 T. C. Willard leaves to-morrow for St. Louis, intending to return next season with a large supply of goods. We trust his winter in *America* will be a happy one, and that he will sometimes condescend to think of the poor devils he has left at the Peak.—*Id.*, Nov. 7.
- 1861 We give large space this week to the warlike news from *the States*.—*Olympia* (W.T.) *Pioneer*, May 17.
- 1862 Among the arrivals from *the States* this morning was the new rector of St. John's Church.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, July 24.
- 1862 A newly arrived "pilgrim" from "*America*," yesterday, at the Elephant corral, discharged an Allen pepper box at a fellow-pilgrim.—*Id.*, Aug. 7.
- 1862 A gentleman lately from *the States* was almost astounded to find vegetables on our hotel tables.—*Id.*, Nov. 6.
- 1863 A newcomer from *the States*, no matter whether from Chicago, St. Louis, or New York, must at once acquire cognizance of the fact that we are no "suckers."—*Id.*, Jan. 29.
- 1866 The current jest, everywhere to be heard from Atchison to Salt Lake, runs, that a man who means to cross the Missouri is going on a trip to *America*.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' chap. i.
- 1869 I only knew how much I prized her daily prattling [a child in Montana] when she was about to start for *the States*.—McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 244.
- 1869 "Are you going back to *the States*?" said I to a Pike County man, with a wagon-load of wife and children, beds, chairs, and cooking utensils. "No Sir," said he, turning the quid in his leathery jaw, "You bet I ain't! I'm bound for Reese. After I make my pile thar, a keeping of a tavern, I'll steer for California again."—J. Ross Browne, 'Apache Country,' p. 334.
- 1890 We sent into *the States* by every available opportunity for anything so serious as a stuff gown or outer garment. We all carried lists into *the States* to fill for others.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 257.
- Stave.** To proceed rapidly. See also **STOVE**.
- 1825 [They] went *staving* through Broadway in Mr. Ashley's go-cart.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 303.

- Steady habits.** "The land of steady habits" is New England, and especially Connecticut.
- 1781 Gravity and a serious deportment, together with shyness and bashfulness, generally attend the first communications of the inhabitants of Connecticut; but, after a short acquaintance, they become very familiar, and inquisitive about news.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 302.
- 1785 The State of Connecticut, a place remarkable for sobriety and sanctity of manner.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 18.
- 1800 A sarcastic article, 'Steady Habits and Straight Waist-coats,' appeared in *The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 23. "Another of these *steady habits* is their calling all the priests of the state together at each commencement of Yale College, to eat and drink at the scholar's expence; also, to assemble the priests at each election of Governor at Hartford, to eat and drink at the state's expence."
- 1802 Cherishing the *steady and rational habits* of their ancestors, the men of Newengland pass their evenings by their own firesides. Their breakfasts are not of whiskey julep, nor of gin sling; but of tea and coffee.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 4: from the Newport (R.I.) *Mercury*.
- 1803 Pliny Earle and Brothers advertise for a journeyman clockmaker; one who is "a man of *steady habits*; none other need apply."—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 28.
- 1805 The significant Essay of the Hero of the *Land of Steady Habits*.—*Intelligencer*, Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 20.
- 1806 Extract of a letter from a Gentleman in the *State of Steady Habits* to his friend in Newport, Rhodeisland.—*Id.*, Jan. 14.
- 1807 In Connecticut they have a Slang-phrase, called *Steady Habits*. As the words are general and not special, they may, like John Adams's notion of a Republican, mean any thing or nothing. If we may judge from their Practices, their Habits are detestable.—*Intelligencer*, May 26: from *The Aurora*.
- 1807 In Connecticut, a man of *steady habits*; in Newyork, one of the American ticket; in Pennsylvania, a Quid or Constitutional; in New Orleans, an adherent of the Quid Emperor; at the Revolution of 1776, a Loyalist or Tory: means the same thing, those who wish to usurp and monopolize Power, and to exclude the People from it.—The same.
- 1813 Troops were assembled, ready to repel any invasion of the soil of "*steady habits*."—*Mass. Spy*, June 16.
- 1816 First then as to Holland;—in that *land of steady habits* and of hard working, the fathers of New England sojourned for a considerable number of years before they came over to our shores.—*Id.*, Nov. 27: from the *Connecticut Courant*.
- 1819 The blue laws of the *land of steady habits*.—*Missouri Gazette*, St. Louis, Feb. 3.
- 1820 The men were chewing their tobacco [on a raft in the Ohio River] with as much complacency as if they had been in "the *land of steady habits*."—Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 87 (Lond.).

Steady habits—*contd.*

- 1827 [I cannot] banish from my mind the old *steady habits* of Massachusetts. Letter from a Boston gentleman living in Richmond, Va.—*Mass. Spy*, April 4.
- 1828 Ours is the *land of steady habits*. And this town is remarkable for severity of religious discipline, if not for morality.—*The Yankee*, Portland, Maine, April 2.
- 1830 A real “blue-nose,” fresh from the *land of steady habits*.—*Northern Watchman*, Troy, N.Y., Nov. 30.
- 1836 The men were themselves from the *land of steady habits*.—*Knick. Mag.*, viii. 555 (Nov.).
- 1841 A farmer, and a Yankee one too, from the *land of steady habits*, where they “look for results.”—Mr. Hastings of Ohio, House of Repr., July 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 243, App.
- 1842 The “*land of steady habits*,” with a House amounting to six hundred members, employed but one clerk.—Mr. Smith of Virginia, the same : *Id.*, p. 243.
- 1843 [He] had left the land of deacons, hard cider, and other “*steady habits*,” to seek his fortune.—R. Carlton, ‘The New Purchase,’ i. 51.
- 1853 See WOODEN NUTMEGS.

Steep. Extravagant in price or amount.

- 1856 He’s too *steep* in his price, anyway.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 362 (April).
- 1857 At the election in Minnesota, one hundred and ten Winnebago Indians, wearing their blankets, voted the Democratic ticket ; but the agent thought this was rather *steep*, so he crossed that number from the list.—*Chicago Tribune*, Oct. 17 (Bartlett).
- 1858 The verdict . . . giving \$150,000 as damages to a Land and Water-Power Company . . . is regarded as decidedly *steep*.—*Baltimore Sun*, Aug. 23 (the same).
- a.1872 Don’t it strike you that \$18 is pretty *steep* for these times ?—J. M. Bailey, ‘Folks in Danbury,’ p. 38.

Steerer. See quotation.

- 1910 A *steerer* is the go-between of the shyster and prisoner ; by wile and guile he brings clients to the lawyer, and in return gets a liberal reward, usually half of what the shyster is able to squeeze from the victim. *Steerers* in courts where discipline is not maintained move about the benches, among relatives and prisoners, learning details of a case, offering to get counsel who are “in” with the magistrate, persuading or intimidating if possible, and, if successful, turning over the victim to the shyster with whom they are in league. Most of their work is done on the outside, however ; few are brazen enough to ply their trade actually within the court room, but hang about the corridors and halls. The relation of *steerer* to shyster is somewhat analogous—save the mark !—to that of the English solicitor, for the *steerer* really prepares the case for presentation.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 10.

Stick. A log of wood.

- 1792 Contracts for timber should always be made so as to give time to look for the requisite *sticks*, and cut them in the proper season of the year.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 211.
- 1821 The whole expense laid out upon the dam is incurred by placing a single *stick* of timber upon the brow of the ledge, and by forming a flume, perhaps four or five feet in length.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 16.
- 1826 [Wanted] Four *Sticks* Timber 32 feet long, and Four *Sticks* timber 28 feet long.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Nov. 15.
- 1830 He was carting timber, and stepped upon the cart tongue to crowd some *sticks* back with his feet.—*Id.*, July 14.
- 1851 All hands are lifting with heavy pries...to roll these massive *sticks* into the brook channel.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 156 (N.Y.).

Stick a pin there. Make a note of that.

- 1836 Why does money become scarce? Because the bankers cannot discount, says the merchant. *Stick a pin there.*—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Nov. 1.
- 1842 Heading of an advt., "*Stick a pin there.*"—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 16.
- 1843 *Stick a pin there*, and consider.—*Nauwoo Neighbor*, July 12.
- 1850 I wish to be honorable. *Tie a knot there.* I brand you for a cheat, a brute, and a coward; *put a pin in there!* I cannot blacken you—you are too black already; *put a spike in there!*—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' pp. 100-101.
- 1861 Mr. Bell will not be chosen as one of Mr. Lincoln's cabinet. Let the guessers *stick a pin there.*—*Oregon Argus*, Jan. 19.
- 1861 Name for name, there are two of the Norman in New-England for one in the South. *Stick a pin there*—not that it's of any account, but the chivalry insist on it.—*Knick. Mag.*, lviii. 266 (Sept.).

Stick out. To be obvious. Slang.

1842 See A FEET.

- 1846 As Mr. Parley observed of Langstaff's sermon on Balaam's ass, it was so plain that "*it stuck right out.*"—*Knick. Mag.*, xxvii. 123 (Feb.).

Stickee. Old slang for a stick or cane.

- 1803 A closer inspection prompted him to brandish his *stickee*.—'The Port Folio,' iii. 17 (Phila.).
- 1803 He was unable to walk without the assistance of a cane or *stickee*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 30.
- 1806 And as he goes by, At me casts an eye,
And longs with his Anna to be;
'Tis pleasing—'tis true—To say so—won't do!
So let him pass by with *Stick ee*.
Id., July 30. In the same piece of doggerel, allusion is made to *coatee*, *shirtee*, *bootee*, &c.

Stifel. A word as strange to the compiler as *pastern* was to Dr. Johnson.

- 1798 [The Horse], when he travels, slopes behind, and is narrow across the *stifel*.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, March 7.

Stived up. Choked up, crowded together.

- 1851 Things are a good deal *stived up*.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' ii. 122.
 1853 We're all so *stvyed up* here, it's enough to git any man drunk.—'Turnover: a Tale of New Hampshire,' p. 41 (Boston).

Stiver. A Dutch penny. The word, found in English writers, 1527-1705, obtained a footing in America through the Dutch occupation of New York.

- 1657 In 1657 the seawant [wampum beads] were publicly reduced from six to eight for a *stuyver*, which is twopence.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 35 (1832).
 1801 Vagabonds, not worth a *stiver*,
 With now and then a negro driver.
 'Spirit of the Farmers' Museum,' p. 43.
 1846 Mr. Crittenden of Kentucky would stand on the ninth part of a hair,—he would not vote a cent, not a *stiver*.—U.S. Senate, Jan. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 262.
 1850 I hope that Congress will refuse to appropriate a *stiver* to this object at the present time.—Mr. Pearce of Maryland, the same, Sept. 28: *id.*, p. 2055.
 1855 They would slit his weasand before they would let him have a *stiver*.—W. G. Simms, 'The Forayers,' p. 72.
 1867 There's fourteen foot and over, says the driver,
 Worth twenty dollars, if it's worth a *stiver*.
 Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *Atlantic*, January.

Stock and block. Entirely.

- 1796 This story turned out to be a falsehood, or a gross mistake, "*stock and block*."—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 5.

Stocking feet. Feet with stockings, but without shoes.

- 1829 Off he stumped upstairs in his *stocking feet*.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 18.
 1839 He sallied forth in his *stocking-feet*, with a candle.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 153 (Phila.).
 a.1847 Time trod softly, noiselessly, in his *stocking feet*, as if fearful lest he should awake the infant, Care.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 71.
 1857 Our guide soon came back,—he had been prowling round in his *stocking feet*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 500 (Nov.).
 1860 We slipped downstairs in our *stockinged feet*.—*Atlantic*, p. 319.
 1901 In his *stocking feet*, [Andrews] flung himself over the fence.—W. Pittenger, 'Great Locomotive Chase,' p. 251.
 1902 [He] sat smoking in his favorite chair near the banisters, on top of which he now and then placed his *stockinged feet*.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 145.

* * * The phrase is used in the N. of England, and in Scotland, and probably reached America by means of Scottish immigration. [See *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 196, 197.]

- Stoga, Stogy.** An abbreviation of Conestoga. See 'Dialect Notes,' i. 229. The word is applied to rough farmers' shoes, and to common cigars.
- 1847 [I bought] a pair of *stoga* shoes, made in one of the eastern states.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 117 (Cincinnati).
- 1853 Boot and shoe, pump and *stoga*, coming to that at last.—*Putnam's Mag.*, ii. 31 (July).
- Stone Jacket.** A prison.
- 1799 Paragraphs an hundred times more obnoxious than those for which Abijah Adams was dressed in a *stone jacket*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., June 21.
- Stone-fence.** A drink of spirits.
- 1809 Those recondite beverages, cock-tail, *stone-fence*, and sherry-cobbler.—W. Irving, 'Knickerbockers,' p. 241.
- 1847 See BAREFOOTED.
- 1898 [He] sometimes drank thirty *stone-fences* a day.—*N.Y. Sun*, March 8.
- Stone-toter.** See quotation.
- 1816 The most singular fish in this part of the world is called the *stone-toter*, whose brow is surmounted with several little sharp horns, by the aid of which he *totes* small flat stones from one part of the brook to another more quiet, in order to make a snug little circular inclosure, for his lady to lie in safely.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 4 (N.Y., 1817).
- Stoop.** See quotation 1809. Dutch.
- 1749 At the *stoopes* (porches) the people spent much of their time, especially on the shady side.—Prof. Kalm's Visit to Albany: Watson's 'Historic Tales of N.Y.,' p. 18 (1832). [See also pp. 124-5.]
- 1802 The dead body of a Mr. Thompson was found under a *stoop* in Murray-Street, New-York.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., Feb. 16, p. 54.
- 1809 He received the common class of visitors on the *stoop* before his door, according to the custom of our Dutch ancestors. (Note. Properly spelled *stoeb*: the porch, commonly built in front of Dutch houses, with benches on each side.)—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' ii. 160 (1812).
- 1815 He stepped into the *stoop* before the door, and remarked that I had a fine farm.—*Mass. Spy*, June 28.
- 1834 The house had a high *stoop*. . . [General Hamilton] was dragged from the *stoop*, and hustled through the street.—Grant Thorburn, 'Life and Times,' p. 39 (Boston).
- 1837 On the second step of a "*stoop*" in Broadway sate Quigg.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 343 (April).
- 1850 Many of the maidservants are on the *stoops*, busy with the broom.—C. Matthews, 'Money-penny,' p. 164 (N.Y.).
- 1852 You don't know what *stoop* means. It is one of the Dutch words we Gothamites have retained. Well, then, come out on the front piazza.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' pp. 58-59 (N.Y.).
- 1853 I mounted the *stoop* of Mrs. Bayton's doorway.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 512 (Nov.).

Stoop—*contd.*

- 1854 It was built of logs, with a long *stoop* running along its whole front.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 11.
 1855 My aunt nearly fell down the *stoop*.—*Waverley Mag.*, n.d.
 1868 The Elder wuz snufft out jest when it begins to be comfortable a settin onto the grocery *stoop*.—David R. Locke, 'Ekkoes from Kentucky,' p. 150.
 1908 At the end of the long Dutch "*stoop*" I found the wands of the snowberry.—'Aunt Jane of Kentucky,' p. 258.

Stop off, stop in. Here *stop* is a corruption of *step*; but it usually conveys the added notion of continuance.

- 1855 He had "*stopped off*," he said, to see a friend.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 604 (Dec.).
 1858 I used very often . . . to *stop in* at the dear old church of St. Etienne du Mont.—'Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table,' chap. xii.

Stope. See quotation.

- 1909 Then the various blocks of ore are ready for "*stopping*," which is the actual mining of the ore. In "*stopping*," or breaking down the ore, the miner is always beneath the ore body. The method of "*stopping*" depends upon the character of the ore.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 29.

Store, storekeeper, &c. The word *shop* has yielded to the word *store*, by degrees, until Prof. Freeman's comment (1883) is fully justified.

- [1768 Abigail Whitney advertises goods for sale "at her *shop* in Union-Street."—*Boston Ev. Post*, May 2.]
 [1769 Bethiah Oliver, vegetable seeds, &c., "to be sold at her *Shop* opposite the Rev. Dr. Sewall's Meeting-House in Boston."—*Id.*, March 13.]
 [1769 Elizabeth Greenleaf deals in the same, "at her *Shop* near the end of Union-Street over against the Blue-Ball."—*Id.*, March 20.]
 1773 As cheap as can be bought at any *store or shop* in town.—*Advt.*, *Mass. Spy*, June 3.
 1774 Wants a place, as a Clerk in a *Store*, a young Man.—*Mass. Gazette*, Nov. 21.
 [1774 John McKowen, from Glasgow, has removed to a *Shop* next door to Dr. Clark's.—*Id.*, same column.]
 1790 The words *Shop* and *Store* are confounded in our common practice. This trouble might be spared, by using the words according to their true sense, viz.: *shop*, for the apartment or building where goods are retailed; and *store* or warehouse for a building where goods are deposited in bulk.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Oct. 13: from the *American Mercury*.
 1791 He went out of the house, saying that he was going to the *store* to bed.—*Id.*, Aug. 3.
 1800 "*Shoe store*, No. 37, North Third Street," advertised in *The Aurora*, Phila., Oct. 8.
 1805 Bank influence . . . pervades almost every *store* in the city.—*Corr.*, *Balt. Ev. Post*, Aug. 10, p. 2/1.

Store, storekeeper, &c.—contd.

- 1806 You have a long bill due at Mr. ——'s *store*.—'Spirit of the Public Journals,' p. 101 (Balt.).
- 1817 The *store-keepers* (country shop-keepers we should call them) of these western towns visit the eastern ports once a year, to lay in their goods.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 116 (Phila.).
- 1823 Mr. J. C., of Bond Street, is now in Fordham's *store* [in Illinois.]—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 289 (Lond.).
- 1833 A little, dapper Bostonian, who kept a *store* as they call it, where every *shop* is a *store*, every stick a pole, every stone a rock, every stall a factory, and every goose a swan.—John Neal, 'The Down-Easters,' i. 26.
- 1833 In America, the word *shop* is confined to the place where things are made or done, as "barber-shop," "carpenter-shop"; a place where things are sold is a "*store*."—E. A. Freeman, 'Impressions of the U.S.,' p. 61.

Store-pay. Payment in goods.

- 1855 A girl has just arrived with a pot of butter to trade off for "*store-pay*."—'Captain Priest,' p. 54.

Store clothes, Store tea, &c. Store clothes are opposed to home-spun; store tea to decoctions of herbs.

- [1818 We had furnished our travelling pack with a quantity of choice young hyson, and this morning (Dec. 18) made a pot of it, and invited Mrs. F. to partake, but were surprised to hear her declare it was bitter and unpalatable stuff. She preferred dittany, sassafras, and spice-wood tea to our hyson.—H. R. Schoolcraft, 'Tour into Missouri,' p. 46; Lond., 1821.]
- 1843 'Tisn't none of your spice-wood or yarb-stuff, but the rale gineine *store tea*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 64.
- 1843 Our professor, although dressed in *store cloth*, and rather dandy-looking, betrayed no emotion.—*Id.*, ii. 191.
- 1856 A country fellow at a Georgia hotel was asked what kind of tea he would take:—"Why, *store tea* of course; I don't want any of your sassafras stuff."—San Francisco *Call*, Dec. 27.
- 1857 Say they, there is brother Kimball; his women have all got *store bonnets*, and ribbons, and laces.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 137.
- 1859 Instead of "*store-tea*," they had only saxifax tea-doin's, without milk.—*Knicker. Mag.*, liii. 318 (March).
- 1862 It may be asked, "Does not brother Brigham buy as many *store goods* for his wives and children as any man in Utah?" I buy more.—Brigham Young, Feb. 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 187.
- 1864 There ensued a contest between a pair of No. 7 boots and a few *store clothes* to reach the College first.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxix. 270.

Store clothes, Store tea, &c.—contd.

- 1874 A little “*store tea*,”—so called in contradistinction to the sage, sassafras, and crop-vine teas in general use.—Edward Eggleston, ‘*The Circuit Rider*,’ p. 57 (London, 1895).
- 1880 Instead of “*store-tea*” we used the roots of the sassafras.—Peter H. Burnett, ‘*Recollections*,’ p. 11.
- 1890 After his return, he came to our tent dressed in what the officers call “*cits’ clothes*,” which he termed *store clothes*.—Mrs. Custer, ‘*Following the Guidon*,’ p. 27.

Stove. Preterite of STAVE, to rush, to rend, to force with violence.

- 1819 [The lightning] *stove* the chest in pieces.—*Mass. Spy*, June 23: from the *American Advocate*.
- 1821 Their wood is washed away, and their small row boats *stove*.—*Id.*, Sept. 12: from the *N. Y. Evening Post*.
- 1836 He *stove* about in every direction, like a mad bull.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, Oct. 5.
- 1837 [He had] *stove* two of his front teeth down his throat.—*Knick. Mag.*, x. 408 (Nov.).

Stove-pipe hat. One of the conventional type, so called from its resemblance to a short section of a stove-pipe.

- 1855 Farmers! did *you* get up Know-Nothingism? No. It was got up amongst “*stove-pipe hats*” and patent black leather shoes.—*Oregon Times*, June.
- 1856 He did wear a *stove-pipe* black shiny hat.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 612 (Dec.).
- 1861 [The hats] of the grooms were “*stove-pipes*” of black fur, very tall, and with very narrow rims.—*Id.*, lvii. 620 (June).
- 1861 Our young men see a Gentile with a *stove pipe hat* on, and a cigar in his mouth.—George A. Smith at Logan, Utah Sept. 10: ‘*Journal of Discourses*,’ ix. 113.
- 1863 Those glistening silk “*stove-pipe*” arrangements are poor things for a very cold day, especially round the ears.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Feb. 19.
- a.1869 If any man wanted a fight all he had to do was to appear in public in a white shirt and a *stove pipe hat*.—Mark Twain, ‘*Innocents at Home*,’
- 1876 [He had] come in possession of a silk (“*stove-pipe*”) hat.—‘*Southern Hist. Soc. Papers*,’ i. 383.
- 1890 One of the men had insisted on wearing a “*stove-pipe hat*” from the East.—Mrs. Custer, ‘*Following the Guidon*,’ p. 172.

Stowadore. A stevedore.

- 1788 “*Stowadores*” appeared in the Grand Procession at Portsmouth, N.H., June 26: *Mass. Spy*, July 10.

Straddlebug. A beetle of the genus *Canthon*.

- 1853 Pump water is full of animalculæ, and *straddle bugs* don’t exist in pond water.—‘*Life Scenes*,’ p. 143.
- 1862 Now that I look at him, he reminds me of an old-fashioned *straddle-bug*.—Orpheus C. Kerr, ‘*Letter*’ 25.

Straight-outs. See quotation 1840. The term is still used in the sense of uncompromising.

1840 The base of the line was the company of *Straight-Outs*. They are the representatives of a hardy race of honest log cabin pioneers, who, however ridiculed for their primitive manners, never fail to make their influence felt at the ballot-box.—*Nashville Whig*, Aug. 17.

1860 You could not get this floating body of opinion on a *straight-out* nominee of your party.—Mr. Keitt of S. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 1: *Cong. Globe*, p. 651.

Straight ticket. The regular ticket as issued. To vote the straight ticket is to vote without "scratching."

1862 During the gubernatorial contest of 1861, in Ohio, I ignored mere partisan politics. True, sir, I supported *the straight Democratic ticket*.—Mr. James R. Morris of Ohio, House of Repr., July 7: *Cong. Globe*, p. 3158/3.

Stranger. A mode of address once current, and meant to be friendly.

1817 A man who was mowing at some distance from the road hailed me with the common, but to us quaint appellation of "*stranger*."—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 97 (Phila.).

1817 I walked up to a farm log-house, the people of which thus addressed me, "*Stranger*, come in to the fire."—*Id.*, p. 172.

1838 [He learned] in reply to his inquiry, "Whence do you come, *stranger*?" that my birthplace was north of the Potomac.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' i. 104 (N.Y.).

1838 See DORINGS.

1841 "Pray, what might your name be, *stranger*?" Taking advantage of his peculiar phraseology, I replied, "It might be Beelzebub, sir."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, vi. 361.

1844 See SAWYER.

1845 See NO TWO WAYS.

1847 See PAINTER.

1855 What's your name? There's no pleasure in calling a man "*stranger*" every minute.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 19.

1878 Oh, *stranger*, that war a powerful sight o' trouble.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 43.

Streak it. To be off rapidly.

1834 I *streaked it* out of school, and pulled foot for home as fast as I could go.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 29 (1860).

1836 I no sooner quit the steamer, than I *streaked it* straight ahead for the principal tavern.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 38.

1837 [He was] "*streaking it*" down Baltimore Street in his shirt sleeves.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 2, p. 2/1.

1840 A dozen men or more had *streaked it* through the sand after my shoe and moccasin.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' ii. 193 (Lond.).

Streak it—*contd.*

- 1854 Don't stop to wash, don't stop to button,
Go the ways your fathers trod ;
Go it,—leg it.—put it,—*streak it*,—
Rouse up from the land of Nod.
Yale Lit. Mag., xx. 105.
- 1856 [You were] *streaking it* as fast as your mare could carry you.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 17 (N.Y.).
- Streaked.** Disconcerted, frightened, annoyed.
- 1834 I felt *streaked* enough, for the balls were whistling over our heads.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 18 (1860).
- 1836 [The Droneville people] use those rank provincialisms which would make the most legitimate Yankee tongue feel "considerably *streaked*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, i. 26 (Feb.).
- 1840 I had proceeded about sixty paces, when a limb of some kind fetched me a wipe across the face: giving me, for the first time in my life, a sensible idea of the Georgia expression, "feeling *streaked*"; for my face actually felt covered with streaks of fire and streaks of ice.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 175.
- 1848 He felt considerable *streaked* at bein' roused out of his mornin's nap for nothin'.—Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 16 (Phila.).
- 1848 How do you feel? Rather *streaked*, I imagine,—almost afraid to venture into the streets.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 138.
- 1866 I begun to feel pretty *streaked*; I knew bears was terrible climbers.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 68.
- 1878 In less 'n a month all my money was gone, an' I felt awful *streaked*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 29.
- 1878 I felt orful *streaked*, but I knowed [my rifle] had never failed yet.—*Id.*, p. 416.
- Street.** This word is frequently omitted. In London, no one would say, "Go along Oxford till you come to North Audley," but in an American city, "Go along Fifth till you come to Market" is familiar enough.
- 1794 Joseph Claypoole, from the north side of *Walnut* to the south side of High-Street. . . . Nicholas Hicks, from the north side of *Mulberry* to the north side of Vine Street.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Feb. 15.
- 1798 An inhabitant of *Cherry* near Fifth Street.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 14.
- 1798 Thomas Gray, *Front* near Spruce Street. John Cassidy, *Second* near Catharine Street.—*Id.*, Aug. 17. [City Hospital Report.]
- 1799 Oct. 2, Mary Cassidy, a child, *Plumb*, between 4th and 5th Streets. Oct. 3, Polly Mills, *German*, above 3rd Street. Oct. 4, Richd. McGee, *Catharine*, between Front and 2d. Street. Oct. 9, Rachael Dail, *Callowhill*, near 2d. Street.—*Id.* [the same.]
- 1800 An afternoon's hard rain will so far overcome the water-course, that often you might heve a good sailing frolic on *Cedar* near Fourth Street.—*Id.*, Oct. 10.

Street—*contd.*

- 1834 Crossing *Chatham*, she turned abruptly down one of the narrowest streets.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 153 (N.Y.).
- 1837 A small negro hut on Spring St., near *Gough*.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Nov. 16, p. 2/1.
- 1838 But few buildings were saved in the range of the fire on *Fourth*, between Market and Chesnut Streets.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Nov. 3, p. 304.
- 1911 Stroll down to the corner of *William Street and Beaver* some day next week. Wait there long enough to get your bearings, then mount the steps of that building from which comes a sound like the roar of surf in the midst of a storm. That is the New York Cotton Exchange.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 30.

Street, The. Wall Street, New York.

- 1870 Drew, Vanderbilt, Fisk, Jerome, Jacob Little, all the heroes who still breathe vital breath, have never failed to be unpopular on "*the street*."—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 159 (Boston).

Street-yarn. Idle gossip.

- 1816 When I pass a house, and see the yard covered with stumps, old hoops, and broken earthen, I guess the man is a horse-jockey, and the woman a spinner of *street-yarn*.—*Mass. Spy*, March 6: from the *Visitor*.

Stricken. This archaic form is still used.

- 1790 I am not a little surprised at the revival of the word *stricken*, after being disused for centuries.—Noah Webster in the *American Mercury*: *Mass. Spy*, Aug. 26. [An odd remark for a lexicographer to make!]
- 1794 "The Petition of the Ancient Participle *Stricken*," to be laid on the shelf, appeared in the *American Minerva*: *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 9.
- 1808 Bricks not yet dried are called "newly *stricken* bricks."—*Advt.*, *The Repertory*, Boston, Nov. 22.
- 1820 He had been *stricken* with a paralytick affection in July.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 15.
- 1860 I am ready to be cross-examined by any gentleman who advocates this section that I am trying to have *stricken out*.—Mr. James Craig of Missouri, House of Repr., Dec. 13: *Cong. Globe*, p. 89/1.
- 1860 Is it not strange that those [men complain] that their rights have been *stricken* down?—Senator Wade's Speech, Dec. 17: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 88.
- 1885 At this critical moment, Chief-Justice Moses was *stricken* down with a fit.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xiii. 73 (Richmond, Va.).
- 1908 Gen. Worthington, the only surviving pall-bearer at the funeral of Abraham Lincoln, was *stricken* with apoplexy on the floor of the House.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 10.

. A lawyer in the U.S., in moving to expunge a part of the record, will almost always ask that it be *stricken out*, not struck out.

Strict constructionist. One who seeks by construction to narrow the operation of the Federal Constitution as it affects State rights.

- 1841 He says he is a "*strict constructionist*," "a Pharisee of the Pharisees."—Mr. Cooper of Georgia, House of Repr., Feb. : *Cong. Globe*, p. 185, Appendix.
- 1842 A *strict constructionist* of Virginia had deemed it unconstitutional to be buried in the congressional burying-ground at the public expence ; whereas the *strict constructionists* of that State were willing that the West Point academy should live and flourish, with no authority in the Constitution for its establishment.—Mr. Reynolds of Illinois, the same, June 7 : *id.*, p. 592.
- 1843 Mr. Kennedy of Indiana said that he belonged to the straight-jacket sect of *strict constructionists* of the Constitution in general.—The same, Dec. 19 : *id.*, p. 49, App.
- 1844 The gentleman from Virginia talks of *strict construction*. I complain that the construction is too strict ; it confines the appropriations too strictly to the "Old Dominion."—Mr. Giddings of Ohio, the same, Jan. 12 : *id.*, p. 290, App.
- 1844 I am a *strict constructionist* ; and each day's experience but the more clearly convinces me of the necessity of hedging in this government, and of keeping it within the narrow track assigned it by its authors.—Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, the same, Feb. 9 : *id.*, p. 161, App.
- 1844 Mr. Breese of Illinois said he was a *strict constructionist*. He would not for the sake of any local advantage stretch any of their powers beyond the grant.—U.S. Senate, Feb. 23 : *id.*, p. 310.
- 1845 I am a *strict constructionist* ; I belong to that party who believe the rights of the States and the liberties of the people are only secure whilst we adhere strictly to the Constitution, as it came from the hands of our patriotic ancestors.—Mr. Bowlin of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *id.*, p. 93, App.
- 1850 You remember the anecdote of the youngster who received a monition from his father that it was time to be steady, make some money, and take a wife. "Why, sir," said he, "I like the money-making, but whose wife shall I take ?" He was a *strict constructionist*.—Mr. Chandler of Pa., the same, March 28 : *id.*, p. 358, App.
- 1859 Mr. Buchanan says he is a *strict constructionist* ; and he says you should not exercise any power unless it is absolutely necessary to carry into effect an express grant.—Mr. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Jan. 25 : *id.*, p. 587.
- 1865 There is very little doubt that [Andrew] Johnson will turn out a Democrat, that he will be a free-trader and *strict constructionist*.—*Pall Mall Gazette*, July 10. (N.E.D.)

Strike a place, or a man. To reach, to arrive at; to meet, to encounter.

- 1798 Thence south, such a course as will *strike* William Negro's house.—*Mass. Mercury*, Oct. 30.
- 1807 *Struck* and passed the divide between [the two rivers].—Pike, 'Sources of the Mississippi,' ii. 136 (1810).
- 1811 I then resumed my march; we *struck* the cultivated grounds about five hundred yards below the town.—Report of Gov. W. H. Harrison to the Secretary of War, Nov. 18: *Mass. Spy*, Jan. 8, 1812.
- 1824 They proceeded to the Mississippi, which they *struck* at Port Crawford.—*Id.*, Feb. 25.
- 1837 That were the Ridge-d Road which we have *stricken*, on the brow of the hill.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 71 (Jan.).
- 1839 Towards evening, we *struck* Blackfoot River.—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 84.
- 1839 At about noon, we *struck* Walla Walla River.—*Id.*, p. 153.
- 1845 The whole distance we have traveled since we *struck* the river.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 59 (Cincinnati, 1847).
- 1846 A recent scout of volunteers from San Antonia *struck* the river near Presidio Rio Grande.—Letter of Gen. Taylor, Jan. 7: *Cong. Globe*, 30th Congress, 1848, p. 272, App.
- 1846 About eleven o'clock we *struck* a vast white plain, uniformly level.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I Saw of California,' p. 151 (London, 1849).
- 1852 We hid the canoe under some brush, and *struck* the war-path of the Delawares.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 28 (Phila.).
- 1853 They will probably...*strike* the main emigrant road near Fort Laramie.—*The Secr.*, Sept., p. 144 (Washington, D.C., edited by Orson Pratt).
- 1859 In journeying from Tennessee, a traveller found the mail-cart in the midst of a sea of mud, and exclaimed, "What in thunder is the matter?" "Nothing," replied the driver, "only we've *struck* Kentucky."—*Harper's Weekly*, April 16.
- 1863 [Gen. Jackson] *struck* the river at a point three miles below Williamsport.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 467.
- 1869 He *struck* the Mississippi quite low down.—E. E. Hale, 'Ingham Papers,' p. 72.
- 1878 They had *struck* the cordon of military posts which surrounded the surrendered army.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' vii. 177.
- 1878 'Fore long I *struck* an old pard o' dad's, and found he'd gone away up Red River.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 29.
- 1888 Charley Read *struck* an old tramp in the calaboose, who looked disgusted at his headquarters.—'Santa Ana Blade,' n.d. (Farmer).
- 1904 It's a new brand [of tobacco]—the best I've *struck* in a month o' Sundays.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 1f.

Strike a place, or a man—contd.

- 1909 Had I been told all that the farmers of the village of Burton knew when I *struck* the Jefferson Hotel there, I should have been spared much that is repugnant to me.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 22.
- 1910 When they *struck* the square. Sam went right down Main Street.—Eliza C. Hall, 'Land of Long Ago,' p. 228 (N. Y.).
- Strike oil, &c.** To find it in quantities. A man *strikes it rich* when the quantity is unusually large.
- 1867 As for Dave, he and I have *struck it*.—E. E. Hale, *Atlantic Monthly*, p. 111 (Jan.).
- 1878 Willie has *struck chloride*! He can sell out for \$50,000.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 368.
- 1890 It was surmised from the size and weight of his sack that he had *struck it rich*.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 130.
- 1909 Wilson took his lunch in his hand and strolled up the side of Baxter Mountain. He climbed up on a large "blow-out" and seated himself to finish his dinner. The appearance of the rock struck him as peculiar, and he chipped off a fragment. Then he called his companions that he had *struck it rich*, and staked off the North Homestake mine.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 28.

Striker. See quotations.

- 1867 The Dutchman and Englishmen and the rest of the *strikers*. Letter from Gen. Custer, April 8. (Note. *Striker* was the name of a soldier servant.)—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 529 (1888).
- 1867 I'd light pipes and make the fire, gladly, if I got a chance to name for whom I wished to play *striker*.—Letter from Mrs. Custer, *id.*, p. 533.

Stripe. Sort, kind, type.

- 1853 [He] is not at home in his present position; he has not been long in his present "*stripe*" of politics.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 576.
- 1854 —That every member of the Democratic party of whatever shade or *stripe*, is perfectly honest in all his purposes and motives.—Mr. Badger of N. Carolina, U. S. Senate, May 17: *id.*, p. 1206.
- 1854 It is necessary to raise up a certain *stripe* in the Valley, of the real Mormon grit.—J. M. Grant at the Tabernacle, Oct. 7: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 72.
- 1854 In the midst of this people you will find various *stripes* of character.—The same, Sept. 24: *id.*, iii. 67.
- 1855 If they want women to go to California with them, we will send a company of the same *stripe*.—Brigham Young, June 17: *id.*, ii. 322.
- 1856 [They] re-elected Banks and others of the same *stripe*, all wily Abolitionists.—Mr. Burnett of Kentucky, House of Repr., July 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 974, App.

Stripe—*contd.*

- 1859 In this way the Bishop may perpetuate his own *stripe* until the end of time.—Rev. Dr. Adams of Wis., in the Gen. Convention : *Richmond Enquirer*, Oct. 11, p. 4/2.
- 1859 The gentlemen in the North, of the Fifth Avenue Hotel *stripe*, who have long purses.—Mr. Wilson of Mass., the same, Dec. 8 : *id.*, p. 63.
- 1860 The negroes of the city of Philadelphia... handed over some \$15,000 to their white brethren of the Republican *stripe*.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 6, p. 4/5.
- 1862 There's Gerrit Smith an' his *stripe*, a kind of maroon-colored, mongrel breed of politicians, sunthin like a cross between a Jamaicy nigger an' an Esquimaw.—'Major Jack Downing,' Nov. 10.

Stubbed. Stubborn ; thick-set.

- 1842 Upon the hull, I guess I'm rather *stubbeder* than you be.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 117.
- 1853 Jullien is more "*stubbed*" than what Apollos was, who was tall and lank.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 437 (Oct.).
- 1854 You found a short, tough, "*stubbed*" ear, [and] put it in your pocket.—*Id.*, xliii. 432 (April).
- 1855 The back of old Winter is broken. He may be "so as to be about" a little longer ; but he won't be so "*stubbed*" as he has been.—*Id.*, xlv. 320 (March).
- 1856 "I wonder," said one, that Barker didn't compound the matter." "Oh, Barker is one of the *stubbed* sort."—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' chap. xxvii.
- 1859 No man, unless he were "*stubbeder*" than we, should ever dedicate such a book as this.—*Knick. Mag.*, lii. 216 (Feb.).

Stump, stump speech, on the stump. About eighty years ago, a tree-stump was the common pulpit of political speakers in the country. Hence the speaker was said to be "on the stump," and if he went from point to point he "stumped" the district.

- 1835 Mr. Clay perfectly understood the nature of such appeal ; they were better suited for the *stump* than the senate of the U.S.—Feb. 18 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 260.
- 1838 Mr. W., candidate for the state Senate, was *on the stump*, in shape of a huge meat-block at one corner of the Market-house.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 59 (N.Y.).
- 1838 He did not hesitate to declare that the way in which he would "use up" his opponent, when they got *on the stump*, would be a caution.—B. Drake, 'Tales, &c.,' p. 80 (Cincinnati).
- 1839 The gentleman did not understand his trade ; he had left out the very best part of a *stump speech*, and that was the "silk stockings," "Nick Biddle," "moneyed aristocracy," and "the monster." Why, he could make a better *stump speech* himself.—Mr. Proffit of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 72.

Stump, stump speech, on the stump—contd.

- 1840 The Doctor had resolved on both giving and getting a *stump speech*, and had therefore supplied himself with the stump of the Buck Eye tree, a tree from which Ohio derives the name of the Buck Eye State.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' i. 100 (Hartford, Conn.).
- 1841 Whenever it becomes necessary to discuss political subjects from the *stumps* in Illinois, I take the New Jersey elections as my text.—Mr. Reynolds of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 5 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 140, App.
- 1841 This subject constituted the theme of every Whig editor and brawling *stump orator* in the mighty West.—Mr. Weller of Ohio, the same, July 10 : *id.*, p. 147, App.
- 1852 Since I have become a Western man I can make *stump speeches*.—Brigham Young, July 11 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 41.
- 1855 He began with a prayer, and from that slid off into a *stump speech*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xx. 204.
- 1861 I did not say they had read [the bill]; but we discussed it *on the stump*.—Mr. W. M. Gwin of California, U.S. Senate, Jan. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 382/3.
- 1861 It has been my pride on many a *stump*, and in many a place to eulogize by name [these gentlemen].—Mr. John H. Reagan of Texas, House of Repr., Jan. 15 : *id.*, p. 392/2 [See also p. 408/1].
- 1863 I think the members from Louisiana came here at very nearly the commencement of the last session, and that they went off and *stumped* New England for two months.—Mr. Thaddeus Stevens of Pa., Yes, they went off and *stumped* New England, and that brought them in speedily. Mr. S. S. Cox of Ohio.—I wish to ask [Mr. Stevens] whether in case these [West Virginian] gentlemen go to New England, and *stump* it for four months, he will then agree to admit them.—Mr Robert Mallory of Kentucky, the same Dec. 7 : *id.*, p. 7/3.
- 1869 Cavanaugh and Sanders are both singularly gifted *on the stump*.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 254.

To Stump, To Stump the Democrats. See quotations

- 1800 [Oliver Wolcott took Col. Pickering prisoner, and] tied him unto the stump of a tree (from whence comes the New England phrase of Mr. Sedgwick, *stump the Democrats*). We say he Oliver tied him Timothy to a stump, and left him there all night . . . Pray is this the same Mr. Pickering who behaved so well at Lexington, who was *stumped* by Oliver Wolcott, and whom the President *stumped* again recently?—*The Aurora*, Phila., June 13.
- 1800 They believe they no longer can *stump the Democrats*.—*Id.*, Aug. 5.
- 1835 He looked kind o' *stump't*. I bid him good-bye.—Col. Crockett's 'Tour,' p. 142 (Phila.).

To Stump, To Stump the Democrats—contd.

- 1842 Mr. Arnold of Tennessee said he had been amazed—or, to use a Western phrase, *stumped*,—at the position occupied by [certain members of the House of Representatives].—Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 183.
- 1848 This answer *stumped* the court. The judge advocate was only mystified; the court was *stumped*.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, July : *id.*, p. 1017, App.
- 1848 Even our scientific doctor was entirely *stumped* with regard to [a certain herb].—C. W. Webber, 'Old Hicks the Guide,' p. 83.

Stumpage. See quotation.

- 1846 The Government charges the provincial operator nothing for "*stumpage*," in down-east language,—or in other words for the privilege of cutting the timber upon the Crown lands.—Mr. Fairfield of Maine, U.S. Senate, Jan. 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 252.

Substitute broker. One who procured substitutes in the Civil War. (Compare with this BOUNTY-JUMPER.)

- 1863 [There arose] a new kind of trader, called a *substitute broker*. . . . As soon as it seemed to be understood that the Government was determined to force men into the army whether they would or not,—that it was not going to rely on the willing soldier alone,—these *substitute brokers* made their appearance.—Mr. Edgar Cowan of Pa., U.S. Senate, Feb. 4 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 714/3.

Succotash. Indian corn and beans boiled together.

- 1792 [The Indian] *suckatash*, which is a mixture of corn and beans boiled [is] much used, and very palatable.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 93.
- 1793 Let the green *succatash* with thee contend,
Let beans and corn their sweetest juices blend.
Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty-Pudding,' p. 7 (Hallowell, 1815).
- 1816 As our government is at amity with all red tribes, the Great Father, or President, often has the complacency of eating *succatras* with his visiting Sagamores.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 40 (Boston, 1824).
- 1818 Here sat a Yankee from Weathersfield, who called for onions and fair *sagatash*.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 26 : from the *National Advocate*.
- 1832 *Suckatash* [the Indians] made from corn and beans mixed together and boiled.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 55.
- 1853 O, have they not a sublime time, a beautiful dish of *sucker-tash*!—Elder J. M. Grant at the Mormon Tabernacle, Aug. 7 : 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 346.
- 1855 Sweet corn boiled on the cob for winter *succotash*.—*Putnam's Mag.*, v. 315 (March).
- 1857 I should never be afraid of being tired with eating *sucker-tash*, so long as I had room for a single spoonful.—Brigham Young, June 7 : 'Jour. Disc.,' iv. 342.

Succotash—*contd.*

- 1862 I had rather not have [religious matters] mixed up with amusement, like a dish of *succotash*.—The same, Feb. 9: *id.*, ix. 194.
- 1869 The Indian dish denominated *succotash*, to wit, a soup of corn and beans, with a generous allowance of salt pork.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. 15.

Sucker. A native of Illinois. See BADGER.

- 1833 [The suckers of Illinois] are so called after the fish of that name from going up the river to the mines, and returning at the season when the *sucker* makes its migrations.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 207*n.* (Lond., 1835).
- 1836 The Illinoisans are called *suckers*, the inhabitants of Indiana Hoosiers, and those of Ohio Buckeyes.—Phila. *Pub. Ledger*, Oct. 14.
- 1838 I mention not this [inquisitiveness] as a fault of the worthy "*suckers*"; it is rather a misfortune.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 104 (N.Y.).
- 1847 Here were collected about fifty Illinois market wagons, and a corresponding number of *Suckers*.—'Streaks of Squatter Life,' p. 115 (Phila.).
- 1847 The *Sucker State*, the country of vast projected railroads, good cornodger, splendid banking houses, and poor currency.—*Id.*, p. 28.
- 1848 There is a swarm of "*suckers*," "hoosiers," "buckeyes," "corn-crackers," and "wolverines," eternally on the qui vive [in Wisconsin].—'Stray Subjects,' p. 79.
- 1858 Two young "*Suckers*" came out of the inn, and jumped into a one-horse pung wagon, thick with mud.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lii. 539.
- 1862 I never before knew a "*sucker*" who would not contend that we could do anything and everything as well [as], or better, than other people.—Mr. William Kellogg of Illinois, House of Repr., Jan. 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 566/2.

Sucker. A greenhorn. Slang.

- 1857 You may think I'm a *sucker*; but I've used them things enough in the mines to know that that 'ere all-fired machine is not "hydrollicks."—*S. F. Call*, Dec. 5.
- 1863 See STATES, THE.

Sugar-bush. See quotation.

- 1839 [We were] in front of a grove of tall maples, called in the language of the country a "*sugar-bush*."—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' i. 13 (Lond.).
- *.* Compare with this LUMBER-BUSH, 1850.

Sugar-camp. See TIMBERED, 1822.**Suicide.** To commit suicide.

- 1871 John Pflug, of Pekin, Ill., *suicided* from disgust at his name.—*St. Louis Democrat*, Jan. (De Vere).
- A Chinaman who had *suicided* a little earlier.—W. D.
- 1887 Howells, 'April Hopes,' ch. xxvi.

- Suit.** A set, a supply.
- 1704 The Governour, wanting a *Sute* of Sails to be made for a Sloop, put him to make them.—*Boston News-Letter*, May 15: J. T. Buckingham, 'Newspaper Literature,' i. 13 (1850).
- 1794 I have the richest *suit of curtains* in town.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1.
- 1797 Two Africans were found on board; together with several *suits of irons* carefully packed up in casks.—*Id.*, March 15.
- 1812 [The vessel] has nearly two *suits of sails*.—Advt., *Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 24.
- 1851 There were no *suits* of knives and forks, and the family helped themselves on wooden plates, with cuttoes.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 15.
- 1854 She had a thick *suit of black hair*.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, Oct. 18 (Bartlett).
- 1857 The California ladies are generally brunettes. . . . Bonnets are unknown. During the morning their magnificent tresses are allowed to hang at full length down their backs. I have seen *suits of hair* at least three feet long.—Carvalho, 'Travels in the Far West,' p. 243 (N.Y.).
- 1858 The most magnificent *suit of hair* ever seen flowing down woman's fair shoulders.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 19 (De Vere).
- Sull.** To sulk. Local.
- 1903 My oxen *sull* whenever they get hot. (S.E. Missouri.) —'Dialect Notes,' ii. 332.
- Sump.** A cess-pool.
- 1904 Make that *sump* six feet deep. (No local reference given.) —'Dialect Notes,' ii. 421.
- Sun-down, Sun-up.** Sun set, sun rise.
- 1796 The Elephant is to be seen in High-Street, from six o'clock in the morning to *sun-down*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 29.
- 1810 He heard chopping in that lot until *sun-down*.—*The Repertory*, Boston, April 13.
- 1817 [He] accused him of cheating him by selling him a fellow who couldn't see half a yard after *sundown*.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 123 (N.Y.).
- 1820 The wind blew with uncommon violence, increasing if possible until *sundown*.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 26.
- 1840 The gentlemen followed before *sundown*, and all returned home before candle-light. — E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' ii. 14.
- 1843 We discovered on a bank, just about "*sun-up*," a full-grown male Buckeye.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 56.
- 1843 We rose before *sun-up*.—*Id.*, i. 190.
- 1843 If you keep that course, you'll reach the licks about *sun-up*.—*Id.*, ii. 260.
- 1852 As the Injuns would say, we come from towards *sundown*. —C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 17 (Phila.).

Sun-down, Sun-up—*contd.*

- 1865 "I'd know the mar's shoe 'mong a million." . . . "And yere it ar," shouted a man with one of the lanterns, "as plain as *sun-up*."—*Atlantic Monthly*, p. 441 (Oct.).
- 1870 I had walked fourteen miles since *sunup*.—Letter to *N. Y. Tribune*, March 14 (De Vere).
- 1878 The soldier hitched up at daylight, and whipped his mules to Wingate by *sundown*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 244.
- * * * The word *sun-up* is not traceable to the Anglo-Saxon, as Longfellow supposed. [See *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. iii. 38.]

Sunflower State, The. Kansas.

- 1891 I have heard these other nicknames: . . . Kansas, the *Sunflower State*.—Mr. L. Fairweather, in *American Notes and Queries*, vii. 132/1.
- 1899 "While it is easy to speak of our Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, and Twenty-third, this does not include the boys from the *Sunflower state* engaged in all branches of the service."—'Kansas Hist. Collections' (1900), vi. 130.
- 1900 "Let the service of the *Sunflower state*, when the scars of a warring conflict are still unhealed, be remembered in the fact that she never gave room for draft or conscription."—*Id.*, p. 374.
- 1909 In the light of recent dispatches from Chanute, Kan., it would appear that the *sunflower State* is to be blamed if no successor is found to occupy the high post of chief humorist, now filled by Mark Twain.—*Denver Republican*, Nov.

Suppaw. Porridge or "mush."

- 1680 When it is cooked, it is called *sapaen* or *homma*. Transl. of 'A Voyage to New Netherland.'—'Memoirs of the Long Island Historical Society,' i. 217 (1867).
- 1793
 Ev'n in thy native regions, how I blush
 To hear the Pennsylvanians call thee Mush!
 On Hudson's banks while men of Belgic spawn
 Insult and eat thee by the name *Suppaw*.
 Joel Barlow, 'The Hasty Pudding,' p. 6 (Hallowell, 1815).
- 1809 The Van Bummels were the first inventors of *suppaw*, or mush and milk.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' ii. 190 (1812).
- 1821 The house contained neither bread nor flour; and we were obliged to sup upon *sipaw*. (Note) Hasty pudding made of maize.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' iv. 104.
- 1832 The unvaried supper [of the Dutch settlers] was *supon* (mush) . . . generally with buttermilk, blended with molasses.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 36.
- 1832 See RULLITIES.
- 1833 I helped myself with an iron spoon from a dish of *suppaw* and fishing up a cup from the bottom of a huge pan of milk I poured the snowy liquid over the boiled meal, which rivalled it in whiteness.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 141 (Lond., 1835).

Suspenders. Braces.

- 1810 Part of the buckle of his *suspenders* and several pieces of his coat were extracted from the wound.—*Mass. Spy*, May 23.
- 1824 Albert Brown has on hand Gloves, Handkerchiefs, *Suspenders*, &c.—Advt., *id.*, April 28.
- 1833 Ben has to mend his *suspender*, and pull up his breeches.—‘Sketch of David Crockett,’ p. 40 (N.Y.).
- 1834 Jest then the General got in a way he has of twitchin’ with his *suspender buttons* behind; and to rights he broke one off.—‘Major Jack Downing,’ p. 149.
- 1836 The days of the Revolution were before the invention of *suspenders*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, Dec. 28.
- 1840 His corduroy trowsers had but one *suspender* to keep them up, thus giving them rather a lop-sided set.—J. P. Kennedy, ‘Quodlibet,’ p. 97 (1860).
- 1840 Eyes as black at a pair of *suspender buttons*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 98 (Feb.).
- 1842 The judicially sober person was found suspended to the ceiling by his *suspender*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 14.
- 1847 Is it not enough that we have “*suspenders*” or “*gallowses*,” as our youthful nomenclature used to have it? For one, I have dispensed with both straps and *suspenders*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 386 (April).
- 1847 I have sold today a shot-bag and a pair of *suspenders* for \$1 each.—‘Life of Benjamin Lundy,’ p. 53 (Phila.).
- a.1848 Don’t try to get up in the world too fast, for a rapid expansion may burst your *suspenders*.—Dow Jr., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 261.
- 1850 The boys, though a little short in pantaloons, and flush of whipstrings to tie them down, displayed their bran new “*gallowses*,” alias “*suspenders*.”—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 24 (Jan.).
- 1852 Gentlemen [said an auctioneer] the great beauty of my *suspenders* consists in the fact that, while they are short enough for any boy, they are long enough for any man.—Mr. Nabers of Mississippi, House of Repr., March 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 341, App.
- 1853 I broke a *suspender-button*, hopping about like a frog on all-fours.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 20.
- 1854 Next is something that you all ought to have gentlemen; a lot of good *gallowses*, sometimes called *suspenders*.—*S. F. News*, n.d.
- 1858 The jury came to the conclusion that the deceased was a German, from the fact of his wearing *suspenders*.—*Wyandotte Argus*, n.d.
- Surprise party.** Sometimes called a donation party. A gathering of the members of a religious congregation at the house of their preacher, with the ostensible purpose of contributing provisions, &c., for his support.
- 1859 Now then, for a *surprise-party*!—‘Professor at the Breakfast Table,’ ch. 4. [The whole thing is described.]

Suspicion, v. To suspect.

- 1834 They began to *suspicion*, maybe, that they had got the wrong sow by the ear.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 64.
- 1836 I *suspicion* he's one of that bounding brotherhood.—*Knick. Mag.*, vii. 15 (Jan.).
- 1843 It was *suspicioned*, if Mrs. C. was not my wife, she ought to be.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 72.
- 1848 By this time I began to *spicion* thar was sumthing rong.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 61.
- 1851 Says he, Me Uncle Toby never'll *suspicion* that.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 123 (Feb.).
- 1851 He didn't know I was thar. If he had er *suspicioned* it, he'd no more swore than he'd dar'd kiss my Sal.—'Polly Peablossom's Wedding,' p. 51.
- 1856 I don't see why you should *suspicion* me, captain, I've always done my duty.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 39.
- 1856 Then she laughed fit to kill. I didn't '*spicion* p'raps what she was at.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 433 (Oct.).
- 1857 "You've only been telling a dream." "Wal, some people that I've told it to have *suspicioned* that it might be so."—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 63.
- 1858 At las', after runnin' all round, and ebbery which way, kinder 'stracted like, I 'gan for to '*spicion* in my mind what de matter was.—*Knick. Mag.*, li. 155 (Feb.).
- 1861 I *suspicion* that something's hit him.—Theodore Winthrop, 'Cecil Dreeme,' p. 118.
- 1890 They kinder *suspicioned* from my looks that I had found good prospects.—Haskins, 'Argonauts of California,' p. 250.
- Swale**. A tract of low land, generally swampy.
- 1667 He may cutt in a place called the *Swale*, adjoining to the Ceader Swampe.—'Dedham Records,' Mass., iv. 135.
- 1805 A *swale* or valley affords . . . copious springs of water.—T. Bigelow, 'Journal of a Tour to Niagara Falls,' p. 37 (1876).
- 1809 Among the interval-lands are to be reckoned the *swales*, or rich hollows.—E. A. Kendall, 'Travels,' iii. 193-4.
- 1872 *Swale*, in the sense of a tract of low, generally swampy land, is an old word preserved in the remoter districts of New England and some parts of the Far West.—(De Vere).
- * * * These extracts are condensed from a note by Mr. Albert Matthews, *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iv. 352 (Oct. 28, 1911).
- 1911 Of the Second Massachusetts [General Slocum] spoke with high appreciation. Particularly at Gettysburg its services had been great and its sacrifice costly. He spoke feelingly of the young officers who had been slain and also of humbler men. Since that time I have stood by the simple stone at the "bloody *swale* at the foot of Culp's Hill" which marks the position held that day by the Second Massachusetts. It takes no¹/₂ trained eye to see that it was a point of especial difficulty and importance.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 4, p. 6/2.

Swamp, swamp mud. See quotations.

- 1775 By *swamps* in general is to be understood any low grounds subject to inundations, distinguished from marshes in having a large growth of timber, and much underwood, canes, reeds, wythes, vines, briars, and such like, matted together.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 25.
- 1821 I agree that *swamp mud* or, as the Scotch and English farmers call it, peat moss, is not manure; but good manure may be made of swamp mud.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 21: from the *Rhode-Island American*.

Swamp angel. A dweller in the swamps.

- 1857 Angels who would thus visit us are *swamp angels*,—they are filthy.—H. C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 12: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 31.

Swamper. See quotation.

- 1857 Making a logging-road in the Maine woods is called "*swamping it*," and they who do the work are called "*swampers*."—H. D. Thoreau, 'The Maine Woods,' p. 225 (1864).

Swamper. A man of all work in a "saloon." The name probably comes from his swamping or cleaning the place out. Western.

- 1907 Late last night the man who was killed by a trolley car on the Sellwood line was identified as Matthias Frueh, 69 years of age, who resided at Oregon City. He was a *swamper* in a saloon in that place.—*The Oregonian*, Oct. 13.
- 1911 —When Winiford Johnson learned that John M. Johnson, whom she married in Portland, was employed as a "*swamper*" in a San Francisco saloon she came to the conclusion that he had descended altogether too low in the social scale and decided to institute suit for divorce.—*Id.*, Aug. 30.

Swamp-law. The rule that might makes right.

- 1832 Nor would they... shrink from a "trial by battle," or by "*swamp-law*," which seemed to rest much upon the same principles.—Williamson, 'History of Maine,' ii. 173 (Referring to the year 1731).

Swamp-oak. Any kind of oak growing in a swamp. See PIN-OAK.

- 1854 *The swamp-oak*, with his royal purple on,
Glares red as blood across the sinking sun,
As one who prouder to a falling fortune cleaves.
Lowell, 'Indian-Summer Reverie.'

Swap. To exchange.

- 1742 Verily [said Sancho] the laws of chivalry are very strict, since they do not extend to the *swapping* of one ass for another.—Charles Jarvis, 'Transl. of Don Quixote,' i. 110.
- 1782 It is needless to describe [his clothes], as he would *swap* them away.—Runaway advt., *Maryland Journal*, July 23.

Swap—*contd.*

- 1797 [The Indians examined] our hats which they wanted us to exchange for theirs, crying out "*Swop! swop!*" a word which they had borrowed from the Kentuckians.—Francis Baily, F.R.S., 'Journal of a Tour,' p. 378 (Lond., 1856).
- bef.* 1811 A Connecticut dealer, who was "down" with a fever, in a very dangerous state, had had a particular medicine sent to him, to be taken four times a day. A friend, calling in, smelt the mixture, and pronounced it to be excellent; it had cured his grandmother. "It is worth a dollar a bottle," said he. At these electrifying words the dying man opened his eyes, raised himself an inch, and faltered out, "A dollar a bottle, Enoch! There are three bottles of it, and if you've no objection I'll *swap* the lot for your black terrier."—John Bernard, 'Retrospections of America,' p. 40 (N.Y., 1887).
- 1811 [The Indians] called out, in their mode of defiance, "Will you *swap* a fight?"—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 28.
- 1823 One of the Indian boys went into a store, and wanted to "*swap*" for whiskey.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, April 15.
- 1825 [Your genuine Yankee] will "*swap*" anything with you; "trade" with you for anything; but is never the man to give anything away.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 154.
- 1833 You took the first pick, but I love my Eleanor too well to have the slightest inclination to *swap*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 247 (Phila.).
- 1840 See HORSE-SWAP.
- 1844 The mysteries of trade, and the science of *swap* and pledge.—'Scribblings and Sketches,' p. 137 (Phila.).
- 1845 I have known two men to make \$10,000 each by *swapping* lots.—*Bangor Mercury*, n.d.
- 1846 Such as rode ponies were desirous of *swapping* them for the American horses of the emigrants.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 37 (Lond., 1849).
- 1846 Those who now took the opposite side had *swapped* sides, and had taken the wrong side.—Mr. Rhett of S. Carolina, House of Repr., Aug. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1187.
- 1854 See TRADE.
- 1857 When two fellows *swap* guns, 'taint the feller that gets the poorest gun that feels proud.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 171.
- 1859 The South... loves religion in the pulpit and politics on the stump—and despises both, when they change places and *swap* sentiments.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Dec. 2, p. 2/1.
- 1861 It is no time for us to be *swapping* jack-knives when the ship is sinking.—Mr. H. M. Rice of Minnesota, U.S. Senate, July 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 242/2.
- 1863 We declined... to *swap* the principles of Patrick Henry for those of mud-sill Hammond.—Mr. Shellabarger of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 27: *id.*, p. 71/1, App.

Swap—*contd.*

1870 Father's necessities led him one day to *swop* her off, and by giving some boot to get an abler horse.—Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' p. 82.

Swartwout. To swindle and abscond. **Swartwouter.** An absconding swindler or embezzler. In 1820, Gen. Robert Swartwout, Federal naval agent, defaulted for \$68,000. The government obtained satisfaction by taking a mortgage of \$75,000 on his property. He was a member of "Tammany." (*N.Y. Evening Post*, Nov. 1, 1909). Eighteen years later Samuel Swartwout was appointed by Andrew Jackson, Collector of Customs for the Port of New York. He embezzled more than \$1,000,000, and was removed by Martin Van Buren. (See *The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Dec. 1, 1838). Reference may be made to the *Congressional Globe*, 1838, pp. 16-21, 31-35, &c., Appendix.

1839 Swartwout took steam for England in two days afterwards, Aug. 16th. If this was speed, "go it, ye terrapins!"—*The Jeffersonian*, Feb. 2. (This paper, Feb. 2 and 9, contains several columns concerning him).

1839 Considerable excitement prevailed at Cincinnati, in consequence of the real or supposed *Swartwouting* [of a bank cashier].—*New-Bedford Daily Mercury*, Sept. 18.

1839 True farmers all, we earn our bread,
No *Pricing* or *Swartwouting*,
Save pricing beeves so much a head, &c.
Farmers' Monthly Visitor, i. 173 (Concord, N.H.).

1840 I live in daily fear of being compelled to "absquatulate," or "*Swartwout*," or whatever else the reader may choose to call it.—*Knick. Mag.*, xvi. 480 (Dec.).

1841 [Mr. Howard] talked to us about the land officers *Swartwouting*, and all that.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Representatives, June 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 132.

1841 All the *Swartwoutings*, peculations, and defalcations which had taken place under the late administration.—Mr. Henry Clay, U.S. Senate, July 12: *id.*, p. 183.

1844 "An English *Swartwouter*."—W.S.W., clerk in a Birmingham bank, absconded.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 22.

Sweat-box. An unlawful method, used by some policemen and jailers of extorting confessions by force or terror from suspected persons. It is also called the "third degree." Like the administration of criminal law generally, this is a disgrace to American civilization.

1902 The prisoner has become almost a physical wreck, under the "*sweat-box*" ordeal.—Chicago paper, quoted in a letter to the *N.Y. Nation*, Aug. 28, p. 169.

Sweeny. The "big head"; self-conceit. Slang.

1854 Too many have got the *sweeny*, and the skins are growing tight on their flesh.—H. C. Kimball at the Mormon Tabernacle, Nov. 26: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 158.

1857 I feel as Moses said to a certain class that had the *sweeny*.—The same, at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 26: *id.*, v. 88.

Sweet potato. See quotation.

1775 The esculent convolvulus, vulgo *sweet potatoe*, claims the next place. The following list will point out the varieties. 1st, Spanish. 2nd, Carolina. 3rd, Brimstone. 4th, Purple potatoe. 5th, Bermudas.—B. Romans, 'Florida,' p. 123.

1846 See SMALL POTATOES.

Swingle-tree. The cross-bar to which the traces of a cart or plough are fastened. Eng. dial.

1819 [The dead horse] was tied to a *swingletree*, and was thus dragged off.—*Mass. Spy*, March 24: from the *N.Y. Evening Post*.

1834 The horses gave such a spring, that the *swingle-tree-bolt* snapped.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 281 (Lond., 1835).

1840 The horse broke loose from the coach, taking with him a part of what are now called "lead bars," but which [were formerly] called *swingle trees*.—Mr. Grundy of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, March 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 227, App.

1842 If I hain't larnt him everything and a good deal more, may I be *swingled treed* with a broad axe.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, March 24.

* * In the last quotation, the allusion appears to be to *swingle-tree*, the movable part of a flail.

Swingling-board. A board used in beating flax.

1819 My wife threw a *swingling board* at the man who had me by the hand, and broke his hold.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 3.

Switch, Switch-engine. A switch is a side-track on which cars may be shunted or "switched."

1862 Carl volunteered to build a "*switch*" and a station-house for the benefit of one of the railroad companies.—*Knicker. Mag.*, lix. 466 (May).

1910 A Union Pacific *switch engine* had backed into the prison yard.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, April 21.

Switchell. See quotations.

1801 Drink *Switchel*, that is, Molasses or Maple Sugar mixed with water.—'Spirit of the Farmer's Museum,' p. 267.

1824 His remarks have been mere porridge and chips—Yankee *switchell*—milk and water trash.—Letter to *The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., June 12, p. 55/2.

1825 The toddy, egg-nog, and *switchell* (a drink made of molasses and water, half and half, in use, we believe, at Bunker's Hill) had gone about rather freely.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 256.

1850 Judd's 'Margaret,' ii. 6 ('Century Dict.').

Swither. A state of vexation. Rare.

1836 I laughed heartily to think what a *swither* I had left poor Job in, at not gratifying his curiosity.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 75 (Phila.).

- Symmes's hole.** A hole supposed to pass through the earth from pole to pole. Captain John Cleves Symmes (1780-1829), served in the U.S. Army. He propounded his very curious theory in 1818; lectured on it at Cincinnati, at Col. Carr's, at the Cincinnati Hotel, and at the Vine Street Church; [See *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*, Feb. 20, 1824]; and in 1826-7 at Union College. In 1826 "Symmes's Theory of Concentric Spheres: demonstrating that the earth is hollow, habitable within, and wholly open about the poles" was published by one of his followers; the preface bearing date Aug., 1824, and being succeeded by 'An Apology to Capt. Symmes.' See also the *Atlantic Monthly*, April, 1873
- 1824 "Terrestrial spheres CONSTITUTE Magellanic Clouds.—John Cleves Symmes, Cincinnati, March 30, 1824."—This notice, without any comment, occurs in the *Cincinnati Gazette*, April 9, p. 3/2.
- 1824 On Saturday evening Mr. Matthews will lecture on Capt. Symmes' theory of Concentric Spheres.—*Cincinnati Emporium*, March 4, p. 3/4 (Advt.).
- 1825 I should have been glad to have found any hole to have hid myself in; the very centre of *Symmes's* would have been welcome to me.—Daniel Webster in Curtis's 'Life' of him, i. 70 (1870).
- 1835 May I be shot if you might run with this same craft of yourn, through and out of *Symmes's lower hole* and back again before I could get through half what I've seen.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 145 (Phila.).

T

Tab, to keep. See KEEP TAB.

Table fish. Not in the N.E.D. Is this any particular species?

- 1770 These are advertised in the *Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 15.
- 1812 Ten quintals first quality Isle Shoal *Table Fish*, for sale on board the sloop Betsey.—*Id.*, Aug. 17.

Tacky. A small pony.

- 1835 [He was] mounted upon a little ambling pony, or *tacky*, from the marsh—a sturdy little animal in much use, though of repute infinitely below its merits.—W. G. Simms, 'The Yemassee,' i. 241 (N.Y.).
- 1836 [A bet of \$100] is enough for a little *tacky* race like this.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky,' p. 16 (1846).
- 1838 An accident happening to my horse, I was obliged to hire one of the little animals called "*marsh tackies*" to carry me over a creek.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recoll: of a Southern Matron,' p. 131.
- 1839 [They] killed the peddler's fine Kentucky horse, and wounded my Indian *tackey*.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Wild Scenes,' ii. 61 (Lond.).
- 1840 [He] could not bear the idea of a man's life being put in competition with the value of a *tackey* not worth five pounds.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' i. 64.

Tacky—*contd.*

- 1846 Mac mounted a piney-wood *tacky* (named Rosum) and hid him off to Charleston.—'Quarter Race, &c.,' p. 147.
- 1856 The "marsh *tackey*" was no Arab, yet he might have had Arab blood in him.—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 64 (N.Y.).
- 1861 Every disunion *tackey* cries out, don't coerce.—*Oregon Argus*, May 4.
- 1890 *Tacky parties* in Kentucky are those in which the guests wear their old clothes.—'Dialect Notes,' i. 66.
- 1896 The word is used of a hoyden in Indiana and Kansas.—*Id.*, i. 425.

* * * In the latter citations the word is employed figuratively, and in an opprobrious sense.

Tag-lock. A matted lock of wool. 1615, N.E.D.

- 1857 The farmer never takes a sheep into the water to wash him, until the *tag-locks* are first cut off.—Heber C. Kimball, at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 23: 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 176.

Tailings. The refuse of from stamping and crushing mills.

- 1860 [Their] labors are confined to washing by a more careful method the *tailings* or refuse from the end of the sluices.—*Harper's Mag.*, April, p. 610 (Bartlett).

Take back. To retract a statement.

- 1775 I had...made some complaints of you, but I will *take them all back* again.—Abigail Adams in 'Fam. Letters' (1876) 86. (N.E.D.)
- 1847 "Do you *take back* the word?" said the insulted youth.—*California Star*, Yerba Buena, March 6.
- 1850 I *take it all back*.—the whole of it; I rub it all out—I expunge it.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, April 12: *Conj. Globe*, p. 721.
- 1854 Mr. Richardson. "I *take back* any thing that I may have said objectionable to the gentleman." Mr. Smith. "I am not asking the gentleman to *take back* anything."—House of Rep., Jan. 18: *id.*, p. 204.
- 1885 I've disgusted you—I see that; but I didn't mean to. I—I *take it back*.—W. D. Howells, 'Silas Lapham,' ch. 15. (Century Dict.)
- 1860 There is not a word in that letter that I *take back* tonight. There is not a sentiment in it that I disavow.—Speech of Wm. L. Yancey at Memphis, Tenn.: *Richmond Enquirer*, Sept. 4, p. 2/5.

Take hold. To apprehend and appreciate.

- 1830 It has always appeared to me that, whenever religion called in the aid of form and display, the women "*took hold*" more naturally than the men.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 72.

- Take on.** To assume, to adopt. 1799, N.E.D.
 1855 The cheek of Kitty *took on* a deep scarlet tinge.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' ii. 243 (N.Y.).
- 1864 Life always *takes on* the character of its motive.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 47.
- 1904 With the disappearance of tallow-dips and pine-knots, people had *taken on* city ways.—W. N. Harben, 'The Georgians,' p. 150.
- 1908 The Senatorial contest in Ohio has *taken on* national interest.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 31.
- Take the rag.** To carry off the palm.
 1833 Well, Sam, you do *take the rag off the bush*, that's sartin.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 217 (Lond.).
- 1843 There was present every chap in the settlement that could split a bullet on his knife, or *take the rag off the bush*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 126.
- 1848 [The question] not only *took the rag off the bush*, but took the bush itself off the ground.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, U.S. Senate, July: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1017, App.
- 1854 Elvira *takes the rag* off anything there's about these parts.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 576 (Dec.).
- Take water.** To abandon one's position.
 1854 "If it please your honor, I believe I will *take water*" (a common expression, signifying that the person using it would take a nonsuit).—Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 275.
- 1909 "*To take backwater*" is mentioned in 'Dialect Notes,' iii. 379, as a phrase used with similar purport in Alabama.
- Tall.** Remarkable, prodigious. 1670, N.E.D.
 1840 I never seen *taller* lying than that at a ward 'meeting'.—*Knick. Mag.*, xv. 378 (May).
- 1844 These men who are hankering after the "spoils of office" had just as well prepare themselves for one of the *tallest* falls they ever got.—Mr. Hardin of Illinois, House of Repr., March 21: *Cong. Globe*, p. 631, App.
- 1853 A remarkable case of *tall* swearing came off before the Recorder a day or two ago.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 29.
- 1853 We hear the beginning of some *tall* swearing behind us.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 58 (July).
- 1857 It was the *tallest* kind of a treat for him when he could afford to buy a small boiled lobster.—*Id.*, xlix. 38 (Jan.).
- 1861 This is the kind of country we'll catch the Yankees in, if they come to invade us. They'll have some pretty *tall* swimming, and get knocked on the head, if ever they gets to land. I wish there was ten thousand of the cusses in, this minute.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' April 16.
- 1869 It was said of old Ewell that he could swear the scalp off an Apache any time; and one can readily imagine that he did some *tall* swearing on this occasion.—J. Ross Browne, 'Apache Country,' p. 156.
- 1880 I became satisfied that, if I indulged at all, I would be very apt to do some very *tall* drinking.—Peter H. Burnett, 'Recollections,' p. 37 (N.Y.).

Tamale. See quotation.

1893 A *tamale* is a curious and dubious combination of chicken hash, meal, olives, red pepper, and I know not what, enclosed in a corn-husk.—Kate Sanborn, 'S. California,' p. 29. (N.E.D.)

Tammany. A political association in New York, organized to support the policy of Thomas Jefferson, and continued under Democratic auspices. See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 126, 154, 278; and 'Encycl. Britannica.' The name is that of an Indian chief, with whom William Penn negotiated for land. In course of time this chief was jocularly or ignorantly called "Saint Tammany" or "King Tammany"; and a festival was kept in his honour on old May-day. For examples of the word before it assumed a political tone see the N.E.D.

1788 'American Museum,' iv. 308-9: Letter in reply to "Bellisarius," signed "*Tammany*," Nov. 2, 1786: to which "A Poor Soldier" rejoins:—"The old man asked me if I had seen the letter signed *Tammany*. I told him I had. And who is *Tammany*? said the blind man. *Tammany*, said I, is the tutelary saint and patron of America."

1794 The opera of '*Tammany*; or, America discovered,' was advertised in the *Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Nov. 8.

1808 A tribe of savages in New York, called the "*Tammany Society*," lately addressed a letter to Mr. Jefferson, in which they flattered him egregiously.—*The Balance*, April 26, p. 66.

1842 *Tammany Society*, or Columbian Order, was founded by William Mooney, an upholsterer residing in the city of New York, some time in the administration of President Washington. The institution takes its name from the celebrated Indian chief Tammany.—J. D. Hammond, 'Hist. of Political Parties,' i. 340. [There was a *Tammany Club*, which met on May 1, 1772, and which may have been the nucleus of the larger organization.]

Tangle-foot. A slang term for whisky.

1871 A thirsty Vermonter hitched his horse to a freight-car standing on a side-track, while he proceeded leisurely toward a neighboring saloon in quest of *tangle-foot*.—*Hartford Courant*, March 17 (Bartlett).

Tardy. This word, not much used in English prose, is constantly employed in the U.S. and in Canada with reference to lateness in school-attendance.

1789 Surgeons may be too officious as well as too *tardy*.—Letter from Surgeon Barnabas Binney, *Am. Museum*, vi. 117.

1891 [He] asked to be informed when luncheon was ready, as he did not wish to be *tardy*.—W. N. Harben, 'Almost Persuaded,' p. 23 (N.Y.).

Tar-heel. A North-Carolinian.

1864 A poor, starving *Tar-heel* [prisoner] at Elmira.—‘Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,’ ii. 232.

1889 The mountain “*tar-heel*” gradually drifted into a condition of dreary indifference to all things sublunary but hog and hominy.—‘Journal of American Folk-Lore,’ ii. 95. (N.E.D.)

Tarnal. Eternal. A Yankee form of swearing.

1790 The snarl-headed curs fell a-kicking and cursing of me at such a *tarnal* rate, that . . . I was glad to take to my heels.—R. Tyler, ‘Contrast’ (1887), ii. 39. (N.E.D.)

1825 I know your *tarnal rigs*, inside and out, says I.—John Neal, ‘Brother Jonathan,’ i. 158.

1837 A *tarnal* clean trick was sarved upon a feller in Market Street, a day or two ago.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, March 6.

1846 Jest go home an’ ask our Nancy
 Whether I’d be sech a goose
 Ez to jine ye,—guess you’d fancy
 The *etarnal* bung was loose.

1848 The ship drifted on tew a korril reef, and rubbed a *tarnal* big hole in her plankin’.—W. E. Burton, ‘Waggeries,’ p. 17 (Phila.).

1890 See VARMINT.

Tarnation. See NATION.

Tarring and Feathering. This practice cannot be claimed as an American invention, though it came into frequent use, on both sides, in the War of Independence. Mr. Ruskin (‘Fors Clavigera,’ Letter iii.) states that Richard Cœur-de-Lion, provided, in his laws for the government of his fleet in his expedition to Palestine, that whoever should be convicted of theft should have his head shaved, melted pitch poured upon it, and the feathers from a pillow shaken over it. This was in the year 1189. See Rymers’s ‘Foedera,’ i. 65 (1704).

1769 It is described as “the present popular Punishment for modern Delinquents.”—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 6.

1770 An Importer, covered over with Tar, would shine with an artificial Lustre.—*Id.*, Aug. 27: from the *Connecticut Courant*.

1773 What think you, Captain [Ayres], of a halter round your neck—ten gallons of liquid tar decanted on your pate—with the feathers of a dozen wild geese laid over that to enliven your appearance?—Notice by the Committee on Tarring and Feathering: *Newport Mercury*, Dec. 20.

1774 They began to inflict upon them the modern Punishment (Tar and Feathers).—*Mass. Gazette*, Jan. 24. [This was for leaving the Essex Hospital before they were cleansed from the Small-pox].

1774 They proceeded to elevate Mr. Malcom from his sled into a cart, and, stripping him to buff and breeches, gave him a modern jacket, and hied him away to the liberty-tree.—*Id.*, Jan. 31.

Tarring and Feathering—*contd.*

- 1774 Jan. 30. the following Hand-bill was pasted up in Boston :
 "Brethren, and Fellow Citizens ! This is to certify, that the modern punishment lately inflicted on the ignoble John Malcom was not done by our Order.—We reserve that Method for bringing Villains of greater Consequence to a Sense of Guilt and Infamy. JOYCE, junr. (Chairman of the Committee on Taring and Feathering).—*Boston-Gazette*, Jan. 31.
- 1774 *King*. I see they threatened to pitch and feather you.
Hutchinson. Tarr and feather, may it please your Majesty ; but I don't remember that ever I was threatened with it.
Lord Dartmouth. Oh ! yes, when Malcolm was tarred and feathered, the committee for tarring and feathering blamed the people for doing it, that being a punishment reserved for a higher person, and we suppose you was intended.—Thomas Hutchinson, 'Diary,' July 1 (i. 164).
- 1774 The Tea-Merchant cry'd for Quarter, begging they wou'd not cloath him in the modern dress, the Weather being excessively hot.—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 5.
- 1774 The sons of liberty have almost killed one of my church, tarred and feathered two, abused others, &c.—Rev. Samuel Peters to Rev. Dr. Auchmuty, Oct. 1 : *id.*, Oct. 24.
- 1775 As I have ever been an Enemy to Mobs and Riots, so I always abhorred the infernal Practice of stripping a man naked, tarring and feathering his Body, and carting him through the Streets.—Letter in the *Mass. Gazette*, March 13.
- 1775 [The British retaliate.] The hand of despotism has seized our most darling privilege with ruthless gripe. On Thursday, twelve regulars tarred and feathered a minute man, —I believe he is an officer.—(Letter in same column.)
- 1775 See also a graphic description of a tarring and feathering by the soldiers.—*Id.*, p. 3, col. 2.
- 1775 Thomas Ditson, jun., makes affidavit to his being seized by the British :—"Then came in a soldier with a bucket of tar and a pillowbear of feathers. I was made to strip, which I did to my breeches ; they then tarred and feathered me, and while they were doing it an officer who stood at the door said, 'Tar and feather his breeches,' which they accordingly did."—*Newport Mercury*, March 20.
- Tarry**. This verb, familiar in the A.V. of the Bible, survived in the U.S. till a late period, and may occasionally be met with even now.
- 1778 His horse being something lame, he *tarried* all that day.—*Maryland Journal*, July 21.
- 1819 As it was late in the afternoon, my conductor concluded to "*tarry*," as he called it, for the night.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star : Mass. Spy*, May 12.

Tarry—*contd.*

- 1819 I calculate to *tarry* with you here throughout the summer season.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 8: from the *New Orleans Chronicle*.
- 1892 [They] were going to attend high mass, . . . so we had no time to *tarry*.—*The Nation*, N.Y., Oct. 27, p. 318. (N.E.D.)

Tassel. v. To form into tassels.

- 1785 [Indian corn] should be kept clean and well worked . . . till it shoots and *tassels* at least.—Geo. Washington, 'Writings' (1891), xii. 227. (N.E.D.)
- 1840 The corn is unusually forward; I saw fields of it beginning to *tassel* July the 6th.—E. S. Thomas, 'Reminiscences,' i. 272. [This of course is Indian corn.]

Tautaug or **Tautog**. The black-fish. 1643, N.E.D.

- 1765 A Fishing-Smack lately brought in a great number of *Tortaug*, a sort of Fish very rare in this place.—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 12.
- 1823 [They are] angling for cod, haddock, and *tautog* from the high and craggy rocks [at Nahant].—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 27.
- 1824 I'm the god of sea, your perceive by my head;
The sharks and the blue-fish behold me with dread,
And I rule the *tautaug* and menhaden.
The Microscope, Albany, Feb. 21: from the *Providence Journal*.
- 1843 Pull away—here he is—*Tautaug*—three-pounder . . . This is sport, one-two-three-nine Bass, and thirty *Tautaug*.—N. E. Silliman, 'Gallop among American Scenery,' p. 174 (N.Y. and Phila.).

Team, **A**. "A host in himself."

- 1833 [He] was not only *a whole team*, but a team and a half, good measure.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 123-4 (Lond.).
- 1840 Now who shall we have for our governor, governor,
governor,
Who, tell me who?
Let's have Bill Seward, for he's *a team*,
For Tippecanoe and Tyler too (*bis*),
And with them we'll beat little Van, Van;
Van is a used up man,
And with them we'll beat little Van.
From 'The New Whig Song,' *N.Y. Herald*, Oct. 3, and *Niles's National Register*, Nov. 7.
- 1842 Cadwallader is *a whole team*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 4.
- 1844 She's as slick as a peeled maple, and as clear grit as a skinned tater rolled in the sand, and I'm called *a whole team*, and *a big dog under a* [the] *waggon*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 167.
- a.1848 You are *a whole team*, and *a drum-major to spare*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 284.

Team, A.—contd.

- 1851 Mike is a *team* and no mistake.—‘Polly Peasblossom’s Wedding,’ p. 67.
- 1852 Isn’t [the boy] a beauty? Isn’t he a *whole team and one horse extra*?—C. A. Bristed, ‘The Upper Ten Thousand,’ p. 56 (N.Y.).
- 1852 Lew Whetzel was a *whole team* at shootin’ . . . You’re a *team* in the way of cookin’, you are.—H. C. Watson, ‘Nights in a Block-house,’ pp. 142, 179 (Phila.).
- 1854 Jump him up when you will, and you’ll find him a “*full team*” at anything.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 416 (Phila.).
- 1858 See Appendix VII.
- 1865 Columbus was a *four-horse team fillibuster*, and a *large yaller dog under the waggin*.—‘Artemus Ward on his Travels,’ i. 5.

Teetotally, Teetotaciously. Completely, utterly.

- 1833 [I cannot] regale you with the delicate repast of a constant repetition of the terms bodyaciously, *teetotaciously*, obfusticated, &c. Though I have had much intercourse with the West, I have never met with a man who used such terms, unless they were alluded to as merely occupying a space in some printed work.—Preface to ‘Sketches of David Crockett.’
- 1834 I wish I may be *teetotally* smashed in a cider-mill, if that don’t out-Cherokee old Kentuck.—‘The Kentuckian in New York,’ i. 217 (N.Y.).
- [1837 —*Tee-totally* out of the question.—‘Rory O’More,’ ch. 12.]
- 1839 Give me none of your *Tea-total* pledges.—*Knick. Mag.*, xiii. 153.
- 1840 They have *teetotally* ruined everything.—J. P. Kennedy, ‘Quodlibet,’ p. 185.
- [1842 Don’t vote for him, he’s a mean *tee-totaller*.—Mrs. Kirkland, ‘Forest Life,’ ii. 62.]
- 1842 May 9, the Philadelphia *Spirit of the Times* declares a play to be “*Tetetotally* Damned.”
- [1844 “*Tee-totalism*” is a term no longer mentioned, excepting in the journals of distant towns and foreign lands, or perhaps in some jesting lyric listened to with laughter from the stage.—*Id.*, Sept. 10.]
- 1845 Somehow or other (remarked Sam) I’m *teetotaciously* deluded to night.—‘Chronicles of Pineville,’ p. 172.
- a.1848 I have been *tee-totally* bamboozled.—Dow Jr., ‘Patent Sermons,’ i. 147.
- a.1848 I wouldn’t have you think that I am *tee-totally* opposed to dancing.—*Id.*, i. 150.
- 1852 May I be *teetotaciously* used up if those gals ain’t born devils!—James Weir, ‘Simon Kenton,’ p. 22 (Phila.).
- 1862 The times and the manners have changed *teetotally*.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Aug. 21.
- 1878 I’m free to say I didn’t altogether and *teetotally* agree with her at the fust; but she was a most a master hand for sense.—Rose T. Cooke, ‘Happy Dodd,’ ch. 14.

Telescope, v. To shut up like a telescope. Used of cars in case of a collision.

- 1877 They fought so well, not one was left to tell
Which got the largest share of cuts and slashes;
When heroes meet, both sides are bound to beat:
They *telescoped* like cars in railroad smashes.
Dr. O. W. Holmes, 'Harvard Poem,' Jan. 4 (*Atlantic*,
Feb.).
- 1859 Two through trains on the Erie Railway came in collision yesterday, near Paterson. One of the trains had stopped, and the locomotive of the other train, which was following, *telescoped* into the rear cars of the first.—*New York Herald*, Sept. 17: quoted in De Vere's 'Americanisms' (1871), p. 361.

Ten-cent Jimmy. A nickname applied to President James Buchanan.

- 1856 At another time [he was an advocate] of low tariffs and low wages, till he came to be called, as perhaps he deserved to be, "*Ten-cent Jimmy*."—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Aug. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1169, App. [At this time Mr. Buchanan was the Democratic nominee.]

Tend. To attend, wait on, look after.

- 1767 Wanted, a sett of good Hands, to load and *tend* on a Gundalo.—*Boston-Gazette*, Sept. 21.
- 1769 Silk Worms may be *tended* by every family.—*Id.*, July 17.
- 1772 A Person that can *tend* Store, or wait on a private Gentleman.—*Id.*, Nov. 23.
- 1772 Any Gentleman that wants a Person to *tend* on a Store or Warehouse may hear of one.—*Id.*, Dec. 28.
- 1830 I made Stephen *tend* out for me pretty sharp, and he got my plate filled three or four times with soup.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 10.
- 1835 What say you to hiring out to me, to work mostly on the farm, and *tend* bar when I am absent?—D. P. Thompson, 'Timothy Peacock,' p. 41.
- 1836 I want him to *tend* a lightning rod.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, May 5.
- 1837 I can't get behind the counter to *tend* the customers, without most backing the side of the house out.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 113.
- 1844 He had in his youth sometimes *tended* a mill.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 189.
- 1847 He told me that he had engaged to *tend* horses this winter at the stage-tavern.—D. P. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 57.
- 1856 Listening to the birds and "*tending*" the bees.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 251 (March).
- 1856 The process is exceedingly simple. Any one who has sense enough to own a farm can *tend* to it.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., April 6.
- 1857 Mick Casey used to "*tend*" in Carew's Grocery on the corner.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 322 (March).

Tend—*contd.*

- 1857 I made up my mind I could do better than *tend* babies while you was gone.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 379.
- 1862 I employed you to *tend* Sally for the scarlet-fever.—*Knick. Mag.*, lx. 205 (Sept.).
- 1868 Several of my brothers had gone to Boston to "*tend store*" for brother Wright.—Sol. Smith, 'Autobiography,' p. 10.
- 1869 See BALANCE.

Tender-foot, Tenderfooted. A newcomer in the West is sometimes called a tenderfoot.

- 1861 A *tenderfooted* loyalty will not do for times like these.—S. F. *Pacific*, n.d.
- 1890 See BOUNCER.
- 1890 I would be too smart to run another ranche in this country. I would unload it on some *tenderfoot*. . . . All that I have been buying was stuff fit only to sell to *tenderfeet*, who wanted it only to sell to other *tenderfeet*.—Vandyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' pp. 19, 199.
- 1902 The people of the frontier called me an enthusiastic *tender-foot*.—Bishop Whipple, 'Lights and Shadows,' p. 142.

Tenderloin. A choice cut next to the PORTERHOUSE.

- 1832 A rib here, a slice of the *tender loin* there.—'Memoirs of a Nullifier,' p. 48 (Columbia, S.C.).
- 1851 To eat crackers, to be fed on *tender l'ine*, to be patted by a gentle hand. . . . that's being treated like a dog.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvii. 68 (Jan.).
- 1883 Feather-beds are hard, and *tender-loin* steaks are tough, behind iron gratings.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xi. 84 (Richmond, Va.).

Tenderloin. The "fast" and disreputable district in a city.

- 1909 The local "*tenderloin*" [in Pittsburg] has ceased to be the crying nuisance it once was. . . . There are no more places where carousal holds sway unchecked.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Jan. 18.
- 1910 "I guess I'll have to go back with you," said the murderer. "I wanted to see the old *Tenderloin* once more, and should have gone West yesterday; but its all up with me now."—*Id.*, March 17.
- 1910 [One newspaper suggested] that, inasmuch as Nevada seemed perfectly willing to take care of prizefights and divorces, it should be set aside as a sort of national "*Tenderloin*," in which all the vices which every other State prohibited might be freely allowed, in segregation.—*Id.*, Oct. 13.

Ten-pins. See quotation, 1839.

- 1835 A *ten-pin* alley, with three wooden balls of different sizes, not round.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' p. 23 (Phila.).
- 1837 An excellent *ten pin* alley is attached to the establishment.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Sept. 9, p. 4/2 (Adv.).

Ten-pins—*contd.*

- 1839 An act was passed to prohibit playing at *nine pins*; as soon as the law was put in force, it was notified everywhere, "*Ten pins* played here."—Marryat, 'Diary in America,' iii. 195 (Lond.).
- 1842 [At Virginia Springs] there is a *ten-pin* alley under a shed, at which ladies exercise themselves as well as gentlemen.—Buckingham, 'Slave States,' ii. 324.
- 1843 He entered an alley of *tenpin*-players.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 203.
- 1853 *Tenpins* too, and backgammon, and cribbage, and chess, and whist, and dominoes.—'Fun and Earnest,' p. 237 (N.Y.).
- 1855 Whack! and the loftiest conical crown
Falls full length in the Rocky Valley;
Smack! and a duplicate don goes down,
As a *ten-pin* falls in a bowling-alley.
Knick. Mag., xlv. 337 (April).
- 1856 See **SOME**.
- Ten-spot.** A ten dollar bill.
- 1848 It was worth a *ten-spot* to see the cuss weep.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 165.
- Ten-strike.** One that knocks down all the pins.
- 1844 The first five balls were each *ten strikes*, as the phrase is.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Aug. 10.
- a.1853 Down went the whole triangle of pins; it was a perfect *ten-strike*.—Dow Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 218.
- 1855 I had the satisfaction of seeing Miss E. make numerous *ten-strikes*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 140 (Aug.).
- 1856 Occasionally the car is brought to a full stop, and the "standees" are thrown against each other like alley-pins by a "*ten-strike*."—*Id.*, xlvii. 278 (March).
- 1856 A tremendous surf makes a *ten-strike* of the bathers.—*Id.*, xlvi. 288 (Sept.).
- Tepee.** An Indian tent. See a paper by Mr. James Platt, jun., in *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 406.
- 1876 Large quantities of ammunition, especially powder, were stored in the *tepees*, and explosions followed the burning of every tent.—Report of the Big Horn Expedition: *N.Y. Tribune*, April 4 (Bartlett).
- Terrapin.** A small kind of tide-water turtle. See a note by Mr N. W. Hill of N.Y., *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iv. 106.
- 1705 A small kind of Turtle, or *Tarapins* (as we call them).—Beverly, 'Virginia,' iii. 14.
- 1804 The water was quite brackish, and sea turtle, *teraquins*, &c., were driven up to the town.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 3.
- 1808 Lo! Mammoth to a *Tarrapin* transformed by our Embargo.—Song in *The Repertory*, Boston, Sept. 2.
- 1816 See **TOTE**.
- 1822 Now and then they may be tempted to those snug suppers of oysters and *terrapins*, which you see advertised for their accommodation.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 27: from the *National Gazette*.

Terrapin—*contd.*

1826 See OPOSSUM.

1838 The imputation of hostility to merchants was made against Mr. Jefferson, and his "*terrapin policy*" was long the theme of the politician, the press, the jester, and the caricaturist.—Mr. Thomas H. Benton of Mo., U.S. Senate, March 14: *Cong. Globe*, p. 214, App.

1839 "Go it, ye *terrapins!*"—Mr. Wise's speech in Congress: *The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Feb. 2, p. 404.

1839 See SWARTWOUT. (Same phrase.)

Terrapin War. A nickname bestowed on the war of 1812 by the Federalists, because the nation, by the cessation of trade by sea, was shut up in its shell, like a terrapin. A song was sung, of which this is the first verse:—

1812 Huzza for our liberties, boys,
 These are the days of our glory,
 The days of true national joys,
 When terrapins gallop before ye.
 There's Porter and Grundy and Rhea
 In Congress who manfully vapor,
 Who draw their six dollars a day,
 And fight bloody battles on paper,
 Ah! this is true *terrapin war!*
 'Encycl. of U.S. History,' ix. 51.

Teter. To move along up and down, up and down.

1854 A lonely snipe came *tetering* up the rivulet.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 213.

1858 A company of peewees were twittering and *teetering* about over the carcass of a moose.—H. D. Thoreau, 'Chesuncook' (*Atl. Monthly*).

Texas-deck. The third story of a steamboat.

1875 The boiler deck, the hurricane deck, and the *Texas deck*, are fenced and ornamented with clean white railings.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times,' *Atlantic*, p. 70 (Jan.).

That's so. See quotation.

1857 "No Sir-ree" had a pretty long run, and is not out of date quite yet. But one of the quaintest, quietest, most musical, and most engaging forms of acquiescence is in the new and popular phrase of "*That's so*," which is working its way into common parlance.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlix. 86 (Jan.).

[See the A.V. of Acts vii. 1. "Are these things so?"]

Thereaway. In that region.

1848 I was hatched in Washington County, Vermont, and raised all about the Green Mountings *thereaway*.—Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 68 (Phila.).

Third. SECOND (q.v.) is used for junior; and the next in order of the same name takes the title of Third. The compiler is familiar with the visiting card of "Horace Binney, third," of Philadelphia, the bearer of a distinguished name.

- 1765 "Robert Jenkins, *Tertius*," makes an announcement in the *Mass. Gazette*, Dec. 12.
- 1772 The Executors of the Last Will and Testament of Edmund Quiney *the Third* [give notice, &c.].
- 1774 "Benj. Ward, *tertius*," was one of the commissioned officers of the first regiment in Essex, Mass., who resigned their commissions, Oct. 4.—*Salem Gazette*, Oct. 28.
- 1821 "Nathan Tufts *the third*," son of Amos Tufts, blacksmith, changed his name to Nathan Adams Tufts, by Act of Feb. 24.—*Mass. Spy*, April 4.
- 1825 "I do hereby relinquish and give to my son John Bartlett 3d. his time and all his earnings from the first day of August last past. John Bartlett, jr."—*N. H. Patriot*, Concord, April 25.

Thirty. In an American printing office, this word means that an item or paragraph is finished. [Information communicated by Mr. Levinson of *The Oregonian*, Sept. 23, 1907.]

This child. Myself. An expression much used by negroes, and occasionally by white people.

- 1842 If you took me for a servant, you are mistaken in *the child*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 117.
- 1842 Anyhow, *this child* don't stir.—*Id.*, i. 134.
- 1843 You've got *this child* into a tarnation scrape this time.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxii. 110 (Aug.).
- 1845 *This child* ain't to be beat, no how you can fix it.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 23.
- 1848 *This child* don't meddle with no more hardware in this trap, no how.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 104.
- 1851 See COON'S AGE.
- 1857 Dem common niggers is only good to hoe de corn an' fry de hoe-cake. De next ting, he'll say he knows more about cookin' dan *dis chile* does.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 587 (Dec.).
- 1858 Sartinly, Massa. *Dis child* is of dat complexion. Dat is, Massa, I will see your orders obeyed.—*Id.*, li. 66 (Jan.).
- 1862 An' when we've laid ye all out stiff, an' Jeff hez gut his crown,
An' comes to pick his nobles out, wun't *this child* be in town! 'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

Thlack. (Texas.) A quartillo, a copper coin.

- 1892 Two *thlacks* are equivalent to two and a quarter cents of our money.—*Galveston News* ('Dialect Notes,' i. 252).

Thrash about, thrash round. To move round like a tempest.

- 1846 Arter I'd gone to bed I heern him a *thrashin round* like a short-tailed Bull in fli-time.—'Biglow Papers,' p. 1.
- a.1853 A circle of five seconds in dimension is plenty large enough for any decent-sized earthquake to *thrash about in*.—Dow Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 164.

Thrip. A coin between a nickel and a dime.

- 1834 He rewarded [him] with a *thrip*, the smallest silver coin known in the Southern currency, the five cent issue excepted.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' ii. 73 (1837).
- 1839 I left [the stage,] sir, to save my last *thrip*, sir.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iv. 120 (Jan.).
- 1845 He set back the bottle, and dropped the *thrip* into the drawer.—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 180.
- 1848 "How much do you ax for [those matches]?" ses I. "Eight boxes for a levy, ses he." They was jest the same kind of boxes that we git two for a *thrip* in Georgia.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 76.
- 1848 When the grand caravan was in Pineville last year, the manager charged a *thrip* extra for admittin people when they was feedin the animals.—*Id.*, p. 79.

Thunder, like.

- 1826 You should say,—the bull roared *like thunder*! I split like lightning! and jumped over the wall and tore my breeches, as if heaven and earth were coming together again.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 23: from the *Conn. Mirror*.

Thunder-bug. See quotation.

- 1837 The large black [horse fly,] called *thunder bug*, an inch long.—John L. Williams, 'Territory of Florida,' p. 71.

Thundering. Exceedingly.

- 1839 He is *thundering* shy of me.—*Havana* (N.Y.) *Republican*, Dec. 25.

Ticket, The. The list of nominees for office.

- 1789 *The Federal Ticket* recommends Mr. Daniel Carroll for the Sixth District; and the opposite *Ticket* recommends for the same district Mr. Abraham Faw.—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 2.
- 1789 It was agreed to run the following *ticket* in their respective Districts.—*Id.*, Jan. 2.
- 1796 They have the impudence to call theirs the republican *ticket*, and the federal *ticket* the monarchy *ticket*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Nov. 4 (Phila.).
- 1796 When I voted for the Whelen *ticket*, I voted for John Adams. Letter from "An Adamite."—*Id.*, Dec. 15.
- 1796 See YAZOO-MEN.
- 1799 Such measures as they may deem most expedient to promote the success of the Republican *ticket*.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Oct. 1.
- 1800 "The Republican *ticket*" for Virginia is set forth.—*Id.*, Feb. 11.
- 1800 [The Committee met] for the purpose of forming a general [Republican] *ticket* for Chester County.—*Id.*, Sept. 12.
- 1800 I will make one observation, as applying to the Republican *Ticket*. Mr. Roberts is a Quaker, Mr. Kaufman is a Menonist, and Mr. Mohler is a Tunker Baptist.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, Oct. 4.
- 1805 As you value soul and body, vote the *Jefferson ticket*.—*Salem* (Mass.) *Register*, Feb. 8.

Ticket, The—contd.

- 1807 See STEADY HABITS.
- 1808 The "American ticket" is set forth in the *Essex (Mass.) Register*, Oct. 29.
- 1827 In North Carolina, the Jackson ticket succeeded in consequence of an union with the Adams ticket. And how was the vote of New Jersey secured to the general? By an union with the Crawford ticket.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 26: from the *Vermont Free Press*.
- 1828 The formation of an Electoral Ticket.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 12, p. 3/3.
- 1837 His store is avoided; his name is erased from the ticket of office.—*Knick. Mag.*, ix. 354 (April).
- 1842 The cry is raised of "Vote the whole ticket! Don't split your ticket!"—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, July 14.
- 1847 He never scratched the regular ticket.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxix. 382 (April).
- 1850 Orson Hyde, presiding elder of the Mormon church at Kaneshville [urged], the Mormons to vote the Whig ticket.—Mr. McDonald of Indiana, House of Repr., June 26: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1295.
- 1853 One of the main objects was the framing of a ticket made up of business and working men.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, March 25.
- 1853 The people will soon have two tickets to vote for; one a party ticket, the other a people's ticket.—*Id.*, March 28.
- 1854 Our ticket is composed of four farmers, one attorney, and one mechanic.—*Washington Pioneer*, Jan. 28.
- 1862 There was two tickets in the field, one a Union ticket headed by my renowned and venerable colleague [Mr. Crittenden] and the other a secession ticket.—Mr. William H. Wadsworth of Kentucky, House of Repr., May 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2391/1.

Ticket. The list of nominees handed to a voter.

- 1799 Election of Constables. . . . In each Ticket there must be six persons named.—*The Aurora*, Phila., May 4.
- 1799
1. Look well to your Ticket.
 2. Look well to your Boxes.
 3. Look well to your Tallies.
 4. Look well to your Returns.
- Election Advertisement, *Id.*, Oct. 8.
- 1800 [They would] prove that they reprobate their proceedings by throwing them generally out of the ticket.—*Id.*, Oct. 10.
- 1800 "Do not strike one of them out of the ticket." Appeal to the Menonists, Tunkers, and Quakers, of Lancaster County.—*Intelligencer*, Oct. 11.
- 1823 A voter has only to choose his ticket, and give it as and to whom he pleases.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 33 (Lond.).

Tickler. A memorandum book recording one's engagements.

- 1839 I don't see that I have got your name down in my tickler.—'Harry Franco,' i. 74.

Tidy. See quotation.

1850 There is one cane-seated rocking-chair, the back of which is covered with an unapproachable netting of spotless white, called a "*tidy*."—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxvi. 255 (Sept.).

Ties. Railroad "sleepers" are usually called "ties" in the U.S., though the English word was long familiar.

[1802 In an advertisement for the building of a bridge over the Loyalhannah, the bidders are notified to furnish "the dimensions of their *sleepers*, planking, &c."—*Farmers' Register*, Greensburg, Pa., April 3.]

[1818 We are informed that the old piers [of the Springfield Bridge] remain, that the planks and *sleepers* were saved.—*Boston Weekly Messenger*, March 12.]

[1852 The planks were taken from the bridge, the *sleepers* greased.—C. H. Wiley, 'Life in the South,' p. 132.]

[1852 Eager politician,
Closing up his peeper,
Runs off in a train
Laid on heavy *sleepers*.

The Rhyme of the Depot, *Knick. Mag.*, xl. 315 (Oct.)]
[1856 There was quite a quantity of wheat that lodged on the beams or *sleepers*.—Orson Hyde at the Mormon Tabernacle: 'Journal of Discourses,' iv. 213.]

1862 The valley of the Kansas river. . . is supplied with timber unsurpassed in the West. This timber would furnish all the necessary *cross-ties*, trestle-work, &c.—Mr. W. M. Dunn of Indiana, House of Repr., April 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1702/1.

Tiger. A concluding cheer. Mr. Bartlett connects it with the visit of the Boston Light Infantry to New York in the eighteen-twenties.

1856 Terrific cheers and a *tiger*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 288 (Sept.).

1888 Some enthusiastic voice started up "A *tiger* for old Curley."—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 28.

* * See also ROCKET.

Tiger, Fight the. See FIGHT.

Tight place, Tight spot. A position of difficulty.

1852 That was the only time in my life that I felt myself in a *tight spot*.—Mr. Townshend of Ohio, House of Repr., June 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 714, App.

1856 You are in a difficult situation,—what the vulgar call "a *tight place*."—W. G. Simms, 'Eutaw,' p. 349.

1857 You know Tomson left her in rather a *tight place*, don't you?—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 334.

1857 Ah! were you ever in a *tight place*?—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 575 (Dec.).

Timberclock. Meaning uncertain.

1820 A land abounding in cheese and *timberclocks*.—Hall, 'Letters from the West,' p. 194.

Timbered. Wooded, planted with trees.

- 1777 Level valuable land, well *timbered*, mixed with hicory.—*Maryland Journal*, Aug. 12.
- 1778 The land is exceeding well watered and *timbered*.—*Id.*, July 28.
- 1784 The country in general is considered as well *timbered*.—John Filson, 'Kentucke,' p. 23.
- 1796 [The land] is *timbered* mostly with oak, hickory, and pine.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Jan. 1.
- 1817 We are so taken with the prairies, that no "*timbered*" land can satisfy our present views.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 132 (Phila.).
- 1822 A very beautiful tract of country, *timbered* principally with maple, in which there are a great number of Indian sugar-camps.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 6: from the *Detroit Gazette*.
- 1823 See BARRENS.
- 1826 A new farm in the *timbered* region.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 54.

Time. Service for a fixed period.

- 1769 To be sold for five years, The *Time* of a hearty young Man, who is a good Sailor.—*Boston-Gazette*, Nov. 20.
- 1770 To be sold, Two Years *Time* of a likely Mulatto Fellow.—*Id.*, Sept. 3.
- 1777 To be sold, the *time* of a Servant Lad, who has about three years of his time to serve.—*Penna. Evening Post*, Jan. 18.
- 1778 [For Sale at Vendue], the *time* of two Servants, a man and his wife. The man has three years and a half to serve, the woman eighteen months. Also several very fine breeding mares.—*Maryland Journal*, Dec. 15.
- 1784 He has twelve years to serve. I bought his *time*, and was to have manumitted him at 31 years of age.—Run-away advt., *id.*, May 4.
- 1784 To be sold, the *Time* of a Tailor, who has one Year and three Quarters to serve.—*Id.*, June 29.
- 1795 German Passengers just arrived in the ship Holland, from Hamburgh, whose *time* is to be agreed for.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Oct. 7.
- 1825 See THIRD. 1843, see LIKELY.

Time and again. Repeatedly.

- 1841 *Time and again* [the state of Mississippi] has asked for the reduction of these prices [of public lands].—Mr. Thompson of Miss., House of Repr., Jan. 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 177, App.
- 1852 This I have felt, *time and time again*.—Brigham Young, Aug. 1: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 363.
- 1856 *Time and time again* have I requested the High Priests and Seventies to cut off such members.—The same, Feb. 17: *id.*, iii. 212.
- 1896 *Time and time again* had she cautioned Lavinia.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 167.

Tippies. Exquisites of their period. Obs.

1804 Within a few years a smirking race, called in fashion's vocabulary "*Tippies*," re-assumed whiskers, and their pallid cheeks, thus accoutred, exhibited a surprising compound of ghastliness and effeminacy.—*The Balance*, Hudson, N.Y., May 15, p. 153.

1805 Some *tippee* blades stopped lately at the house of a jolly publican [near Wilmington].—*Id.*, Nov. 12, p. 363.

To-once. At once. Provincial.

1848 All ways *to-once* her feelins flew,
Like sparks in burnt-up paper.

Lowell, 'The Courtin'.'

1859 I reckon she [liked] me too, but not *to-once*, I expect.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 206 (Feb.).

To rights. Quickly, immediately; also, in proper order.

1834 See SUSPENDER.

1866 You will find her putting dishes *to rights* in the closet, or sweeping the floor.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 196.

Toggle, v. To fasten harness together with bits of rope, &c., in a make-shift way. Hence the noun.

1854 I remember with pleasure my grandfather's goggles,

Which rode so majestic a-straddle his nose;

And the harness, oft-mended with tow-string and
"toggles,"

That belonged to old Dolly, now free from her woes.

Knick. Mag., xliv. 205 (Aug.)

Tole, Toll. To carry, to take, to lead.

1835 When I reached the creek, I inquired of a bystander . . . what they were *toling* that plunder for.—*Boston Pearl*, Sept. 26.

1839 See SOUSE.

1850 The stout little curmudgeon of a Governor [has been] drugged with dinners, and Mademoiselle *tolled* out to town balls.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 51.

1854 Here's my six-shooter, but you can't *toll* me up thar, no how.—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 643 (June).

1856 I shall *toll* all these fellows down to Muggins', and leave them drunk.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. 55.

1867 We saw plenty of ducks, but as we had no skiff, and no means to *tole* them on, we did not get a shot.—*Baltimore American*, n.d. (De Vere).

Tomahawk improvement. This is an improvement of a slight character, made only to secure a right of pre-emption. See R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods' (1837), i. 202-3.

Tomato. The fruit of *Lycopersicum*; the love-apple.

1822 The pies made of the *Tomatus* are excellent. As this is a new desert (*sic*), those who wish to make them will slice the fruit, and pursue the same process as with a common pie made of apples.—*Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Sept. 6.

Tomato—*contd.*

- 1836 A gentleman near New York cleared \$1800 last summer on a small farm, by rearing the *Tomato*.—Phila. *Public Ledger*, April 16.
- 1840 We were discoursing on the nutritive qualities of the *tomato*. This is a vegetable which deserves a far more general use.—*Farmers' Monthly Visitor*, Aug. 31: from the *Baltimore Sun*.

Tombs lawyers. A class of men in New York, resembling the "Old Bailey practitioners," but, if possible, more unscrupulous.

- 1854 [This bill] will benefit only that class who are denominated in the city of New York "*Tombs lawyers*."—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., June 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1270.
[See also SHYSTER and STEERER.]

Tom-Turkey. A turkey-cock.

- 1869 He hadn't fit the Arminians and Socinians to be beat by a *tom-turkey*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Old-town Stories' ('The Minister's Housekeeper.').

Tonguey. Loquacious. A word used by Wiclif. ('Century Dict.')

- 1835 We had on board a very *tonguey* Yankee lawyer.—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 54 (N.Y., 1836).
- 1862 He jes' ropes in your *tonguey* chaps an' reg'lar ten-inch bores.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 3.

Too funny, Too funny for anything, Too funny for any use. Phrases mostly used by women in describing an amusing event.

- 1842 Well, but its *too funny* anyhow.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 145.
- 1869 The way he got come-up-with by Miry was *too funny for anything*.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Mis' Elderkin's Pitcher.'

Too thin. A Shakspearian phrase. "They are *too thin* and bare to hide offences" ('Henry VIII.,' v. 2).

- 1861 The little disguise, that the supposed right is to be exercised only for just cause, themselves to be the sole judge of its justice, is *too thin* to merit any notice.—President Lincoln's Message to Congress, July 5: O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 229.

Toothache-grass. The 'Century Dictionary' calls it *Ctenium Americanum*.

- 1837 It is described as *Monocera aromatica* by John L. Williams, 'Florida,' p. 82 (N.Y.).

Torpedo, v. To open an oil-well by explosives.

- 1903 The first oil-well successfully *torpedoed* was on the Fleming farm, south of Titusville, Pa. This well was shot in 1866.—'Dialect Notes,' ii. 345.

Tortle. To creep along like a turtle. (See SNAPPER, 1796, where "mud turtles" are mentioned).

1836 I have already *tortled* along as far as Little Rock on the Arkansas.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 33 (Phila.).

1837 You must *tortle* off, as fast as you kin. If your tongue wasn't so thick, I'd say you must mosey; but moseying is only to be done when a genunan's half shot; when they're gone cases, we don't expect 'em to do more nor *tortle*.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 13.

1844 Get up and *tortle* home the straightest way there is.—J. C. Neal, 'Peter Ploddy,' &c., p. 148 (Phila.).

1848 I jest told the marman I was ready, and *tortled* quietly over the boat's side.—W. E. Burton, 'Waggeries,' p. 19.

1856 Under cover of this multitude I *tortle* off.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 407 (April).

1856 As we *tortled* along over the sand, I began to notice, &c.—*Id.*, xlvi. 284 (Sept.).

Tote. To carry. The word is commonly used of carrying in the hand, or on the back or shoulders; and the extended use of it by R. M. Bird (1837) is exeptional. See generally *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ii. 161.

1677 They were . . . commanded to goe to work, fall trees, and mawl and *toat* railes.—*Virginia Mag.*, ii. 168 (1894).

1816 Away she sailed so gay and trim

Down to the Gallipagos,

And *toted* all the terrapins,

And nabbed the slippery whalers.

Analectic Mag., vii. 312.

1816 See JULEP.

1820 And its oh! she was so neat a maid

That her stockings and her shoes

She *toted* in her lily-white hands,

For to keep them from the dew.

Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 91 (Lond.).

1825 "I'll not be coteh again by your tricks." "Coteh! I reckon! clear nigger that, I guess. Might as well say foteh, or holp, or *tote*."—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 414.

1827 [One fellow] wished to know if I would have that 'ere thing I *toted* over my head shingled.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 22: from the *Augusta Chronicle*, Ga.

1833 In our day, merchants were well enough satisfied to *tote* their plunder upon mules and pack-horses.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 49 (Phila.).

1833 I had fairly *toted* him, as they say here, to the middle of the stream.—Elmwood, 'A Yankee among the Nullifiers,' p. 72.

1833 You are the severest old beaver to *tote* wood that I've seen for many a long day.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 135 (Phila.).

1833 I brought at four turns as much as I could *tote*, and put it on the bank. [The editor inserts the explanation, *carry*.]—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 103 (N.Y.).

Tote—*contd.*

- 1833 See PRIMING. See SHOT-GUN.
- 1835 He is as gentle as a cat. But he won't *tote* double. Me and my old 'oman wants to go to meetin', that's the main thing that we wants a horse for, and he won't *tote* us both.—Mrs. Smedes, 'Memorials of a Southern Planter,' p. 51 (Baltimore, 1887).
- 1837 [Uncommon use]. I say, captain, if your men will fight, just *tote* 'em back.... Is it wiser to send an able-bodied man to fight [the Injuns], or to *tote* him off a day's journey?—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 133, 145 (Lond.).
- 1842 See PLUNDER.
- 1843 An iron hook to *tote* squirrels.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 122.
- 1843 The excellent Servetus would have been *toted* on our shoulders, and feasted in the tents.—*Id.*, ii. 142.
- 1845 Did you ever see a woman as tall as that one that *toated* the hickory?—'Chronicles of Pineville,' p. 65.
- 1846, 1847, 1848 See PLUNDER.
- 1846 He had all the odds, for I was *toting* a 200-pounder.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 50 (Phila.).
- 1848 I've jist bought me a hickory-stick, what I'm gwine to *toat*.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 34 (Phila.).
- 1848 I could never bear to see a white gall *toatin'* my child about, and waitin on me like a nigger.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 14 (Phila.).
- 1851 Thar goes as clever a feller as ever *toted* an ugly head.—'Adventures of Captain Suggs,' p. 140 (Phila.).
- 1851 See HUMAN.
- 1852 I heard it said when I was a child, that it was allowable to "make the Devil *tote* brick to build a church."—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., June 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 693, App.
- 1860 Each gang was attended by a *water-toter*.—F. L. Olmsted, 'Journey in the Back Country,' p. 48 (Lond.).
- 1860 We'll have a game of euchre to decide who shall *tote* tomorrow's supply of wood.—*Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 534 (Nov.).
- 1868 It was necessary to unload our wagons, and "*tote*" the the trunks up a hill.—Sol Smith, 'Autobiography,' p. 90.
- Tote**, n. A pack. Uncommon.
- 1831 Mr. Van Buren would eat up the whole *toat* of them.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 158 (1860).
- Tottle**. An ingenious combination of *toddle* and *totter*.
- 1838 A few old parishioners *tottled* up to shake hands with the preacher.—*Harvardiana*, iv. 351.
- Tough it, Tough it out**. To endure; to survive.
- 1830 Judy, with whom he had *toughed* it three years.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 27.
- 1834 We little fellows had to *tuff it out* as well as we could.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 26 (1860).
- 1852 You don't need no medicine; you'll *tough it out*, I dare say.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 26 (Jan.).

Tough it, Tough it out—*contd.*

- a.1860 A would-be settler in Colorado in early days wrote his history on a board, and set it up on the trail. "*Toughed it out* here two years. Result: stock in hand, five tow-heads and seven yaller dogs, 250 feet down to water, 50 miles to wood and grass. Hell all around. God bless our home."—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 594 (1888).
- 1866 We *toughed it out* five or six weeks.—Seba Smith, 'Way Down East,' p. 331.
- 1873 Our brave little schooner "*toughed it out*" on the distant ledge.—Celia Thaxter, 'Isles of Shoals,' p. 64.

Town. A section of land.

- 1819 In the level *towns*, most of the winter rye had been harvested and housed. . . . The crops of hay in the lower *towns* were in all parts heavy.—*Boston Centinel*, July 31.
- 1820 The timber of these *towns* is beech. . . . and black walnut and cucumber tree.—Zerah Hawley, 'Tour [in Ohio],' p. 33 (New Haven, 1822).
- 1883 The word *town* in New England does not mean a collection of houses, perhaps forming a political community, perhaps not. It means a certain space on the earth's surface, which may or may not contain a town in [the English] sense, but whose inhabitants form a political community in either case.—E. A. Freeman, 'Impressions of the U.S.,' p. 132.

Townie. See quotation 1853.

- 1853 The genus by the German students denominated "Philistines," by the Cantabs ignominiously called "Snobs," and which custom here has named "*Townies*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xix. 2.
- 1869 Later on, one beholds the conscious "*towney*" on his evening promenade.—W. T. Washburne, 'Fair Harvard,' p. 54 (N.Y.).

Township. A section of land lying north or south of a given point in the U.S. Survey, and divided longitudinally into "Ranges," east or west.**Trace.** A track or trail.

- 1829 George offered to take the *trace* through the woods to the bank of the Mississippi, where the physician resided.—Timothy Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 41 (Boston).
- 1833 On either side was the thick forest, sometimes grown up with underbrush to the margin of the *trace*.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 187 (Phila.).
- 1834 [He] took the meandering path, or, as they phrase it in those parts, the old *trace*, to the place of meeting.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' i. 138 (1837).
- 1834 What did they do but come quietly down upon our *trace*.—*Id.*, i. 154.

Trace—*contd.*

- 1834 The *trace* had been rudely cut out by some of the earlier travellers through the Indian country, merely traced out,—and hence perhaps the name,—by a blaze, or white spot, made upon the trees by hewing from them the bark.—*Id.*, ii. 62.
- 1837 You've as c'ar and broad a *trace* before you as man and beast could make.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 42 (Lond.).
- 1837 [He left] the broad *buffalo-trace* by which he descended the banks.—*Id.*, ii. 247.
- 1854 [The Indian sees] the wounded turf heal o'er the railway's *trace*.—Lowell, 'Indian-Summer Reverie.'

Tracks. To die in one's tracks is to die where one stands, without retreating.

- 1843 The rifle was fired; and he fell dead *in his tracks*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 130.
- 1848 You may depend it liked to killed me right ded *in my tracks*.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 73.
- 1863 Jefferson Davis, the rebel chieftain, three years ago, in this Chamber, boastfully announced that if blows were struck their northern Democratic friends would throttle us *in our tracks*.—Mr. Henry Wilson of Mass., U.S. Senate, Feb. 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1165/1.
- 1864 We are flanked, boys; let us *die in our tracks*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 437 (Richmond, 1876).

Trade. A bargain, an exchange. To **Trade** or to **Trade off**.
To exchange.

- 1806 The words *buy* and *sell* are nearly unknown [in Erie, Pennsylvania]; in business nothing is heard but the word *trade*. . . . But you must anticipate all this from the absence of money.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' i. 112 (1808).
- 1819 [He said] he had in his waggon a few notions, for which he had *traded* his potash.—"An Englishman" in the *Western Star* : *Mass. Spy*, May 12.
- 1829 When the business was completed, there was about an even *trade* between Mr. A. and Farmer G.—*Mass. Spy*, March 18 : from the *Christian Intelligencer*.
- 1830 The bargain was concluded, the money paid, and the purchasers satisfied that they had made the best *trade*.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 24.
- 1836 They would bribe some vagabond Indian to personate him in a *trade*, to sell his land, forging his name.—Mr. Peyton, House of Representatives, Dec. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 270, App.
- 1846 Somebody proposes to *trade off* Oregon for the tariff. Sir, I will stand no *trade* of that kind.—Mr. Thompson of Pa., the same, Jan. 28 : *id.*, p. 159, App.
- 1846 In a *trade*, [the trappers] are as keen as the shrewdest Yankee that ever peddled clocks or wooden nutmegs.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 93 (Lond., 1849).

Trade—*contd.*

- 1847 The value of fourteen dollars in *trade* would buy an ordinary horse.—Joel Palmer, 'Journal,' p. 127 (Cincinnati).
- 1848 The Yankees were said to have some talent at a *trade*, but here was a specimen of Tennessee ingenuity which distanced them.—Mr. Smith of Conn., House of Repr., March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 416.
- 1854 Every girl in Boston, who is old enough to work in a printing office, has a lover whom she would be just as likely to *trade off* for a Tennessee article as she would be to swap him off for a grizzly bear.—'The Olive Branch,' Boston, n.d.
- 1857 Women are better'n men, and always get the little end of the *trade* when they get married.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 172.
- 1857 See BANTER.
- 1864 I begged the smirking clerk to take [the silk] again, promising to *trade it out* in some other way.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 183.
- 1867 Generous by birth, and ill at saying "No,"
Yet in a bargain he was all men's foe,
Would yield no inch of vantage in a *trade*,
And give away ere nightfall all he made.
Lowell, 'Fitz-Adam's Story,' *Atlantic*, January.
- 1888 Our orderly has perfected a *trade* for a beautiful little horse for me.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 187.

Traditionate. To indoctrinate, to teach by tradition. Uncommon.

- 1856 They have been *traditionated* to run over a great quantity of ground, and to not half cultivate it.—George A. Smith at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, April 6: 'Journal of Discourses,' iii. 282.
- 1862 Had we been brought up and *traditionated* to burn a wife upon the funeral pile, we should [do it].—Brigham Young, Feb. 9: *id.*, ix. 193.

Trail. See quotation.

- 1833 A *trail*, I must tell you, is an Indian footpath, that has been travelled perhaps for centuries, and bears the same relation to an ordinary road that a turnpike does to a railroad in your state.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' i. 152 (Lond., 1835).

a.1860 See TOUGH IT.

Traveler, Traveling. It seems safe to say that, until about the year 1835, this word was uniformly spelt with two l's, in the English mode, and that the excision of one l was a gradual process. For *traveller*, see ILLY, 1803; BUG, 1815; ELEGANT, 1821; GOUGE, 1828; FIX, 1830; LIKE A BOOK, 1833; TRAIL, 1833; GANDER-PULLING, 1834; TRACE, 1834; BLOCK, 1853; STRIKE, 1859. In 1828, Mr. Flint writes, "Travelling is a pleasure which none can afford to enjoy, but the rich."—('Arthur Clenning,' ii. 129). Other examples occur in this Glossary, *passim*. In *Notes and Queries*, 6 S. ii. 471, the Rev. E. Cobham Brewer defends the spelling now used in America.

Traveler, Traveling—*contd.*

- 1824 "Z. T.," writing to the *Woodstock (Vt.) Observer*, Jan. 13, p. 3/2, alludes to the comet as "this celestial traveller."
- 1832 Goodrich, in his 'System of Universal Geography' (Boston), uniformly has *travelling*.
- 1835 "A Chapter on *Travelers*,"—*Knicker Mag.*, vi. 253 (Sept.).
- 1838 "A *Traveler*" wrote an account of the Cumberland Water-fall to the *Richmond Enquirer: The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Nov. 24, p. 325.
- 1845 See STRIKE.
- 1850 Here and there you may meet with a *traveled* lady.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 59 (1852).
- 1850 I am no apologist for the innovations of our great lexicographer [Noah Webster], and do not rest my quickness in reform upon spelling *traveler* with a single l.—*Id.*, ii. 84.
- 1860 The *Atlantic* objects to "*traveling*," perhaps because it hasn't "*traveled*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 233, 265.
- 1869 See HOG and HOMINY.

Treasoner. A traitor. Uncommon.

- 1861 William Drummond went to Washington and swore that we were *treasoners*.—Brigham Young, Feb. 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 323.

Tree, v. To drive up a tree, or "into a corner."

- 1818 Let a little Western lad espy but the velvet ear of a gray-squirrel, which he has *tree'd*, on the top bough of a hackberry, and he downs him, as he calls it.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 92.
- 1825 [He pursued him] so hotly as to "*tree*" him in the house of Mr. Parson Harvard.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 13.
- 1826 He explained that he had *treed* the game, and let his rifle fall.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 32.
- 1829 How far do you call it to the spot where we *treed*, this morning?—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 90 (N.Y., 1851).
- 1831 Nabby, she hopped right up and down, like a mouse *treed* in a flour barrel.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 147 (1860).
- 1833 A panther will flee from a dog, and is easily *treed*.—'Sketches of D. Crockett,' p. 192 (N.Y.).
- 1833 [The raccoon's enemies] took care to prevent him from again *treeing*.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 230 (Phila.).
- 1833 Occasionally the younger dogs committed the disgraceful mistake of *treeing* a lazy fat opossum.—*Id.*, p. 232.
- 1835 They turned off my last master because my boy Jock *treed* him in a sum in Double Position.—D. P. Thompson, 'Adventures of Timothy Peacock,' p. 40 (Middlebury).
- 1836 I had not been out more than a quarter of an hour before I *treed* a fat coon.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 18 (Phila.).
- 1836 If I only live to *tree* him [Santa Anna] and take him prisoner, I shall ask for no more glory in this life.—*Id.*, p. 181.
- 1839 I was in momentary expectation of dying the death of a *tree'd* bear.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 191.

Tree, v.—contd.

- 1847 Does the heathen fancy I'll wait to be *tree'd* like a bear?—J. K. Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 207 (Phila.).
- 1848 I *treed* him under a haystack, and shot him with a barnshovcl.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxii. 90 (July).
- 1848 You're not always sure of your game when you've *treed* it.—Lowell, 'Fable for Critics,' line 18.
- 1852 I had to stop and *tree* two or three times, they pushed me so.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 35. [Here the word is used intransitively. Compare quot. 1829.]
- 1853 When knife and pistol flash in the sun, the hangers on about town "*tree*" in the first store or "grocery" convenient.—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 325. [Same remark.]
- 1856 Now ye see, old feller, ye're *treed*, and may as well come down, as the coon said to Davy.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. 48. [This saying of the coon furnished the basis for the famous *Punch* cartoon, Jan. 11, 1862, "Up a tree," where Mr. Lincoln as a coon is "*treed*".]
- 1857 [The hounds were] barking as though they had "*treed*" a whole family of opossums.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 249.
- 1860 We had *treed* a coon, and I was in the top of a very tall tree, in the act of shaking him down.—J. F. H. Claiborne, 'Life of Gen. Sam. Dale,' p. 27 (N.Y.).
- 1862 [He was] lookin for all the world like a *treed* porcupine.—'Major Jack Downing,' May 13.
- 1882 See SPOOK.
- Tree-frog, Tree-toad.** See quotation 1781.
- 1775 There are two very curious species of frogs in Virginia; one is called the bull-frog; . . . the other is a small green frog, which sits upon the boughs of trees, and is found in almost every garden.—Andrew Burnaby, 'Travels in N. America,' p. 10 n.
- 1781 The *Tree-frog* has four legs, the two foremost short, with claws as sharp as those of a squirrel; the hind legs five inches long, and folding by three joints. His body is about as big as the first joint of a man's thumb. Under his throat is a wind-bag, which assists him in singing the word *I-sa-ac*, all the night.—Samuel Peters, 'Hist. of Connecticut,' p. 262 (Lond.). [See also LITTLE ISAAC.]
- 1792 The *Tree-frog*, *Rana Arborea*, and the Bull Frog, *Rana boans*, are mentioned by Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 174.
- 1795 Or, loitering through the winding grove,
Hear the *tree toads* notes of love.
Gazette of the U.S., Phila., July 17.
- 1809 I regard [these dastardly lies] no more than the croak of the *Tree Toad*.—John Adams, June 22: 'Adams Correspondence,' Boston, 1823.
- 1830 [The savage] flattens his nose until it lies down like a *tree-toad* on a log.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 11: from the *N.Y. Evening Post*.

Tree-frog, Tree-toad—*contd.*

- 1833 Nor katydid nor *tree-frog*, nor anything that breathed of life.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 26 (Lond.).
- 1837 The little *Tree-frog*, hyale, is of a fine pale green color.—John L. Williams, 'Florida,' p. 66 (N.Y.).
- 1846 Ye katydids and whip-poor-wills, come listen to me now ;
I *am* a jolly *tree-toad*, upon a chestnut bough ;
I chirp because I know that the night was made for me,
And I close my proposition with a Q.E.D.
Yale Lit. Mag., xii. 48.

Tree-nail. A large wooden peg.

- 1800 Wanted to purchase a large quantity of Locust *Tree Nails* . . . N.B. Formerly called Locust *Trunnells*, and to be from 18 to 30 inches long.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 20.
- 1817 [These locusts] are excellent for the ship-builders, and are much esteemed by them particularly for the making of *tree-nails*.—John Branbury, 'Travels,' p. 288.

Trig. A block, a drag.

- 1830 I've seen wheels chocked with a little *trig* not bigger than a cat's head.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 72 (1860).

Trig, v. To block.

- 1830 They make pesky bad work, *trigging* the wheels of Government.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 72 (1860).

Trimnings. Accessories, furnishings.

- 1840 A cup of tea with *trimnings* is always in season.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 160.
- 1842 Accompaniments of salad, or, as we Gothamites facetiously term them, *trimnings*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xx. 227 (Sept.).
- 1851 Yer uncle Kit's been down to git the *trimmin's* for niece Susy's weddin.—'Adventures of Captain Suggs, &c.,' p. 166.

Trotting Horse. See HORSE-TROTTING.**Truck, Spun Truck.** Truck at first meant market-garden produce; then it came to mean stuff in general, including "doctor-stuff." SPUN TRUCK is knitting work.

- 1784 He has also provided a large Room, with a Stove, for his Customers to lodge in, and deposit their *Market-Truck*.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Dec. 14.
- 1794 It is a *truck* trade that is proposed [between the U.S. and the West Indies].—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Jan. 6.
- 1825 She had a heap o' *truck*, as bumpkins say,
High fed and fattened for the coming day.
New-Harmony Gazette, Nov. 30, p. 80/1.
- 1829 A garden, or as people call it a *truck patch*, was prepared.—T. Flint, 'George Mason,' p. 33 (Boston).
- 1833 [As a veteran hunter remarked,] it took a powerful chance of *truck* to feed such a heap of folks.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 9 (Phila.).
- 1840 And what did they do for Lucy's cough, Mis' Barney ?
Oh dear me, they gin her a powerful chance o' *truck*. I reckon, first and last, she took at least a pint o' lodimy.—A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenes,' p. 193.

Truck, Spun Truck—contd.

- 1850 See PLUMB.
- 1850 Doctor, ef you're a mineral fissishun [physician], and this *truck* has got calomy in it, you needn't be afeard.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 155.
- 1851 Jim Bell had visited town for the purpose of buying two bunches of "No. 8 *spun truck*."—"Widow Rugby's Husband, &c.," p. 72.
- 1853 [A man] poked his head into a country store, where I was "loafing" at the time, and yelled out, "Mister, do you take plunder here for your *spun truck*?"—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 211 (Aug.).
- 1857 Women exchanging their wool-socks, bees' wax, tow-linen, &c., for "*spun truck*," apron-check, dye-stuff, and so on.—*Id.*, l. 433 (Nov.).
- 1862 School larnin is mighty poor *truck* to put into a feller's head, unless he's got a good deal of brains there.—'Major Jack Downing,' Dec. 6.
- 1890 All kinds of *truck*, to use the phrase with which the Western men designate a variety of possessions.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 109.
- 1902 Sally's a-goin to fry some o' this *truck* fer me, an' I'm as hungry as a bear.—W. N. Harben, 'Abner Daniel,' p. 77.

Truck-houses, Truck-masters. See quotation.

- 1730 The General Court in this year enacted a statute regulating the "*truck-houses* and garrisons." The keepers of these houses were called "*truck-masters*," and conducted traffic with the Indians on the public account.—Williamson, 'History of Maine,' ii. 153-155 (Hallowell, 1832).

True blue. Politically sound.

- 1838 We are assured by those upon whom we can depend, that Jersey is *true blue*.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Nov. 3, p. 302.
- 1852 See JERSEY BLUE.

Trunchy. Stocky. Probably obsolete.

- 1778 A thick, *trunchy* fellow, with short light hair, and grey eyes.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, July 21.
- 1789 Strayed or stolen, a *trunchy* well-set bright-bay horse.—Advt., *id.*, April 21.

Tuckahoe. See quotations.

- 1705 A tuberous Root they called *Tuckahoe*, which while crude is of a very hot and virulent quality.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 15.
- 1816 The name of *Tuckahoe* is supposed to be of Indian origin, and has also been applied to the Troffle, a vegetable that grows entire under ground, and is a favourite dish at many tables.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 23: from the *South Carolina Telescope*.

Tuckahoe. A lowland Virginian.

- 1816 [The people west of the Blue Ridge] call those east of the mountain *Tuckahoes*, and their country Old Virginia. They themselves are the Cohees, and their country New Virginia.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' i. 112 (N.Y., 1817).
- 1816 The daughters of the *Tuckahoes* are young ladies; those of the Cohees only girls.—*Id.*, i. 146.
- 1835 [The Blue Ridge] divides the Ancient Dominion into two nations, called *Tuckahoes* and Quo'hees; the former inhabiting the lowland, and living "more majorum"; the latter occupying the mountains and elevated valleys, and having somewhat sophisticated the liberal and comfortable ways of old Virginia, by introducing outlandish customs.—'Letters on the Virginia Springs,' pp. 16-17 (Phila.).

Tukered out. Exhausted, worn out.

- 1853 Set us to runnin, an I could *tucker* him; but he would beat me to jumpin, all holler.—'Turnover: a tale of New Hampshire,' p. 59 (Boston).
- 1854 "I was almost jaded out." "A three-mile heat *tucker* you?"—*Knick. Mag.*, xliii. 95 (Jan.).
- 1857 You got all *tukered out*, playin' and runnin' out doors, and would come in with your eyes lookin' as heavy as lead.—J. G. Holland, 'The Bay Path,' p. 59.
- 1857 They all cried till they got *tukered out*, and went to sleep.—*Id.*, p. 379.
- 1862 Hard work is good an' wholesome, past all doubt;
But 'taint so, ef the mind gits *tukered out*.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 2.
- 1869 Hepsy, she's clean *tukered out* and kind o' discouraged.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. 43.
- 1888 "You look clean *tukered out*," remarked the ex-guide.—*N.Y. Herald*, July 21 (Farmer).

Tule. See quotations. The word is a dissyllable.

- 1846 We passed through several miles of *tule*, a species of rush or reed which grows to the height of eight feet, on the wet and swampy soil.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 199 (Lond., 1849).
- 1850 The *tule* is a kind of rush, but grows higher and thicker than our common rush.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 110 (N.Y.).
- 1850 The shores [of the Sacramento River] were flat and marshy, being overgrown with *thulé*, a kind of light cane.—James L. Tyson, 'Diary in California,' p. 54 (N.Y.).
- 1852 'Lost in the *Tule*.'—Sketch in the *Knick. Mag.*, xxxix. 221-7 (March).
- 1860 As we passed along, we heard the whistling of elks in the *tules*.—James C. Adams, 'Adventures,' p. 344 (S.F.).

Tule—*contd.*

- 1870 Conspicuous among the natural products of this virgin soil [of California] are huge reeds, many of which attain to the height of ten feet. Here they are called "*Tules.*" The ground wheron they flourish is known by the name of the "*Tule Lands.*"—Rae, 'Westward by Rail,' p. 251 (Lond.).
- 1878 *Tule* is the Spanish or Indian name of a coarse reed which covers the entire tract, green during winter and spring, but [in summer] as dry as tinder.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 109.

Tule-boat. See quotation.

- 1846 The *tule-boat* consists of bundles of *tule* bound together with willow withes. When completed, it is not unlike a small keel-boat.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' pp. 320-1 (Lond., 1849).

Tumble-bug. The dung beetle.

- 1806 A caricature, called "Revolutionary *Tumble-bugs*, or Perpetual Rotation in Office," appeared as an advertisement in *The Repertory*, Oct. 10 (Boston).
- 1851 I. . . see you running out of the store like a duck arter a *tumble-bug*.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 116.
- a.1854 We hang on to it as affectionately as a *tumble bug* to its ball.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 279.
- 1860 I don't see why a man in gold spectacles and a white cravat, stuck up in a library, stuck up in a pulpit, stuck up in a professor's chair, stuck up in a Governor's chair, or in the President's chair, should be of any more account than a possum or a *tumble bug*.—From an early parody of Walt Whitman, *Knick. Mag.*, lvi. 102 (July).
- 1861 The blood of these Hessians would poison the most degraded *tumblebug* in creation.—From a Cairo (Ill.) paper: W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' June 20.

Tum-tum. The heart. Chinook jargon

- 1856 The mule-man's face became suddenly rigid, his eyes rolled in their sockets, his jaws became set like a vice, his *tum-tum* knocked against his ribs.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 19.

Tunkers. A religious sect originating in Germany, which still flourishes in the south of Pennsylvania.

- 1800 See TICKET, *bis*.
- 1826 The *Tunkers* [of Cincinnati,] with their long and flowing beards, have brought up their teams.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 40.
- 1833 See INDIAN FILE.

Tunket. A word of doubtful meaning.

- 1847 When I bent my head near the floor, I found it as cold as a *tunket*.—D. S. Thompson, 'Locke Amsden,' p. 69 (Boston).

- Tupeloo, Tupola.** The black gum, a species of *Nyssa*.
- 1816 The *tupeloo* [is] known in Louisiana by the popular name of olive.—W. Darby, 'Louisiana,' p. 62.
- 1818 It is named by Darby, in his 'Emigrant's Guide,' p. 80, as the *Nysa* or *Nyssa aquatica*.
- 1845 Cypresses and bay-trees, with *tupola*, gum, &c.—W. G. Simms, 'The Wigwam and the Cabin,' p. 15 (Lond.).
- 1855 The branches of a *tupola* [were] hanging above him.—The same, 'Border Beagles,' p. 306 (N.Y.).
- Turkey, to say.** To say anything. In S.E. Missouri, to talk turkey, is to talk seriously: 'Dialect Notes,' ii. 333 (1903).
- 1851 He won't get a chance to *say turkey* to a good lookin gall today.—'Adventures of Captain Suggs, &c.,' p. 122.
- 1909 (Alabama.) She never said *pea-turkey* to me about it.—'Dialect Notes,' iii. 356.
- Turn.** A successful speculation.
- 1870 This neat profit is called a "*turn*."—James K. Medbery, 'Men and Mysteries of Wall Street,' p. 78 (Boston).
- Turn-out.** A railway siding, where one train turns out to let another pass along the track.
- 1846 [Both locomotives] had gone beyond the *turn-out* place.—Mr. Miller of New Jersey, U.S. Senate, Jan. 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 266.
- 1853 A narrow pier is built a mile out in the river, covered with a network of rails, having various "*turn-outs*," along which we are at last necessitated to walk.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlii. 529 (Nov.).
- Turnpike.** See quotation. This use of the word is peculiar and possibly unique.
- 1850 The old aunt had borrowed some little yellow cakes, called *turnpikes*, and used, I believe, for some purpose or other in baking bread.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxvi. 83 (July).
- Turnpiker.** A foot traveller.
- 1812 The heroes, who were to have mounted the heights of Abram, are yet in the garb of *turnpikers*, unaccounted and undisciplined.—*Boston-Gazette*, Aug. 27.
- Turtler.** A turtle-catcher.
- 1769 All the *Turtlers* lately taken by a Spanish cruiser were safe arrived at Providence.—*Mass. Gazette*, July 13.
- 1778 He told me that there were many poor people, fishermen, and *turtlers*, living [at Cape Antonio].—*Maryland Journal*, March 10.
- Tussey boys.** Exact meaning doubtful.
- 1838 But who are those hirelings that have been for years endeavoring to pit members of Congress against members, and to make them act the part of mere *tussey boys* of this servile crew?—Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 225, App.

Tussle. The technical use of the word illustrated by quotation 1833 seems to be American.

1825 Finding nobody disposed for a "tussle" [he] became clamorous and abusive.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 256.

1833 Two of the youngest of the company were engaged in a *tussle*, an exercise common among our Western youth. The object of each party is to throw his adversary to the ground, and to retain his advantage by holding him down until the victory shall be decided.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 87 (Phila.).

Twister. A twisted roll, a twist.

1908 I had only time to drink half my coffee, to seize a perfectly unmanageable thing called a "twister" (because it was near), to pay thirty cents, and to spring aboard the train, *twister* in hand.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Dec. 31.

Typo. A printer.

1816 [Printers] will confer a favour on a brother *typo* [by publishing an advertisement of a runaway apprentice].—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 7.

1902 "A dozen other persons, more or less, are named as contributors to the editorial columns of the paper, . . . They were *typos* and little else."—G. W. Brown, 'Reminiscences of Gov. R. J. Walker,' 140 *note*.

U

Ugly. Ill-natured, vicious. The word was long used in the English sense also; see the bracketed examples.

1809 He was one of the most positive, restless, *ugly* little men, that ever put himself in a passion about nothing.—W. Irving, 'Hist. of N. Y.,' i. 204 (1812).

[1809 In a little while there was not an *ugly* old woman to be found throughout New England, —which is doubtless one reason why all the young women there are handsome.—*Id.*, ii. 51.]

1818 See BOSS. 1827. See PRETTY.

[1828 It is well enough to be comely, and not particularly *ugly*.—T. Flint, 'Arthur Clenning,' ii. 137.]

1830 *Ugliness* applies to a man's actions, and handsomeness to his looks. [Given as a Yankeeism.]—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from the *N. Y. Constellation*.

1833 See LIKELY.

1833 That's right down *ugly* of you.—John Neal, 'The Down Easters,' i. 107; also p. 135. But on p. 179 "the *ugliest*" is the plainest in appearance.

1834 Her temper is not at all *ugly*. I have never known her cross more than a week at a time.—Robert C. Sands, 'Writings,' ii. 134 (N. Y.).

Ugly—*contd.*

- 1838 [He was a small and somewhat deformed man, and one who, in the world's cant, would be called *ugly*.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, iii. 106.]
- 1838 [Money is sufficient to hide an *ugly* face or an untutored mind.—*Id.*, iii. 140.]
- 1842 He's got some grit, but he ain't *ugly*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 135.
- 1843 A large woman, with an *ugly* expression of countenance.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 82.
- 1843 It would be a very painful thing to have the worthy old gentleman go mad, out of mere *ugliness* and spite.—*Id.*, p. 207.
- 1844 This was done for conscience' sake, not for the sake of being *ugly* (we use the word in the Yankee sense).—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 188.
- 1844 See VARMINT.
- 1848 I soon discovered him to be a pugnacious customer. I had seen *ugly* little men before, however.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 135.
- [1848 I'm hanged if you're not the *ugliest* man I've seen today.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxii. 126.]
- [1852 Connoisseurs said she was even homelier than the deacon. At any rate she was very ugly.—'Lowell Offering,' xvii. 346.]
- 1853 At last, sez I, "Jidge, did you ever have your portrait tuck?" "No," sez he, as *ugly* as you please. "Dew tell," sez I.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 223 (Sept.).
- 1855 Squire Stebbin owned a bull that came from the same stock, and he turned out so dreadful *ugly* that he had to be killed for beef.—*Putnam's Mag.*, March (De Vere).
- 1856 Tom's *ugliness* is nothing, but because he's drunk.—'Dred,' ch. 17.
- 1856 Dis yer liquor makes folks so *ugly*.—*Id.*, ch. 39.
- 1856 There was something in the old devil which woke up all the *ugly* in a man.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 615 (Dec.).
- [1857 He was a remarkably *ugly* boy, the expression of whose countenance could only be compared to that of a bilious codfish attempting to swallow a cannon ball.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 51.]
- 1857 My dear Sir, said I, this is going to be an *ugly* night to be out in.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 435 (Nov).
- 1858 I must have looked as *ugly* as I felt.—*Id.*, lii. 419 (Oct.).
- [1863 As hard looking creatures as the mountains could produce, their *ugliness* only inferior to their ignorance.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 464.]
- 1864 I suppose there must be an "*ugly streak*" in you somewhere.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 91.

Ultraism. The holding of extreme opinions. **Ultraist.** One who holds such opinions.

- 1850 I have eschewed and abhorred *ultraism* at both ends of the Union. "A plague o' both your houses," has been my constant ejaculation...[I cannot give] satisfaction to *ultraists* anywhere and on any subject.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., Feb. 21 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 190, App.
- 1850 Without the least disrespect to any one, I will say that I meant to declare that I was not an *ultraist* of the Wigfall genus.—Mr. Foote of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, May 16 : *id.*, p. 586, App.
- 1850 It is a favorite policy of some of the *ultraists* in my own part of the country to stigmatize the Constitution of the U.S. as a pro-slavery compact.—Mr. Winthrop of Mass., House of Repr., May 8 : *id.*, p. 522, App.
- 1850 I have avowed myself here, and at home, and everywhere, against *ultraism*. I do not go with the gentlemen of the South in their *ultraism*, nor do I go with the gentlemen of the North in their *ultraism*.—Mr. Casey of Pa., the same, June 15 : *id.*, p. 1217.
- 1861 The demands of returning public justice made even the sincere gentleman from Illinois [Mr. Lovejoy] recede from his *ultraism*.—Mr. Samuel S. Cox of Ohio, the same, Jan. 14 : *id.*, p. 374/2.
- 1862 If you want to have men in the slave States co-operate with you in the arduous struggle of breaking down the *ultraism* and madness of pro-slavery in the border States, you must not yourselves run into the *ultraism* and madness of abolition.—Mr. George P. Fisher of Delaware, the same, May 12 : *id.*, p. 2067/1-2.
- 1862 Judge Story, an honest, honorable, kind-hearted man, but as *ultra* in all these obnoxious doctrines of Federal power as any judge that ever sat on the bench.—Mr. John P. Hale of N. Hampshire, U.S. Senate July 3 : *id.*, p. 3100/2.

Uncle. A term frequently used in the South in addressing or speaking of an old "darkey."

- 1835 Nor are planters indifferent to the comfort of their gray-headed slaves. They always address them in a mild and pleasant manner as "Uncle" or "Aunty."—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 241.
- 1836 The old gray-headed servants are addressed by almost every member of the white family as *uncles* and *aunts*.—Letter of a gentleman of So. Virginia, in J. K. Paulding's 'Slavery in the U.S.,' p. 207 (N.Y.).
- 1850 Old *Uncle* Ned,—every family in Kentucky has some old family servant bearing this endearing title.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 32 (Phila.).
- 1861 We passed through the market [at Charleston, S.C.] where the stalls are kept by fat negroes and old "*unkeys*."—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' April 16.

- Uncle Sam.** The United States Government. This expression is traced by Mr. Albert Matthews, in his most valuable monograph of 45 pp. (American Antiquarian Society, vol. xix. of Proceedings) to the year 1813; and the starred quotations below are taken from that source. Mr. Matthews disposes of the legend that connects the origin of the phrase with Samuel Wilson, inspector of provisions at Troy, N.Y., in 1812-1813.
- [1800 I have heard that *uncle Jonathan* and some of the rest of 'em say, &c.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 14.]
- *1813 Loss upon loss, and no ill luck stiring (*sic*) but what lights upon *Uncle Sam's* shoulders, exclaim the Government editors.... Note. This cant name for our government has got almost as current as "John Bull." The letters U.S. on the government waggons, &c., are supposed to have given rise to it.—*Troy Post*, Sept. 7.
- *1813 [A battle royal occurred recently] between what are called in this part of the country *Uncle Sam's men* and the *Men of New York*... [It] ended in the complete discomfiture of *Uncle Sam's* party.—*Lansingburgh Gazette*, late in Sept., or possibly Oct. 1.
- *1813 The pretence is that *Uncle Sam*, the now popular explication of the U.S. does not pay well. Communication from Burlington, Vt., Oct. 1.—*Columbian Centinel*, Oct. 9.
- *1814 "*Uncle Sam's*" hard bargains.—Herkimer (N.Y.) paper, Jan. 27.
- *1816 Pat...fastened upon himself *Uncle Sam*, who was a liberal, good-hearted old fellow, that kept open house to all comers.—J. K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 210. See also pp. 211-12.
- *1823 [In the eyes of the Americans] *Uncle Sam* is a right slick, mighty fine, smart, big man.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 126. See also pp. 99, 140, 162, 215, 225, 262, 381.
- 1823 This [in Kentucky] is the third or fourth town of Washington which I have passed since I quitted the metropolis of *Uncle Sam*.—*Id.*, p. 188.
- 1823 A part of the rations for which *Uncle Sam* was paying regularly double price.—*Howard Gazette*, Boston, Nov. 22 (p. 2, col. 3).
- 1827 The well-known initials that have since gained for the government of the U.S. the good-humoured and quaint appellation of *Uncle Sam*.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 285 (Lond.).
- 1828 Waited on by his own servants, in his own house [Gen. Jackson] made *Uncle Sam* pay hire for them.—*Richmond Whig*, July 12, p. 3/4.
- 1830 *Uncle Sam* would have been no gainer by the exchange.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' p. 16.
- 1841 [All this was] at the expense of *Uncle Sam*.—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., U.S. Senate, Jan. 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 111, App.
- 1841 In any event, *Uncle Sam* will be safe—he can't be sued.—The same, Dec. 29., *id.*, p. 45, App.

Uncle Sam—*contd.*

- 1843 That easy-natured and rather soft-pated old gentleman, *Uncle Sam*.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 83.
- 1849 [The question of mileage] would all be a matter of guess-work. And who guessed for the Treasury? Who guessed for *Uncle Sam*?—Mr. Horace Greeley of New York, House of Repr., Jan. 11: *Cong. Globe*, p. 230.
- 1852 I will suppose a Gentile owns all these kanyons, *Uncle Sam* for instance.—Brigham Young, Oct. 9: 'Journal of Discourses,' i. 214.
- 1853 A company was dispatched by "*Uncle Samuel*" to make a survey of Illinois.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlii. 204 (Aug.).
- 1854 I think *Uncle Sam* is of the Lord's boys that he will take the rod to first, and make him dance nimbly.—J. M. Grant, at the Mormon Tabernacle, April 2: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 148.
- 1855 They think it is *Uncle Sam* they have to deal with, and *Uncle Sam* is a fat goose, to be plucked by everybody.—Mr. Thompson of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, Feb. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 793.
- 1864 The gunboats of *Uncle Sam* passed up the Ohio river, burning every flat-boat and every description of river craft that could possibly be used...to enable John Morgan to get across the river.—Mr. Dumont of Indiana, House of Repr., March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 917/3.

Under the Canopy. On earth.

- 1862 I do not suppose that any one *under God's canopy* would make any such decision.—Mr. James W. Grimes of Iowa, U.S. Senate, May 23: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2309/3.
- 1869 What *under the canopy* are you up to now, making such a litter on my kitchen floor?—Mrs. Stowe, 'Oldtown Folks,' ch. 11.
- 1878 Well, is there anything *under the canopy* I can do for ye?—Rose T. Cooke, 'Happy Dodd,' ch. 12.
- 1891 How *under the canopy* did ye get here?—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 30 (Boston).

Under the Weather. Indisposed.

- 1850 As for the Frenchman, though now, between the valorous Poussin and the long-faced Bonaparte, a little *under the weather*, &c.—D. G. Mitchell, 'The Lorgnette,' i. 50 (1852).
- 1855 Eh, bless me! not out yet, Mr. Fudge? A little *under the weather*?—The same, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 63.

Underground railroad. The system of secretly transporting runaway slaves through the northern states to Canada. See William Steel, 'The Underground Railroad,' 1872; and Booker Washington's 'Life of F. Douglass,' 1906, ch. ix.

- 1846 Amend the amendment by adding \$50,000 for the perfection of the Bebb and Schenck *subterranean railroad*, on which to carry their odoriferous friends from Kentucky to Canada.—Mr. Fries of Ohio, House of Repr., March 18: *Cong. Globe*, p. 523.

Underground railroad—contd.

- 1846 I am told that [the amendment] proposes a *subterranean railway* for carrying the blacks from Kentucky to Canada.—Mr. Schenck of Ohio : same place, date, and page.
- 1857 This Greeley is one of their popular characters in the East, and one that supports the stealing of niggers and the *underground railroad*.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 9 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 119.
- 1859 When a man's slave runs away and comes to their houses, they will feed him and send him into Canada through the *underground railroad*.—Mr. John A. Logan of Illinois, Dec. 9 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 85.
- 1860 I will say that we have in Iowa, as they have, I believe, in all the free States, what they call an *underground railroad*, and this man John Brown... had a rendez-vous at a place called Tabor.—Mr. Curtis of Iowa, House of Repr., Jan. 4 : *id.*, p. 331.
- 1860 Such of their slaves as the *underground railroad* does not take off to the North and to Canada will be sent down to the cotton States to be sold.—Mr. Iverson of Georgia, U.S. Senate : *id.*, p. 49/2.
- 1860 [The Republican party insists that] slavery, where it now exists, shall be surrounded by a cordon of free States, infested by Abolitionists, liberty-shriekers, *underground railroads*, and border ruffians.—Mr. Philip St. G. Cocke, *Richmond Enquirer*, Dec. 21, p. 4/1.
- 1861 [Certain States] added to the insult of the passage of Personal Liberty bills, *Underground Railroad* operations, not only in the Border States, but the entire South.—Mr. Polk of Missouri, in the U.S. Senate : O. J. Victor, 'Hist. of the Southern Rebellion,' i. 227.
- 1861 Mr. Powell of Kentucky said in Congress, the fast *Underground Railroad* is well known.—*Id.*, i. 273.

Underkeel. A cut on the under side.

- 1783 A crop in [the cow's] left ear, and an *underkeel* in her right.—Advt., *Maryland Journal*, Feb. 4.
- 1784 The right ear [of the cow] a crop and slit, the left a slit and *underkeel*.—Advt., *id.*, Jan. 27.

Underpin, Underpinning. The underpinning is the foundation of a building, or a part of it.

- 1804 Two hundred feet of good Hammered Stone for *Underpinning* wanted.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, May 9.
- 1804 You will discover a vacuum in the *underpinning* of the house, which is of brick.—*Id.*, Dec. 19.
- 1806 A pigeon house, *underpinned* with brick, and one other small building blown down.—*Mississippi Herald*, May 20.
- 1823 Said building shall be *underpinned* with rock.—Advt. for the building of a gaol : *Missouri Intelligencer*, June 10.
- 1848 [Time] knocks out the *underpinnings* of proud buildings.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 226.
- 1848 See SLABSIDED.

Underpin, Underpinning—*contd.*

- 1851 The foundation walls were done, the "*underpinning*" was "set," and they were backing up the same with "mortar wall."—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxvii. 130 (Feb.).
- 1857 I reckon I had a time of it with the old buck that made them things [scars] on my *underpinin'* (*sic*) and on my cornstealer, as they say out West.—S. H. Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 167.
- 1858 [The fire] soon burst out through the *underpinning*, and blazed up to the height of the eaves of the jail.—*Knicker. Mag.*, li. 141 (Feb.).
- 1860 We have knocked the *underpinnings* from under all Democratic parsons.—*Oregon Argus*, May 19.

Universal world, Universal Yankee Nation, &c. A pleonasm used for the sake of grandiloquence.

- 1704 I never see a woman on the road so dreadful late in all the days of my '*versall life*.—Madame Knight's 'Journal,' p. 12 (Bartlett).
- 1797 I veow you, she milks twenty ceows every day. . . . dickens take ef she'd turn her back to any woman in the *varsal world*.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., Feb. 21.
- 1823 This Indiana is the best country in the world for young men. Were I a young man, I would live no where else in all the *universal world*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 212 (Lond.).
- 1826 "Our son Tim has grown so lazy, that there is but one thing in the *varsal world* I can think he is good fer." "What is that, wife?" "Why, make a member of Congress of him, to be sure."—*Mass. Spy*, June 21.
- 1830 It will probably light up a smile in the features of "the *universal Yankee nation*" [New England] to learn that, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 6: from the *N.Y. Commercial Advertiser*.
- 1836 See HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.
- 1839 He swore I was a lad of mettle, and that he would protect me against the *universal Yankee nation*.—R. M. Bird, 'Robin Day,' i. 206 (Phila.).
- 1843 Will it not be the *universal Yankee nation* by whom that great valley of the tranquil sea [the Oregon country] shall be filled?—Mr. Choate of Mass. in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 224, App.
- 1843 I wouldn't a had you there for the *universal world*.—Robert Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 175.
- 1843 With fair play she sentimentally allowed her Bill could lick are a man in the '*varsal world*, and his weight in wild cats to boot.—*Id.*, ii. 158.
- 1849 [He was] a member of the *universal Yankee nation*.—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Dec. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 20.
- 1856 The Cabinet steadily asserts its dignity, and that of the "*universal Yankee nation*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 209.
- 1856 See YANKEE.

Universal world, Universal Yankee Nation, &c.—contd.

- 1859 Under free trade, . . . the power and resources of the *universal Yankee nation* would be equal to any wants of our people.—Mr. Jefferson Davis of Mississippi, U.S. Senate, March 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1569.
- 1860 It is the universal custom of the *universal Yankee nation* to vaunt itself, and boast of its glorious triumphs.—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 1, p. 1/5.

. See also *Notes and Queries*, 8 S. vi. 46, 335; vii. 38.

Unload. To dispose of property the holding of which is risky; to transfer generally.

- 1881 The policy of Gibson & Co. is to *unload* the odium of their wretched force [farce] upon the President. His policy is to compel them to carry off that odium themselves.—*Washington Evening Critic*, Nov. 24.
- 1890 I would be too smart to run another ranche in this country. I would *unload* it on some tenderfoot.—Vandyke, 'Millionaires of a Day,' p. 19.

Unseated. Unoccupied, unimproved.

- 1799 "The owners of *unseated lands*" are notified to pay their taxes.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 9.
- 1800 The owners of *unseated lands* in Westmoreland county are hereby notified. . . .—*Farmer's Register*, Greensburg, Pa., March 29. (Also the same, Feb. 26, 1803, &c.)
- [1800 In a similar notice in *The Aurora*, June 21, the phrase "Owners of *unimproved lands*" is used:—lands in Lycoming County.]

Unterrified. An adjective derisively applied to the Democratic party, and sometimes coupled with "unwashed."

- 1832 Mr. Van Buren was taken up by the "*unterrified Democracy*" to run as Vice-President on the ticket of "old Hickory."—Note to 'Major Downing's Letters,' p. 169 (1860).
- 1839 I take leave to say that I too am an *unterrified* Senator of the *unterrified* Commonwealth of Virginia.—Mr. Roane in the U.S. Senate, Feb. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 185, App.
- 1840 If any of the "*unterrified democrats*" can answer this question, it would confer a particular favor on a Real Hard Ciderite.—Letter to *The Atlas*, Boston, Nov. 12. The same paper two months before, applies the term "*unterrified*" to the Green Mountain Boys: Mr. Matthews in *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 172.
- 1842 We are in the open field, still unconquered and *unterrified*.—Mr. Rayner of N. Carolina, House of Repr., March 28: *id.*, p. 405, App.
- 1848 A score of loafers from the "*unwashed democracy*" had got together for the purpose of seeing a live President.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 177.
- 1853 At this point a great portion of the *unwashed*, as well as the "*unterrified*" left the hall.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Jan. 8.
- 1854 Brother Waterman must have help. Come, ye *unwashed* and *unterrified*, to the rescuc.—*Id.*, April 22.

Unterrified—*contd.*

- 1859 Governor Floyd, of Virginia, was addressing mass-meeting of the "Unterrified" in Independence Square.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 222 (Feb.).
- 1861 A primary meeting of one of our "unterrified" wards.—*Id.*, lviii. 560 (Dec.).
- 1863 The "unterrified" are assured that a State organization is the mooted question.—*Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, Jan. 1.

Up the Flume. Ruined, become worthless.

- 1882 Well, then, that idea's *up the flume*.—Mark Twain, 'The Stolen White Elephant, &c.,' p. 97. (N.E.D.)

Up to the handle. Completely, thoroughly.

- 1855 He was enjoying his trip "up to the handle."—*Knick. Mag.*, xlv. 435 (April).
- 1860 He had for the last few years used a boy and dog as fencing material; he found it "a good institution"; they did the thing *up to the handle*.—*Id.*, lv. 415 (April).

Up to the hub. See HUB.**Up to the notch.** Thoroughly, handsomely.

- 1843 It's my sentimental opinyin this stranger's acted *up, clean up, to the notch*, and is most powerful clever.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 135.

Up a tree. In a difficulty in an extremity.

- 1833 He was fairly *up a tree*, like the preacher the Sunday before last.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' ii. 215 (Lond.).
- 1909 [They] found six diamond rings concealed in Wilkinson's garments. When the diamonds were disclosed, W. laughed and remarked, "Gentlemen, I am *up a tree*."—*N. Y. Evening Post*, July 6. (A smuggling case.)

Upsot for Upset.

- 1837 S'posing the omnibus got *upsot*,—well, I walks off, and leaves the man to pick up the pieces.—J. C. Neal, 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 192.
- 1848 Prissy *upsot* the tea-kettle, gittin some water for me to shave.—'Jones's Fight,' p. 18.
- 1852 It being three miles from the plains. . . the cars they sunk, and the engine *upsot*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 94 (July).

Use up. To finish up, to destroy.

- 1833 It's a mercy [they] hadn't *used you up* bodyaciously.—James Hall, 'Legends of the West,' p. 38 (Phila.).
- 1833 I've *used* [the bear] *up*, the right way. He's as cold as a wagon-tire.—*Id.*, p. 212.
- 1838 One who (to use a backwoods phrase) had been literally "*used up*" by a distinguished Whig gentleman from Massachusetts.—Mr. Boon of Indiana, House of Repr., March 22: *Cong. Globe*, p. 251.
- 1838 See CAUTION.

Use up—*contd.*

- 1842 After the gentleman had effectually "*used up*" his assailants [we laid the affair on the table].—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky, House of Repr., Jan. 27: *Cong. Globe*, p. 234 App.
- 1853 Her straw bonnet was *used up* like a crushed eggshell.—Phila. *Mercury*, n.d.
- 1855 If I should get mad in Washington, I would as soon fight the whole crowd as one individual, and they would *use me up*.—Brigham Young, June 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' ii. 319.
- 1857 Hundreds of miles have the Indians travelled to see me, to know whether they might *use up the* emigrants.—The same, Sept. 13: *id.*, v. 236.
- 1863 If you advance on them in front, while I attack them in flank, I think we can *use them up*.—Despatch of Gen. Geo. H. Thomas: 'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' xii. 220.

V

V's and X's. Five and ten dollar bills. The former are or were occasionally called **V spots**.

- 1837 My wallet [was] distended with *Vs* and *Xs* to its utmost capacity.—*Knicker. Mag.*, ix. 96 (Jan.).
- 1837 I'll bet you a *V* we don't see anything of the kind.—Balt. *Comml. Transcript*, May 19, p. 2/2.
- 1843 The thimble-rigger, while he pocketed the *V* or *X* of some greenhorn, did not cease to expatiate on the favorite horse.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, May 27.
- 1846 One wanted to bet him a horse on H's colt vs. his Indian Dick, another a *V*, and another an *X*, and so on.—'Quarter Race in Kentucky, &c.,' p. 119.
- 1849 I vow my hull sheer o' the spoils wouldn't come nigh a *V spot*.—'Biglow Papers,' No. 8.
- 1852 [He] strutted off with his *V*, to the great amusement of the bystanders.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 239 (N.Y.).
- 1853 "As I said, I'll give you a *V*. for one pull." "Say an *X*., and it is a bargain."—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 28.
- 1856 If we had owned a *V*. or two,
Which vanished like the morning dew,
We wouldn't have been surprised,—would you?
San Francisco Call, Dec. 5.
- 1857 He insisted on spending a *V*. by way of a morning whet.—*Id.*, Feb. 17.

Vamose. To depart quickly, to "absquatulate." From the Sp. *vamos*, let us go (pronounced "vamoose").

- 1848 The united faces of the company would have reached a mile. They bolted, mizzled, flew, *vamosed*.—'Stray Subjects,' p. 198.
- a.1849 Winter has abdicated his throne and *vamosed*.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 55.
- 1850 [The muleteer] quickly *vamosed*.—Theodore T. Johnson, 'Sights in the Gold Region,' p. 37 (N.Y.).
- 1853 Now travel out of this apartment! *Vamose the ranch!* Cut!—*Knick. Mag.*, xlii. 453 (Nov.).
- 1855 The heart-seeker *vamosed*.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June 16.
- 1855 Our hero *vamosed* rather hurriedly.—*Id.*, Aug. 11.
- 1856 The faculty had decided that we should leave, quit, cut, stiek, or *vamose* to parts unknown.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 143.
- 1857 Simpkins coughed, and, complaining of a crumb in his throat, *vamosed*.—*S.F. Call*, Jan. 23.
- 1857 The collector *vamosed* from the market, having collected "nary red."—*Id.*, April 21.
- 1857 The Amale-kites did not mizzle, but de-camped, that is, they picked up their beds and *vamosed*.—*Id.*, May. 15.
- 1857 Another pair of jail-birds have *vamosed* the log jail at at Jacksonville. The new institution, it is to be hoped, will not prove so leaky.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Aug. 1.
- 1857 With this we put on our chappose [chapeaux] and *vamosed*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 43 (Jan.).
- 1862 See PRAIRIE-DOG.
- 1888 See GALOOT.

Vaquero. A herdsman.

- 1846 A *vaquero* mounted on a trained horse, and provided with a lasso.—Edwin Bryant, 'What I saw of California,' p. 270 (Lond., 1849).

Variety store, Variety shop. One in which miscellaneous small articles are sold.

- 1824 One indication of a new country is that the shops are *variety shops*; each one keeping piece-goods, groceries, cutlery, porcelain, and stationary (*sic*) in different corners.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 84 (Boston).
- 1829 [The collected trumpery] gives the Mayor's office the appearance of a "*variety store*."—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 11.
- 1842 A *variety store*, offering for sale every possible article of merchandize, from lace gloves to goose-yokes, ox-chains, tea-cups, boots, and bonnets, displayed its tempting sign.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 149.

. The modern "variety store" in a city does not include such things as are mentioned in the examples.

- Varmint, Varmint.** A word used largely, to indicate any wild animal or objectionable person. In cases where the context does not explain it, the species of "varmint" is here specially indicated.
- 1820 One of the [bear] cubs forced the new-comer to retreat into the river, where, standing to the middle in water, he gave his foe a mortal shot, or, to use his own language "I burst the *varment*."—Hall's 'Letters from the West,' p. 297.
- 1820 These little fixens [said Glass] make a man feel right peart, when he is three or four hundred miles from any body or any place, and alone among the painters and wild *varments*.—*Id.*, p. 304. [The little "fixens" were knife, flint, and steel].
- 1827 They scent plunder; and it would be as hard to drive a hound from his game as to throw the *varmint*s [Indians] from its trail.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Prairie,' i. 93 (Lond.).
- 1833 I saw before me a slim sweet gum, so slick it looked like every *varmint* in the woods had been sliding down it for a month.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 87 (N.Y.).
- 1833 See BODYACIOUSLY.
- 1833 [He reasoned] that every pig which was not marked must be common property, or, as he expressed it, a wild *varment*.—James Hall, 'Harpe's Head,' p. 109 (Phila.).
- 1834 A Varmounter never uses a dog,—he is his own dog. Give him a gun, and he asks no odds. There's no *varmint* that crawls the earth who can match him.—*Vermont Free Press*, June 7: from the *Hartford* (Conn.) *Pearl*.
- 1835 See BUG.
- 1836 This must have been a very remarkable snake,—or, as they say in the West, all sorts of a snake,—besides a little touch of a four-legged *varmint*.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, April 30.
- [1836 A judge in Kentucky has decided that a dandy is a nuisance. We hope this decision will not drive any of their "*virmin*" to this city, as we are already over-run with them now.—*Id.*, Nov. 2.
- 1836 As I spoke rather sharp, the *varment* [an Arkansas land-lord] seemed rather staggered, but he soon recovered himself.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 73 (Phila.).
- 1837 The fossil remnant of some antediluvian *varmint*, in the shape of a molar tooth, was dug up.—*Balt. Comml. Transcript*, Aug. 25, p. 2/3: from the *Scioto Gazette*.
- 1839 See SQUIRM.
- 1840 Mrs. B. How did you come on raisin' chickens this year, Mis' Shad?
Mrs. S. La messy, honey! I have had mighty bad luck. I had the prettiest pa'sel you most ever seed, till the *varment* took to killin' 'em.
Mrs. R. and Mrs. B. The *varment*!
Mrs. S. O dear, yes. The hawk caught a powerful sight of them; and then the *varment* took to 'em, and nat'y took 'em fore and aft, bodily.
A. B. Longstreet, 'Georgia Scenos,' p. 195.

Varmment, Varmint—contd.

- 1842 *Killed.* A mad dog in Locust Street yesterday. The "varmint" had run into the midst of a colored temperance meeting.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, June 6.
- 1844 Foreign paupers (says the *Louisville Journal*) are uglier than hyenas, jackals, grizzly bears, Brazilian apes, or any other *varmint*s.—*Id.*, Dec. 27.
- 1846 *A Varmint.* A man in a wild state, it is said, has been seen in the swamps about the Arkansas and Missouri line; his track measures 22 inches; his toes are as long as a common man's fingers; and in height and make he is double the usual size.—*St. Louis Reveille*, March 22.
- 1846 See CAUTION, A. See also Appendix III.
- 1847 I'd a given a list of *varmint*s that would make a caravan, beginning with the bar, and ending off with the cat.—T. B. Thorpe, 'The Big Bear of Arkansas,' p. 16 (Phila.).
- 1847 If the mosquitoes ar large, Arkansaw ar large, her *varmint*s ar large, her trees ar large, her rivers ar large, and a small mosquito would be of no more use in Arkansaw than preaching in a cane-brake.—*Id.* p. 18.
- 1847 See LET SLIDE.
- a.1848 Ye men of Gotham! What a pretty looking nest of *varmint*s ye are, taken in a heap, altogether.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 182.
- 1848 I don't mean the flood what drowned out all creation, 'cept old father Noey and his cargo of *varmint*s; but I mean the flood of 1840.—Major Jones, 'Sketches of Travel,' p. 28.
- 1848 [He told them] that a wild hog or sum other *varmint* was 'bout to eat up the governor's baby.—*Id.*, p. 99.
- 1848 See BRUNG. See GO THE WHOLE HOG.
- 1850 [She] kum to Luzzaanny [Louisiana], an' got marr'ed to a nother man, the *pisen varment*, to do sich as that.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 152 (Phila.).
- 1851 Thar ain't no *varmint* that kin kick wuss, either round or side-ways, than a full grown Grizzly.—'Polly Peasblossom's Wedding,' p. 110.
- a.1853 Don't merely scotch the old serpent this time, but kill the *varment* as dead as the U.S. Bank.—Dow Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 283.
- 1855 I'm a liar if thar warn't nigh half a bushel of the stinging *varmint*s [hornets] ready to pitch into me.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Oct. 13.
- 1857 I swore a big oath like to myself, that I'd fix that cussed *varmint* [a coon] in less nor a week.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlix. 68 (Jan.).
- 1858 Those glossy little *varmint*s, the crows, were very destructive to the young poultry.—*Id.*, li. 365 (April).
- 1858 See CIRCUIT-RIDER.
- 1858 For nearly a fortnight a regular live comet has been visible. Time of appearance, early in the evening. It is rumored to us that the same *varmint* is occasionally seen fitting athwart the sky of mornings.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Oct. 2.

Varmint, Varmint—*contd.*

- 1867 I've not had any thing to eat today [said Kentucky Joe], and would like to lick some *varmint* as has.—W. L. Goss, 'A Soldier's Story,' p. 103 (Boston).
- 1890 He had found a wolf's head just inside of his tent, and he "reckoned" if he kept Dixie [a tame wolf] much longer, the hull tarnal lot of *varmint*s would think they'd got to visit him.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 123.

Vegas. See quotation.

- 1855 [The country] has its oases,—*vegas*, as the Spaniards call them,—meadows refreshed with water, green with grass.—Mr. Benton of Missouri, House of Repr., Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 77, App.

Vendue. An auction sale.

- 1762 A public *Vendue* at the house of Deacon Isaiah Kingston.—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 2.
- 1765-75 Many Sales at Public *Vendue*s announced in the *Boston-Gazette*.
- 1777 Sale of a vessel, "by Public *Vendue*, for Ready Money."—*Maryland Journal*, Jan. 28.
- 1799 By profession he is a *vendue crier*. He said he would cry the *vendue* in spite of the Standing Army.—*The Aurora*, Phila., April 10.
- [1799 "Auction room," and "Sale by *Auction*."—*Id.*, July 29.]
- 1800 George Crow takes this method of informing the public that he is authorized to cry *Vendues*.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, April 9.
- 1800 The *vendue* to begin at ten o'clock.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Sept. 20.
- 1802 He was intended for a lawyer by Papa, who was a *vendue master* in Philadelphia.—'Letters to Alex. Hamilton,' p. 54 (N.Y.).
- 1803 The 'Squire. . . would not part with me for the best young negur that was ever knocked down at *vendue*.—John Davis, 'Travels in the U.S.A.,' p. 359 (Lond.).
- 1862 But I don't love your cat'logue style, do you?
Ez ef to sell all Natur by *vendoo*.
'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 6.

Vest. A waistcoat.

- 1823 He found him asleep, took from his *vest* pocket the key, &c.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 3.

Vicksburger. A large hat. See quotation.

- 1836 As we were about mounting, the conjurer's big white *Vicksburger* was unaccountably missing. After searching some time in vain, he tied a handkerchief around his head, sprung upon his horse, and rode off.—'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 137. (On p. 144, the conjurer is "cocking his large *Vicksburger* fiercely on his head.")

Vigilant men, Vigilantes. Regulators.

1824 We hate what are called *vigilant men*; they are a set of suspicious, mean spirited mortals, that dislike fun.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, Feb. 12: from the *National Intelligencer*.

1862 See Appendix XIV.

1865 The power [in Montana] is vested in the "*Vigilantes*," a secret tribunal of citizens, organized before civil laws were framed, when robberies and murders were of daily occurrence.—A. D. Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 487 (Hartford, 1867).

Villify for Vlify.

1766 This illiterate error, which is very common in the U.S., was noticed in the *Boston-Gazette*, Dec. 29.

Vim. Energy.

1850 He thought of his spurs, so he ris up, an' drove them *vim* in the hoss's flank.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 51 (Phila.). [Here the word means energetically.]

1850 See DOGGERY.

1875 Mr. Fullerton [at the Beecher-Tilton trial] figuratively jumped into the ring, rolled up his sleeves, and squared off with a *vim* and determination that sometimes makes victory half assured.—*N.Y. Herald*, April 17 (Bartlett).

1876 We believe that more of *vim*, snap, or activity can be infused into [our system of school management].—*Providence Press*, Jan. 8 (The same.)

1888 The children resumed the floor, and danced with renewed *vim* for an hour or so.—*Missouri Intelligencer*, March 5 (Farmer).

Violative of. In violation of.

1861 I consider [Mr. Crittenden's] plan grossly *violative* of the Constitution.—Mr. James F. Simmons of Rhode Island, U.S. Senate, Jan. 16: *Cong. Globe*, p. 405/3.

1862 I have thus far considered the case on the hypothesis that the bill is *violative* of national law.—Mr. David Wilmot of Pa., the same, April 30: *id.* p. 1874/3.

18. . *Violative* of a vested legal right.—Andrews, 'Manual of the Constitution,' p. 211 ('Century Dict.').

Virginia fence. See quotations, 1803, 1824, 1826. A drunken man, by reason of his devious movement, is said to make a "Virginia fence."

1745 He [being drunk] makes a *Virginia fence*.—B. Franklin, 'Works' (1887), ii. 26. (N.E.D.)

1770 To be sold, One Hundred Acres of good Land, inclosed with good Stone Wall and *Virginia fence*.—*Boston Evening Post*, Dec. 31.

1803 [In Virginia] the fields are surrounded by a rough zig-zag log-fence.—Thaddeus M. Harris, 'Journal of a Tour,' June 6, p. 58 (Boston, 1805).

Virginia fence—contd.

- 1824 You pass no stone walls [in Va.,] but hedge, or in-and-out zig-zag cedar rails, or wattled fences.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 59 (Boston).
- 1826 The universal fence [in the West,] split rails, laid in a worm trail, or what is known in the North by the name of *Virginia fence*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 206.
- 1837 Mr. Adams said "it was physically impossible for [Mr. Cambreleng] to toe the mark; that gentleman's marks were always so very crooked—zigzag—like what yankee boys termed a *Virginia fence*."—*Corr. Balt. Commercial Transcript*, Oct. 5. p. 2/2.
- 1838 The changing lizard ran on the old *Virginia fence* unscared.—Caroline Gilman, 'Recollections of a Southern Matron,' p. 224.
- 1838 [In consequence of the windings of the road] the traveller describes with his route a complete *Virginia fence*.—E. Flagg, 'The Far West,' ii. 44 (N.Y.).
- 1839 A meandering course, sometimes familiarly illustrated by the homely figure of a *Virginia worm fence*.—Robert Mayo, 'Political Sketches,' p. 39 (Balt.).
- 1845 His proposition is to surround the square with a *Virginia rail fence*, instead of an iron one.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 388.
- 1846 A rough *Virginia fence*, over which the Cherokee rose had entwined itself.—T. B. Thorpe, 'Mysteries of the Backwoods,' p. 158.
- 1853 His acres were enclosed with harsh stone walls, or an un picturesque *Virginia fence*, with its zig-zag of rude rails.—'Life Scenes,' p. 99.
- 1857 Already in the big fireplace burned the cheerful maple log, with here and there, poked in like the rails of a *Virginia fence*, a stick of hickory.—*Knick. Mag.*, l. 63 (July).
- 1858 I was constrained to lay out the ground plan of a *Virginia worm fence* every time I went to Post.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxiii. 183.
- 1880 See SHOAT.

Volunteer State, The. Tennessee.

- 1861 There comes a voice from Tennessee. . . . She rejoices in the cognomen of the "*volunteer State*," and the reveille of an invading army will find her dressed for parade.—*N.O. Picayune*, Jan. 24.

W

Waffle. A soft cake made in a waffle-iron, and eaten with butter or molasses.

- a.1750 The regale was expected as a matter of course to be chocolate supper and soft *waffles*.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 125 (1832).
- 1817 Coffee, rolls, dry toast, *waffles* (a soft hot cake covered with butter, of German extraction, &c.)—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 76 (Phila.).
- 1824 If their coarse ash-pones irritate the palate as they descend, their soft *waffles*, with their hollow cheeks floating in honey, soothe all again. In fine, the rich Kentuckians live like lords.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 96 (Boston).
- 1846 Unless you eat hot *waffles* the last thing before retiring to rest, or rather to unrest.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xi. 222.

Wagon. To convey by wagon.

- 1841 "*Wagoning*" the specie (to use Senator Archer's phrase) to the head waters of the Missouri.—Mr. Buchanan of Pa., in the U.S. Senate, Sept. 2: *Cong. Globe*, p. 340, App.

Wake snakes. To cause trouble or disturbance.

- 1848 This goin' ware glory waits yehain't one agree'ble feetur, An ef it worn't for *wakin' snakes*, I'd home again short meter. 'Biglow Papers,' No. 2.
- 1852 *Wake snakes* and come to judgment—the times are big with the fate of nations.—Mr. Brown of Mississippi, House of Repr., March 30: *Cong. Globe*, p. 359, App.

Wake-robin. See quot. 1911. In England the name is given to the cuckoo-pint. ('Century Dict.')

- 1851 It was a *wake-robin*, commonly known as dragon-root, devil's ear, or Indian turnip.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 34.
- 1911 [The flower is] a sturdy denizen of neighboring woods, whose shaded recesses are even now white with its sisters or duskily red with the Oriental hues of its cousins. It is a lonely *wake-robin*, alighted in a city yard, one of the lily family—*trillium grandiflorum*, to be exact.—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, May 18.

Walking papers, walking ticket, &c.—These terms signify a man's discharge from the position that he occupies.

- 1835 The first course he took was to give *walking papers* to every man in office who had dared [to oppose him].—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 80 (Phila.).
- 1835 He received his *walking ticket*. His services were no longer required.—*Id.*, p. 162.
- 1835 He got his *walking orders*, and Taney was taken into his place.—*Id.*, p. 170.
- 1851 I expected to get my *walking papers* about killing old Cuff.—'An Arkansaw Doctor,' p. 55.

Walking papers, walking tickets, &c.—contd.

- 1853 The President . . . read to me my credentials (then popularly known as my *walking ticket*).—*Putnam's Mag.*, ii. 82 (July).
- 1855 He added to the enormity of his conduct by giving me my *walking ticket*.—W. G. Simms, 'Border Beagles,' p. 45.
- 1856 He's got his *walkin' ticket* now.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 8.
- 1856 You'll get your *walkin' ticket* on short order.—*Id.*, No. 25.
- 1856 We concluded to don our foxtail, and take a *walking ticket* towards sundown.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 144.
- 1859 The King gave him his *walking papers*, and sent for the countryman.—*Herald of Freedom*, Lawrence, Kas., Nov. 26.
- 1862 He will think that you'll be sure to give him his *walking papers*.—'Major Jack Downing,' June 8.
- 1866 This poor victim declared that he had remained [in the Insane Asylum] long enough: he wanted his *walking papers*.—Nichols, 'The Great March,' p. 298.
- 1873 "He will get his *walking ticket*, won't he?" "Not much," said our friend.—Barry and Patten, 'Men and Memories of San Francisco,' p. 104.
- a.1888 The chaplain of a Western bishop remarked to the compiler, "He can give me my *walking papers* at any time."
- 1896 I'll give him his *walking-chalk* when he comes tonight.—Ella Higginson, 'Tales from Puget Sound,' p. 97.

Wampum. Beads made from the hard part of the quahaug shell, and used as money. An inferior sort, rocnoke, was made from conch-shells. The true wampum was hand-made by the Indians; but the people along the Hudson River, using lathes, made an imitation; and William Kieft and his Council passed a law in 1641 to regulate the prices at which each should pass current. A later act (1657) is mentioned s.v. STIVER.

- 1753 The half king told me that he offered the *wampum* to the commander. George Washington's Journal.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 24.
- 1762 "White *Wampung*" and "Black *Wampung*" are mentioned.—*Boston Evening Post*, Jan. 18.
- 1784 The chief of the Mohawks rose, and [held] up a Belt of *Wampoon*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 2.
- 1788 The Sachem magnificently dressed; ten strings of *wampum* round his neck, &c. [Philadelphia Federal Procession].—*Maryland Journal*, July 15.
- 1794 I send you three strings of *wampum* given by Bears Oil Chief,—"Corn-planter," alias John Obail, to Lieut. Polhemus.—*Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., June 20.
- 1828 [The richest skins of the Nootka Indians] are edged with a great curiosity. This is nothing less than the very species of *wampum* so well known on the opposite side of the continent.—'Life of John Ledyard,' p. 71 (Cambridge, Mass.).

Wangun. See quotation.

1851 The boats appropriated for the removal of the whole company, apparatus, and provisions, are called *wangun*s, an Indian word signifying bait.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 170 (N.Y.).

Want. To desire (that). See also I WANT.

1852 If this is your determination, I *want* you should manifest it.—H. C. Kimball, at the Mormon Tabernacle, Aug. 28: 'Journal of Discourses,' vi. 256.

1852 We *want* they should raise their right hand to do some good.—The same, Oct. 7: *id.*, i. 297.

1853 If there is any man or woman who do not want to pay their tithing, we do not *want* they should.—Brigham Young, Aug. 14: *id.*, i. 278.

Want to know. An expression of assent used in New England, not implying a desire for information.

1833 See HALVES. In this citation Mr. Neal negatives the idea that the words convey an interrogatory.

1842 Among the peculiar expressions in use in Maine we noticed that, when a person has communicated some intelligence in which the hearer feels an interest, he manifests it by saying "*I want to know*"; and when he has concluded his narrative, the hearer will reply, "O! do tell!"—Buckingham, 'Eastern and Western States,' i. 177.

1853 Do tell! *I want to know!* Did you ever! Such a powerful right smart chance of learning as you have is enough to split your head open right smack.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, April 11.

1853 Jedediah Homespun up and spent a quarter to see the Siamese Twins [Eng and Chang]. "How long you fellows been in this 'ere kind of a hitch?" "Forty-two years," was Eng's reply. "Du tell! Gettin kind o' used to it, I calculate, ain't you?" "We ought to," said they. "*Want to know!* wall, I swar yeou air hitched queer."—*Weekly Oregonian*, Sept. 3.

1854 "Dear me, suz, I *wanter know*," exclaimed Mrs. Brown again.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 124.

1873 This expression, says a New York correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, 4 S. xii., Dec. 27, is undoubtedly of New England (Yankee) origin, but, as in the case of many similar expressions, it would be wholly impossible to state with any degree of exactness just how it originated. In its general use it is accepted as complete in itself (really meaning no more than the familiar interjection "Sho!"), though the occasions of its especial use suggest words to fill up the ellipsis, *e.g.*, one person says to another, "I won a fine large turkey at a raffle last night"; to which the characteristic "I want to know!" would imply "I want to know *if you did!*" Or a person remarks, "I'm bound to get rich." And the answering "I want to know!" would imply "I want to know *if you are!*" In the latter instance, the expression would be somewhat sarcastic, a quality often given to it.

Want to know—*contd.*

- 1878 "Sim's ben to college, and he's pretty smart and chipper. Come to heft him, tho', he don't weigh much 'longside o' Parson Cushing. He's got a good voice, and reads well; but come to a sermon, wal, ain't no great heft in 't." "Want to know," said his auditor.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Poganuc People,' ch. 3.

War-hawks. Persons whose "voice is still for war."

- 1798 At present, the *war hawks* talk of septembrizing, deportation, and the examples for quelling sedition set by the French executive.—Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, April 26.
- 1798 The *warhawks* will be now more than ever distracted.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Nov. 10.
- *1812 Our *War-Hawks*, when pot-valiant grown,
 Could they the British King dethrone,
 Would sacrifice a man a day ;—
 To me the reason's very plain,
 When topers talk in such a strain,
 They want a double *Can-a-day*.
Columbia Centinel, Feb. 19.
- 1812 By accident looking into the Chronicle, I was much diverted with the curious toasts of the *war hawks* at Charlestown. . . . The office-holders, or leaders of the *war-hawks* (for be it known that there are very few violent *war-hawks* in Boston, except those holding offices under the federal government) these honest tory *war-hawks*, from Hone down to Madame Belcone, are in great tribulation—about what they are pleased to call people's opposition to the government. . . . Truth will prevail, and the *war-hawks* will be discomfited.—*Boston-Gazette*, July 16.
- 1812 The Rice, Cotton, and Tobacco of the Southern *War-Hawks* will find a safe, cheap, and ready conveyance to foreign markets.—*Id.*, Aug. 3.
- 1812 The *war-hawks*, and those who hold lucrative offices under Mr. Madison, now pretend that he is for peace, and that the war is owing to the federalists!!!—*Id.*, Oct. 26, *Supplement*.
- 1813 It was a public boast, after the declaration of war, by certain *war-hawks*, that they had driven the little man [Madison] up to it.—*Id.*, March 15.
- *1814-15 We read of "the *War-Hawk Government*" (*Columbian Centinel*, Sept. 28, 1814); of "the *War-Hawk party*" (*Portsmouth Oracle*, Jan. 28, 1815); of "the *War-Hawk rulers*" (*Columbian Centinel*, Sept. 28, 1814); and of "our *War-Hawk Selectmen*" (*Connecticut Courant*, Aug. 16, 1814).
- 1846 The gentleman a friend of 54° 40'! Why the gentleman regarded 54° 40' men as "*war hawks*" and "*war dogs*."—Mr. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, House of Repr., April 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 687.

War-hawks—contd.

1847 I put it to you, *war-hawks* of Mississippi, whose Democratic Governor repudiated seven millions of your State debt at one batch.—Mr. Culver of N.Y., the same, Jan. 20: *id.*, p. 253, App.

* * * The starred quotations are taken from Mr. Albert Matthews's monograph on 'UNCLE SAM,' pp. 23-29.

Watchdog of the Treasury. This nickname was applied to W. S. Holman of Indiana, who sat in the House of Representatives at Washington from the year 1859, and was also known as "the great objector." On one occasion he did not object to an appropriation which tended to the benefit of his own district, and another member aptly quoted Byron's lines ('Don Juan'),

'Tis sweet to hear the honest watchdog's bark

Bay deep-mouthed welcome as we draw near home.

Another objector was Nathaniel Macon of Georgia (1757-1837), and a third was Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania (1828-1890). In the 1853 quotation the allusion is to George S. Houston of Alabama.

1853 If I were to select the man in this House who was the most faithful *watchdog over the Treasury* of the U.S., I would select the gentleman from Alabama.—Mr. Meade of Va., House of Repr., March 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1141.

[1862 The difficulty with the gentleman from Indiana is that he "runs a muck" against every appropriation, right or wrong.—Mr. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, the same, Jan. 28: *id.*, p. 532/1.]

Water-gap. A gap in the mountains, through which a river flows. The Delaware Water-gap is one of the most famous.

1837 The highway to the neighboring *Water-gap* ran through the estate.—R. M. Bird, 'The Hawks of Hawk-hollow,' i. 5 (Lond.).

Water-haul. A cheat, a swindle.

1882 "Ostensibly I went to testify as an expert in the Star-route cases, but I did not testify. You know that was another "*water-haul*." It was another swin—" "Hold! what do you mean by *water-haul*?" asked [the reporter] innocently. "[These cases] are all smoke and no fire. . . . I get a good salary, and have my expenses paid beside, when I am thus called, so I have no reason to complain."—*Washington Critic*, Feb. 23.

* * * A conjectural explanation may be offered. The "hauling" of goods by water being cheaper than by land, contractors would employ water carriage, and charge the Government with land-carriage.

Water-lot. A piece of ground covered with water, but available for building.

1777 A *Water Lot* of Ground, on Feil's Point.—*Maryland Journal*, Nov. 4.

1778 A good convenient *Water Lot*, situated in George-Town.—*Id.*, June 23.

Water privilege. A site bordering on water, which is adapted to the purposes of a mill.

1812 To be Sold! A *Water Privilege* in Wrentham.—Advt., *Mass. Spy*, Sept. 9.

1822 Valuable Mills and *Water Privileges*.—*Id.*, July 31.

1827 Taken on execution, . . . one of the best *Water Privileges* on the north branch of the Nashua.—*Id.*, Jan. 17.

1829 The numerous *water privileges* on the line the railroad will pass will be taken up for manufacturing establishments.—*Id.*, April 15.

1841 The Senator from Connecticut cannot bear the idea of a poor man having the privilege of entering by pre-emption 160 acres of rich land; because the brute may have the audacity to select a spot of land where there may be *water privileges*.—Mr. John Sevier in the U.S. Senate, Jan. 14.

1852 The best *water privileges*, mill privileges, on favored soils.—Mr. Cartter of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 628.

Watering the jury. Securing corrupt jurors.

1792 The practice of *watering the jury* was familiarly known to those persons who had much business in the Law.—Jeremy Belknap, 'New Hampshire,' iii. 256.

Wattle race. A kind of "running the gauntlet."

1839 It would have been like the *wattle races* I have seen run in the West; he that ran the fastest received the fewest stripes.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 17: *Cong. Globe*, p. 104, App.

Waumus. A jacket of warm material. Many of these things were supplied to soldiers in the Civil War.

1805 I got up, and found that my *waumus* was bloody, which I had not observed before.—Dying Confession of Charles Cunningham: *Lancaster* (Pa.) *Intelligencer*, Nov. 12.

1854 He was attired with a red flannel "*wamus*," a leathern belt, &c.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 14.

Wave. See quotation.

1909 What other practical nations call movements, we characteristically call "*waves*." The fight against graft in municipal politics was a *wave*; prohibition is a *wave*; the direct primary is a *wave*; the reaction against the impure drama is a *wave*; the Teddy bear was a *wave*; and the present-day passion for living in bungalows is a *wave*.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, July 6.

1911 That the production of distilled spirits in this country during the fiscal year which ended on June 30 last was the greatest on record, must be a disappointing showing to those who have felt great confidence in the efficacy of the prohibition and anti-saloon *wave* which swept over the country a few years back.—*Id.*, Nov. 27, p. 4/2.

'Way for Away.

- 1866 In this year Seba Smith's lively book 'Way Down East,' was published.
- 1888 He sat 'way under the mantel, to let the tobacco-smoke go up the chinney.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 239.
- 1888 [He destroyed the picture], thus taking way the sting of ridicule which the constant sight of the caricature might produce.—*Id.*, p. 614.
- 1908 See LUNCH-COUNTER.

Wayback. One who is "behind the times."

- 1890 It was written all over us that we were, in Western terms "waybacks from wayback."—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 261.
- 1911 Entering Mr. May's quiet study I found him in intimate talk with a man of unassuming demeanor, in citizen's dress, and marked by no distinction of face or figure. He might have been a delegate to a peace convention or a country minister from wayback calling on a professional brother. [This was Major-General Henry W. Slocum.]—*N. Y. Ev. Post*, Dec. 4, p. 6/2.

Way-bill. A record of passengers and baggage on a stage-coach ; now applied to a record of goods carried in a freight-train.

- 1821 Packages of the larger kind, belonging to any passenger, were always entered on the way-bill, and the profits of carrying them went to the [stage] proprietors.—*Mass. Spy.*, May 23.
- 1826 He could not utter his name, to be placed on the way bill, and was compelled to point to it on his trunk.—*Id.*, Feb. 15.

Way passenger, station, traffic, &c. A way station is an intermediate one. Way passengers and way traffic go to or from way stations.

- 1799 The fare is 4*d.* per mile for way passengers.—*Advt.*, *Mass. Mercury*, Feb. 12.
- 1802 Way passengers at the usual rate.—*Advt.*, *Lancaster (Pa.) Journal*, Jan. 30.
- 1824 Way Passenger.... A sturgeon leaped in and took passage [on the schooner].—*Mass. Spy*, July 28.

Web-foot. An inhabitant of Western Oregon.

- 1873 We were among the "Web-feet" at last, and a comely race they are, if I may judge from [their] plump forms and fresh, clear complexions.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 759 (Phila., &c.).
- 1878 The rural "webfoot" is *sui generis*.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 400.

Well. Whole, healthy.

- 1850 I knew it was a dangerous place for a well man to go in, much less a one-leg cripple.—'Odd Leaves,' p. 172.
- 1857 After the excitement was over [at Nauvoo,] there was not enough well folks to wait on the sick.—John Taylor at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, Aug. 23 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 150.

Well preserved. In good condition.

- 1854 Antiquated gentleman in same slip, *well preserved*, but somewhat wrinkled.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Dec. 9.
- 1855 A blooming dowager, who may have been forty, but *better preserved* than most American ladies of seven-and-twenty.—D. G. Mitchell, 'Fudge Doings,' i. 172-3.
- 1864 A white-haired old man, *well preserved*, and a stickler for law and precedent, and a Hunker.—*Boston Commonwealth*, June 3.
- 1865 [Brigham Young] is six feet high, portly, weighing about two hundred, in his sixty-sixth year, and wonderfully *well preserved*.—Richardson, 'Beyond the Mississippi,' p. 352 (1867).
- 1869 [Brigham Young] is a *well-preserved* man of sixty-six years, of medium height, rather corpulent, with an abundant growth of light auburn hair, and a heavy crop of sandy whiskers, excepting on his upper and lower lips.—A. K. McClure, 'Rocky Mountains,' p. 156.

Wench. A girl; usually a young negress. The word is much used in Early English writers, sometimes in an honourable sometimes in a base sense.

- 1765 'Tis said the Fire was occasioned by a Negro *Wench* carrying a Quantity of Ashes.—*Boston-Gazette*, June 17.
- 1769 To be sold, a Hearty Negro *Wench*, a very good Cook.—*Id.*, Oct. 2.
- 1772 A Mulatto Man Slave, named Yellow Cuf; is likely to be in Company with a tall Indian *Wench* named Keziah.—Runaway advt., *Mass. Gazette*, Feb. 3.
- 1780 Ran away from the Subscriber the 2d September instant, A Negro *Wench*, named Juno, with her child Phillis, about four years old.—Avt., *Royal Georgia Gazette*, Sept. 28, p. 2/1.
- 1786 Feathers and fripperies suit the Cherokees, or the *wench* in your kitchen; but they little become the fair daughters of America.—*Am. Museum*, v. 263 (1789).
- 1799 The printers advertise for "A Young Negro *Wench*."—*Farmers' Register*, Greensburg, Pa., Dec. 21.
- 1820 Reeling home at night, and encountering the black visage of your *wench* as she opens the door for you.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 12: from the *National Advocate*.
- 1823 A young sturdy negro *wench* stood by doing nothing.—'American Anecdotes,' p. 107 (Phila.).
- 1824 Give me, says a second, another house *wench*.—*Howard Gazette*, Boston, March 27: from *The Port folio*.
- 1837 See CASSABA.
- 1842 A large pocket-book was taken from a *wench* in Moyamensing on Friday.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 25.
- 1862 Why do you not go out into this city and hunt up the blackest, greasiest, fattest old negro *wench* you can find, and lead her to the Altar of Hymen? You do not believe in any such equality; nor do I.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U. S. Senate, March 24; *Cong. Globe*, p. 1339/1.

Wench—*contd.*

1862 Liberating the negroes carries with it no obligation to marry their *wenches* to white men. Gentlemen may follow thier tastes afterwards as now.—Mr. James Harlan of Iowa, U.S. Senate, March 25 : *id.*, p. 1357/1.

West Pointer. A graduate of the West Point (N.Y.) Military Academy.

1863 If Joshua had the art of blowing down walls with rams' horns, he did much better than the *West Pointers* are able to do at the present time.—Mr. Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Jan. 15 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 325/2.

1863 Hooker is a *West Pointer*, and has he not shown genius during this war ?—Mr. Henry Wilson of Mass., the same, Jan. 15 : *id.*, p. 327/3.

Western Reserve, The. A tract of land in Northern Ohio, reserved by the state of Connecticut for the purposes of a school fund, when it ceded (in 1800) its claims on western lands. See James A. Garfield's address before the Historical Society of Geauga County, Ohio, Sept. 16, 1873.—'Encyc. of U.S. History,' vol. iv., s.v. GARFIELD.

1822 It was also called *New Connecticut*.—See Zerah Hawley's 'Tour,' *passim*.

1823 This tract is known by the name of the *Connecticut Reserve*, or *New Connecticut*.—George W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 79 (New Bedford).

1859 [Mr. Dennison] was made governor of Ohio by the votes of the *Western Reserve men*.—S. S. Cox, 'Eight Years in Congress,' p. 80 (1865).

1861 See FOREST CITY.

1861 I will accept the amendment; and I will also, for the benefit of my friend from Ohio [Mr. Cox] add that all the butter and cheese be produced in the *Western Reserve*.—Mr. Justin S. Morrill of Vermont, House of Repr., July 19 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 214/2.

1862 —Measures that only had an existence in the distempered brain of some abolitionist of New England or the *Western Reserve*.—Mr. James R. Morris of Ohio, the same, July 7 : *id.*, p. 3162/2.

1862 We do not go to Carolina for cheese, nor to the *Western Reserve* for cotton.—S. S. Cox, *ut supra*, p. 221.

Whang. See quotations.

1846 With small strips of thin deer-skin ("Whang"), he sews the vamps from end to end.—Rufus B. Sage, 'Scenes in the Rocky Mountains,' p. 115 (Phila.).

1848 The sinews of the deer, which were known by the general term of *whangs*.—Monette, 'Mississippi Valley,' ii. 4.

Whappernocker. See quotation.

1781 The *whappernocker* is somewhat bigger than a weazel, and of a beautiful brown-red colour.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 249 (Lond.).

Whiffet. A yelping cur.

1801 Who heeds the *Whiffit's* bark, when tempests howl ?
Or, if you please, when noble mastiffs growl.

'Olio,' p. 41 (Phila).

1802 One of the *whiffets* of the party attempted to lay his paw upon a bone, when Duane, like a surly mastiff, bid him be still.—*The Balance*, Sept. 28, p. 307.

1820 Yelping like a *whiffet* in pursuit of some game of which it appeared to be on the track.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 13.

1839 There was not a Whig *whiffet* in the country but could ask, &c.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 17 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 105, Appendix.

1839 He assumed all the pertness of a *whiffet*, hissed on, puppy-like, to do that which a bigger dog had not the courage to attempt.—The same, March 4 : *id.*, p. 212.

Whiffletree. A whipple-tree or splinter-bar.

1852 Did you ever notice the *whiffletrees* of my team-trotting-wagon, how they extend on each side beyond the hubs of the wheels ?—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 125 (N.Y.).

Whig. "One of a political party which grew up, in opposition to the Democratic party, out of the National Republican party. It was first called the Whig party in 1834." The word had been applied to the adherents of the Revolution ('Century Dict.').

1837 The term *Whig* in the U.S. at this time is significant of Federalist in '96, a term that the self-named *Whigs* of this day were proud of, but their principles are still the same.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio (an opponent of the Whigs), House of Repr., Dec. 18 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 48, App. [See the whole of the speech.]

1839 See WHIFFET.

1846 See ADMINISTRATION.

1862 I come from the fossil kingdom, belonging as I do to that extinct species, the pure, unadulterated *old-line Whig*.—Mr. W. T. Willey of Virginia, U.S. Senate, Feb. 4 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 626/1.

1862 [The abolitionists] strangled the old *Whig* party, and hounded Choate and Webster to their graves.—Mr. Charles J. Biddle of Pa., House of Repr., June 2 : *id.* p. 2505/2.

Whip. To beat, to overcome.

1815 If the enemy attack us in our present position, we must *whip* five to one.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 8.

1824 [The dog] came out, *whipped* the other dog, and then walked home.—*Id.*, Sept. 29.

1826 He who had beaten, or in the Kentucky phrase had "*whipped*" all the rest.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 98.

1828-9 See HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.

1833 See BOODLE.

1836 Mr. Bell [of Tennessee] said that, if war had resulted from our controversy with France, we should have been *whipped* severely.—Mr. Garland of Va., House of Repr., April 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 258, App.

Whip—*contd.*

- 1838 We had not only to *whip* the Indians, but we had to run them down, and hunt them up, amid the most impenetrable forests, everglades, morasses, and savannas [in Florida], through which it was almost impossible for any living animal to pass.—Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina, the same Jan. 24 : *id.*, p. 76, App.
- 1838 Three hundred Indian warriors have thought proper to *whip*, on our soil, two companies of militia.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, June 23, p. 152.
- 1840 Mr. Alford of Georgia told the Committee how the late President Jackson had “*whipped*” the U.S. Bank. He said he had no fault to find with the old General for killing the Bank ; but he did blame him for his inhumanity in not leaving it alone after it was dead.—House of Repr., June 26 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 488.
- 1841 I have no predilection for being *whipped* by a foreign foe ; but *whipped* we certainly shall be one of these days, if a war should come and find us in the defenceless condition in which we now are.—Mr. Monroe of N.Y., House of Repr., Feb. 3 : *id.* p. 286, App.
- 1841 Mr. Starkweather of Ohio derided the idea of defending Maine, because one Cape Cod fisherman could *whip* twenty British sailors on the ocean. We had now a hero in the chair [Gen. Harrison]. . . Without money and a almost without men he had *whipped* the British ; and yet now it was said we should be *whipped* to death. No. Americans never were *whipped* with equal advantages.—The same, March 1 : *id.*, p. 187, App.
- 1848 [Said General Scott,] Sir, give me a column,—a granite column of American regulars, consisting of four or five thousand men,—and I will *whip* any Mexican army that can be brought into the field, if it should rain Mexicans for a week.—Mr. Clayton of Delaware, U.S. Senate, Jan. 12 : *id.*, p. 161.
- 1852 I felt as though I could *whip* all the mobs in Missouri.—Ezra T. Benson, at the Mormon Tabernacle, Aug. 28 : ‘Journal of Discourses,’ vi. 263.
- 1854 Remember what Brother Carn said this morning ; if he is *whipped*, he don’t stay *whipped*. You cannot discourage a real Mormon.—J. M. Grant, the same, Oct. 7 : *id.*, ii. 72.
- 1857 I never got drunk but once, but what I could *whip* any man I ever saw, except brother Brigham.—Heber C. Kimball at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, July 12 : *id.*, v. 31.
- 1857 I do not know whether the inhabitants of Parowan intended to *whip* a regiment of dragoons, or not.—George A. Smith, the same, Sept. 13 : *id.*, v. 223.
- 1861 I suppose you will undertake to *whip* freemen into loving such brethren as that.—Mr. Toombs of Georgia, U.S. Senate : O. J. Victor, ‘Hist. So. Rebellion,’ i. 178.

Whip—*contd.*

- 1861 You may *whip* us, but we will not stay *whipped*.—Mr. Iverson's Farewell to the Senate: *id.*, i. 297.
- 1878 My dog can *whip* any dog in town, an' I can *whip* the owner.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.
- 1878 Gen. Lee was impressed with the idea that by attacking the Federals he could *whip* them in detail.—Gen. Longstreet in 'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' v. 61.

Whip the cat. See quotations: the second agrees with the English meaning of the same phrase, as given in the 'Slang Dictionary.' For a third meaning see GROSE.

- 1816 This *whipping the cat* is nothing more than a parcel of trades puffing at one another's heels, of a morning, to borrow money.—James K. Paulding, 'Letters from the South,' ii. 172 (N.Y., 1817).
- 1851 [He] made shoes, a trade he prosecuted in an itinerating manner from house to house, "*whipping the cat*," as it was termed.—S. Judd, 'Margaret,' i. 19.

Whip one's weight. See quotations.

- 1829 Every man who could "*whip his weight in wild cats*" burned with desire of reaping renown by an encounter with Francisco.—*Mass. Spy*, Feb. 11: from the *Georgia Courier*.
- 1832 See EXFLUNCTIFY. 1833. See HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.
- 1841 That confidence of a western man, which induces him to believe that he can "*whip his weight in wild cats*," is no vain boast.—'A Week in Wall Street,' p. 46 (N.Y.).
- 1843 See UNIVERSAL.
- 1852 See HALF HORSE, HALF ALLIGATOR.
- 1852 As long as I can *whip my weight* in catamounts or bar, I'll never gin in.—H. C. Watson, 'Nights in a Block-house,' p. 20 (Phila.).

Whipperwill. A species of goatsucker.

- 1781 The owls and *whipperwills* complete the rough concert.—Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 151 (Lond.).
- 1814 A short fable in blank verse, 'The Bald Eagle and *Whip-poor-Will*,' from the *Federal Republican*, appeared in the *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 2.
- 1818 'Tis pleasant when the world is still,
And Evening's mantle shrouds the vale,
To hear the pensive *whip-poor-will*
Pour her deep notes along the dale.
'Evening,' by Samuel Woodworth.
- 1823 At evening we heard the cry of the *whip-poor-will*, *caprimulgus vociferus*.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Expedition,' i. 4 (Phila.).
- 1824 Scaring the *whip-poor-wills* among the trees.—*Somerset (Me.) Journal*, Feb. 27: from the *Providence Journal*.
- 1845 A poem of four stanzas, 'The *Whippowil*,' appeared in the *Yale Lit. Mag.*, x. 364.

Whipsaw, v. To cut with a whipsaw; *i.e.*, a frame-saw, with a narrow blade. ('Century Dict.'). Hence, to cut or destroy (see 1909) by a backward and forward movement. Also (1885) to accept bribes from opposing parties.

1901 The great redwoods that were hewn in the Sonoma forest: were *whipsawed* by hand for the plank required.—*Century Mag.*, xli. 387.

1909 He sold short, as a hedge against his cash wheat, 8,000,000 bushels of June and July, covering later at a 20-cent loss, then bought heavily, and lost enormously when the market declined. He had been in the common term of Wall Street, "*whipsawed*."—*N. Y. Evening Post*, April 26.

1885 'Mag. American History,' xiii. 496.

Whirlers. See quotation.

1783 Perhaps you may have in view the *Whirlers*, a sectary [sect] lately broke out to the Eastward, and to which one of your erring saints became a convert.—*Maryland Journal*, Oct. 24.

Whisky insurrection, Whisky poles. This uprising against Federal taxation occurred in 1793-4.

1794 The *whisky poles* are all cut down [at Pittsburgh], and there seems to be a disposition to submit to the laws.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 19.

1805 Step forward, Albert Gallatin...Are you acquainted with a certain noted place called Parkinson's Ferry? Did you ever dance round *whiskey poles*?—*The Balance*, Dec. 10, p. 394.

1808 Albert Gallatin, who kindled the flame of insurrection around a *whiskey pole*.—*Mass. Spy*, Dec. 21.

1824 In the whole county, we doubt whether there are an hundred individuals who are tinctured with the duelling or *whiskey-insurrection* mania.—*Id.*, July 28.

1863 Washington, in calling out troops to suppress the *Whisky insurrection*, exceeded his authority.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' ii. 188.

1863 Those who, in the last century, maligned the great Washington for his efforts to suppress the *whisky rebellion* of Pennsylvania.—Mr. Horace Maynard of Tenn., House of Repr., Jan. 31: *Cong. Globe*, p. 662/2.

1864 In that *whisky insurrection* there were, at one time, more than seven thousand men in arms, including portions of the people of the great states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. These armed men seized on public property, plundered the mails, assaulted, maltreated Federal officers.—Mr. James F. McDowell of Indiana, House of Repr., Feb. 23: *id.*, p. 785/1.

Whisky-skin. A glass of whisky.

1856 Nine *whiskey skins*, and our spirits rushed together.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 146.

1857 Whether impelled by antecedent *whisky-skins* or natural obtuseness, we know not.—Thomas B. Gunn, 'New York Bearding-Houses,' p. 84.

Whisky-skin—*contd.*

- 1857 Mr. Kay has received \$1000 in money. I think there are who would do all that he did,—“*whisky-skins*” and all,—for half the money.—Boston Corresp. of *N.Y. Evening Post*, n.d.

White Charlies. See quotation.

- 1842 There seems to me as much prospect of the ultra Whigs—“the *white Charlies*”—coalescing with the Democrats, as there is of Tyler and his friends.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 28 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 74, App.

Whitehall boat, whitehaller. Perhaps one built at Whitehall, near the head of Lake Champlain.

- 1835 The light skilfully managed wherry of the *Whitehaller*.—C. J. Latrobe, ‘The Rambler in N. America,’ i. 25 (Lond.).
- 1850 Marking the course in which she disappeared, he seized a *white-hall boat* near by, and pursued.—Cornelius Mathews, ‘Money-penny,’ p. 161 (N.Y.).
- 1857 Three persons who had been laboring on Alcatraz Island, started in a *whitehall boat* for the shore.—*San Francisco Call*, Jan. 16.

Whitehead, like a. The meaning is uncertain.

- 1830 “Clear out *like a whitehead*.” Given as a Southernism *Mass. Spy*, July 28 : from the *N.Y. Constitution*.

Whitewash. To discharge from debts by bankruptcy ; to cover over the blemishes of a man’s character. We shall learn from the N.E.D. whether this is originally English, or not.

- 1762 Another, lately *white-washed* (taken the benefit of the Bankrupt Act), proposed to me my setting him up again in business.—*Boston Evening Post*, Aug. 2.
- 1800 If you do not *whitewash* [President Adams] speedily, the Democrats, like swarms of flies, will bespatter him all over, and make you both as speckled as a dirty wall, and as black as the devil.—*The Aurora*, Phila., July 21.
- 1800 Oliver has *whitewashed* Timothy, Dayton has washed himself, and honest Stockton has told a plain story.—*Id.*, Aug. 5.
- 1800 Is it what that great hero of ancient fame, Jonathan Wild, called a *whitewash*, that is about to take place?—*Id.*, Dec. 1.
- 1806 Probably they will select some men who will do without *whitewashing*.—*The Repertory*, Boston, June 30.
- 1808 It is said there was only a majority of one for addressing (alias *white-washing*) his Excellency.—*Id.*, July 26.
- 1814 [They] came before the [insolvency] court, and were *whitewashed* together.—*Qly. Rev.*, Jan., p. 507.
- 1839 The hon. gentleman is very indignant about this charge of *white-washing* ; and, to prove that the committee was not to be a *white-washing* committee, he reminds me that he desired not to be put upon it.—Mr. Wise of Va., House of Repr., Jan. 8 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 34, App.

Whitewash—contd.

- 1839 I am confident every effort will be used by the committee to *whitewash* the black frauds and corrupt iniquities of Swartwout, and to blackwash the Administration.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, the same, Jan. 17 : *id.*, p. 103, App.
- 1839 I have heard much of the committee usually known as the *whitewash* committee ; but if this does not turn out to be a blackwash committee, then I am no prophet, nor the son of a prophet.—Mr. Bynum of N. Carolina, the same, Jan. — : *id.*, p. 126.
- 1850 [I think it unwise] to incur the expense of a lawsuit merely for the purpose of *whitewashing* the character of these parties.—Mr. Turney of Tennessee, U.S. Senate, Sept. 25 : *id.*, p. 1973. [The term was used several times during this debate on the "Galphin claim,"]

Who struck Billy Patterson? A ludicrous question admitting of no reply. William or "Billy" Patterson was the father of Napoleon's brother's wife ; but "Oldcastle died a martyr, and this is not the man." See *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. xi. 218.

- 1847 Di-lemma—*Who struck William Patterson?*—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xii. 281.
- 1858 Who was the Man in the Iron Mask? Was there ever such a book as 'De Tribus Impostoribus'? *Who struck Billy Patterson?* Who hit dis nigger?—*Id.*, xxiii. 180.

Whole cloth. A lie from beginning to end is said to be made up out of whole cloth.

- 1843 Isn't this entire story about your Jersey grandmother *made out of whole cloth?*—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' p. 68.
- 1853 Some said a bran new organ was going to be *made right up out of whole cloth*, and an editor was going to be brought up from New Hampshire to edit it.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 405 (1860).
- 1888 There is on truth whatever in the statement, which was manufactured out of *whole cloth*.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, April 29 (Farmer).

Whole-soul, Whole-souled. See quotations.

- 1834 [The New-Yorkers] are a *whole-souled* people, and I like 'em.—'The Kentuckian in New York,' i. 190.
- 1834 The Rev. Mr. F. was a *whole-souled* and obliging man.—*Vermont Free Press*, Fayetteville, Nov. 8.
- 1834 He is a *whole-souled* chap (said Ned) and will make the best sailor that ever went from Old Hampshire County.—*Id.* Nov. 22.
- 1835 [When an editor marries], he is no longer the "*whole-soul'd*" pleasant chap he once was.—*Bucks Co. (Pa.) Intelligencer*, Oct. 19.
- 1837 According to the popular acceptance of the phrase, a "*whole-soul*" is a boiler without a safety-valve, doomed sooner or later to explode with fury, if wisdom with her gimblet fail in making an aperture.—J. C. Neal, in 'A Whole-souled Fellow': 'Charcoal Sketches,' p. 165.

Whole-soul, Whole-souled—contd.

- 1839 They were *whole-souled* liberal hearted young fellows, and therefore they would have something to drink.—Charles F. Briggs, 'Harry Franco,' i. 84.
- 1844 It would drive a pang deep into the heart of many a *whole-souled* democrat as he pushed his plane, swung his axe, or followed his plough.—Mr. Henley of Indiana, House of Repr., Dec. 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 78, App.
- 1850 We know of but one genuine real *wholesouled* praiseworthy military captain.—James Weir, 'Lonz Powers,' i. 245 (Phila.).
- 1851 A noble, *whole-souled* gentleman, whose liberality will earn him the thanks of his countrymen.—Philadelphia *Age*, Jan. 14 (De Vere).
- 1853 [The steamer Flag] is in charge of Capt. Gordon, a *whole-souled* officer.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, June 25.
- 1854 There was nothing narrow, sectarian, or sectional in Bolus's lying. It was a generous, gentlemanly, *whole-souled* faculty.—J. G. Baldwin, 'Flush Times,' p. 6.
- 1856 Pennsylvania's favorite son, James Buchanan, every inch a man, with genuine nationality and *whole-souled* conservatism in every movement.—Mr. Stewart of Maryland, House of Repr., July 29 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 992, Appendix.
- 1876 A *whole-souled* Fenian, formerly in the book-business in New York.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 265.
- 1908 One of the things Mr. Taft does best is to smile upon people in a genuinely friendly, *whole-souled*, frank spirit, and make them like him.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Oct. 22.

Wide-Awakes, The. An association of "Black Republicans," formed in 1860.

- 1860 Mr. Wigfall of Texas : "The Senator from New York told his John-Brown, *Wide-Awake* Prætorians that their services could not be dispensed with." Mr. Seward : "[I never said] that the *Wide-Awakes* were to be kept organized, disciplined, and uniformed." Mr. Wigfall : "This *Wide-Awake* Association has produced an immense amount of excitement and bitter feeling."—U.S. Senate, Dec. 12 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 75/1.
- 1861 The John Brown and Helper characteristics are . . . put on to proselyte the churches and the old women, and put off to placate *wide-awakes* and the old Whigs.—Mr. Samuel S. Cox, of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 14 : *id.*, p. 376/2.

Wig. A male seal. This word is not in Ogilvie, and the 'Century Dict.' gives no example.

- 1830 On the island reposed, in great state, an old *wig* (the male seal). Some of our men pelted his wigship with pieces of ice . . . These old *wigs* are more than twice as large as the female seal, and might be mistaken for another species of animals . . . I had never seen an old *wig* on shore, but, having killed a good many seals and one sea-elephant, I thought myself a match for a *wig*.—N. Dana, 'A Mariner's Sketches,' pp. 136, 145, 146. [Other examples also.]

Wigwam ; Teepee ; Wickie-up. Indian dwellings. See a paper by Mr. James Platt, jun., in *Notes and Queries*, 10 S. ix. 406. **TEEPÉE** is separately dealt with.

1705 A *wigwag* is the Indian name for a House.—Beverley, 'Virginia,' iii. 11.

1784 Where wretched *wigwams* stood, we beheld the foundations of cities laid.—Daniel Boon, in Filson's 'Kentucke,' p. 50.

1785 The den of a bear, or the *wigwam* of an Indian.—*Mass. Spy*, March 17.

1821 [The Indians] called a house *weckwam*, pronounced by their successors *wigwam*.—T. Dwight, 'Travels,' i. 117.

1821 The *weckwam*, to which they were conducted, was inhabited by twelve persons.—*Id.*, i. 412.

1857 We asked which was the way to Jacob's "Wicky-up."—Amasa Lyman at the Bowery, Salt Lake City, June 7 : 'Journal of Discourses,' v. 80.

1873 I looked around on the willow walls of the brush-covered *wickiup*.—J. H. Beadle, 'The Undeveloped West,' p. 655 (Phila., &c.).

1878 The rest of the winter they pass in a half comatose state, crouching over a little fire in brush "*wickiups*," or lying on the sunny side of a rock.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 173.

Wild and woolly. A phrase applied to the far West and its inhabitants.

1891 Mr. A. Welcker's "*Woolly West*" was published.

1909 The "*wild and woolly*" individual of the early mining camps, whose business it was to terrorize the editor by demanding retractions, . . . is no longer in evidence.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 18.

Wild-cat banks, money, &c. Those having a precarious existence or value.

1838 About four hundred Irishmen working on the Canal took offence at being paid in "*Wild-Cat*" money, instead of Illinois.—*The Jeffersonian*, Albany, April 14, p. 72.

1838 We shall have Orono bills, Exchange bills, and Lumbermen's bills, and *Wild-cat* bills, that nobody knows who the father or the the maker is.—Letter to the same, Sept. 15, p. 244.

1839 I would not tax your kindness by accepting of Illinois or *wild-cat* paper bills.—Sol. Smith, 'Autobiog.,' p. 144 (1868).

1840 [Many of the new banks] were without a local habitation, though they might boast the name, it may be, of some part of the deep woods, where the wild cat had hitherto been the most formidable foe. Hence the celebrated name "*Wild Cat*" justified fully by the course of these blood-suckers.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 220.

1841 Mr. Buchanan : The bills of some *Wild Cat* bank in Michigan. That, I think, is the name of this sort of money. Mr. Benton, across : *Red Dog*. Mr. Buchanan : I never heard it called *Red Dog* ; but that may be the proper name.—U. S. Senate, Sept. 2 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 343, App.

Wild-cat banks, money, &c.—contd.

- 1842 Does he not know that it is the old, worn out, used up, dead and gone slang upon which every *red dog*, *wild cat*, owl creek, coon box, and Cairo swindling shop obtained their charters?—Mr. Benton in the Senate, Jan. 13: *id.*, p. 65, App.
- 1842 We took our pay in *wild-cat* money.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 111.
- 1847 What did they do? Set up a great Government bank—a regular *wild-cat*—a full-grown undeniable Wolverine *wild cat*; and, to make the resemblance perfect, they propose to put upon its bills "real estate pledged."—Mr. Root of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 5: *Cong. Globe*, p. 332.
- 1853 We are glad to see gold coming West, and hope it will continue to come, and take the place of "*Wild-cat*" shinplasters.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 5.
- 1853 It will be remembered that in 1837-8 Michigan was over-run with "*wild-cat*" banks, the notes of which were sent all over the west to be circulated.—*Id.*, Feb. 14.
- 1853 All the "individual issues," "*wild-cat* rags," "*red dogs*," "plank road," "Illinois river," and all other fraudulent and swindling shinplaster notes should be driven from the city.—*Id.*, Feb. 18.
- 1856 The "dollar-boat" inclosed by Mr. G. was on a *wild-cat* bank.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlviii. 100 (July).
- 1858 Shall Col. Eldridge have control of the court-house fund, on which to start his *Wild-cat* Bank, whose charter makes paper money a legal tender?—*Herald of Freedam*, Lawrence, Kas., April 3.
- 1858 We are over-run with a *wild-cat* currency from all God's creation, and every day we notice batches of new issues scattered amongst us.—*Baltimore Sun*, July 8 (Bartlett).
- 1862 These insurance companies break with as much facility as *wild-cat banks* used to break.—Mr. Lazarus W. Powell of Kentucky, U.S. Senate, May 24: *Cong. Globe*, p. 2338/1.
- 1862 Mr. Kellogg of Illinois. "When the gentleman from Rhode Island speaks of banks and bankers, I ask him where is the Central Bank of Rhode Island?—a specimen article of *wild-cat banks*." Mr. Sheffield. "The Governor of Illinois got control of it, put it into his pocket, and carried it off." (Laughter).—House of Repr., Feb. 6: *id.*, p. 680/2.
- 1863 Governor Matteson, for several years, was king of the so-called "*wild cats*"; he owned stock-banks in all directions, and guided them as easily as a well-skilled boy manages a kite.—Mr. John A. Gurley of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 15: *Cong. Globe*, p. 342/3.
[This was Joel A. Matteson of Illinois, who became governor in 1852. He died in his 75th year in Jan. 1883.]
- 1881 Walsh next turned up in Washington as a *wildcat* banker.—*N.Y. Sun*, Nov. 16.

Wild-cat banks, money, &c.—contd.

- 1909 [The mining engineer] has rendered valuable service to the public by lessening the opportunities of the *wild-cat* mining promoter, who flourished successfully in the old days of boom mining camps. The *wild-catter* would have few victims if [they] had the common-sense foresight to appeal to the engineer.—*N.Y. Evening Post*, Feb. 22.
- 1909 See BUCKET-SHOP.

Wilmot proviso, The. This compromise, proposed by Mr. David Wilmot of Pennsylvania, Aug. 8, 1846, and not finally adopted, provided that slavery should be excluded from Texas.

- 1847 See NEGROISM.
- 1847 The pending amendment, known as the "*Wilmot proviso*," proposes to exclude slavery for ever from any territory that may be acquired [from Mexico].—Mr. Dillingham of Vermont, House of Repr., Feb. 12: *Cong. Globe*, p. 402.
- 1847 If the South act as it ought, the *Wilmot proviso*... may be made the means of successfully asserting our equality and rights.—Letter of John C. Calhoun to a member of the Alabama legislature: cited by Mr. Duell of N.Y., *Cong. Globe*, p. 1797/1 (April 23, 1862).
- 1862 Webster and Clay and Cass and their compeers tossed aside the "*Wilmot proviso*" like a firebrand, and, without proscribing slavery, left it to make its dreaded inroads upon Utah and New Mexico.—Mr. Charles J. Biddle of Pa., the same, June 2: *id.*, p. 2504/1.
- 1862 Under the threat of disunion in 1850, we abandoned the *Wilmot proviso*, and entered into a covenant that... Utah and New Mexico should be received into the Union, with or without slavery as their people might determine.—Mr. George W. Julian of Indiana, the same, Jan. 14: *id.*, p. 328/1.

Wilt. To wither, to fade, to droop, to collapse.

- 1809 Fanciful festoons of *wilted* peaches and dried apples.—Washington Irving, 'Hist. of N.Y.,' i. 185 (1812).
- 1817 You perceived that [the rod] was dry and tough; it was *wilted* in the ashes of the great conflagration.—*Mass. Spy*, March 5.
- 1821 The leaves of the common black cherry tree, when a little *wilted*, if eaten by horned cattle, will kill them in a short time.—*Id.*, Sept. 12: from the *Montpelier Watchman*.
- 1825 [See him] *wiltin'* away, like a cabbage leaf in the hot sun.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 109.
- 1825 When the old witch pow-wowed over that [tree], we could see it *wilt* away, *wilt* away.—*Id.*, iii. 388.
- 1833 See LIMPSY.
- 1844 Lank, thin-faced, sharp-sided, wasp-waisted, withered, *wilted*, dried-up beings.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 174.
- 1850 That steel-nerved arm was *wilted*.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 458.

Wilt—*contd.*

- 1851 The Frost-spirit wooed and would marry a sweet flower. He said to the Flower, "Wilt thou?" and the Flower *wilted*.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xxxvii. 101 (Jan.).
- a.1854 The ladies too all *wilted* down;
Like rag-dolls hung their hands;
Poor drooping things! More *wilted* they
Than lettuce on the stands.
Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iv. 109.
- 1854 You, young lady, with a parasol like a *wilted* cabbage-leaf on a ramrod.—*Oregon Weekly Times*, Sept. 9.
- 1854 Then softly he whispered, How could you do so?
I certainly thought I was jilted;
But come thou with me, to the parson we'll go;
Say, wilt thou, my dear? and she *wilted*.
N.Y. *Spirit of the Times*, n.d.
- 1855 Two of the less *wilted* pumpkins [were] reserved for the cabin table.—*Putnam's Mag.*, vi. 465 (Nov.).
- 1856 Ben, to do him justice, was kind to the *wilted* little mortal.—Mrs. Stowe, 'Dred,' ch. 22.
- 1856 The dogs slunk round the group with *wilted* tails.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxi. 148.
- 1857 One plunge of Sally's elbow, and my blooming bosom ruffles *wilted* to the consistency and form of an after-dinner napkin.—*S.F. Call*, Feb. 17: from the N.Y. *Spirit of the Times*.
- 1857 He suddenly *wilted* down, until he was entirely concealed from my view by a quart-pot which sat on the counter.—*Knicker. Mag.*, l. 434 (Nov.).
- 1888 See SMUDGE.

Windfall. A tree-trunk overthrown in a storm.

- 1840 A *windfall* upon the hill-side was to be traversed next. The uprooted trees . . . lay with their twisted stems, &c.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' ii. 223 (Lond.).
- 1851 After an untold number of stumbles over old *windfalls*, . . . we reached the log cabin.—John S. Springer, 'Forest Life,' p. 66 (N.Y.)
- 1851 Now penetrating dense thickets, then leaping high "*windfalls*," and struggling through swamp-mires, [the deer] finally fell through exhaustion.—*Id.*, p. 125.

Windfall. See quotation.

- 1857 These *windfalls* were neither more nor less than the old tracks of these whirlwinds and tornadoes, that had swept down the forest trees.—Hammond, 'Wild Northern Scenes,' p. 220.

* * Compare with this the Southern use of HURRICANE.

Windy City, The. Chicago.

- 1898 Denver was then but a village, but now it almost rivals the *Windy City*.—Mrs. Mackin, 'Two Continents,' p. 30.

Winkers. Blinkers.

1852 Having no *winkers* [the horse] sees his own way, and keeps a look-out.—C. A. Bristed, 'The Upper Ten Thousand,' p. 22 (N.Y.).

Wipe out. To destroy.

1861 Many of the officers went away, saying, "We will come by-and-by, and *wipe you out*."—George A. Smith at Logan, Utah, Sept. 10: 'Journal of Discourses,' ix. 112.

1862 [Many good people] are anxious that the war shall be made the occasion of *wiping slavery out*.—Mr. O. H. Browning of Illinois, U.S. Senate, March 10: *Cong. Globe*, p. 1137/3.

1888 Mexican authorities are taking all possible measures to *wipe out* Bernal's band of outlaws.—*Missouri Republican*, Feb. 22 (Farmer).

1911 After an inquiry into the disaster at Austin, Pa., where some eighty persons were killed and a village *wiped out*, the coroner's jury has returned a verdict of gross negligence against [certain officials].—*N.Y. Ev. Post*, Nov. 27, p. 4/7.

Wire-draw. To inveigle.

1778 The conversation was purely accidental. You were not *wire-drawn*, as hath been asserted by your friend.—*Maryland Journal*, Oct. 22.

1839 Look at him, gentlemen of the jury. There he stands, walking about, with the cloak of hypocrisy in his mouth, trying to *wire-draw* three oak-trees from my client's pocket.—*Daily Sun*, Cincinnati, May 22: quoted from John Neal.

Wire-puller, wire-worker, &c. A wire-puller is a politician who moves the strings or wires by which dupes are worked.

1826 Mr. McDuffie said he was perfectly aware who was the skulking manager who *moved the wires*.—*Mass. Spy*, April 12.

1835 He is the *wire-worker* of those high-handed and lawless measures.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 172 (Phila.).

1839 [The credit of Mr. Rives's mission] actually belonged to the *wire-workers*, resident and advising at the White House in Washington.—Robert Mayo, 'Political Sketches,' p. 83 (Balt.).

1840 He would doubtless lie very quiet and easy, unless there happened to be a *wire-worker*, or Committee-man, in the next grave.—'Arcturus,' i. 14 (N.Y.).

1842 I tell the *wire-workers* of that party that they are raising a storm of indignation amongst the people, that will in its whirlwind course blow them like chaff into the fire of the people's wrath.—Mr. Kennedy of Indiana, House of Repr., April 28: *Cong. Globe*, p. 319, App.

1847 Neither by demonstrations here, nor by figuring and *wire-pulling* at home, am I engaged to the support of this bill.—Mr. Wick of Indiana, the same, Jan. 26: *id.*, p. 262.

Wire-puller, wire-worker, &c.—contd.

- 1848 Already [Philadelphia] is filled with *wire-pullers*, public opinion manufacturers, embryo cabinet officers, future ambassadors, and the whole brood of political make-shifts.—*N. Y. Mirror*, June 5 (Bartlett).
- 1860 The Southern States never send puppets to Conventions to be managed by "*wire-workers*."—*Richmond Enquirer*, May 11, p. 2/2.
- 1860 A scheme of partisan plotting and *wire-pulling* that would disgrace the most unprincipled tide-waiter.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, xxv. 188.
- 1861 [Mr. Slidell] is one of those men who, unknown almost to the outer world, organizes and sustains a faction, and exalts it into the position of a party,—what is here called *wire-puller*.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,' May 24.
- 1864 You *pull wires*, and play puppets, and lie to the people whom you make your dupes.—J. G. Holland, 'Letters to the Joneses,' p. 274.
- 1910 [A policeman] arrested a saloonkeeper for serving drinks on Sunday. Before he could reach the station-house with his prisoner *the wires were pulled* and the prisoner was allowed to go. But the policeman was brought up for trial on charges of having been in a saloon in uniform while on duty. He was fined ten days' pay. "Hereafter," he said, "I let the saloons alone."—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 31.

Wistar-Party. See quotation, 1836. Dr. Caspar Wistar (1760-1818) originated these gatherings.

- 1818 [Dr. Wistar's] weekly conversation-parties during the winter were the means of concentrating and diffusing every kind of useful intelligence in the philosophical world.—*Analectic Mag.*, xi. 160 (Feb.).
- 1829 I shall never forget these agreeable and instructive *Wistar parties* at Philadelphia.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' ii. 341.
- 1836 There exists [in Philadelphia] a club of twenty-four philosophers, who give every Saturday evening very agreeable male parties: consisting of the club, twenty invited citizens, and any strangers who may happen to be in town. [Note.] Called *Wistar parties*, in honour of the late Caspar Wistar, M.D., Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania.—'Pleasant Peregrinations,' p. 24 (Phila.).
- 1857 The remark which old Dr. Chapman made one night at a "*Wistar-Party*" held at his house.—*Knick. Mag.*, 1. 528 (Nov.).
- 1858 You know, dear Knick, that "*Philadelphia Wistar-Parties*" are famous.—*Id.*, li. 106 (Jan.).

Withe, v. See quotation.

- 1839 The process of "*withing a buck*," i.e., taking it by means of a noose formed of birch saplings, is described in Hoffman's 'Wild Scenes,' vol. i. ch. xix.

Wolverine. A native of Michigan.

- 1835 Here we saw the skin of a Wolverine, an animal partaking equally of the nature of fox and wolf, from which the people of Michigan get the soubriquet of *Wolverines*.—'Life on the Lakes,' i. 158 (N.Y., 1836).
- 1839 The *Wolvereens* close side by side.—*Cadiz Sentinel*, Nov. 20.
- 1840 The fierce, reckless, hard-handed *Wolverinc*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'A New Home,' p. 235.
- 1842 The *Wolverine* in his log hut.—The same, 'Forest Life,' i. 86.
- 1848 See SUCKER.
- 1861 The "*Wolverines*" were awake for the peril.—O. J. Victor, 'Hist. So. Rebellion,' i. 162.

Womblecropped. Uncomfortable.

- 1798 I feel a good deal *womblecropped* about dropping her acquaintance.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 5.
- 1833 I begin to feel a little kind of *wamble-cropt* about goin' to South Carolina after all.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 182 (1860).
- 1833 I haven't come acrost anything that made me feel so *wamble-cropt* this good while.—*Id.*, p. 193.

Wonders. A provincial name for "crullers." Mr. Bartlett says, "In Nantucket, a kind of cake."

- 1847 Other dainties awaited us as the result of killing hogs. They were "dough-nuts" and "*wonders*," the latter being known to you under the name of crullers. I can find neither word in Webster, and from early association prefer the former. . . . At the proper season, "*wonders*" made our supper; and although I never made the dough, I was quite *au fait* in lifting them out of the boiling fat, and equally adroit in managing them at the table.—Dr. Drake, 'Pioneer Life in Kentucky,' pp. 97, 108.

Wood, wood up. To take in wood, especially on a river steam-boat.

- 1829 The place where we made fast was a *wooding* station, owned by what is called a Squatter, a person who, without any title to the land, or leave asked or granted, squats himself down, and declares himself the lord and master of the soil for the time being. There is nobody to question his right, and indeed, according to all accounts, it might not be altogether a safe topic of conversation to introduce.—Basil Hall, 'Travels in N. America,' iii. 354.
- 1833 Next morning we stopped to *wood*, a little below New Madrid.—J. K. Paulding, 'Banks of the Ohio,' i. 217 (Lond.).
- 1838 The boat had just "*wooded*."—B. Drake, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 28.
- 1839 When we stopped in the afternoon to "*wood*" we were gratified by a sight of an enormous catfish.—J. K. Townsend, 'Narrative,' p. 21 (Phila.).
- 1850 Richard very quietly went to *wooding up* the stove.—S. Judd, 'Richard Edney,' p. 52.

Wood, wood up—contd.

- 1850 *Wood up* that fire, it may attract the moths
And vermin from Society, and singe
The mischief out of them.
The same, 'Philo,' p. 98.
- 1852 [They said] that we had stopped on the [Newfoundland]
banks to *wood*.—S. S. Cox, 'A Buckeye Abroad,' p. 436.
- 1861 The owner of this establishment, a stout negro, was busily
engaged with others in "*wooding up*" the engine from the
pile of cut timber by the roadside.—W. H. Russell, 'Diary,'
April 15.
- 1875 The officer of the watch will tell you when he wants to
wood up.—Mark Twain, 'Old Times': *Atlantic Monthly*,
p. 288 (March).
- 1888 The steamer bumped into the shore to be *wooded*, and an
army of negroes appeared, running over the gang-plank
like ants.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 51.

Woodchuck. *Arctomys monax*. The same as the GROUND-HOG.

- 1768 "920 Musquash, 59 *Wood Chucks*, &c.," were slain in the
year 1682 as part of an Indian funeral ceremony.—*Boston
News-Letter*, June 30: from the *Halifax Gazette*.
- 1781 The *woodchuck* when eating, makes a noise like a hog,
whence he is named *Woodchuck* or *Chuck of the Wood*.—
Samuel Peters, 'History of Connecticut,' p. 250 (Lond.).
- 1789 See from proud Egremont the *wood-chuck* train
Sweep their dark files, and shade with rags the plain.
Am. Museum, v. 95: from a fictitious epic, 'The Anar-
ehiad.'
- 1792 The *woodchuck* (*ursi vel mustelæ* species) is a small animal
which burrows in the earth. It is generally fat to a pro-
verb.—Jeremy Belknap, 'N. Hampshire,' iii. 153.
- 1797 A fifty acre lot, which would not maintain a *woodchuck*.—
Mass. Spy, July 12.
- 1809 Then if to go further I was put in doubt
By a *Chuck* at the mouth of a hole;
The *Woodchuck* crept in, and the *Woodchuck* crept out,
And sported his tail, and his head mov'd about,
I scarce dar'd pass by, on my soul!
Id., Nov. 8.
- 1817 *Woodchuck* Hunt. *Woodchucks* have appeared in great
numbers [in Deerfield, Mass.] this spring. . . . The *wood-
chuck* rarely, if ever, ventures far from his hole.—*Id.*,
June 18.
- 1823 He has only brought in one *woodchuck* and a few gray
squirrels.—J. F. Cooper, 'The Pioneers,' i. 16 (1827).
- 1824 *Woodchucks* would burrow in State Street,
And gaunt wolves prowl where merchants meet.
New England Farmer's Boy, New Year's Address
- 1825 Never seed a *wood chuck* in a toad-hole, I guess?—John
Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' i. 108.

Woodchuck—*contd.*

- 1825 It happened Jack, the younger son,
As many other boys have done
By chance a *woodchuck* caught.
N.H. Patriot, Concord, March 7.
- 1837 The mass of the American people care no more for a lord
than they care for a *woodchuck*.—J. F. Cooper, 'England,'
ii. 245.
- a.1848 A farmer was interrogated by his negro servant, why he
did not pray the Lord to prevent the *woodchucks* from
eating the beans.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' i. 249.
- a.1853 You appear to be as stupid as a lot of *woodchucks* in
winter.—*Id.*, iii. 155.

Wood lot. A piece of ground with trees.

- 1774 I paid the tax for a *wood lot* which I never improved.—
Newport Mercury, May 2.
- 1799 For sale, a good *Wood Lot*, of 20 acres.—*Mass. Mercury*,
Nov. 1.
- 1817 For sale, a *Wood Lot* of about 34 acres, in Shrewsbury.—
Mass. Spy, Feb. 12.
- 1817 "A fine *Wood-Lot*" is offered.—*Id.*, March 26.
- 1829 In applying the axe to a *wood lot*, the best method is, &c.
—*Id.*, Jan. 21: from the *New England Farmer*.
- 1837 I'll give any man the best *wood lot* in the whole state, if he
catches me on board a ship again.—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ii. 351
(Aug.).

Wooden Islands. See quotation.

- 1806 *Wooden Islands* are places where by some cause or other
large quantities of drift-wood have, through time, been
arrested and matted together in different parts of the
river.—Thomas Ashe, 'Travels in America,' last page
(Lond., 1808).

Wooden nutmegs. Certain Connecticut merchants were said to
have exported wooden nutmegs, basswood hams, and horn
gun-flints.

- 1826 The land of "*wooden nutmegs*" and horn gun-flints.—
Mass. Spy, Sept. 6: from the *Schoharie Republican*.
- 1826 Pit-coal indigo, *wooden nutmegs*, straw baskets, and Yankee
notions.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 33.
- 1830 Toast by Col. Brown of S. Carolina:—"Yankee boasters
—may they be charged with cow-foot gun-flints, wadded
with insurrection pamphlets, pruned with *wooden nutmegs*,
and levelled against the eastern manufactories."—*Mass.*
Spy, July 28.
- 1833 That land of wooden hams, *wooden nutmegs*, and wooden-
headed pedagogues, known emphatically as Down East.—
Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas,' p. 347.
- 1838 A Western paper says, a certain dweller in the land of
notions—"long sarce and short sarce"—*wooden nutmegs*,
horn gun flints, and cast iron axes, has lately taken to
making sausages of brown paper.—*Balt. Comml. Tran-*
script, Jan. 20, p. 2/1.

Wooden nutmegs—contd.

- 1840 [The motion] resembled the *wooden nutmeg* of the Yankee trader.—John Q. Adams, House of Repr., Jan. 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 134.
- 1842 The cargo [of a flat-boat] consists of almost everything you would comprise in the extensive term of “Yankee notions,” with perhaps the exception of *wooden nutmegs* and hams.—Mr. Gwin of Mississippi, the same, July 8 : *id.*, p. 636, App.
- 1843 This was the mystery connected with his visit to the land of johnny-cake and *wooden nutmegs*.—‘Lowell Offering,’ iv. 26.
- 1850 See BASSWOOD.
- 1853 The Connecticut people are religious. It is a land of liberty and religion and steady habits. (A voice. And *wooden nutmegs*). Yes, and they make *wooden nutmegs* better than anybody else.—Mr. Stanly of N. Carolina, House of Repr., Feb. 1 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 463.
- 1863 While Yankee ingenuity exhausted itself in the invention of cotton-gins, power-looms, telegraphs, and the like, we gave it praise ; when it cropped out in such little vagaries as *wooden nutmegs*, brown paper shoes, and cast-iron gimlets, the result was comparatively harmless ; . . . but when this mental activity exhibited itself in such moral heresies as witch-burning, Quaker-hanging, Fourierism, free love, and modern abolitionism, it naturally induced grave fears as to the consequences.—Mr. T. L. Price of Missouri, the same, Feb. 28 : *id.*, 137/2, App.
- 1864 Would you expect the untutored African to run the New England engines, turn their spindles, or indulge in the ingenious pastime of making pins, combs, buttons, horn gun-flints, and *wooden nutmegs* ?—Mr. C. A. White of Ohio, House of Repr., Feb. 19 : *id.*, p. 765/3.

Woodsman. One well acquainted with the woods.

- 1777 It was agreed that I should undertake, with Lieut. Stockwell, who is a good *woodsman*, to endeavour to get down into the country.—*Maryland Journal*, Sept. 2.
- 1843 “If you keep that course, you’ll reach the licks about sun-up.” “I thought I was a better *woodsman*.”—R. Carlton, ‘The New Purchase,’ ii. 260.
- 1867 I knew I was a good *woodsman*, quick at finding roads, &c.—Letter of Gen. Custer, April 20 : Mrs. Custer, ‘Tenting on the Plains,’ p. 568 (1888).

Wool, v. To pull the hair. Uncommon.

- 1854 I regret very much to see these two gentlemen from Illinois *wooling* each other in the most approved fashion.—Mr. Letcher of Virginia, House of Repr., July 12 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1690.

Wool, to pull. See PULL WOOL.

Work like a beaver, *i.e.* industriously.

- bef.1775 "To be sold by the Printer of this paper, the very best Negro Woman in this Town, who has had the small pox and measles; is as hearty as a Horse, as brisk as a Bird, and will *work like a Beaver*."—One of Fleet's advertisements in the *Boston Evening Post*: Joseph T. Buckingham, 'Specimens of Newspaper Literature,' i. 131 (1850).
- 1835 Ingham *worked honestly, like a beaver*.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 73 (Phila.).
- 1852 They'll turn to and *work for it like beavers*.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 386 (1860).
- 1860 Do you duty, your whole duty, *work like beavers* to induce others to go along with you.—*Richmond Enquirer*, Nov. 2, p. 1/5.
- 1880 He was keeping his own counsel, but *working like a beaver*.—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' viii. 65.
- 1882 Although nightly discovered, the men *worked like beavers* at tunneling.—*Id.*, x. 29.
- 1884 For three days and nights they *worked like beavers*.—*Id.*, xii. 272.
- 1888 The soldiers *worked like beavers* to get everything they could farther from the water.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 637.

World's people. A phrase originated by the Quakers, to signify persons not belonging to their society, and afterwards adopted by some other sects.

- 1714 Thomas Dell and Edward Moor [were discharged in 1683] by *people of the world* paying their fines and fees.—'Autobiography of Thomas Ellwood,' last page.
- 1814 If a quaker love a lady out of the society, he must ask liberty, and pardon for the sin of loving one of *the world's people*.—Arthur Singleton, 'Letters from the South and West,' p. 19 (Boston, 1824).
- 1824 He looks vastly as if he took a pretty stiff horn, now and then, of that kind of spiritous liquor which *the world's people* call brandy.—*The Microscope*, Albany, April 17.
- 1840 Let us walk as fast as we can, until we get to the house where *the world's people* live.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xvi. 24 (July).
- 1842 She had become acquainted with a number of *world's people*.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' ii. 24.
- 1856 Well, Gideon, thee is one of *the world's people*, and have (*sic*) strange ways.—*Knicker. Mag.*, xlvii. 322 (March).
- 1856 Cousin Amelia, it's a great pity that you're a worldling—one of *the world's people*.—*Id.*, xlvi. 504 (Nov.).
- 1862 We of the Latter Day Church think much of such associations; more so, I suppose, than you *world's people*.—Theodore Winthrop, 'John Brent,' p. 116 (N.Y., 1876).
- 1866 These smiths in the forge by the roadway are *World's People*.—W. H. Dixon, 'New America,' ch. 43.

Worm-fence, Woven fence. A "Virginia" fence.

- 1817 An elegant improvement is a cabin of rude logs, and a few acres with the trees cut down to the height of three feet, and surrounded with a *worm fence* or zigzag railing.—M. Birkbeck, 'Journey in America,' p. 152 (Phila.).
- 1823 He has only dead fences, and no quicks or green hedges; all *woven fences*.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' p. 134.
- 1823 [The land] with the exception of wooden *worm fences*, looks much like the best districts of old England, only that the soil of Kentucky is better.—*Id.*, p. 190.
- 1829 She thinks no more of a ditch or a moderate *worm-fence* than she does of a demi-semi-quaver.—J. P. Kennedy, 'Swallow Barn,' p. 90 (N.Y., 1851).
- 1835 The *worm fences* and Arcadian scenery of the south.—Ingraham, 'The South West,' ii. 108.
- 1836 My poetry looked as zigzag as a *worm fence*. — 'Col. Crockett in Texas,' p. 31 (Phila.).
- 1842 In regard to persons who are architecturally inclined, it is not polite to say, "Jim's been making a *worm fence*," but "James is laying out a new Court-House."—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 1. [Compare with this VIRGINIA FENCE, 1745.]
- 1853 The fellow still [stood] inside of his *worm fence*.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 16.
- 1867 The enemy began to unstrap the rifles from their saddles, with the intention of getting behind the *worm fence* hard by.—J. M. Crawford, 'Mosby and his Men,' p. 108.

Worry. See quotation. Obsolete.

- 1769 Mr. W. S. sat [set] out in a Sley, or *Worry*, on the Ice near Charlestown Ferry.—*Boston-Gazette*, Feb. 20.

Wrathy. Angry.

- 1834 This kinder corner'd me, and made me a little *wrathy*.—'Major Jack Downing,' p. 90.
- 1837 It used to make us *wrathy* to find thar war so little fight in him.—R. M. Bird, 'Nick of the Woods,' i. 88 (Lond.).
- 1842 "What do you mean?" he cried, looking *wrathy*.—Phila. *Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 9.
- 1842 Mr. Colquitt of Georgia said that the member from N. Carolina (Mr. Rayner) was exceedingly *wrathy*.—House of Repr., March 29: *Cong. Globe*, p. 368.
- 1842 Oh! you're *wrothy*, an't ye? Why, I didn't mean nothing but what was civil.—Mrs. Kirkland, 'Forest Life,' i. 126.
- 1845 See Appendix XV.
- 1847 It wasn't any use for them to get *wrathy*,—the bears didn't give them time.—'The Great Kalamazoo Hunt,' p. 49 (Phila.).
- a.1853 David with his lyre put *wrathy* Saul's disordered soul in tune.—Dow, Jr., 'Patent Sermons,' iii. 56.
- 1856 It made him awful *wrathy*.—'Widow Bedott Papers,' No. 25.
- 1856 He was mighty *wrothy*, an' I was a'most afeerd at one time he'd hitch up an' drive off.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvi. 433 (Oct.).]

Wrathy—*contd.*

- 1857 On Sunday morning, if breakfast is delayed, he is apt to be *wrathy*.—Tho. B. Gunn, 'New York Boarding Houses,' p. 34.
- 1859 The ruling of the court made one man a very *wrathy* individual.—*Knick. Mag.*, liii. 538 (May).
- 1867 Very *wrathy*, Joe put a double charge into his old musket.—F. B. Carpenter, 'Six Months at the White House,' p. 139 (N. Y.).
- 1888 Some grew hot and *wrathy* if laughed at, and that increased our fun.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 420.

Y

Yank. To pull, to snatch; always expressive of quick movement.

- 1854 Afore you could say Sam Patch, them hogs were *yanked* aout of the lot, kilt and scraped.—N. Y. *Spirit of the Times*, n. d.
- 1856 The poet looks wild at the blue-eyed child,
Then clutches him by the hair,
And makes him abide by the chimney-side
As he sinks back in his chair,
Pulls back the machine, and with dreadful noise
He oils each rusty wheel,
Then seizes the crank, and with many a *yank*
Brings out a poetic squeal.
How yankee is *yank*!—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 323 (March).
- 1869 He took a hitch round that [goose's] neck, and "*yanked*" him back to his place in the flock without an effort.—Mark Twain, 'New Pilgrim's Progress,' ch. ii.
- 1890 I took hold of [the wolf's] chain, and *yanked* him down.—Mrs. Custer, 'Following the Guidon,' p. 121.
- 1891 She was, as she phrased it, "*yanked*" off the steps upon the platform by an impatient brakeman.—Rose T. Cooke, 'Huckleberries,' p. 322 (Boston).
- 1901 They were smart enough to see that, while I had no "chip on my shoulder," yet I would *yank up* the first man who ventured to neglect the least point of etiquette.—Admiral R. D. Evans, 'A Sailor's Log,' p. 264 (N. Y.).

Yankee. Properly a New-Englander; but see quotation 1827. The origin of the word cannot be ascertained with certainty. Smollett (*infra*) writes of "a Dutch yankey," probably a sailing vessel, possibly a Dutch sailor; but this cannot be connected with the odd word in question. The real Yankees have long been noted for their inquisitiveness. See quot. [1775].

- 1760 Haul forward thy chair again, take thy berth, and proceed with thy story in a direct course, without yawing like a *Dutch yankey*.—Smollett, 'Adventures of Lancelot Greaves,' p. 45 (1762); *British Magazine*, i. 125.

Yankee—*contd.*

- 1774 [John Malcom had said at Boston] that he would split down the *yankees* by dozens.—*Newport Mercury*, Feb. 7.
- [1775 General Washington “is far from haughty and supercilious, though naturally reserved: which is a quality that may secure him from answering, without offending, many improper questions that the New Englanders will be likely to ask; for they are amazingly addicted to inquisitiveness.”—William Gordon, ‘Hist. of the Am. Revolution,’ ii. 35: Lond., 1788.]
- 1775 William Gordon attributes the origin of the word to Jonathan Hastings of Cambridge, Mass., about 1713.—*Id.*, i. 481-2.
- 1777 The Continental bean-shells, mann’d with *Yankies*, and armed with innocent pop-guns.—*Maryland Journal*, Feb. 25.
- 1794 [The dandies of the period] make great use of the word “*yankee*,” and are fond of passing themselves for Englishmen.—*Mass. Spy*, Nov. 12.
- 1799 Faith, ’twill be *Yankee* like, and plagued funny,
But, Peter dear, how will it come to pass?
The Aurora, Sept. 30 (Phila.).
- 1800 The *Yankees* would be pleased with John Adams, and the Pennsylvanians, Virginians, &c., would be content with Thomas Jefferson.—*Id.*, April 14.
- 1800 I am a plain *Yankee*, for a long time sailed out of Marblehead. . . . There are 14 or 20 more of us *Yankees* aboard, and all as good hearts as ever strapped a block.—Letter from “Nathan Cornstock” to Benjamin Stoddard, Esq., “Secretary of the Admiraltree”; *id.*, May 2.
- 1801 Covered by the darkness of night, and guided by a cunning *Yankee* pilot, the Berceau has made her escape from Boston harbour.—‘The Port Folio,’ i. 326 (Phila.).
- 1802 The show is over, as we *yankees* say; and the girl is my own.—‘The Coquette,’ p. 137 (Charlestown, Mass.).
- 1802 It was with great difficulty that a gentleman escaped the *Yankee* punishment of tar and feathers.—‘Letters to Alex. Hamilton,’ p. 43 (N.Y.).
- 1802 Tea, sugar, and coffee are as necessary to a *Yankee* as whiskey is to a Virginian.—*Mass. Spy*, Aug. 4: from the *Newport* (R.I.) *Mercury*.
- 1802 See SPORTSMAN.
- 1805 This time-serving creature may rest assured that his *yankee* cunning and snivelling hypocrisy will be duly regarded.—*Lancaster* (Pa.) *Journal*, Aug. 9.
- 1808 Another declared that there was no person fit to deal with a thorough bred *Yankee* but a Wilmington Quaker.—*The Balance*, Jan. 19, p. 12.
- 1809 No more shall Nelson boast his scalding flood,
Or with his loud stentorian roar
Drive half the Congress out of door,
Or from the *Yankees* drain the precious blood.
Mass. Spy, July 12.

Yankee—*contd.*

- 1812 The Americans did not disgrace themselves nor their (*yankee*) country.—*Id.*, Sept. 16.
- 1813 [Mr. Madison] can make the cool and calculating *yankees* give up their trade, and even their last coat, without danger of losing his popularity.—*Boston-Gazette*, March 22.
- 1813 The proverbial shrewdness of that portion of our countrymen vulgarly denominated *Yankees*.—*Analectic Mag.*, ii. 306 (Phila.).
- 1819 In America, the term *Yankee* is applied to the natives of New-England only, and is generally used with an air of pleasantry. Note to a Letter from Philadelphia, Oct., 1819.—*Mass. Spy*, Jan. 15, 1823.
- 1819 In the southwestern part of the U.S., some of the old inhabitants declare that this change of seasons arrived with the *yankees* from the north.—David Thomas's 'Travels,' p. 58 (Auburn, N.Y.).
- 1820 We inland *Yankees* never saw such an inconceivable animal in our lives, and are bold to affirm that such a one does not and cannot exist.—Letter on the "Long Island Hoax": *Mass. Spy*, Feb. 9.
- 1820 The British of the lower class (says the editor of John Trumbull's 'Poems') have extended the use of the word to all the people of the U.S.
- 1822 A few years since, most of the choirs in New-England were running mad after what was termed *Yankee* musick.—*Mass. Spy*, May 1: from the *Connecticut Mirror*.
- 1823 The traveller's taste forms his test to discover whether he is entitled to the opprobrious name of *Yankee*, as the people of the northern and eastern states rarely choose sour milk.—E. James, 'Rocky Mountain Exped.,' i. 83 (Phila.).
- 1823 [The people of Pittsburgh] are extremely jealous of the *yankees*, and from the character of some of them ungenerously and uncharitably condemn the whole. This is more or less the case throughout the western and southern states.—G. W. Ogden, 'Letters from the West,' p. 11 (New Bedford).
- 1823 The people, prejudiced against him as a *Yankee*, deputed four persons to inform him that, unless he quitted the town and state immediately, he should receive Lynch's law, that is, a whipping in the woods... In walking through Kentucky, he found the people very inhospitable, because he was a walking, working *Yankee* man on a journey, and therefore considered as nothing better than, or below, a nigger.—W. Faux, 'Memorable Days,' pp. 304-5 (Lond.).
- 1824 *Yankees* read anecdotes, and "Hobson's choice"
Is mouthed by every one who has a voice;
Yankees act too like Laban and like Hobson;
Witness this anecdote of old Squire Dobson.
Mass. Spy, Feb. 4: from the *Hancock Gazette*.

Yankee—*contd.*

- 1825 The New Englanders, or *Yankees*, were hated by the southern troops.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' iii. 46.
- 1827 WHO IS A YANKEE? Let a man north of New York visit that city, and they call him *Yankee*, to distinguish him from a New Yorker. Let a man from New York visit Philadelphia, and he will be called a *Yankee*, to distinguish him from a Philadelphian. Let a man from Philadelphia go no further south than Baltimore, and he will be nicknamed *Yankee*, to distinguish him from a Baltimorean. Let a man from the north of the Potomac visit Virginia, and he is immediately dubbed with the title of *Yankee*, to distinguish him from a pure Virginian. Let a man from Virginia visit Charleston, and he is supposed to have strong claims to the appellation of *Yankee*. Let a man from Charleston visit New Orleans, and there are ten chances to one he will get the nickname of *Yankee*. Let a man from any part of Jonathan's dominions visit the kingdom of John Bull, and he will forthwith receive the appellation of *Yankee*.—*Mass. Spy*, June 6.
- *.* This extract is specially valuable as showing the varying use of the word within the borders of the U.S. It reminds one of Pope's lines:—
 Ask where's the North? At York 'tis on the Tweed;
 In Scotland, at the Orcades; and there
 At Greenland, Zenbla, or the Lord knows where.
 'Essay on Man,' ii. 222-4.
- 1827 We have long viewed with pain the manifestations of distrust and contemptuous aversion to every thing *Yankee* which frequently occur in Virginia.—*Mass. Spy*, Oct. 3: from the *Fredericksburg* (Va.) *Arena*.
- 1830 Toast by Col. Brown of S. Carolina: "Yankee boasters—may they be charged with cow-foot gun-flints, wadded with insurrection pamphlets, primed with wooden nutmegs, and levelled against the eastern manufactories."—*Mass. Spy*, July 28.
- 1832 The Indians called the Quakers *Quekels*; and "the English," by inability of pronouncing it, they sounded *Yengces*,—from whence probably we have now our name of *Yankees*.—Watson, 'Hist. Tales of N.Y.,' p. 56.
- 1833 The *Yankees*, as all men north of the Potomac are here termed, are generally well educated, and have become as celebrated in the west, for shrewdness and cunning, as they are in the south.—'Sketches of David Crockett,' p. 205 (N.Y.).
- 1833 See CUTE.
- 1834 "Is he a *Yankee* or a white man?" Quoted as a common question in Virginia.—C. F. Hoffman, 'A Winter in the Far West,' ii. 241 (1835).
- 1835 We often wonder how things are made so cheap among the *yankees*.—'Col. Crockett's Tour,' p. 62 (Phila.).

Yankee—*contd.*

- 1835 With us in the south, *yankee* cunning is assuming the true name, *yankee* knowledge of business, and perseverance in whatever they undertake.—*Id.*, p. 65.
- 1836 The easternmost *Yankees* have hit on a new trick.—*Phila. Public Ledger*, April 7.
- 1838 [The people of Kentucky] cherished strong prejudices against *Yankees*, whom they considered as a race of pedlars, perambulating every quarter of the globe, and cheating honest folk with wooden clocks and horn-flints.—B. Drake, 'Tales and Sketches,' p. 80 (Cincinnati).
- 1839 The people [in Illinois] are more ignorant, more vicious, and more indolent than *Yankees*.—Letter to the *Farmer's Monthly Visitor*, Concord, N.H., Dec. 20.
- 1841 Mr. Marshall of Kentucky had never been able to look upon the people of the North as the natural enemies of the people of the South. He knew that Southern men called them "*Yankees*"; but they were Americans, our brethren and fellow-citizens.—House of Repr., Dec. 22 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 50.
- 1842 "*A Yankee is a very Devil.*" Heading of an item in which it is stated that a New-Englander taught the Affghans to resist the British power in India.—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, April 25.
- 1845 I took three *yankees* on board [in 1814] to work their passage as far as Cincinnati. — Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' i. 127.
- 1845 We have a mortal antipathy [in Illinois] to greenhorns, Mormons, *Yankees*, and men without money.—Letter to the *Bangor (Me.) Mercury*, n.d.
- 1846 *Yankee tricks*. This is a common term for anything very smart, done in the way of trade, no matter in which of the States the doer was born. . . . I am no *Yankee*, but have been acquainted with many of them. . . . Let any *Yankee* take a journey south on a real good horse, and when he returns see if the beast he rides does not show he has been *out yankeed*.—Cornelius Mathews, 'Writings,' ii. 308.
- 1846 [He had gone to the West] from Virginia, long years ago, and had moved from place to place to escape the *Yankees*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxviii. 310 (Oct.).
- 1848 Mr. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee had heard those who did not like some *Yankees* damn them all as a class. He never thought they did exactly right to damn every *Yankee*, because they disliked some whom they had met. There were some very clever gentlemen among them.—House of Repr., Dec. 11 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 24.
- 1849 The Northern Germans have the reputation of being rather heavy, but they are the *Yankees* of the continent in bargaining.—Mr. John A. Dix of N.Y., U.S. Senate, Jan. 23 : *id.*, p. 328.
- 1852 He thinks there should be a wall built around the state [of Virginia] to keep off the rascally *Yankees*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xl. 322 (Oct.).

Yankee—*contd.*

1855 See **HELP**.

1856 To the Englishman everybody who hails from the universal American nation is a *Yankee*. In his native ignorance, he believes that Bostonians carry bowie-knives, that there are large manufactories of wooden nutmegs in Philadelphia, that the North River people excel in gouging out eyes, and that the South-Carolina folks are great as tin-peddlers.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 266 (March). [The same article describes the *quiet Yankees* and the *fast Yankees*.]

1857 A most merited rebuke to the destructive character of the *Yankee* was given by an English lady.—*S. F. Call*, Feb. 26.

1857 [The Spanish residents of California] find themselves every year growing poorer, by reason of the "business talents" of "Los *Yankees*."—*Knick Mag.*, l. 257 (Sept.).

1861 If the whole *Yankee* race should fall down in the dust tomorrow, and pray us to be their masters, we should spurn them even as slaves.—*Richmond Dispatch*, Jan. 10: see *Cong. Globe*, Jan. 31, 1863, p. 660/2.

1863 I would desire gentlemen to give us a little variation by setting some of their philippics to music, as some *Yankee* teacher set lessons in geography and other studies to music in the Western States.—Mr. Garrett Davis of Ky., U.S. Senate, Feb. 7: *id.*, p. 798/3.

1863 Jefferson Davis, the other day, told his deluded and guilty compeers that if the choice was submitted to them to make a union with hyenas or with the *Yankees*—and they call us all *Yankees* who are loyal to the country, and I am proud of the epithet,—they would choose the hyenas.—Mr. Henry Wilson of Mass., the same, Feb. 23: *id.*, p. 1184/2.

1866 The farmer's wife [in Texas] was taking her first look at *Yankees*, but she found that we noither wore horns nor were cloven-footed.—Mrs. Custer, 'Tenting on the Plains,' p. 150 (1888).

1876 A fair-haired, light-moustached, Saxon-faced "*Yank*."—'Southern Hist. Soc. Papers,' i. 264 (Richmond, Va.).

Yankee notions. Things made, invented, or "raised" in New England; a comprehensive phrase.

1819 Ye fair Creoles, and pretty quattron misses,
I greet ye all,—I come here to retail
My *Yankee notions*,—cheese, wit, verse, codfishes,
Cider, et cetera.
Mass. Spy, Sept. 8: from the *New Orleans Chronicle*.

1825 The tallow, corn, cotton, hams, hides, and so forths, which we had got in exchange for a load of *Yankee notions*.—John Neal, 'Brother Jonathan,' ii. 298.

Yankee notions—*contd.*

- 1826 Pit-coal indigo, wooden nutmegs, straw baskets, and *Yankee notions*.—T. Flint, 'Recollections,' p. 33.
- 1828 People abroad have no idea of what is meant here by *Yankee notions*, and are liable therefore to mistake our wooden ware for intellectual ware.—*The Yankee*, Jan. 1 (Portland, Me.).
- 1838 A moveable house on wheels, constructed by Mr. Fessenden of Dorchester, Mass., to take his family to Illinois, is called "*A Yankee Notion*" in *The Jeffersonian*, Albany, Sept. 15, p. 244.
- 1842 See WOODEN NUTMEGS.
- 1843 Occasionally you will see some honest country Jonathan, with his wagon full of "*Yankee notions*."—*Yale Lit. Mag.*, ix. 44.
- 1853 They have gotten up in Boston the greatest "*Yankee notion*" of a steamer that we ever heard of.—*Daily Morning Herald*, St. Louis, Feb. 4.
- 1889 The camps were full of pedlers of *Yankee notions*, which soldiers are supposed to stand in need of. . . . If there was a new pair of boots among the contents [of a box from home], the feet were filled with little *notions* of convenience.—J. D. Billings, 'Hard Tack and Coffee,' pp. 213, 221 (Boston).

Yager, Yauger. A rifle.

- 1840 He instantly brought his *yager* to his shoulder.—C. F. Hoffman, 'Greyslaer,' i. 12 (Lond.).
- 1872 I turned my old *yauger* loose, and [the Indian] fell, holding his horse by the bridle.—'Life of Bill Hickman,' p. 54.

Yazoo-men. Men concerned in the Yazoo land frauds.

- 1796 [I was informed] that the *Yazoo-men* (as they are called in this place) were making every exertion to prevent General Jackson from being elected a Representative. . . . The people appeared to be of the *anti-Yazoo* party. . . . The *Yazoo-men* played a deep game, well knowing that it would be useless to start a full ticket of *Yazoo-men* in this country, as the people are violently opposed to all speculators, but particularly the Yazoo and Pine Barren.—Letter from Savannah, Ga. : *The Aurora*, Phila., Dec. 5.
- 1805 Much less could [the state of Georgia delegate her right] to a few *Yazoo-men*.—John Randolph in Congress, Jan. 25 : 'Life,' i. 203 (1851). See also pp. 66-67.

Year in and year out. Continually, continuously.

- 1830 I've been at school *year in and year out*.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28 : from the *N. Y. Constellation*. (Given as a southernism.)
- 1908 See STAND PAT.

Year in and year out—*contd.*

1910 *Year in, year out*, these tasters of literature appraise the motley flux, skimming off for publication the smallest portion, diverting the rest toward other readers and final oblivion.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, March 7.

Yegg. A tramp with vicious proclivities ; a cracksman.

1903 The prompt breaking up of the organized bands of professional beggars and *yeggs*.—*N. Y. Evening Post*, June 23.

1910 The origin of the word "*yegg*" has often puzzled criminal etymologists. As near as can be discovered by researches of police archives and the verbal lore of the under world, there was a man named John Yegg living in a Middle Western town some years ago, about the time the United States government was experimenting with nitroglycerine. Yegg was an electrician, who had got along well enough in youth, but in later days had taken to drink and drifted to the bad. At this time he had already attained some fame among his kind as a safe-blower, an art at which his early mechanical training stood him in good stead. He is said to have been the first cracksman to see the possibilities of nitroglycerine, which was at once tremendously powerful and much safer than powder or dynamite, then in general use.—*Id.*, April 4.

1910 It puzzles [the ordinary citizen of N. Y.] to have the country cousin clutch his arm and enquire whether that rough-looking customer coming out of a Chatham Square saloon is a dip, a *yegg*, a stall, a moll-buzzer, a Fagin, or a gun.—*Id.*, Aug. 25.

Yellow boys. Gold coins. This is also a piece of English slang.

1841 This was the currency, or what is its equivalent, and what the modern Whigs deride, and sneeringly call the "Tom Benton humbug," I mean the *yellow boys*.—Mr. Duncan of Ohio, House of Repr., Jan. 26 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 157, App.

1841 Mr. Henry Clay alluded to the "Jackson notions of *yellow-boy* currency."—U.S. Senate, July 7 : *id.*, p. 129.

1861 Though *yaller boys* [mulattoes] is thick enough, eagles hez kind o' flown.—'Biglow Papers,' 2nd Series, No. 1.

Yellow Bricks. See quotation.

1800 [Mr. Dunlop, of Franklin County, Pa.] compared the magistrates of the county in which he lived to the mountains which they inhabited, and their talents to their barbarous names, such as the Cishacoquolis, the *Yellow Bricks*, the Tuscarora, and Conidoquinet.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Feb. 13.

Yellow dog, yaller dog. This animal figures now and then in American talk and writing.

1840 One of those interesting animals, a *yellow dog*, with a bullet-hole through his breast.—*Daily Pennant*, St. Louis, Ap. 20.

Yellow dog, yaller dog—*contd.*

- 1845 See here, mister, you've got to go on with your show or give us a fight, and I'll be durned if I don't lick you sooner than Buck Harris's *yaller dog* would lick a coon.—*St. Louis Reveille*, Oct. 6.
- 1848 Hackett's whimsical direction to a Dutelman's dwelling : Go down dat road dere, till you comes to de barn close 'pon de house dat's always standin' dere by dat little *yaller dog*.—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxii. 88 (July).
- 1848 A fellow once advertised that he had made a discovery, by which he could make a new man out of an old one, and have enough of the stuff left to make a little *yellow dog*.—Abraham Lincoln in the House of Repr., July 27 : *Cong. Globe*, p. 1042, App.
- 1854 He said W. warn't so near straight on the licker question as his *yaller dog* at hum.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 106.
- a.1860 See TOUGH. 1865, see TEAM.
- 1878 [He] was slungin' along the street with a long, lean *yaller dog* that allers followed him.—J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 185.

Yellow Quarter. A five-dollar gold piece.

- Yes, Sir.** This phrase, occasionally lengthened into "Yes, Sirree," is used by way of emphasis. Compare No, SIR. The accent in each case is on the last syllable or word.
- 1799 *Yes Sir!* and [France] has been successful beyond any former experience.—*The Aurora*, Phila., Aug. 8.
- 1843 Doesn't the ole book itself say the earth ain't no shape at all?—it's got no form—it's nuthin but a grate stretched along place like a powerful big prararee without any ind,—*yes, sir*, and as flat as a pancake.—R. Carlton, 'The New Purchase,' i. 158.
- 1850 She is handsome? Ay. And amiable? Even so. And loves you? Yea, verily. And is in possession of "the tin"? *Yes, Sir-Ree!*—Then why in the name of Tom Walker don't you get married?—*Knick. Mag.*, xxxv. 599 (June).
- 1853 A printed edition? *Yes, Sir*; printed at Smyrna in two volumes.—'Fun and Earnest,' p. 237 (N.Y.).
- 1853 See SOME PUMPKINS.
- 1854 "Can it be possible?" said I, "*Yes-sir-ee*," said the squire.—H. H. Riley, 'Puddleford,' p. 121.
- 1856 "He was a-toasting of us till we was a-done brown and fricaseed." "*Yes, Sir'ee-bob*," added another.—*Knick. Mag.*, xlvii. 259 (March).
- 1857 See B'HOY.

York shilling. The same as a "bit" or a "levy."

- 1824 The bill amounted to the enormous sum of one *York shilling* for each gentleman.—*The Microscope*, Albany, March 27.
- 1824 This remark quickly brought a *York shilling* out of my pocket for toll.—*Mass. Spy*, Sept. 8.
- 1825 See **HARD MONEY**.
- 1834 I'll go a *York shilling* 'gainst a Louisiana bit, that you can't tell to save you.—W. G. Simms, 'Guy Rivers,' ii. 65 (1837).
- 1854 Apples are offered in our streets for three *York shillings* apiece.—*Weekly Oregonian*, Aug. 5.
- 1861 When we arrived at Kirtland Corners, we had just the *York shilling* left.—Brigham Young, Feb. 17: 'Journal of Discourses,' viii. 337.

York waggon. One made in York, Pennsylvania. See *Notes and Queries*, 11 S. iii. 315.

- 1824 In an instant he capsized a *York-waggon*, threw out the riders, and threw down the horse.—*Mass. Yeoman*, Feb. 11: from the *N.Y. Statesman*.

You bet. A common asseveration used by common people.

- 1882 "Are you drunk?" "You bet." "Then you move off from here."—'Texas Siftings,' p. 131. (N.E.D.)

Young Hickory. A name applied to James K. Polk, by way of comparing him with Andrew Jackson.

- 1844 [Col. James K. Polk] has been called the "*Young Hickory*," as if there was something in that name calculated to excite a prejudice in the minds of the American people. He is emphatically a *Young Hickory*,—the unwavering friend of *Old Hickory* in all his trials.—Stephen A. Douglass of Illinois, House of Repr., June 3: *Cong. Globe*, p. 598, App.
- 1845 [They] had done us the friendly service of elevating to the highest seat a heroic "*Young Hickory*."—Mr. Gordon of N.Y., the same, Dec. 18: *id.*, p. 80.
- 1846 I call upon you, my coutrymen, to come to the rescue of *Young Hickory*, in the adjustment of the Oregon question without the loss of a square mile.—Mr. L. H. Sims of Missouri, the same, Jan. 5: *id.*, p. 85, App.
- 1846 In 1844 we told the people that James K. Polk was a "*Young Hickory*,"—that he had force of character, and would "go ahead."—Mr. Wick of Indiana, the same, March 30: *id.*, p. 575.
- 1846 Mr. Culver of N.Y. would have thought much more of their "*Young Hickory*" if he had shown a little of the manliness of the Old; but he defied his friends to discover one trace of the old horse in the young one.—The same, June 15: *id.*, p. 977.

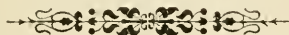
Young Hickory—*contd.*

- 1846 I believe [Mr. Polk] will turn out to be in truth *Young Hickory*; that he will tread in the footsteps of *Old Hickory*; and that in his retirement a grateful country will esteem him whilst living, and venerate his memory when dead.—Mr. McClean of Pa., the same, June 18: *id.*, p. 993.
- 1846 When "*Young Hickory*" went to the White House, the spirit of "*Old Hickory*" did not go with him, but the spirit of Kinderhook—no. of Lindenwold, did, and has abode with him ever since.—Mr. Root of Ohio, the same, Dec. 24: *id.*, p. 225, App.
- 1847 My impression is that the President and his advisers are more to blame than the party. A little war was necessary to give the crowning glory to the Administration of this *Hickory Junior*.—Mr. Pendleton of Va., the same, Feb. 22: *id.*, p. 412, App.

Z

Zed, Zee. This final letter is usually called *Zee*.

- 1797 Zounds, I'm safe at zigzag *zee*.—End of alliterative verses in the *Farmer's Museum: Gazette of the U.S.*, Phila., April 7.
- [1830 I will teach you your alphabet from A to *Zed* and from *Zed* back again to A. Given as a Southernism.—*Mass. Spy*, July 28: from the *N.Y. Constellation*.]
- 1883 The use of *Zee* is noticed by E. A. Freeman.—'Impressions of the U.S.,' pp. 83-4.



APPENDIX.



I. TALL TALK.

The following specimen comes from a Florida newspaper, about the year 1840:—

As we were passing by the court-house, a real “ screamer from the Nob,” about six feet four in height, commenced the following tirade:—“ This is *me*, and no mistake ! Billy Earthquake, Esq., commonly called Little Billy, all the way from No'th Fork of Muddy Run ! I'm a small specimen, as you see, a remote circumstance, a mere yearling ; but cuss me if I ain't of the true imported breed, and I can whip any man in this section of country. Whoop ! won't *nobody* come out and fight me ? Come out, some of you, and die decently, for I'm spileing for a fight, I hain't had one for more than a week, and if you don't come out I'm flyblowed before sundown, to a certingty. So come up to taw !

“ Maybe you don't know who Little Billy is ? I'll tell you. I'm a poor man, it's a fact, and smell like a wet dog ; but I can't be run over. I'm the identical individual that grinned a whole menagerie out of countenance, and made the ribbed nose baboon hang down his head and blush. W-h-o-o-p ! I'm the chap that towed the Broad-horn up Salt River, where the snags were so thick that the fish couldn't swim without rubbing their scales off !—fact, and if any one denies it, just let 'em make their will ! Cock-a-doodle-doo !

“ Maybe you never heard of the time the horse kicked me, and put both his hips out of jint—if it ain't true, cut me up for cat-fish bait ! W-h-o-o-p ! I'm the very infant that refused its milk before its eyes were open, and called out for a bottle of old Rye ! W-h-o-o-p ! I'm that little Cupid ! Talk about grinning the bark off a tree !—'tain't nothing ; one squirt of mine at a bull's heel would blister it. O, I'm one of your toughest sort,—live for ever, and then turn to a white oak post. I'm the ginewine article, a real double acting engine, and I can out-run, out-jump, out-swim, chaw more tobacco and spit less, and drink more whiskey and keep soberer than any man in these localities. If that don't make 'em fight (walking off in disgust) nothing will. I wish I may be kiln-dried, and split up into wooden shoe-pegs, if I believe there's a chap among 'em that's got courage enough to collar a hen !”

II. TALL TALK.

“Now,” said the General, “just look at that ar pony; he can’t run, nor he can’t trot, nor he can’t canter, nor he can’t walk, but — how he can rack! He’d lick lightning a hundred yards in a mile, and give it two the start. He’d be perfect pisen to a locomotive with the steam up to bustin’ pint, and the screeching whistle screwed down. Jist walk round and examine the article.”—*Cincinnati Miscellany*, i. 165 (1845).

III. TALL TALK.

Well, I will walk tall into varmint and Indian; it’s a way I’ve got, and it comes as natural as grinning to a hyena. I’m a regular tornado, tough as a hickory, and long-winded as a nor’wester. I can strike a blow like a falling tree, and every lick makes a gap in the crowd that lets in an acre of sunshine.—*Id.*, ii. 342 (1846).

IV. TALL TALK.

If it hadn’t been for our party, that great American eagle that has flew’d so long, and kivered our juvenil’ years with his wings—that eagle, feller citizens, that sleeps on the ragin’ tornado, and warns himself in the sun,—that eagle, I say,—that eagle! eagle! would now be as dead as a smelt, lying on his back, a-groaning for help!—‘Puddleford,’ by H. H. Riley, p. 103 (1854).

V. TALL TALK.

Sir, we want elbow-room!—the continent, the whole continent, and nothing but the continent! And we will have it! Then shall Uncle Sam, placing his hat upon the Canadas, rest his right arm on the Oregon and California coast, his left on the eastern sea-board, and whittle away the British power, while reposing his leg, like a freeman, upon Cape Horn! Sir, the day will,—the day *must* come!—*Knickerbocker Magazine*, xlv. 212 (Aug., 1855).

VI. TALL TALK.

An Illinois lawyer, in ‘defending a thief, said to the jury: “True, he was rude, so air our bars. True, he was rough, so air our buffaloes. But he was a child of freedom, and his answer to the despot and tyrant was that his home was on the bright setting sun.”—*San Francisco Call*, Dec. 3, 1856.

VII. TALL TALK.

“Fellow-citizens, you might as well try to dry up the Atlantic Ocean with a broomstraw, or draw this ’ere stump from under my feet with a harness’d gad-fly, as to convince me that I ain’t gwine to be elected this heat. My opponent don’t stand a chance; not a sniff. Why he ain’t as intellectual as a common sized shad. Fellers, I’m a hull team with two bull-dogs under the wagon and a tar-bucket, I am. If thar’s anybody this side of whar the sun begins to blister the yea’t’h that can wallop me, let him show himself,—I’m ready. Boys, I go in for the American Eagle, claws, stars, stripes, and all; and may I bust my everlastin’ button-holes ef I don’t knock down, drag out, and gouge everybody as denies me!”—*Oregon Weekly Times*, June 19, 1858.

VIII. LIFE ON THE FRONTIER.

All night long in this sweet village
 You hear the soft note of the pistol,
 With the pleasant scream of the victur
 Who's bein shot perhaps in the gizzard ;
 And all day hosses is runnin'
 With drunken greasers a straddle,
 A hollerin' an' hoopin' like demons
 And playin' at billiards an' monte
 Till they've nary red cent to ante,
 Havin' busted up their money.

San Diego Herald, 1854.

IX. A COLORADO GIRL.

They have some queer girls in Colorado. One of them, who resides in Cache la Poudre valley, has been receiving the attention of a young man for a year, but, becoming impatient at his failure to bring matters to a crisis, she resolved to ascertain his intentions. When he next called, she took him gently by the ear, led him to a seat, and said, "Bobby, you've been foolin' round this claim for mighty near a year, en' hev never yit shot off yer mouth on the marryin' biz. I've cottoned to yer on the square clean through, an' hev stood off every other galoot that has tried to chin in, an' now I want yer to come to business or leave the ranch. Ef yer on the marry, an' want a pard that'll stick rite to yer till yer pass in yer checks, I'm yer hairpin; but ef that ain't yer game, draw out an' give some other feller a show for his pile. Now sing yer song, or skip out." He sang.—*Source uncertain.*

X. FIGHTING THE TIGER.

[The hero of these lines]
 Went to fight the furious tiger,
 Went to fight the beast at faro,
 And was cleaned out so completely
 That he lost his every mopus,
 Every single speck of pewtcr,
 Every solitary shiner,
 Every brad and every dollar,
 All the dough in his possession,
 All the spoons his labor earned him,
 All the bright and lively ready,
 All the rowdy, all the stumpy,
 All the cash, and all the rhino,
 All the tin he did inherit,
 All the dibs he did discover,
 All the browns his uncle lent him,
 All the chips and dust and clinkers,
 All the dimes and all the horse-nails,
 All the brass and all the needful,
 All the spondulix and buttons,
 All the rocks and all the mint-drops.

San Francisco Call, March 26, 1857.

XI. A DUEL IN TEXAS.

A duel was lately fought in Texas by Alexander Shott and John S. Nott. Nott was shot and Shott was not. In this case it is better to be Shott than Nott. There was a rumor that Nott was not shot, and Shott avows that he shot Nott, which proves either that the shot Shott shot at Nott was not shot, or that Nott was shot notwithstanding. It may be made to appear on trial that the shot Shott shot shot Nott, or, as accidents with fire-arms are frequent, it may be possible that the shot Shott shot shot Shott himself, when the whole affair would resolve itself into its original elements, and Shott would be shot and Nott would be not. We think, however, that the shot Shott shot shot not Shott but Nott; though indeed it is hard to tell who was shot and who was not.—*Source uncertain.*

XII. OUR MINISTER'S SERMON.

The minister said last night, said he,
 "Don't be afraid o' givin';
 Ef your life ain't worth nothin' to other folks,
 Why, what's the use o' livin' ?
 An' that's what I says to my wife, says I,
 There's Brown, the miserable sinner,
 He'd sooner a beggar would starve than give
 A cent toward buyin' him a dinner.
 I tell you our minister's prime, he is ;
 But I couldn't quite determine,
 When I heerd him a-givin' it right an' left,
 Jest who was hit by the sermon.
 Of course there couldn't be no mistake
 When he talked of long-winded prayin',
 For Peters an' Johnson they sot an' scowled
 At every word he was sayin'.
 An' the minister he went on to say,
 "There's various kinds o' cheatin',
 An' religion's as good for every day
 As it is to bring to meetin';
 I don't think much of the man that gives
 The loud amens at my preachin',
 And spends his time the followin' week
 In cheatin' an' overreachin'."
 I guess that dose was bitter enough
 For a man like Jones to swaller ;
 But I noticed he didn't open his mouth
 Not once, arter that, to holler.
 Hurrah, says I, for the minister,
 (Of course I said it quiet)
 Give us some more of this open talk,
 It's very refreshin' diet.
 The minister hit 'em every time,
 An' when he spoke o' fashion,
 An' riggins out in bows an' things,
 As woman's rulin' passion,

An' comin' to church to see the styles,
 I couldn't help a-winkin'
 An' a nudgin my wife, an' says I, that's you,
 An' I guess it sot her a thinkin'.
 Says I to myself, that sermon's pat ;
 But man is a queer creation,
 An' I'm much afraid that most o' the folks
 Won't take the application.
 Now if he had said one word about
 My personal mode o' sinnin',
 I'd have gone to work to right myself,
 An' not sot there a-grinnin'.
 Jest then the minister says, says he,
 " And now I come to the fellers
 Who've lost this shower by usin' their friends
 As a sort of moral umbrellers.
 Go home," says he, " and find your faults
 Instead of huntin' your brother's ;
 Go home," says he, " and wear the coats
 You tried to fit for others."
 My wife she nudged, an' Brown he winked,
 An' there was lots o' smilin',
 An' lots o' lookin' at our pew,
 It sot my blood a-bilin'.
 Says I to myself, our minister
 Is gittin' a little bitter ;
 I'll tell him, when the meetin's out,
 I ain't that kind of a critter.

Source uncertain.

XIII. A REMARKABLE CUCUMBER.

Tradition tells of one Minnesota granger who happened to
 be examining a cucumber just as the season of rapid growth set
 in. As he backed out to give it room, the growing vine followed
 him so rapidly that he took to his heels, but was soon overtaken.
 It grew all around him, tangled up his legs, and threw him down.
 Reaching in great haste for a knife to cut himself loose, he found
 that a cucumber had gone to seed in his breeches pocket.—
 J. H. Beadle, 'Western Wilds,' p. 608 (1878).

XIV. THE PIKE'S PEAKERS.

In '59 Pike's Peakers were a sight
 To make a city dame turn ghastly white.
 The chaps who roughed it coming 'cross the plains
 In dress displayed no very 'tic'lar pains ;
 Long bushy hair upon their shoulders lay,
 Their grizzly beards unshorn for many a day.
 " Biled shirts " gave place to " hickory," plaid, or patch,
 While graybacks brought the wearers to the scratch.
 Stripes down their breeches looked uncommon queer,
 A buckskin patch conspicuous in the rear.

Spectres, say you ? *Pro*-spectors were the trumps
 Who, delving in the mines, first found the lumps ;
 To them a tribute would I gladly pay,
 Who " made the rifle " at an early day,
 And set to work, though adverse tales were told,
 And turned the scales with glittering scales of gold.
 The Desperado was a savage cuss,
 Eager to breed a row, or raise a muss,
 Who snuffed afar the symptoms of a fight,
 And drew his " Nivy " or his " Bowie " bright,
 And always made it his exclusive " biz " ;
 To mingle in a crowd and " let 'er whiz " ;
 To shoot at random was a heap of fun,
 Rare sport to see his victim's life-blood run !
 On him at last the tables swift were turned ;
 A wholesome lesson to his cost he learned.
 The " vigys " pointed to an empty saddle,
 And gave him just ten minutes to skeddadle.

Rocky Mountain News, Denver, May 31, 1862.

XV. ILLINOIS AS IT WAS.

A smart sprinkling of the inhabitants of Illinois are from New England, a heap from Kentucky, and the balance are John Bulls, Paddies, Pukes, Wolverines, Snags, Hoosiers, Griddle-Greasers, Buck-eyes, Corn-crackers, Pot-soppers, Hard Heads, Hawk Eyes, Rackensacks, Linsey-Woolseys, Greenhorns, Whigs, Conservatives, Canada Patriots, Loafers, Masons, Anti-masons, Mormons, and some few from the Jarseys. The Loafers are perfectly peaceable ; the Mormons and politicians wrathful, and fond of hunting, cock-fighting, and getting into trouble in order to get out again.—*Olympia Pioneer* : from the *Bangor Mercury* of 1845.

XVI. OLD GRIMES.

By ALBERT G. GREENE (1802-1868).

Old Grimes is dead ; that good old man,
 We ne'er shall see him more ;
 He used to wear a long black coat
 All buttoned down before.
 His heart was open as the day ;
 His feelings all were true ;
 His hair was some inclined to grey,
 He wore it in a queue.
 Whene'er he heard the voice of pain,
 His heart with pity burned ;
 The large round head upon his cane
 Of ivory was turned.
 Thus ever prompt at pity's call,
 He knew no base design ;
 His eyes were dark, and rather small ;
 His nose was aquiline.

He lived at peace with all mankind ;
 In friendship he was true ;
 His coat had pocket-holes behind ;
 His pantaloons were blue.
 Unharm'd, the sin which earth pollutes
 He pass'd securely o'er ;
 He never wore a pair of boots
 For thirty years or more.
 But poor old Grimes is now at rest,
 Nor fears Misfortune's frown ;
 He wore a double-breasted vest ;
 The stripes ran up and down.
 He modest merit sought to find,
 And pay it its desert ;
 He had no malice in his mind,
 No ruffles on his shirt.
 His neighbors he did not abuse,—
 Was sociable and gay ;
 He wore large buckles in his shoes,
 And changed them every day.
 His knowledge, hid from public gaze,
 He did not bring to view,
 Nor make a noise town-meeting days
 As many people do.
 His worldly goods he never threw
 In trust to fortune's chances,
 But lived (as all his brothers do)
 In easy circumstances.
 Thus undisturbed by anxious cares
 His peaceful moments ran,
 And everybody said he was
 A fine old gentleman.
 Good people all, give cheerful thought
 To Grimes's memory,
 As doth his cousin Esek Short,
 Who wrote this poetry.

The Microscope, Albany, May 29, 1824: from *The Providence (R.I.) Gazette*.

XVII. IRRIGATING AND FUMIGATING.

An elderly gentleman from the East took the stage from Denver south, in ante-railroad days. The journey was not altogether a safe one, and he was not re-assured by the sight of a number of rifles deposited in the coach, and nervously asked what they were for.

"Perhaps you'll find out before you get to the divide," was the cheering reply.

Among the passengers was a particularly fierce looking man, girded with a belt full of revolvers and cartridges, and clearly a road-agent or an assassin. Some miles out, this person, taking out a large flask, asked "Stranger, do you irrigate?"

"If you mean drink, sir, I do not."

"Do you object, stranger, to our irrigating?"

"No, sir," and they drank accordingly.

After a further distance had been traversed, the supposed brigand asked, "Stranger, do you fumigate?"

"If you mean smoke, sir, I do not."

"Do you object, stranger, to our fumigating?"

"No, sir," and they proceeded to smoke.

At the dining-place, when our friend came to tender his money, the proprietor said, "Your bill's paid."

"Who paid it?"

"That man,"—pointing to the supposed highwayman, who, on being asked if he had not make a mistake, replied, "Not at all. You see, when we saw that you didn't irrigate and didn't fumigate, we knew that you was a parson. And your bills are all right so long as you travel with this crowd. We've got a respect for the church, you bet." It was no highwayman, but a respectable resident of Denver.—Ab. 1880: *Source uncertain.*

XVIII. THE ORIGINAL "DIXIE."

The *New Orleans Times-Democrat* gives it thus:—

I wish I was in de land ob cotton,
Old times dar am not forgotten,
In Dixie land whar I was bawn in,
Early on a frosty mawnin'.

Ole missus marry Will de weaber;
Will he was a gay deceaber;
When he put his arm around her
He looked as fierce as a forty-pounder.

His face was as sharp as a butcher's cleaber,
But dat didn't seem a bit to grieb her;
Will run away, missus took a decline;
Her face was de eolor ob de bacon rine.

While missus libbed she libbed in clober,
When she died, she died all ober;
How could she act de foolish part,
An' marry a man to broke her heart?

Buckwheat cake and cawn-meal batter
Makes you fat, or little fatter;
Here's a health to the nex' ole missus,
An' all de gals dat wants to kiss us.

Now if you want to dribe away sorrow,
Come an' hear dis song tomorrow;
Den hoe it down an' scratch the grabble,
To Dixie land I'm bound to trabble.

Chorus.

I wish I was in Dixie, hooray, hooray!
In Dixie's land
We'll take our stand,

To live and die in Dixie,
Away, away, away down Souf in Dixie,
Away, away, away down Souf in Dixie!

XIX. A CARD FROM A GEORGIA WIDOW.

Mr. Editor, I desire to thank the friends and neighbors most heartily in this manner for their co-operation during the illness and death of my late husband, who escaped from me by the hand of death on last Friday, while eating breakfast. To my friends and all who contributed so willingly toward making the last moments and the funeral of my husband a success, I desire to remember them kindly, hoping these lines will find them enjoying the same blessings. I have also a good milch cow and roan gelding horse, eight years old, which I will sell cheap.

"God moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform.
He plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm."

Also a black and white shoat very low.—*Griffin (Ga.) Call*, about 1889.

XX. THE THANKSGIVING DINNER.

How dear to our hearts is the thanksgiving dinner,

As fond recollection presents it to view,

When father'd come home from the raffle a winner,

And bring along with him a gobbler or two.

Ah! then in the kitchen was hurry and bustle,

Sis weeping at having the onions to shell,

And mother just making the whole of us hustle

To hasten the dinner that filled us so well,

The thanksgiving dinner, the gorge-us old dinner,

The big turkey dinner that filled us so well,

O how can I all the ingredients measure,

That dear bill of lading prescribed as our store?

The turk and his mystic abdominal treasure,

The beans and the giblets, the gravy galore;

The cider we brought in a jug from the depot,

The truck agricultural none could excel,

And ah! the lush fruit of eucurbita nepo,

The dear pumpkin pies that we garnered so well!

Yum, yum, what a dinner! That turk and punk dinner,

That thanksgiving dinner that crammed us so well!

Chicago News, about 1890.

XXI. A QUEER MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

"I hate to see a hitch in a weddin'," remarked a farmer, as he dropped into the counting-room with a nuptial notice. "It looks bad, an' it makes talk."

"Anything wrong about this wedding?" asked the clerk, as he made change for the old man.

"Nothin' positively wrong, but it didn't launch like I want to see things o' that kind. You seen by the notice that Buck Thomas was marryin' Mary Bliff, an' at one time we began to think they never would get through."

"What was the hitch?"

"Why, Buck is a Methodis', an' Mary is a 'Piscopalian, an' as one wanted one service an' the other another, they patched

up some kind of a scheme to have both. Neither would go to the other's church, but each had their own minister, an' the weddin' come off in the school-house. The 'Piscopal minister married Mary, an' the Methodis' undertook to marry Buck, an' there they was a-takin' alternate whacks at the thing, an' neither payin' any attention to the other. The Methodis' brother fired off a sermon first, an' the bride sat down an' went to sleep. Then the 'Piscopalian said as how we'd all dropped in to see that woman j'ined, but he wouldn't say who to, an' wanted to know if there was any objections. That started up the Methodis', who began to ask Buck if he knew what a solemn business he was a peggin' at, an' if he really meant trade. All that time the 'Piscopalian was hoverin' around about 'this woman,' an' Mary was sayin' she'd do this an' that an' the other. The Methodis' minister was marryin' away on his side, an' finally they brought up agin a stump."

"How's that?" asked the clerk.

"Well, the 'Piscopalian wouldn't recognize Buck or his minister, an' the Methodis' wouldn't have nothin' to do with Mary or her preacher, an' there was no way of gittin' 'em together. Everythin' was all ready, except askin' them if they'd take each other, and neither one of 'em would do it. Mary an' Buck was standin' hand in hand, an' the crowd was gittin' hungry."

"How did they get through it?"

"They had to compromise. They wrangled for a time, an' finally Buck spoke up of his own accord, an' said he'd take Mary for his wedded wife, an' then Mary chipped in an' said she'd take Buck for her husband. At that we all cheered an' hollered. But there they plumped on another snag."

"In what respect?" inquired the clerk.

"Because there was no one to pronounce 'em man and wife. Buck tried to reason Mary into lettin' the Methodis' do that part, an' Mary argued with Buck an' tried to persuade him into listenin' to her preacher; but it was no use. That brought on another row, an' as it was gittin' nigh on to dark, we all felt that somethin' ought to be done, as we'd been there most all day."

"Well, did they get married?" ask the tired clerk.

"Yes, we fixed it up. The ministers was gittin' pretty mad at each other, but they agreed that they'd each attend to their own flock, so the Methodis' said, 'I now pronounce you man,' and the 'Piscopalian said, 'I now pronounce you wife,' an' they let it go at that. Then Buck paid the Methodis', and the 'Piscopalian wanted to know where he came in. Buck said he'd hired his man an' paid him, an' as he was not responsible for his wife's foolishness before marriage, her parson could whistle for his wealth. I guess there'll be a lawsuit about it, for the 'Piscopalian says he'll have half o' that fi' dollars if it takes a leg off to the arm-pit. I don't like to see them hitches at weddin's. It don't look right, an' it ain't business." With this reflection the old man buttoned up his change, and drove home in deep meditation."—*Brooklyn Eagle*, about 1880.

XXII. MULLINS THE AGNOSTIC.

His name was William Mullins,
 And he had a sneerin' way
 Of turnin' his proboscis up
 At everything you'd say.
 "Wall, now, how do ye know?" said he;
 "Humph, now, how do ye know?"
 The way it closed an argument,
 It worn't by no means slow.

You might be talkin' social-like
 With fellers at the store,
 On war an' politics an' sich,
 An' you might have the floor,
 An' be agittin' things down fine,
 Provin' that things was so,
 When Mullins would stick his long nose in
 With "Humph, now, how do ye know?"

I seen that critter sit in church
 An' take a sermon in,
 An' turn his nose up in a sneer
 At death an' grace an' sin.
 With no regard for time and place,
 Or realms of endless woe,
 He'd rise an' bust the hull thing up
 With "Humph, now, how do ye know?"

He cut his grass whenever it rained,
 He shocked his wheat up green,
 He cut his corn behind the frost,
 His hogs was allus lean.
 He built his stacks the big end up,
 His corn-cribs big end down;
 "Crooked as Mullins's roadside fence"
 Was the proverb in our town.

The older he got, the wuss he grew,
 An' crookeder day by day;
 The squint of his eyes would wind a clock;
 His toes turned out each way.
 His boots an' shoes was both of 'em lefts,
 His rheumatiz twisted him so;
 An' if you said he didn't look well,
 He'd growl, "Now, how do ye know?"

Well, that darned grit led to his death;
 He was on the railroad track,
 A-crossin' a bridge; I heard the train,
 An' yelled out "Mullins, come back;
 The train is round the curve in sight!"
 Says he, "Humph, how do ye know?"
 —I helped to gather him up in a pail,
 The engine scattered him so.

I think it is best to have more faith
 In every-day concerns,
 An' not to be allus a-scootin' roun'
 To go behind the returns.
 A very plain statement will do for me,
 A hint instid of a blow ;
 For a coroner's jury may fetch out facts
 When it's rather too late to know.

Ab. 1880. *Source uncertain.*

XXIII. WEDDING REMARKS. '

Here she comes !
 Pretty, isn't she ?
 Who made her dress ?
 Is it Surah silk or satin ?
 Is her veil real lace ?
 She's as white as the wall.
 Wonder how much he's worth.
 Did he give her those diamonds ?
 He's scared to death !
 Isn't she the cool piece ?
 That train's a horrid shape.
 Isn't her mother a dowdy ?
 Aren't the bridesmaids homely ?
 That's a handsome usher.
 Hasn't she a cute little hand ?
 Wonder what number her gloves are.
 They say her shoes are fives.
 If his hair isn't parted in the middle !
 Wonder what on earth she married him for.
 For his money, of course.
 Isn't he handsome ?
 He's as homely as a hedgehog.
 He looks like a circus clown.
 No, he's like a dancing master.
 Good enough for her, anyway.
 She always was a stuck-up thing.
 She'll be worse than ever now.
 She jilted Sam Somebody, didn't she ?
 No, he never asked her.
 He's left town, anyway.
 There, the ceremony has begun.
 Isn't he awkward !
 White as his collar !
 Why don't they hurry up ?
 Did she say she would obey ?
 What a precious fool !
 There, they are married !
 Doesn't she look happy !
 Pity if she wouldn't !
 (Wish I was in her place.)
 What a handsome couple !

She was always a sweet little thing.
 How gracefully she walks !
 Dear me, what airs she puts on !
 Wouldn't be in her place for a farm !
 I'll bet those jewels were hired.
 Well, she's off her father's hands at last.
 Doesn't she cling tightly to him, though !
 She has a mortgage on him now.
 Hope they'll be happy.
 They say she's awful smart.
 Too smart for him by a jugful !
 There, they are getting in the carriage.
 That magnificent dress will be squashed.
 The way she does look at him !
 I bet she worships him !
 Worship be hanged ! she's only making believe.
 It's kind o' nice to get married, isn't it ?
 No, its a dreadful bore.
 Wasn't it a stupid wedding ?
 What dowdy dresses !
 I'll never go to another !
 I'm just suffocated !
 Tired to death !
 Glad it's over !
 O dear !

New Orleans Democrat, about 1880.

XXIV. TEXAS WORDS.

With a Texan, a fish spear is a groin ; a boat, a dugout ; a halter, a bosaal ; a whip, a quirt ; a house, no house, but a log-pen ; a drove of horses, a caviarde ; and when a universal fright among them occurs, it is a stampede."—Paxton, 'A Stray Yankee in Texas' (1853), p. 117.

XXV. SOUTHERNISMS.

What parallel is to be found in the North for such a corruption as the southern use of the words *right*, *mighty*, and so forth ? as right smart, right lazy, right nice, right hungry, right happy, and right miserable ; mighty small, mighty big, mighty honest, mighty mean, mighty handsome, and mighty ugly. The Northerners have no such use of words as these ; neither do they ever talk about " a smart chance " for a probability, nor " a smart chance of a sprinkling " as an ironical mode of expressing a good many. The people of the North never say *inquiry* instead of the English word *inquiry*, as do the people from all parts of the South. A Southerner says " *like you do* " for *as you do*, " *like the man did* " for *as the man did*.—*Boston Pearl*, Feb. 20, 1836. [*Right* as an adverb is good old English.]

The New Englander *guesses*, the Virginians and Pennsylvanians *think*, the Kentuckian *calculates*, the man from Alabama *reckons*.—*Spirit of the Times*, Philadelphia, Sept. 30, 1844. [This is drawing the lines much too close.]

XXVI. CONSOLATORY ODE.

Addressed to Miss Magpie, on reading the following melancholy intelligence in the *Gazette of the United States* :—

“The Prairie Dog we are sorry to announce died suddenly at the city of Washington, (we have not learned upon what day and hour,) and its remains have arrived safe in this city [Philadelphia,] and are deposited in the Museum. Whether the administration went into mourning on the occasion, is not stated; nor have we heard how Miss Magpie, the travelling companion of Master Prairie Dog, bears her solitary and widowed situation.”

By ROBERT RUSTICOAT, ESQUIRE.

Alas ! poor lonely Mag, thou must not weep ;
'Tis vain thy pretty precious heart to break ;
Thy doleful moanings cannot, cannot wake
The *Prairie Puppy* from his endless sleep.

But, Maggy, this reflection must not pain ye,
For tho' the dog, when he was bid to go,
Expected soon to be in Louis'ana,
Fate and the President wouldn't have it so.

Didst know, Miss Maggy, that thy darling *Pup*
Was in a pretty gilded box nail'd up,

And sent to Mr. Peale's Museum :
Where you, or th' horned frog, or any
Of the late inhabitants of Louis'ana

Can call, and Mr. P. will let you see him ?

If thou'st not heard, then, Maggy, I will tell ye,—
He's plac'd, like Jonah, in the land-whale's belly,

Where he must lie,

Till you, and I,

And philosophers, and dogs,

And squirrels, and horn'd frogs.

The wicked and the just,

Shall rot, and mingle with their native dust.

The Balance, Hudson, N.Y., iv. 416 (Dec. 24, 1805).

* * * The Prairie Dog and the Magpie were sent by Capt. M. Lewis, the explorer of the West, to Mr. Jefferson. Incidental allusions refer to the President's philosophical pursuits, and to the cession of Louisiana by Napoleon.

XXVII. JEFFERSONIAN IDEAS RIDICULED.

Then would I trace him to the chair of state,
Where all his greatness still appears more great,
Tell how he sits—a lilliputian king
Towing his clam-boat navy with a string.
Strew'd at his feet a thousand whirligigs—
Gnats, flies, and squirrel-skins, and prairie pigs—
A horned frog, in Louis'ana kill'd—
A young dry-dock, with baby frigates fill'd—
Here a torpedo, torpid as a stone,
And there a harmless thing, an old air-gun.

Id., 1808, New Year's Address.

XXVIII. A HIGH OLD TIME.

“I’ve had five breezes, seven blow-outs, nine shindies, and a dozen ructions, on this \$1 Relief note, not at all mentioning the extra treats in the way of greasers, brandy rovers, gin-jumpers, and tickle-me-in-the-gaslight whiskey punches.”—*Phila. Spirit of the Times*, Feb. 15, 1842.

XXIX. TALL TALK.

Eulogy of John C. Calhoun by Mr. Albert G. Brown of Mississippi, in the House of Representatives, April 17, 1840: *Cong. Globe*, p. 390, App. :—

And how—how, sir, shall I speak of him—he who is justly esteemed the wonder of the world, the astonisher of mankind? Like the great Niagara, he goes dashing and sweeping on, bidding all created things give way, and bearing down, in his resistless course, all who have the temerity to oppose his onward career. He, sir, is indeed the cataract, the political Niagara of America; and, like that noblest work of nature and of nature’s God, he will stand through all after time no less the wonder than the admiration of the world. His was the bright star of genius that in early life shot madly forth, and left the lesser satellites that may have dazzled in its blaze to that impenetrable darkness to which nature’s stern decree had destined them; his the mighty magazine of mind, from which his country clothed herself in the armor of defence; his the broad expansive wing of genius, under which his country sought political protection; his the giant mind, the elevated spotless mien, which nations might envy, but worlds could not emulate. Such an one needs no eulogium from me, no defence from human lips. He stands beneath a consecrated arch, defended by a lightning shut up in the hearts of his countrymen—by a lightning that will not slumber, but will leap forth to avenge even a word, a thought, a look, that threatens him with insult. The story of his virtuous fame is written in the highest vault of your political canopy, far above the reach of grovelling speculation, where it can alone be sought upon an eagle’s pinions and gazed at by an eagle’s eye. His defence may be found in the hearts of his countrymen; his eulogium will be heard in the deep toned murmurs of posterity, which, like the solemn artillery of heaven, shall go rolling along the shores of time until it is engulfed in the mighty vortex of eternity. Little minds may affect to despise him; pigmy politicians may raise the war cry of proscription against him; be it so; insects buz around the lion’s mane, but do not arouse him from his lair. Imprecations will add but other links to the mighty chain that binds him to his countrymen; and each blast of your war trumpet will but awaken millions to his support.

[If Mr. Calhoun ever read these remarks, which were not spoken, but written “for Buncombe,” he must have ejaculated, “Save me from my friends.”]

XXX. THE HARRISON CAMPAIGN OF 1840.

(Described by an OHIO DEMOCRAT.)

How were the fearless and honest expose (*sic*) of principles, on the part of the Democracy, met? Why, sir, by drunken orgies, that would have disgraced a Bacchanalian feast; by empty unmeaning pageants; ridiculous displays of log cabins, beset in coon skins, fox tails, old goards, empty barrels, shot pouches, and snapping turtles; and by other displays, unworthy of the age, disgraceful to any people, and an insult to every understanding of morality and decency. Or, in the language of my poet:

And what are the principles 'bout which you prate?
 I answer, log cabins and pickerel bait;
 Hard cider, old muskets, and racoons, and rags,
 Black wool, and broad seals, and tow saddle-bags,
 Corn dodgers and skunk skins, with pitchforks and poles,
 Old hats that were made but to stop up the holes;
 Pack saddles and gourds, empty hoppers and lye,
 And catfish and gingerbread made in a pie;
 Pothooks and kettles, with scythes and washtub,
 Old sickles and cornstalks, and axes to grub.
 Oh! who could have dreamt that a nation so wise
 Would have stopped up their ears and plucked out their
 eyes;
 Would have swallowed such falsehood, so plain and so
 foul,
 That would disgust and sicken a toad-eating owl?

...The Abolitionist and the Slave holder, the bank man and the anti-bank man, the high tariffite and the anti-tariffite, the distributionist and the anti-distributionist, the assumptionist and the anti-assumptionist, though all antipodes to each other, were united against the Democracy.—Mr. Duncan in the House of Representatives, Jan. 25, 1841: *Cong. Globe*, p. 153, App.

XXXI. ANOTHER DESCRIPTION OF THE SAME.

I am reciting the simple history of the times; when no Whig gentleman considered himself properly adorned with the ensigns of his party, unless he carried a cane with a miniature hard cider barrel for its head, or an umbrella similarly adorned; when no paper was fit to be written upon, unless it had the impress of a log cabin at the head of the sheet. You, Mr. Speaker, well recollect the disgusting spectacles which were exhibited in the main street in this city. No person could go from this Capitol to the President's House, without having his eyes greeted with at least two log cabins with all the splendid decorations of coon skins, bear traps, broken bush hooks, old saddles with one stirrup, and divers other emblems so dearly loved and so warmly cherished by the Bank aristocracy and city Whigery (*sic*).—Mr. Eastman of New Hampshire in the House of Representatives, Dec. 28, 1841: *id.*, p. 49, App.

XXXII. THE BRITISH LION AND THE AMERICAN EAGLE.

[During the debate on the Oregon question] those convenient sources of poetic fancy, the American eagle and the British lion, have been so often drawn upon, that the roar of the one and the scream of the other now fall powerless [on our ears]. From the apex of the Alleghany to the summit of Mount Hood, the bird of America has so often been made to take flight, that his shadow may be said to have worn a trail across the basin of the Mississippi; and the poor lord of the beasts has become so familiar with the point of a hickory pole and of an ash splinter, that he has slunk away to his lair, and there let him lie for the balance of my allotted hour.—Mr. Cathcart of Indiana in the House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1846: *id.* p. 322.

XXXIII. ANTIFOGMATICS.

Popular Remedies against External and Internal Fogginess.

Genus 1st. GUM TICKLER warms the gums, and removes bad taste from the mouth after sleeping.

- Species 1st.* Glass of Gin.
 „ 2nd. Dram of Bitters.
 „ 3d. Raw slings, or any other good stuff.
 „ 4th. Small horn of distilled cordial.

Genus 2d. PHLEGM CUTTER.

- Species 1st.* Egg-nogg made pure.
 „ 2nd. Mint julep stiff.
 „ 3d. Brandy-sling, pretty well to the northward.
 „ 4th. Holland twist, not too weak.

Genus 3d. GALL BREAKER.

- Species 1st.* Grog (rum and water).
 „ 2d. Flip (rum and beer) heated with the red poker until it foams.
 „ 3d. Sampson, rum and eider stewed over the coals.
 „ 4th. Toddy, grog and sugar with pulp of roasted apples.
 „ 5th. Punch, toddy with lemon juice.
 „ 6th. Bishop, rum and wine.
 „ 7th. Doctor, rum and milk, diffusible and permanent stimuli.
 „ 8th. Cocktail, rum and honey,

Genus 4th. CLEAR COMFORTER.

- Species 1st.* Tincture of bark, by the gill.
 „ 2d. Spiced wine, with ginger, hot and qualified with whisky.
 „ 3d. Cure-all, rum and brandy, fourth proof, equal parts, heated so as to simmer, and stewed, with a spoonful of red pepper to take off the chills.”—*Lancaster Journal* (Pa.) Jan. 26, 1821.

XXXIV. "SHEEP MEN" IN MONTANA.

Talking about sheep men reminds me of Joe, the big bronco-buster and his "mot." I was doing the town with Joe, and he was carefully educating me in all the Western mysteries.

He told me about "day-wranglers" and "nighthawks" and "war-bags" and "round-ups"; showed me how to tie a "bull-noose" and a "sheep-shank" and a "Mexican hack-amore"; put me on to the twist-of-the-wrist and the quick arm thrust that puts half-hitches round a steer's legs; showed me how a cowboy makes dance music with a broom and a mouth-harp—and many other wonderful feats, none of which I can myself perform.

I wanted to feel the mettle of the big typical fellow, and so I said playfully: "Say, Joe, come to confession—you're a sheep man, now, aren't you?"

He clanked down a glass of long-range liquid, glared down at me with a monitory forefinger pointing straight between my eyes. "Now, you look here, Shorty," he drawled; "you're a friend of mine, and whatever you say goes, as long as I ain't all caved in! But you cut that out, and don't you say that out loud again, or you and me'll be having to scrap the whole out-fit!"

He resumed his glass. I told him, still playfully, that a lot of mighty good poetry had been written about sheep and sheep men and crooks and lambs and things like that, and that I considered my question complimentary.

"You're talkin' about sheep men in the old country, Shorty," he drawled. "There ain't any cattlo ranges there, you know. Do you know the difference between a sheep man in Scotland, say, and in Montana . . .

I did not.

"Well," he proceeded, "over in Scotland, when a feller sees a sheep man coming down the road with his sheep, he says: 'Behold the gentle shepherd with his fleecy flock!' That's poetry. Now, in Montana, that same feller coming over a ridge with the same sheep: 'Look at that crazy blankety-blank with his woollies!' That's fact. You mind what I say, or you'll get spurred."—*Putnam's Magazine*, Jan., 1910.

XXXV. FREQUENCY OF TITLES IN THE U.S.

Almost every one whom we mention is dignified with a title. But that is an American characteristic. Go into a country town in New England, and at guess call every third person esquire; every fourth one captain; every fifth one major; every sixth one colonel; and so on to the end of the chapter. It will be a matter of surprise to the inhabitants how you should know them all by name.—'Lowell Offering,' iv. 52 (1843).

XXXVI. A MIXED COMMUNITY.

What sort of people have you out there?—Waal, we've got some of most all kinds: Pukes, Wolverines, Snags, Hoosiers, Griddle-greasers, Buck-eyes, Corn-crackers, Pot-soppers, Hard-heads, Hawkeyes, Rackensacks, Linsey-Woolseys, Red-horses, Mud-heads, Green-horns, Canada Patriots, Loafers, Masons, Anti-masons, Mormons, and some few from the Jarseys.—Paulding, 'American Comedies,' p. 192 (Phila., 1847).

XXXVII. TALL TALK BY AN ABOLITIONIST.

We hear about keeping step to the music of the Union. Sir, go build a huge organ on the shelving sides of the Rocky Mountains, and let the angel of liberty strike its keys and chant forth that sublime and grand old anthem of universal freedom; and then, as its notes roll over the land, solemn and majestic, in God's name, sir, I will keep step to the music of the Union. It is a divine symphony. But when you call upon me to keep step to the sound of clanking chains, and of human manacles, to the wild shriek of human agony and suffering, I cannot do it. It grates upon me like the very dissonance of hell.—Mr. Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 17, 1858: *Cong. Globe*, p. 754.

XXXVIII. THE EAGLE SCREAMS.

The proudest bird upon the mountain is upon the American ensign, and not one feather shall fall from her plumage here. She is American in design, and an emblem of wildness and freedom. I say again, she has not perched herself upon American standards to die here. Our great western valleys were never scooped out for her burial place. Nor were the everlasting, untrodden mountains piled for her monument. Niagara shall not pour her endless waters for her requiem; nor shall our ten thousand rivers weep to the ocean in eternal tears. No, sir, no. Unnumbered voices shall come up from river, plain, and mountain, echoing the songs of our triumphant deliverance, wild lights from a thousand hill-tops will betoken the rising of the sun of freedom.—Mr. Samuel C. Pomeroy of Kansas, U.S. Senate, May 5, 1862: *id.*, p. 1940/1.

XXXIX. KNICKERBOCKERS AND YANKEES.

The enterprise of our sister Troy [N.Y.] has long been proverbial; but she must now yield her long established reputation to our good city of North Gotham.—Yes, ye dull-minded Trojans—ye scheming yankees—ye castle-building visionaries—ye wheat-buying speculators—ye pork-packing rapsallions—that have used all fair means to gather up the siller—you must now hide your diminished heads—for our venerable sturgeon-loving, yankee-hating, pipe-smoking burgomasters have beat you all hollow. Ye gods, who would have thought it! The spirit of good old Mynheer Van Twiller must chuckle at seeing the yankees outdone in speculation by the descendants of his loins.—*The Microscope*, Albany, N.Y., May 22, 1824, p. 43/1.

. "North Gotham" is Albany.

XL. TALL TALK FROM OHIO.

Sir, light up the pathway of your Army with cities in bonfire. Strew your road, not with the branches of the palm in honor of God-given victories, but scatter beneath the progress of your eagles the child whom you have dashed against the wall, the dishonoured bodies of women whom you have slain, and the wounded whom you have consumed in those sanctuaries of misfortune and helplessness which even war consecrates to these. Let the measured steps of your cohorts be taken to the music to which the Roman eagles were carried when "in Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation and weeping and great mourning." Ay, sir, let Liberty herself, as she is carried at the head of your triumphant battalions, not wear the vesture and crown and scepter, emblems of her majesty and purity; but drape her in garments dipped in the blood of the innocents; bind on her brow of alabaster a crown of nightshade, and put into her lily fingers some cup of hemlock, and let all these be symbols of the war waged by the Army of the Republic for LAW, but waged without LAW.—Speech of Mr. Samuel Shellabarger in the House of Repr., Feb. 24, 1862: *Cong. Globe*, p. 934/1. (The whole effusion is bombastic.)

XLI. THE GREATNESS OF THE AMERICAN UNION.

—I shall never forget the impression of the greatness of my country, made on my mind the first day I took my seat in this House, as I listened to the roll-call of the States and Territories. Commencing in Maine, first answered the representatives of the people of New England, so distinguished for their education, their enterprise, their commerce, and their manufactures; next answered New York, an empire herself, through her thirty-three Representatives; and then Pennsylvania, the keystone of the Federal arch; and then, sweeping down the Atlantic coast, came the answer from that land of sunshine and flowers, where the cotton-bloom whitens their broad acres, and where grow the sugar-cane and rice. Then came the roll-call up the great valley of the Mississippi, and from that valley and the valleys of all its tributaries, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the northern lakes, were heard the responses of the Representatives of the people of great States and Territories; but still the roll-call proceeded, and, bounding over the Rocky mountains, called upon the States on the Pacific coast, and they answered through the Representatives of California and Oregon. Again there was a call, and the Delegate from far-off Washington Territory answered the summons. Around me sat the Representatives of all the great material interests of our country; of the hardy seamen who spread their sails on every ocean, of the cotton and woolen manufacturers, of the cunning workmen in brass and iron, of the great railroad interests, of the agricultural products, of the cattle on a thousand hills, and of the mines of iron, gold, and silver in our mountains. On my right sat a Representative who, in his home at midsummer, was chilled by the cold winds of

the north, and on my left one around whose southern home the flowers bloom throughout the year. Here sat another, from our farthest eastern coast, who looked upon the sun as he rose fresh from the Atlantic to run his daily course, and there another who looked upon that sun as he gathered the robes of evening around him, and sunk [sank] to rest in the bosom of the Pacific. What a country! How great in extent! How vast in its resources! What a variety of soil, climate, and production!—Mr. W. M. Dunn of Indiana, House of Repr., April 23, 1862: *id.*, p. 1792/2-3.

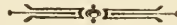
XLII. ABRAHAM LINCOLN DESCRIBED.

In June, 1858, there came prominently before the country an actor, who, hitherto comparatively obscure, was soon to become the most prominent figure in American history. Abraham Lincoln was a plain, rough, sturdy pioneer of the West. Self-made and self-educated, a giant in frame, ungraceful and awkward in person, but kind and genial in disposition; a profound thinker, taking nothing on the opinions of others, but reasoning out his own convictions and conclusions; of great sagacity, of unblemished private character, of a truthfulness and honesty which had long established for him among the backwoodsmen, dressed in buckskin and Kentucky jeans, the familiar soubriquet of "Honest Old Abe."

This man, whose sympathies were with the people, who loved liberty and detested slavery, called sneeringly by the aristocrats one of the "poor white trash," now threw all his energies into the contest. His language possessed a plainness, quaintness, and clearness of illustration, and a rugged Anglo-Saxon style, wonderfully adapted to reach the sense and understanding of the common mind of the country. The training of this man for the great part he was to act in the drama of history was not in the schools. Perhaps it was better. From childhood he had been accustomed to struggle with and overcome difficulties. With the basis of perfect truth, candor, integrity, modesty, and sobriety, he acquired self-control, self-reliance, and the ability to use promptly a clear judgment and sound common sense.

His acquisitions in general knowledge and information were rarely surpassed. He studied and investigated every subject that required his action. He was a good lawyer, a good mechanic, a good farmer, and had a fund of practical information upon almost every subject. He studied Euclid and Shakspeare, as well as Blackstone, while travelling the circuit. He had served a single term in Congress, but his education, his preparation, was among the people in humble positions. He had seen life in various phases. He had been a flat-boatman, a rail-splitter, a surveyor, a private soldier in a campaign against the Indians, a member of the Legislature of Illinois, and a very successful lawyer among the log court-houses of the West. He had the advantage of competing at a bar where very able men were his competitors, and he always held a front rank. There gathered some twenty-five years ago, around the plain pine tables of the rude court-houses

of central Illinois, a remarkable combination of men. Among them Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, Lyman Trumbull, O. H. Browning, E. D. Baker, late the able and eloquent Senator from Oregon, the martyr of Ball's Bluff; General James Shields, long Senator, who won a high reputation on the battle-fields of Mexico; General John H. Hardin, who fell on the bloody field of Buena Vista; James A. McDougall, Senator from California; Governor Bissell, one of the ablest statesmen of Illinois, and the eloquent representative whose defense of the gallant soldiers of that State drew a challenge from Jefferson Davis, then a member of Congress from Mississippi, which was accepted by Bissell, but the Mississippian did not fight, withdrawing his challenge under the influence of General Taylor. These, and many others equally able, were the men with whom Lincoln in his career at the bar was called to compete. [An account of the Lincoln-Douglas campaign follows, and one of the Chicago Convention of 1860.] —Mr. Isaac N. Arnold of Illinois, House of Repr., Feb. 20, 1865; *Cong. Globe*, pp. 69-70, App. [This was less than eight weeks before Mr. Lincoln was assassinated.]



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