

BOWERY SLANG.

Words and Phrases Heard Among the Street Arabs.

Some Bowery slang not to be found in the vocabulary of Chimmie Fadden, who, in his prime, was supposed to know all of it, is thus set forth by the New York Mail and Express:

A man in reduced circumstances is, in slang parlance, "on the swine." If his circumstances are a little more reduced, he is "on the swine train." And when he "is on the caboose of the swine train" his condition is most deplorable. No man ever died east of the Bowery; he "did a croak." And if he happened to die a violent death, he shot, "he did a gun croak." In this locality men are not stabbed; they are just "cut." "Lobster," a most favorite expression of contempt, originated on the race track, where it was used to designate a slow horse. And, as there is no quality of mankind which the native New Yorker holds in more reverence than rapidity, both physical and mental, it naturally followed that a man mentally inactive became a "lobster."

When a person is in hard luck, he is "up against it," and, if the luck grows worse, he is "up against it for fair." If a person goes to another person's house and so behaves that discredit is brought upon the house, he "puts the whole drive on the hog," which is a variation of "on the swine," and easily traceable to tramp slang.

If one person rushes at another like "a bull at a gate," the other person attempts to "beat in the roof of his head," which might well discourage the oncomer.

East of the Bowery drinks, "rats," and fists are always "thrown in." If the citizen of this district should unwisely "throw in" too much "red liquor," the next morning his "ears would be a foot cut," meaning that his head would be long. In this district the youths and maidens do not court; they simply "win" each other. De-feat is impossible, it would appear.

No one east of the Bowery attempts to do anything. He or she "makes a stagger at it." Beer is known as "hops," cigarettes as "pipes." If a girl has a pretty figure, she is "dead swell built," and every man a "guy," if he isn't he is a "lobster guy," if he is tall, he is a "high guy," and if he is strong, he is a "hulky guy."

AN ARAB PROVERB.

Who Can Affirm That the Mule Entered the Jug.

This proverb is frequently quoted to show that, though one may conscientiously believe in a thing which may seem extravagant in itself, it is better not to repeat it from fear of being disbelieved. It arises from the following Arabic legend: An Arab who denied the existence of genie bought a mule and took it home. When performing his evening ablutions he saw the mule enter a jug, and this so scared him that he ran shouting to the neighbors and told them what he had seen; they, thinking him mad, endeavored to appease him, but all in vain; he vociferated more and more, so that the authorities sent him to the madhouse. When the doctor came to see him he repeated the account of what he had seen, whereupon the doctor ordered him to be detained. He continued, upon each visit of the doctor, to repeat his statement until his friends succeeded in persuading him that, if he wished to regain his freedom, he must recant. This he did, and the doctor set him at liberty, to the great joy of his family and friends. On making his ablutions as before he again saw the mule, but on this occasion he contented himself with remarking to the mule: "Oh, yes, I see you well enough, but who would believe me? And I have had enough of the madhouse." Needless to say that the genie, to avenge themselves for his disbelief in them, had transformed one of themselves into a mule and as such entered the jug.—Cairo (Egypt) Sphinx.

He Conquered the Horse.

The famous American horse tamer, Rarey, when he was in England, spoke of Gladstone as one of the finest and boldest riders he had ever seen. Once, when chancellor of the exchequer, as he was taking his usual ride in Hyde Park on a spirited young horse, the horse plunged and got away, ran off the ordinary track of riders, and came along a spread of turf, divided by railways and gates of slender iron. It went straight over one of the gateways. Gladstone was determined to get the better of that horse. The moment the horse leaped the gate, the rider turned him around and put him at the gate again. Again and again he topped it, and his master turned him and made him go at it once more and surmount it yet another time. So it went on until the horse was fairly but very humbly conquered, and the rider was the supreme victor of the day.

Soap in India.

The only soap which the Hindoos of the orthodox type employ is made entirely of vegetable products. But soap is little used in India, being almost an unknown luxury with the natives.

BUILT OF MARBLE.

A Boom Town in Canada the Only One of Its Kind.

"I was assistant engineer on the Ontario & Quebec railroad, a branch of the Canadian Pacific railway," said an engineer in Tacoma, "and in running our preliminary lines one of them touched Bridgewater, Ontario, a deserted town, that was the personification of Oliver Goldsmith's 'Deserted Village.' Bridgewater was brought into existence by one of the strangest gold fields and crazes in the history of this continent.

"Nearly 25 years ago a farmer's wife was searching the woods surrounding their farm for a sow that had strayed, and, becoming thirsty, stopped to get a drink from a spring. Slipping, she fell against a small, loose rock, which rolled to her feet, and which proved to be a 20-pound nugget of almost pure gold. Bridgewater at that time was nearly 40 miles from the nearest railroad, and the present site of the town was nothing but a wilderness, but the effect of that accidental find of the farmer's wife was such that inside of six months what had been a burned-over, barren wilderness, was converted into a substantial city of nearly 5,000 people.

In digging a shaft about a mile south of the town site, on the claim of Billia Flint, a life senator of Canada, an immense quarry of the purest white marble ever found on this continent was discovered, and at the suggestion of the senator, the town of Bridgewater was practically built of marble, for it has to-day the only hotel, church, school, courthouse, and private dwellings constructed entirely of white marble in the world, and a mile north of the town are an abandoned ax factory and grist mill, whose foundations are built of the same beautiful material.

"During the building of the town thousands of men prospected the entire country, and shafts and tunnels were driven—some of them nearly 100 feet deep, but, strange as it may seem, there was never enough gold found to pay the cost of a single shaft or tunnel sunk or run in the entire district. So excited did the farmers around Bridgewater become that some of them actually hired guards to keep men from going on their land to pick up gold. Pat Kehoe, an old Irishman, who owned 100 acres of rich-strewn, barren land, was offered \$25,000 for his holding, but held out for \$150,000. To-day you could buy the property for probably \$150.

"One rancher, whose farm adjoined 'Aladdin's Cave,' the place where the original nugget was found, sold five acres to an English syndicate for \$100,000, and it is an established fact that the syndicate spent as much more developing their claim, as everything was very costly, all material having to be hauled nearly 50 miles, over rough roads; and they did not get a single ounce of free gold out of their purchase; but they mined some quartz—about 100 tons—shipped it to the states, and in return, got a bill from the smelting company for \$360 melting charges over and above the gold in the quartz. This was the first, and I believe the last, shipment of quartz ever made, as the cost of hauling, shipping, and smelting was \$150 a ton more than the rock produced."—Portland Oregonian.

REVOLUTIONARY TORIES.

Patriotic Minority from New England That Had Much Opposition.

If George III. and his ministers were embarrassed by opposition at home, says James K. Hosmer, in Atlantic, the American patriots were no less embarrassed. An energetic minority, it has been said, brought to pass the revolution, which proceeding, especially from New England, was carried through in spite of a majority in the colonies—a majority in great part quite apathetic, but to some extent actively resisting. The migration of Tories, when the day was at last won, was relatively as great as that of the Huguenots from France after the revocation of the edict of Nantes. The total number is estimated to have been at least 100,000. In this multitude were comprised only such, with their families, as had been active for the king. The indifferent, who had lent no helping hand to the patriots, must have been a multitude much larger; these remained behind, inertly submitting to the new order of things as they swayed inertly this way or that, following the power and direction of the blast of war.

Tony's Mistake.

"They say Tony's injuries were the result of a practical joke." "Yes," the chapplies told him that a big, burly fellow in the smoking-room was deaf and dumb, and Tony walked over to him with a sweet smile and told him he was a fool. "Well?" "The man wasn't deaf and dumb."—Tit-Bits.

Boarder Takes What's Left.

Garrity—Oh hear you've taken a boarder. Harry—We had to, begob. There was nothin' in the house to ate.—Indianapolis Journal.

THE FONCTIONNAIRES.

All Men Paid by the French Government Were So Considered.

For the last half century it has been the habit in France to consider as fonctionnaires—that is to say, attached to the government by close ties of absolute subjection—all those whose salaries appear in the budget, even if their duties are such as should make them entirely independent. We have seen in recent judicial proceedings that the senators and deputies implicated were amenable to the law as fonctionnaires. Long-armed as the law is, it could not reach directly the members of parliament who had made a traffic of their position.

It had not been anticipated—and this is greatly to the honor of preceding legislatures—that the votes of senators and deputies would one day be bought as one buys apples and cabbages in the market. The government, and the public, too, were strongly of opinion that members of the chambers are not, properly speaking, fonctionnaires. They do not act as such, and it is even their duty to remain strangers to all governmental action, in order to retain their independence and liberty of conscience. The difficulty was turned. It was said: "They are paid, and therefore they are fonctionnaires." Correctly speaking, the remuneration they receive is not "salary," or even "fees," like those of doctors and lawyers, and still less is it "pay," such as is allowed to officers and private soldiers. It has been given the somewhat hypocritical name of "indemnity."

Senators and deputies are indemnified for the trouble caused them by sending them to sit at Paris. For this they receive 9,000 francs per annum. This sum would be small as salary, but it is pretty large for an indemnity. It is true that it is in addition to certain small privileges, of which the free pass on all the French railways is not the least appreciated by these gentlemen.—Nineteenth Century.

EXPANDED BY HEAT.

Solids That Are Affected by the Weather—Some Instances.

The expansion of solids by heat is exemplified in the following cases: A glass stopper sticking fast in the neck of a bottle often may be released by surrounding the neck with a cloth taken out of warm water, or by immersing the bottle in warm water up to the neck; the binding ring is thus heated and expanded sooner than the stopper, and so becomes slack or loose upon it.

In an iron railing, a gate, which during a cold day may be loose and easily shut and opened, in a warm day may stick, owing to there being greater expansion of it and of the neighboring railing than of the earth on which they are placed.

The iron pillars now so much used to support the front walls, of which the ground stories serve as shops with spacious windows, in warm weather really lift up the wall which rests upon them, and in cold weather allow it again to sink or subside.

The pitch of a pianoforte or harp is lowered in a warm day or in a warm room, owing to the expansion of the strings being greater than of the wooden frame work; and in cold the reverse will happen. A harp or piano which is well tuned in a morning drawing-room, cannot be perfectly in tune when the crowded evening party has heated the room.—N. Y. Ledger.

QUICK JOURNEYS NOW.

Statistics Showing Progress Made in Last Fifty Years.

A French statistician has just drawn up an interesting document showing at various periods in what time certain frontier towns could be reached from Paris. The years chosen are 1650, 1782, 1834, 1854 and 1897. In 1650 it took five days to go from Paris to Calais. One hundred and thirty-two years later, in 1782, the duration of the journey had been reduced to 60 hours. In 1834 it had fallen to 28 hours, and in 1854 to six hours forty minutes. To-day one of the boat expresses takes three hours forty-two minutes.

The difference for Marseilles is still more phenomenal. From 15 days in 1650, the duration of the journey was reduced to 80 hours in 1834, and to-day it takes 184 hours. The distance from Paris to Bayonne two centuries ago took 388 hours; to-day it occupies 11 hours 11 minutes. Brest can be reached in 13 hours 37 minutes, while in 1650 it took 270 hours. Finally, for Havre, 97 hours was considered quick traveling in 1650. It took 15 hours in 1782 and 17 hours in 1834. To-day it is a matter of three hours fifteen minutes.

Safe Securities.

Jinks—Johnson wants to borrow \$10 from me. Do you think he is good for that amount? Binks—Yes, with proper security. "What securities would you suggest?" "A chain, a padlock, a pair of handcuffs, and a dog. That would be enough to hold him."—Tit-Bits.

Bulletin Financier.

Vendredi, 9 septembre 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

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ÉTAT HEBDOMADAIRE DU CLEARING-HOUSE.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Vendredi, 9 septembre 1898.

COTON.

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