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tie to your Col-  
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the knot for  
25c.

### SLANG AND JARGON.

ORIGIN OF WORDS THAT BECAME A PART OF OUR LANGUAGE.

Some Are Ephemeral, but Others Retain Their Popularity—Various Callings Contribute to This Wordmaking—Some Well Known Examples.

**Slang.**—A new word that has no just reason for existence; a popular but unauthorized word, phrase or mode of expression; the jargon of some particular calling or class in society.—Webster.

In other words, anything in the way of word or expression not in the dictionary is "slang." When by reason of long continued popularity and general usage it is deemed worthy of a place in the textbook and authority of the language, it ceases to be "slang."

It is from the jargon of particular callings or classes in society that the English language is slowly but steadily enriched. The slang phrase first becomes dignified with the term idiom, and then it creeps into the new dictionary.

Not all slang is destined to this apotheosis. Much of it is ephemeral. A great deal of it is meaningless, silly or weak and dies in its childhood. Actor folk are given to the invention of new phrases more or less expressive, but short lived. "The ghost walks" is one of the few instances of the jargon of stagerland.

The theatrical term of "makeup" is now in general use as descriptive of anything striking in personal adornment, referring to the clothing and not to a disguise or enhancement of the features as originally. Song and dance men, acrobats, serio comics, sketch teams and the lower order of theatrical folk indulge in slang that renders their conversation almost unintelligible. For instance, some knockout artist was struck by the similarity of the words pardon and pudding, and to his bright mind the transition to "tapioea" was not difficult, but there is no probability that the expression "Beg your tapioea" will supplant "I beg your pardon" in the language of the polite world.

The song and dance man may be excused in summer days of bankruptcy in calling the man with money, willing to spend it for refreshment, an "angel," and this expression may in time creep into the language, but for the present the ancient term of "sucker" will suffice.

Circus slang was the forerunner of the jargon of the variety stage, and in the good days when the "gaslit city of tents" was planted upon every village green the circus folk had a language almost their own.

The roots of their vernacular were the various parts of the tent and equipment of the show. The boss of the show was called the "main guy," and this expression has to a certain extent survived the decline of the circus, and the "main guy" is frequently heard of in workshops.

The great cattle ranges of the west have given the world the term "round-up." It originally referred to the annual gathering together of the cattle of various owners that they might be separated for shipment. Today in the business world it indicates an inquiry into the affairs of a firm or corporation and has really the significance of stock taking.

Thieves have a gibberish so extensive as to almost constitute a language. It is only understood among themselves and by policemen, who are forced to acquire the knowledge of its meaning. Many of the terms that have been in use for years are really corruptions of the Hebrew and had their origin among the "fences" or depots for the reception of stolen goods in London. This jargon, while continued for years, has never obtained outside of the police and criminal classes.

"Lost his grip" is a terse, pathetic, almost tragic term, conjuring up as it does the story of wasted ambition, blasted hopes, ruin and despair, in all probability originated among lodge people. A man who had "lost his grip" was temporarily in a dilemma.

From the mining camps of the far west came "struck it rich," which now applies to any human success; "up the flume," signifying failure; "hard pan," which means a solid paying basis; "pestered out," which suggests a gradual decline and final suspension of resources; "grubstruck," for assistance given a new business enterprise on condition of a share in perspective or possible profits. Bonanza has been a good English word for 30 years, and the Century dictionary accepted it along with such words as "boom," meaning to manufacture support and enthusiasm, and "squeal," meaning to confess and betray companions.

From the railroad yards came "switched," with the meaning of diverted; "sidetracked," for temporary failure and suspension, the result of outside interference; "ditched," as expressing ruin and collapse, and "wide open" came from the locomotive, which referred to the throttle and the extreme of speed. Now it means in full swing, reckless and regardless of interference.

"Out of sight" is an anachronism, as it means plainly in sight, and it is growing more and more in favor every day as a synonym for the superlative in appearance, accomplishment or performance. It was the balloon soaring toward the sky that was first declared out of sight, and then came the adaptation of this new form of expressing altitude and exemption from competition. For instance, when Assemblyman Joseph

Cahill appears with his fearfully and wonderfully plaided trousers, which are said to have drowned the roar of the surf at Manhattan Beach, his admiring constituents cry out: "Get onto Cahill's pants! They are out of sight!"

The race track has given us "cinch," as meaning something settled beyond all doubt or peradventure. A cinch is a saddle girth, tightened by the Spanish method of a complicated knot that will not come untied. Hence cinch, or sure thing, cinched, or all settled beforehand, can't lose. Sabe?—Exchange.

### CHATS WITH GYPSIES.

A Few Phrases With Which to Break Down the Romany Reserve.

The gypsy is generally talkative when you have broken down the barriers of reserve. For the benefit of the novice I will, however, remark that policemen (prastramengros) and hedgehogs (hotch-wichis) are both good subjects for discussion. The gypsy does not break the law more often than his neighbors, but a policeman, as the embodiment of all that is orderly and conventional, is antipathetic to him. As for hedgehogs, they are cooked and eaten by the Romany, who are wonderfully clever at tracking and capturing these very shy animals. The other day one of my gypsy friends informed me that as a cure for deafness there was nothing to equal a little melted hedgehog's fat applied to the ear.

The following few words and phrases, spelled as phonetically as possible, may be useful to any one paying his first visit to a Romany camp. By adroitly introducing them into his conversation the visitor may succeed in avoiding that appearance of inexperience and greenness which might tempt his hosts to receive him as an inquisitive gentile rather than as a future "Romany Rai!"

Good day, brother..... Koshito divvov, pal.  
What is your name?..... So see tooty's nav?  
I, you..... Mandy, tooty.  
Give me..... Del mandy.  
To see..... To dik.  
A little beer..... A kool levivor.  
To smoke a pipe..... To toov a swegler.  
Tent, caravan..... Tan, wardo.  
Water..... Paani.  
Child..... Chavvi.  
Yes, no..... Awa, kek.  
Good luck to you!..... Koshito bok to tooty!

—Pall Mall Budget.

### Growing Walking Sticks.

The cultivation of material for walking sticks is carried on in quite an extensive scale in some parts of Europe, and special attention is often paid to making the roots grow into shapely forms for handles. While in London last year I went in to a manufacturing establishment, the floor space of which covers nearly an acre. This concern has storehouses filled with native and foreign sticks, from which stock is drawn as wanted for the shops. The sticks as they grow are often very crooked and have to be straightened. A heap of sand is piled on the top of a hot stove, into which the sticks are plunged until they become pliable. The workman takes the crooked stick while it is yet hot and inserts it in a notch cut in a stout board, placed at an angle inclined from him, where he bends and strains it. When it has become perfectly straight, it is thrown down to cool, after which it becomes rigid and permanent in its lines. The same power which makes a crooked stick straight is applied to make a straight one crooked. All the various kinds of sticks that are required to be curled or twisted are, by the application of heat, made to assume almost any shape or form.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### What She Liked.

Young Mr. Hopkins went to the World's fair at Chicago, and while there met a charming American young lady who proved to be his fate. After a brief wooing they were wed, and young Hopkins sent to the old folks at home a glowing description of his wealthy, handsome and accomplished wife. A few months later they returned to England, and old Mr. Hopkins invited a few friends to a quiet supper to meet his "charming daughter-in-law," as he termed the lady.

The evening passed off splendidly till supper, and then we were astounded. The old gentlemen asked Mrs. Hopkins, Jr., what she would take for supper, saying, "I am afraid our homely English dishes cannot compare with your American delicacies." "Perhaps not," came the unexpected reply, "but I'll tell you what I'd like, and that is some of that cold cabbage left from dinner. I'm a Nebuchadnezzar for greens."—London Chronicle.

### Stammering Children.

It is safe to say that, out of every 1,000 children in the Boston schools, seven stutter or stammer. Of all boys in the schools 1.12 per cent are stutters, while only .42 per cent of all girls stutter. This is in accord with observations of European experts, who say that three or four times as many boys as girls stutter habitually. Boston schools show a smaller proportion of stutters than German and Russian schools.—Boston Transcript.

Public executions in Paris prove very profitable to the owners of houses commanding the scene. Windows are let out for the occasion, the landlords watching for the first sign of the execution and then at once sending word to the persons who have hired the room.

Norwegians give cods' heads mixed with marine plants to their cows to increase the yield of milk.

### THE CONVERTED KING.

Once to a wicked king drew nigh,  
On ill intent, a mousing spy,  
Who said, "I know a strange old man  
Who calls you all that malice can—  
A cruel tyrant, fired by hate,  
Who grinds the poor and bleeds the state."  
The king was vexed, and in reply  
Declared the slanderer should die,  
But when I came before the king  
He answered "Yes" to everything  
The spy had charged. "Look round," said he,  
"On all your work of misery,  
No subject stirs his lips from fear,  
And speaking truth has brought me here."

The king, on finding me so bold,  
Confessed to all the truth he told  
And promised straightway to amend  
And to his subjects be a friend,  
Then gave to him who dared to die  
Honors for his fine bravery.  
—Joel Benton in New York Ledger.

### THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

His Fondness For Little Children Gets Him Into Trouble.

"I always was fond of little children," said the retired burglar, "and once I served a term on that account. I had gone into a house in the western part of the state and rummaged about down stairs, and finally got up and got into a room where there was a man and his wife and a little baby, all asleep. The baby was in a cradle that stood at the foot of the bed. Not far from the cradle, standing against the wall, was the bureau. I transferred whatever there was of value in the bureau, and then I turned to the baby. I couldn't help it. I turned my light on the kid to look at him, and it woke him up. He stared at me a little, and then he began to smile and double up his fists at me.

"Well, he looked so funny that I chuckled him under the chin, and that seemed to tickle him immensely. He threw up his legs and his arms and laughed more'n ever and tried to say something, but all he could say was 'Goo-o-o,' but that was enough. You have heard of women so tired you could not wake 'em up firing a cannon in the next room that would wake up in a minute if the baby turned in its cradle? Well, when this baby said 'Goo-o-o,' its mother not only woke up instantly, but she began to get up before she was fairly awake, and all the time she was looking toward the cradle, and she saw the light long before I could douse it. Then she screamed, and I made a great break for the door.

"But the man got there before I did, and besides being very quick he was very abledodid and not the least bit afraid. In fact, he was a better man than I was, and the upshot of this business was that I got four years and six months just for stopping to chuck a little shaver under the chin."—New York Sun.

### Death of a Famous Cachuca Dancer.

Mrs. Lyne-Stephens, whose funeral in England took place recently, had so completely outlived her celebrity that she does not find a place in "Men and Women of the Time," yet when the century was young the name of Miss Duvernay was a household word, and the author of the "Ingoldsby Legends" puts into the mouth of Lord Tomnoddy when addressing "Tiger Tim" the words:

Malibran's dead,  
Maverney's fled,  
Tiger Tim, come tell me true,  
What may a nobleman find to do?

Duvernay, the dancer, dying at 81, has survived Malibran, the singer, 55 years. The former married Mr. Lyne-Stephens, a wealthy man, who left her a life interest in his seat in Norfolk and also most of his property. She survived him over 30 years. Mrs. Lyne-Stephens also had a residence at Rochampton, where she took a deep interest in the convent.

### Self Command.

"Self command is the main elegance," "self control is the rule," says Emerson.

He is enforcing that rule of manners which bids us avoid the exaggeration that causes loss of power and heat that makes our inferiors our superiors. He quotes from the austere, reserved, eloquent St. Just, "Keep cool, and you command everybody," and from the witty old Talleyrand, "Above all, gentlemen, no heat."

### A Woman City Treasurer.

Miss Smiley, who has just been elected city treasurer of Montrose, Colo., resigns a place as head clerk in one of the largest dry goods houses in the city to accept the office. She received her nomination through the efforts of the Woman's Political club, indorsed, however, by some of the leading business men of the place.

### Forest Air.

There is a general impression that the humidity of the air is greater in the woods than in the open fields. This is contradicted, however, by the result of observations recently made in Germany.

It was found there that the humidity, both relative and absolute, was slightly greater in the open than in the woods, and this was true equally in the morning and in the afternoon.

As to the temperature of the air among the trees, it was a trifle higher than in the open in the morning, and in a more marked degree in the afternoon.—Youth's Companion.

### A Matter of Taste.

She—But how can you think I'm pretty when my nose turns up so?  
He—Well, all I have to say is that it shows mighty poor taste in backing away from such a lovely mouth.—Standard.

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