

(Common), *barge* or *bargey*, a term of ridicule applied to a very corpulent man or woman of large posterior development; a simile derived from the shape of a coal barge, or any clumsy boat or ship, compared with a wherry, or other vessel of more elegant and slender build.

Bāris, bawris, bawri (gypsy), a snail; *bawris simmun*, snail soup.

Bark (popular), an Irish man or woman. Hotten says that no etymology can be found for this. In low Whitechapel Yiddish the term would at once be understood to mean a wanderer or vagabond, based on *barkolis*, or *bargolis*, one who goes about in misery and poverty, and *barches*, "further," as *barches holchen*, "to go further." It is, however, probably derived from the Celtic *barrag*, scum, or dirty scum. Scum, as an abusive term, "scum of the earth," is originally Irish, *vide* BARKSHIRE. (Common), the skin, to "bark one's shins" is to get the skin off one's shins.

That'll take the *bark* from your nozzle, and distil the Dutch pink for you, won't it?—*The Further Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green*.

(Popular), cough.

So I suppose we must sing "Spring's Delights" when we ain't on the *bark* or the sneeze.—*Punch*, 1887.

Barker (common), a man employed at the doors of shows and shops of an inferior class

to entice people inside. The French slang has the exactly corresponding term *aboyeur*. Among touting photographers he is called a "doorsman." At universities a *barker* signifies a great swell, and in America a noisy coward; *barker* has another signification explained by the following quotation:—

But what was "barking"? I thought a great deal about the matter, and could arrive at no more feasible conclusion than that a *barker* was a boy that attended a drover, and helped him to drive his sheep by means of imitating the bark of a dog.—*Charles Greenwood: Outcasts of London*.

Also used by thieves for pistol. The term is in contradiction to the saying, that a "dog that barks seldom bites."

Here a loud holloa was heard close by the horses' heads. "Good heavens, if that is a footpad!" said Mr. Spencer, shaking violently. "Lord, sir, I have my *barkers* with me."—*Bulwer: Night and Morning*.

"*Barkers* for me, Barney," said Toby Crackit.

"Here they are," replied Barney, producing a pair of pistols.—*Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist*.

In nautical parlance, *barkers* is an old term for lower-deck guns and pistols.

Barkey (nautical), a sailor thus calls a pet ship to which he belongs.

For the *barkey* she did know,
As well as e'er a soul on board,
'Twas time for us to go.

—*Old American Slaver's Song*.

Barking irons (thieves), pistols; and in nautical slang large