

called upon to pay the allotment.

Now as the Bull had run away,
Unable for the shares to pay,
'Twas clear, as he'd no cash to spare,
The Stag then couldn't pay the *Bear*;
So when the *Bear* went for his due,
The Stag had gone to Boulogne too.

And, since the Stag had cut and run,
'Twas plain the *Bear* could pay no one;
So those to whom he money ow'd,
When they sought out the brute's abode,
Found that the *Bear*, or him they call so,
Had cut and run to Boulogne also.

—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Current expressions in the "House" are: to operate for a *bear*; to realise a profitable *bear*. To *bear* the market is using every effort to depress the price of stock in order to buy it.

And these are the clients who sell and buy,
Who "*bear*" when low and "bull" when high,

And who pay the Como, a source of gain,
Which lightens sorrow and eases pain. . . .
And these are the men who, all forlorn,
Wander about all tattered and torn,
Who have been clients, who sell and buy,
Who "*bear*" when low and "bull" when high.

—*Atkin: House Scraps.*

Dealings are now becoming more active in these stocks, and a considerable *bear* account is developing itself.—*Truth*, April 26, 1888.

When speculators become defaulters—to whatever category of the animal trinity mentioned above they may belong—they are metamorphosed into "lame ducks," and "waddle out of the alley."

"To *bear* a bob" (nautical), used jocularly by Jack-tars for

"to lend a hand;" (popular), to join in chorus with persons singing.

Bear splitter (old slang), a rake; one of the "loose fish" sort who is fond of prostitutes. The allusion is obvious.

Bearer-up (thieves' slang), a gambling cheat, more generally called a "bonnet," a commission agent, bidder or sweetener at an auction; a decoy-duck at cards who induces strangers to play with sharpers by persuasion or by seeing him win. From the legal term "bearer" in old law, one who bears down and oppresses others by vexatiously assisting a third party in maintaining a suit against them.

Bear fight (society), a rough and tumble in good part. The smoking or billiard rooms at night in country houses are the places where *bear fights* frequently occur.

Be-argered (common), drunk. Probably from the German *be-ärgert*, irritated, vexed, referring to the "fifth stage of intoxication, which is one of wrath and fighting" (*Körte, Sprichwörter der Deutschen*).

Bear-leader (common), the travelling companion or tutor of a young gentleman or nobleman, employed by the parents or guardians to watch over him