

and keep him from evil courses which he might fall into if left to himself. "Unlicked cub" was and still is a slang term for an undisciplined youth, and was no doubt the origin of *bear* as applied to the same kind of person. When Dr. Johnson visited Scotland and the Hebrides in his old age, accompanied by James Boswell, who has left the world so amusing an account of the prejudices of his uncouth and ungainly hero against everything he saw in Scotland, it pleased the wits of Edinburgh to call Boswell his *bear-leader*. Henry Erskine, to whom Boswell had introduced the great man, slipped a shilling into Boswell's hand, saying, "Take that, my good man; it's for the sight of your *bear!*"

Bears? are you there with your (old), are you there, or, at it again? Joe Miller says the expression originated in this way. A man disgusted with a sermon on Elisha and the bears, went on the following Sunday to another church, where he heard the sermon delivered once more by the same preacher.irate at being thus foiled, he cried out, "*Are you there with your bears!*" The explanation is more quaint than convincing. The phrase seems to have been very common in the seventeenth century.

Another, when at the racket court he had a ball struck into his hazard, would ever

and anon cry out, "*Estes-vous là avec vos ours!*" which is ridiculous in any other language but English.—*J. Howell: Forraine Travell.*

Oh, quoth they, here is an accident may save the man; *are you there with your bears?* We will quit the exercise of the House's right rather than that should be.—*Roger North: Examen.*

Bear watching, to (American), a phrase indicating suspicion.

"Jones may be a nice man, but he'll *bear watching*—you had better keep your eye on him."

"Now Brer Rabbit knowed he bes' look about right spry, cayse de creeters all had dey eyes skint an' dey years open fer him, cayse he hed setch cu'yous leetle ways wid him dat he'd *bar watchin*."—*Ever Rabbit.*

Beastly (common). This word, which was once used only in a very abusive sense, has, by dint of repetition, come like awfully, or dreadful, or horrid in America, to signify "very."

Ere ladies use such *beastly* names our follies to condemn,

They should bear in mind they always find we're *beastly* fond of them.

—*Zoological Companions: A Ballad.*

They go on if I say "*beastly* jolly,"

And say that I mustn't talk slang,

And lecture me well on the folly

Of shutting the door with a bang.

—*H. Adams: Only a Little Bit Giddy.*

It is also used in society as an emphatic adjective. Everything that does not meet with approval now is *beastly*: as, "We had a *beastly* dull sermon this morning." Surely a libel on animals, as the original meaning is, "pertaining to, or