

Bloke (common), not strictly "a man," as Hotten defines it, but a man in a contemptuous sense. So the word was originally used in the police newspapers twenty-five years ago. A *bloke* was a victim of sharps, a stupid person, a greenhorn. It is not from the gypsy *loke*, a man, as Hotten asserts, *loke* not being an Anglo-Romany word. It is probably from the Dutch *blok*, a block, a log, a fool, which gives rise to *blok-ker*, a plodder, a dull fellow, and to the English *blockhead*.

The girl is stunning, the *blokes* say, so we must forgive you.—*Ouida: Held in Bondage*.

"Give us a horder, then, old *bloke*," shrieked another gamin.—*F. W. Robinson: Little Kate Kirby*.

It has another signification, which is explained by the quotation.

It came out in the course of the evidence that the meaning of the word *bloke* was "a man whom a woman might pick up in the street."—*J. Greenwood: Seven Curses of London*.

Blood (fencing). In the old back-swording contests a *blood*, *i.e.*, a streak of blood on the head or face at least one inch in length, was the equivalent of a decisive "broken-head." The word *blutiger* is used in the same sense by the German students on the Mensur.

In prize-ring parlance the word is not considered sufficiently graphic, and *blood* is never mentioned except under syno-

nymy such as "claret" (especially picturesque in connection with tapping), "Badminton" (a peculiar kind of claret cup invented at the Duke of Beaufort's seat), "ruby," "crimson," "Chateau Lafitte," &c.

Blood and entrails (nautical). This is a slang name given to the British ensign by Yankee sailors.

Blood and thunder (popular), port wine and brandy mixed.

Blood and thunder literature (American), now common in England. Literature of the loudest and coarsest sensational kind, "detective" novels, romances like "Jack Sheppard" and the "Outlaw of the Plains," "Life of Buffalo Bill," &c.

One more instance of the deleterious influence of *blood and thunder fiction*. Lecomte, the man who made a most determined attempt to murder a messenger of the Bank of France the other day by plunging a bradawl into the nape of his neck, was an inveterate peruser of crimson-tinted literature, his favourite authors being Pousson du Terrail, Gaboriau, and Lacenaire, the lettered murderer who emulated the deeds of Hoffman's "Cardillac" by prowling around the streets of Paris for victims.—*Paris Correspondence: Daily Telegraph*.

Blood boat (naval), a "tally boat" or bumboat, a boat employed to carry provisions from the shore.

Blood-curdler (society), a story of murder likely to make the reader's blood curdle.