

imagined it to be a variety of kangaroo, and not a slang word expressive of size.

An officer from Van Diemen's Land told me that he had once killed in that colony "a kangaroo of such magnitude, that being a long way from home, he was unable though on horseback to carry away any portion except the tail, which alone weighed thirty pounds. This species is called the *boomak*, and stands about seven feet high."—*Lieut.-Col. Munday: Our Antipodes.*

Boomer (American), a very big specimen, a huge snake or kangaroo.

And should you ask how such a one
A mighty hunter grew,
So many flying does outsped,
So many *boomers* slew.

But suddenly the vision passed,
And Bill became aware,
That he was in the *boomer's* arms,
And bounding through the air.
—*J. B. Stephens: Marsupial Bill.*

A very great lie, a very big flea; a very long hit at cricket would be described as a *boomer*, or a regular *boomer* (used by "slangy" Australians). A *boomer* is probably that which makes a big boom or noise, and so something very big. We have the same metaphor in "a great gun."

Boomerang (American), properly a carved flat weapon used by the natives in Australia, which, when thrown, returns to the thrower. In American journalism the word is frequently used to indicate some evil measure, or act, or falsehood, which, like

a curse, has "come home to roost," or recoiled on the head of its author. The title, "A Bourbon *Boomerang*," in an American newspaper, means that the Democrats have been injured by some scheme they had formed against the Republicans.

Boomeranging (Australian), hitting or killing with a boomerang. A slang participle, coined from the native word boomerang.

War shouts and universal *boomeranging*.

—*J. P. Stephens: A Picaninny.*

Booming (Australian), large, astonishing. For derivation *vide* BOOMER.

Look at that *booming* guana! He has been feeding sumptuously on the carrion. He is watching us with his "glittering eye," his head up, his vicious tongue darting out now and then like a serpent's fangs.—*A. C. Grant.*

Boom-ja-lang (American), a mysterious slang word, which seems to mean the same as the Spanish *funcion*, business, or what is going on.

"Twas right in the middle of the *boom-ja-lang*,

All on a summer day.
Rip Sam! set her up again;
Set her up again! set her up again.
We're all of the Choctaw tribe.

—*Song, 1860.*

Boom-passenger (nautical), a convict on board ship. Derived from the circumstance that prisoners on board convict ships were chained to, or were made