

"This well-known word is alleged," say the authors of the Anglo-Indian Glossary, "to be taken from the Turkish *bosh*, signifying empty, vain, useless, &c. (Redhouse's Dictionary); but we have not been able to trace its history or first appearance in English." *Bosh* in English, and all other gypsy dialects, means a noise or sound of any kind, and is also used in all the senses of the Turkish word to denote emptiness, just as we might say "that is all talk." "Hatch your bosh," or "bosherin," stop your noise, is quite the same as stop your *bosh*. And as the English gypsy *bosh*, in fact, comes rather nearer to the English slang word than the Turkish, it seems most likely that the Romany supplied it. *Bosh* or *bāsh* in gypsy has also the meaning of music, and is applied to a violin. It was, and may yet be, a test of a "traveller's" proficiency in gypsy habits, or in the Romany language, to put to him the following verse:

"O can you rokker Romanis?
O can you kill the *bosh*?
O can you jā to staruben?
O can you chin the kosh?"—

i.e. "O can you talk Romany?
O can you play the fiddle?
O can you go to prison?
O can you cut the wood?"

The last line refers to making skewers or other articles of wood—the last resort for a gypsy when poor.

Bosh faker (itinerants), violinist. *Bosh* is gypsy for a violin. A great many expressions used by the lowest class of actors are from the gypsy. Also *boshman*.

Bosh lines (showmen), literally violin strings, explained by quotation.

Both of these men have Marionette frames, and are Marionette performers in addition; and invariably charge more for their engagement when working the Marionettes, or "*bosh* lines," as they call them, as well.—*Tit Bits*.

Bos-ken (tramps), a farm-house.

Bosky (popular), drunk; from *bosky*, swelled, in fact, "tight."

Reminding Corinthian Tom and Jerry Hawthorn of the Oxonian and his inclination to get *bosky*.—*Punch*.

Bosman (tramps), a farmer. Dutch.

I've seen the swell *bosmen* buy the pills to give the people standing about, just to hear the crocus patter.—*Henry Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor*.

Boss, an American and colonial term extensively used in England by all classes in a variety of meanings, such as master, head.

Boss horse-shoers now charge fifty cents extra for shoeing, to meet the demands of the journeymen.—*The Weekly Bulletin, San Francisco*.

You want a *boss* cook and a beauty, don Cabeza, eh! Well I guess I am both. What'll you give me to come to the mine and cook?—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin*.

The station-*boss* stopped dead still and glared at me speechless.—*Mark Twain: Roughing It*.

Much philological research has been devoted to establish the