

Brock, to (Winchester), to bully. Literally, to badger. From *brock*, a badger.

Brockster (Winchester), a bully.

Brogan (American), coarse, strong shoes. From *brogues*, coarse shoes, which, according to Kennett, are shoes made of rough hide used by the wild Irish. Irish *brog*, a shoe.

Broiled crow, to eat (American). A newspaper editor who is obliged by his party, or other outside influences, to advocate principles different from those which he supported a short time before, is said to *eat broiled crow*, more commonly "to eat crow."

Broke (common), hard-up, reduced to one's last sou.

There was a young plunger, who smartly
Snapped up the big books about Martley;
Then came the *fiasco*,
And Ben cried "Carrasco!
I'm bested, *broke*, busted—or partly!"
—*Bird o' Freedom*.

Broke her leg (American), said of an unmarried woman who has had a child. In French theatrical slang, a lady who is *enceinte* "ar mal au genou," the result of a *faux-pas*.

Broken. When a corporal at the R. M. Academy is reduced for some irregularity or misconduct he is said to be *broken*.

Broken knees (popular), a woman who has made a slip, or been

seduced, is said to have *broken knees*. The Germans say she has "lost a shoe." The analogy existing in each language between the phrase and the language of the stable is curious.

Brolly (Winchester), a corruption of umbrella. The term is used also at the universities.

I saw great Goshen stamping on the pave,
I saw that famous man his *brolly* wave;
I heard a naughty word, and I am free
To own that that same word began with D.
—*Funny Folks*.

Broncho (American), wild or savage, unruly. A Western term derived from the *broncho* or *mustang*, an unruly brute.

"Oh! I don't know. He'd been singing the music to 'em" (imitating them). "Sam's too *broncho*."—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin*.

Broom it, to (old slang), to run away.

Broomstick (common), to be married "over the *broomstick*," to live as man and wife without being married.

Young ladies had fain single women remain,
And unwedded dames to the last crack of
doom stick,
Ere marry by taking a jump o'er a *broomstick*.
—*Ingoldsbj Legends*.

An allusion to a marriage ceremony performed by both parties jumping over a *broomstick*.

Broomsticks (thieves), insolvent bail. Called also "queer-bail," "straw bail," "Jew bail," &c.