

"Queer-bail are persons of no repute, hired to bail a prisoner in any bailable case. These men are to be had in London for a trifling sum, and are called *broomsticks*" (Vaux's Glossary).

Brosh (American), brittle. Dutch, *brós*, frail, brittle. A New York word.

Brother-chip (popular), originally fellow-carpenter. Almost general now as brother tradesman of any kind.

Brother smut (popular), used in the phrase "ditto *brother smut*," equivalent to *tu quoque*. Sometimes "ditto smut" when addressed to a woman.

Brother starling (old slang). "He's a *brother starling* of mine," *i.e.* he cohabits with the same mistress and shares her favours.

Brown (popular), halfpenny.

My father he is on the seas, my mother's
dead and gone,
And I am here, on this here pier, to roam
the world alone;
I have not had, this live-long day, one
drop to cheer my heart,
Nor *broven* to buy a bit of bread with, let
alone a tart.

—*Ingoldsbys Legends*.

How much ha' we took to-day, Jim?
Why, not a single *broven*,
An' our show was one o' the best
O' ice, and we rold from town to town.
—*George R. Sims: Ballads of
Ba'gden*.

I took Parr's pills, which brought on
premature old age; and here I am, as you
see, a wickener to misfortune. My heart

is busting for a buster, my mag is for a
mag. So throw down your *brovens*, kind-
hearted Christians, and be done *brown*
and "no mistake."—*Digrose: Laugh and
Learn*.

(Common), to "do it *brown*,"
to do well or completely.

What with "cabbys" and with "wires,"
When anything transpires
To send the market either up or down,
In aerated "Breads,"
Or "Shores," or "Yanks," or "Reds,"
In slang we really do it rather *brown*.
—*Atkin: House Scraps*.

(Popular), to *brown*, to under-
stand.

"I can *broven* almost any poetry," said
George, "but not *Browning*."—*Newspaper
Story*.

And when they ask me if I *brown* such
language, I ne'er hear or read as to *brovning*;
I'm done *broven* instead.—*T. K.
Symms: The Age of Betting*.

Browns and whistlers (thieves),
explained by quotation. "*Browns
and Whistlers* are bad halfpence
and farthings (it is a term used
by coiners)" (Vaux's Glossary).

Brown Bess (common), the old
Government regulation musket. Soldiers of all nations are fond
of giving names of persons to
their weapons. The French
troopers sometimes call their
sword "Jacqueline," and most
of the siege guns during the
siege of Paris in 1870 had been
nicknamed in the same manner
by the sailors who manned the
forts, their favourite being a
very large gun called "José-
phine." "To hug *brown Bess*,"
to serve as a private soldier.
(Rhyming slang), yes.