

by girls "pussy." Also contemptuously applied to a woman.

(Society), "an old *cat*," an old lady of malicious disposition, who has *une mauvaise langue*, and is always saying disagreeable things and telling ill-natured stories. *Cat*, or old *cat*, is often applied by servants to their mistress.

Well, look here, Jessie, I am determined to have some fun while the *cat's* away.—*Truth*.

"A tame *cat*" is a man in society who always has the *entrée* of a house and is treated almost like one of the family, and who, if a bachelor, is not looked upon as a likely suitor for one of the daughters, but is made general use of when a man is wanted in a hurry to fill up a vacancy.

(Thieves), lady's muff. To "free a *cat*," to steal a muff. To go out "*cat* and kitten" hunting, is stealing pewter pots from publicans. (Popular), to "shoot the *cat*," to vomit. (Tailors), to "whip the *cat*," to work at private houses. (Infantry), to "shoot the *cat*," to sound the bugle for defaulters' drill.

Cat and kittens (thieves), quart and pint pots.

Cat and mouse (rhyming slang), house.

Catawampously (American), fiercely, eagerly, violently. "*Catawampously* chewed up," completely defeated, utterly demolished.

There is something cowardly in the idea of disunion. Where are the wealth and power that showed us fourteen millions? Take to our heels before three hundred thousand slaveholders for fear of being "*catawampously* chewed up."—*Frederick Douglas: A Negro Orator*.

Catch (popular), or "a great *catch*," woman or man worth marrying. Generally applied to wealthy men and heiresses, or "warm" widows.

I am friends with her ma, I stand drinks to her pa,

They think I'm a *catch*, that is plain.

—*G. Horncastle: I'll See you again in the Morning (Ballad)*.

Catch a bob, to (American), a boy's expression for getting on behind and taking a ride gratis; getting a lift.

"Bob, what does your father do?" inquired a farmer of a lad who had *caught a bob* on his sleigh.—*American Newspaper*.

Catch a lobster, to (American), same as the English "to catch a crab."

She is not the first hand that *caught a lobster* by puttin' in her oar afore her turn. I guess.—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker*.

Catch on a snag, to (American), to meet one's superior.

In rough Western parlance a man who falls in with such a player (a man who, bearing a high reputation for all-round godliness, is a crack "poker" player) *catches on a snag*, and it is said that every one who visits the North-West comes across sooner or later the snag on which he is to *catch*.—*Cumberland: The Queen's Highway*.

Catch bet (popular), a bet made for the purpose of entrapping