

It is likely Mr. Justice — thought it funny and appropriate to hint that a festivity was called a *cats' party* on account of the music.—*Town Talk*.

Cats' water (popular), gin, cat being here meant for woman.

Cat's-skin earl (parliamentary), one of the three senior earls in the House of Lords.

Catting (common), vomiting.

Cattle (popular), a kind. One talks of men being "rum *cattle*," "queer *cattle*," just as one talks of a man being "a queer fish" or "a downy bird."

But lawyers is *cattle* I feel to hate,
And this one—I'd like to punch his head.
—*Keighley Goodchild: How Waif went to England*.

Caucus (American), lately introduced into England, originally a meeting of politicians called together to debate upon the claims of candidates for political or municipal offices, and agreeing to act together on the day of election.

What a *caucus* is, as popularly understood in England, needs no explanation; but the curious thing about the word is the seeming impossibility of ascertaining with any certainty its origin and derivation. The explanation generally given is that it is a corruption of "caulkers" or "calk-house." One authority says that the members of the shipping interest, the "caulkers" of Boston, were associated, shortly before the War of Independence, in actively promoting opposition to England, and that the word arose from their meetings in the caulkers' house or "calk-house."

Another derivation has, however, been proposed. In the "Transactions of the

American Philological Association, 1872," Dr. Hammond Trumbull suggests that the origin of the word is to be found in the native Indian *cau-cau-as-u*, meaning one who advises.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

It may be observed that the derivation of the word from "caulkers" is perfectly rational, and has been accepted for more than a century. There is a pun implied in the name ("caulker," a tremendous story, an overwhelming fellow) which probably aided to make it popular.

Caught on the fly (American), a phrase borrowed from ball play, but applied to being caught, interviewed, or otherwise arrested, while travelling.

Carter Harrison told that New York reporter that he "must be *caught on the fly*." According to his own umpiring, then, his New York speech was a foul bawl.—*American Newspaper*.

An English equivalent is "caught on the hop."

Caulk, to (nautical), to lie down on deck and sleep, with clothes on.

Caulker (society), a lie, derived from a "caulker," a stiff dram, that takes a considerable deal of swallowing, also supposed to be derived from "corker," a regular stopper. (Common), a stiff dram.

The Mobile officer joins us heartily in a *caulker*, and does not need to be pressed to take a little supper.—*Archibald Forbes: My Experiences of the War between France and Germany*.