

Caution (general), any one who is peculiarly dressed, peculiar in his habits, or eccentric, some one who makes himself ridiculous. This word is an abbreviation of the expression "a caution to snakes."

Altogether he was a *caution* to look at.
—*Sam Slick: The Clockmaker.*

Also anything out of the common way.

Their win against Middlesex—who led off with a first innings of 301—by eight wickets is an example of one of their surprises, and what is vulgarly called a *caution*.—*Bailey's Monthly Magazine.*

Cavaulting (old), copulation.
From the *Lingua Franca cavolta*.

Cavaulting school (old slang), a house of ill fame, a brothel.

Cave-in (American), to fall in. "A metaphor taken," says Hotten, "from an abandoned mining shaft," but it was used in America before 1849. Now generally applied to a failure, such as a bankruptcy, a collapse of stock speculations, or of political schemes.

That is what Colonel Sanderson and his colleagues in the representation of Irish landlordism call it—an absolute all-round *cave-in* on the part of the Government.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

It is also applied to any kind of indentation.

I went down dar wid my hat *caved in*,
Du-da, du-da!
Came back home wid my pocket full of tin,

Du-da, du-da-day!
—*Negro Minstrel Song.*

Cave-in, properly to "calve-in," a phrase introduced by Dutch navvies. Flemish *ink-alven*, to *cave-in*. Friesic *calven*, to calve as a cow, also to *cave-in*. The falling portion of earth is compared to a calf, dropped by a cow (Skeat). From early times glaciers were called by the Dutch cows, and the icebergs which fell from them calves. The falling of the bergs was called calving.

Cavort, to (American), to kick up the heels like a horse at play, or to act extravagantly.

As long as there has been a stage for pretty women to *cavort* on, there have been impressionable youths to worship at the shrines of the pretty women.—*American Newspaper*

To move about in an aimless manner.

O Sall yer's that derved fool from Simpson's, *cavortin'* round yer in the dew.
—*Bret Harte: Penelope.*

Cawbawn (up-country Australian), spelt also *cobbon*, big, a word borrowed from the blacks, which has passed into bush-slang, and is generally used by bushmen.

"There," said Stone, pointing to the big house, "nobody has lived in the 'cawbawn humpy'—that is what the blacks call it—since Mr. Cosgrove went away."—*A. C. Grant: Bush-Life in Queensland.*

Caxton (theatrical), a wig.

Cayuse (cowboys), a horse.