Classy, clashy (Anglo-Indian), a common sort of person, a tent-pitcher, a chain-bearer.

Claw (prison), a lash of the cat-o'-nine tails.

Oh! cuss that old Kerr, who condemned me to twenty-five *claws* with the cat. —*Greenwood: A Night in a Workhouse.*

Claw-hammer (common), dress coat. In French slang, *queue de pie*, or *sifflet*.

The black *claw-hammer* coat was generally worn.—*Standard.*

Claws for breakfast (prison), a humorous expression for the infliction of the cat, which usually takes place in the morning.

. . . A ruffian being uncertain as to the morning when he is to have, as he himself would say, *claws for breakfast*, is in the habit of lying night after night in a sweat of terror.—*Greenwood: In Strange Company.*

Clean (thieves), expert, smart. In French, *un soldat propre* is a smart soldier.

Clean out, to (common), to take or win all one has; to ruin.

Ah! . . . he has *cleaned me out*, but I can go and earn some more when I like.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

Clean skin (Australian), the term for unbranded and wild-bred cattle which have escaped to the scrubs.

In such a country it was perfectly hopeless to dream of getting any of the *clean skins* home to the yards.—*Finch Hatton: Advance Australia.*

Clean straw (Winchester College), clean sheets. Formerly the beds had a straw mattress, hence the expression.

Clean the slate, to (popular), to pay off all debts.

And everything comes right some day.
Though "thirty-five per cent." is hot,
'Tis cheap when pa pays all the shot!
Let hatter, tailor, fellahs wait,
A wife with cash will *clean the slate.*
—*Ballad: Tra la la.*

Clear (thieves), drunk.

Clear crystal (popular), spirits generally, but more correctly probably gin or whisky only.

Cleave (old slang), one that will *cleave* is said of wanton and forward women, such as would throw themselves at a man without waiting for favour to be asked of them.

Clerked (old), imposed upon.

Clerk's blood (old), red ink. A common expression of Charles Lamb's.

Clever-shins (schools), a sly fellow.

Cleymans (old cant), artificial sores made by beggars to impose upon people.

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