

one time a most unenviable notoriety, for it entered considerably into the vicious slang of fifty years ago. Thus "the *Covent Garden* ague" was a certain venereal disease; a "*Covent Garden* abbess" was a procuress; and prostitutes were nicknamed "*Covent Garden* nuns." (Rhyming-slang), a farthing pronounced *garden*.

**Cover** (thieves), an accomplice who "fronts" or covers a pick-pocket while he is operating. (American), to *cover*, to drink.

An Englishman drinks rum fustian, imagining that he is *covering* a fancy mixed drink.—*American Newspaper*.

**Cover-down** (thieves), a tossing coin with a false cover. Obsolete.

**Covess** (old cant), explained by quotation.

. . . Well acquainted with the cove and the *covess*—that is, the landlord and landlady.—*J. Parker: Variegated Characters*.

**Covey** (popular and thieves), a man or boy. *Fide* COVE.

Hullo, my *covey*! what's the row?—*Dickens: Oliver Twist*.

"Can't you repay me that five bob now?" "You'd only booze it if I did." And the *covey* will have to wait.—*Bird o' Freedom*.

**Coving**, theft of jewellery by palming it as a conjuror does.

**Covo** (gypsy) (for *acbro*), this; this person or thing. *Covo*, "this man;" *covi*, "this woman."

**Covva, cuvva** (gypsy), a thing; often pronounced *cover*, "up to all the *covvas*," up to all the tricks, games, devices, or "rigs."

**Covvaben** (gypsy), an incident.

**Cow** (nautical), a gay woman. *Fache*, in the French slang, has the same signification. (Turf), one thousand pounds.

**Cowan**. In ordinary slang a spy, a sneak, a prying informer. It is a term given by the Freemasons to all uninitiated persons, and is probably the Hebrew word *cohen*, כֹּהֵן, a priest, from the opposition and oppression which the Freemasons have endured from the Catholic Church. *Cowan* is not an uncommon form of "Cohen" as a name among Jews. The derivation of *Cowan* from the Greek *κύων*, a dog, is a great injustice to the Freemasons, who have never regarded or treated the uninitiated as dogs.

**Cow and calf** (rhyming slang), to laugh.

**Cow-boy** (American), cattle herder or drover of Texas and South-Western States. The term was applied during the revolutionary war to so-called Tory partisans in the State of New York, but who were no better than brigands, plundering both sides.