

lar to the eldest representative of certain Irish and Scotch clans or families, such as *The O'Conor Don*, *The Chisholm*, &c. As *Aaron* was the first high-priest, and the *Aarons* are the chiefs of the Hebrew tribes, it is probably of Jewish origin in its slang application. *Aaron* was an old cant term for a cadger who combined begging with acting as a guide to the summits of mountains, chiefly to evade the laws against vagabondage, no doubt a play in its slang sense on its Hebrew equivalent, lofty.

A-baa (various). An *abaa* cove, a bad man; an *abaa* muff, a silly person. Among trade unionists an *abaa* signifies a non-unionist, who is generally assailed with the derisive shout, "Baa, baa, black sheep."

Abacter (old), a dishonest drover or shepherd, one who connives at the stealing of his master's cattle. Probably from the Latin *abactores*, stealers of cattle. One of the tricks of the *abacters* of old Smithfield was the driving a bullock into a jeweller's or other shop, and during the confusion and excitement of expulsion the *abacter's* confederates, under the cloak of assistance, would help themselves to any valuables handy. The *Annual Register* for 1818 records that one shop was so served three times in that year.

Abaddon (old), a treacherous thief, one who turns informer against his fellow-rogues. From the Hebrew *abaddon*, a destroyer; often confounded with the Cockneyism *a-bad-'un*, a bad one.

The prisoner, Money Moses, better known among thieves and fences as Moses the *abaddon*, has been, to my knowledge, for the last twenty years a receiver and dealer in stolen property.—*Report of the Trial of the Great Gold Dust Robbery.*

Abandannaad (thieves), one who risks his liberty by committing an act of contemptible petty larceny. The phrase originated through a footpad robbing a woman of a paltry bandanna (hence *abandannaad*) shawl valued at ninepence, for which a notorious high-class, or "high-toby" thief, one "Kiddy Harris," was hanged, although innocent of any connection with the robbery, the real culprit having soon after confessed to the crime. The poor prosecutrix was so horrified at discovering her mistaken identification that she became a lunatic. This incident was the chief cause of the passing of Sir Samuel Romilly's Act for the abolition of capital punishment for robberies on the highway of property under forty shillings value.

Abandoned habits (society), the riding costume of the "Pretty Horsebreakers" of "the Lady's Mile," in Hyde Park.