

Flipper (common), hand, originally a sailor's expression; "tip me your flipper," shake hands.

The other, a sailor, had one wooden pin, He looked mournful at Ned, then said,
"Tip us your flipper."

—*Song: Pudding-faced Ned.*

Flippers, flappers, very young girls trained to vice, generally for the amusement of elderly men; *flappers* is a provincialism for young birds beginning to spread their wings.

Flirtina cop-all (popular), a girl generally, or one too fond of men. "Cop" has the significance of catch.

Floater (Whitechapel), a small suet dumpling put into soup (Hotten).

Floaters. The *Cornhill Magazine* gives the following explanation:—"An interesting, but one would hope decaying, class of voters are the *floaters*, the electors whose suffrages are to be obtained for a pecuniary consideration. There is a story told of a candidate in an American township who asked one of the local party managers how many voters there were. 'Four hundred,' was the reply. 'And how many *floaters*?' 'Four hundred!' Somewhat akin to the *floaters* are those who sit 'on the fence'—men with impartial minds, who wait to see, as another petty phrase has it, 'how the cat will jump,' and whose convictions at last gene-

rally bring them down on that side of the fence where are to be found the biggest battalions and the longest purses. These *floaters* and men 'on the fence' used in the olden times to be the devoted adherents of the 'man in the moon.' When an election was near at hand it was noised abroad throughout the constituency that the 'man in the moon' had arrived, and from the time of that august visitor's mysterious arrival many of the free and independent electors dated their possession of those political principles which they manfully supported by their votes at the poll. Of course no candidate bribed—such a thing was not to be thought of; but still the money was circulating, and votes were bought, and as it was necessary to fix the responsibility upon some one, the whole business was attributed to the action of the 'man in the moon.'"

Floating academy (old cant), the hulks; "Duncan Campbell's *floating academy*," the hulks at Woolwich.

My man is hobbled upon the leg for three years on board *Duncan Campbell's floating academy* for napping a clink.—*G. Parker: Variegated Characters.*

Floating batteries (soldiers), bits of bread broken up and put in the evening tea. When soldiers are under stoppages or otherwise impecunious and unable to buy herrings, bacon, saus-