

Nothing to him could be dearer
Than to meet a bunko steerer.
He was with impatience hopping
To find a fellow wallet-dropping,
And he pined, this pine woods jonty,
To encounter three-card monté.

—*How they did the Buck-Eye.*

Grape-vine telegraph (American). During the war exciting accounts of battles not fought and of victories not won were said to have been conveyed by *grape-vine* (or clothes-line) *telegraph* (New York Slang Dictionary), but the term was in earlier use, meaning news conveyed in a mysterious manner.

Grarler (American thieves), a small dog who by barking alarms the family. "*Grarlers* are more feared by burglars than guns or pistols."

Grass (common), "to go to *grass*," to die; "go to *grass*," be off, you be hanged. (Pugilistic). "to go to *grass*," to fall sprawling.

. . . That he had further eased his mind by executing a free-hand drawing of himself as a boxer . . . engaged in having a "set-to" with M. Sterling . . . who was going to *grass* in the most ignominious manner.—*J. Greenwood: Dick Temple.*

(Royal Military Academy), *grass*, vegetables.

(American), fresh mint or tansy leaves, used in making juleps.

(Australian printers), temporary hands on a newspaper.

The metaphor probably is from the proverb about *grass*—"The *grass* withereth," &c., which would imply temporariness. There is a printers' proverb, "A *grass* on news waits dead men's shoes." The *Australasian Printers' Keepsake* says: "Those familiar with newspaper work in the colonies must often have heard this gruesome axiom. Now this saying, though evidently figurative, does not present the usual pleasing characteristics which we associate with pastoral subjects, especially when they are contemplated from a proper distance, as becomes the eye artistic. Disagreeable as it may be to acknowledge the fact announced in the above saying, however, so much more so must it be to have it verified in one's own person, be you *grass* or prospective dead man. Why are the *gra.* or casual news hands not put on a more comfortable footing" (Edward Fitzgerald: *Printers' Proverbs*).

The expression has been imported from England, a *grass* hand in English printers' parlance being a compositor that accepts occasional work in different offices.

Grass-combers (nautical), countrymen who enter the service from farming counties.

Grasser (sporting), a fall.

Some have terrible *grassers* in climbing into the pigskin.—*Flyers of the Hunt.*