

In Ireland "a regular *acres* man" meant a professed duellist. From "the fifteen *acres*," formerly a field famous for duels in Dublin. In India, *Acre* Farm, near Calcutta, is used for duels, hence "a regular *acre's* man."

Across lots (American). "In the most expeditious manner" (as regards time), or (as regards distance) "by the shortest cut." "He may be said to have attained place and power *across lots*," i.e., with great rapidity. This phrase comes down to us from the old settlers' days, when the shortest road then, as indeed now, was *across lots*, and not by the main road.

You would cut *across the lot* like a streak of lightning if you had a chance.—*Charcoal Sketches*, i. 35.

And in the "Biglow Papers," Mr. J. Russell Lowell says:—

"To all the mos' *across lot* ways of preachin' an' convertin'."

Acting dickey (naval), an officer acting as lieutenant although not confirmed by the Admiralty. (Legal), a clerk or agent acting in the name of a lawyer on the Rolls. The practice of *acting dickey* is generally resorted to in questionable proceedings.

Action (American), quick work, an immediate result. Western card playing, &c., slang.

"That's my kind," says old Sam; "you get *action* there at every turn. No waiting for any darned cards to turn up."—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin*.

Actionize, to (legal), to cite before a legal tribunal.

Act of Parliament (old), small beer. A military term referring to the fact that publicans were by Act of Parliament compelled to supply billeted soldiers with five pints daily gratis. There is a story current among the Chelsea veterans that the Duke of Wellington saw a soldier warming his weak regulation beer. His Grace said, "Damn the belly that won't warm *Act of Parliament*." The soldier replied, "Damn the *Act of Parliament*, it won't warm the belly."

Actual (American), "the *actual*," money.

As for happiness in this world without the rhino, the chink, or the *actual*, you might as soon think of winning a woman's affections in a raffle.—*Dow's Sermons*.

Ad., adver. (printer's), abbreviations for advertisement.

"I want this *adver.* where it won't show," said a lawyer, as he entered the office of a newspaper. "It's got to be published to comply with the law, but it pertains to a divorce case, and we don't want any more publicity than we can help. Let me see; your paper is Democratic, isn't it?"

The editor replied that it was.

"Then run this *ad.* in under the church notices. It will never be seen there by your subscribers," said the lawyer.—*American Newspaper*.

Adam (popular), master-man, foreman, or superintendent; termed also "gaffer" or "boss of the show."