

But if you're only *hair-pins*,  
Oh, then, beware of tongs!  
—*Carey of Carson: A Ballad.*

**Half an eye** (nautical), "seeing with *half an eye*," discerning easily.

**Half-a-surprise** (London slang), a black eye. From a music-hall song.

**Half-baked, soft-baked** (provincialism), lacking in intelligence. The French equivalent for this is, "Il n'a pas la tête bien cuite."

He treated his cousin as a sort of harmless lunatic, and as they say in Devon, *half-baked*.—*C. Kingsley: Westward Ho.*

**Half-bord** (old cant), a sixpence.

**Half-fly flats** (thieves' slang), roughs ready to be hired to do the dirty work of thieves.

**Half-grown shad** (American), stupid fellow. As the Germans say, "Nicht mehr Verstand als ein Rekrut im Mutterleibe," no more intelligence than an unborn recruit.

No more interlect than a *half-grown shad*.—*Neal: Charcoal Sketches.*

He said it with a simple tone and gave a simple smile,

You never saw a *half-grown shad* one-half so void of guile.

—*The Green Old Man.*

**Half-man** (nautical), a landsman or boy in a coaster not deserving the pay of a "full man."

**Half-marrows** (nautical), incompetent seamen.

**Half-moon** (old cant), a periwig.

**Half-mourning** (common), "to have one's eye in *half-mourning*," to have a black eye. Latterly termed "half a surprise," from a music hall song, "Oh! what a surprise."

**Half-past kissing time, it's** (popular), an impudent answer often made by a man or boy to a girl who asks him what o'clock it is.

*It's half-past kissing time*, and time to kiss again,

For time is always on the move, and will still remain;

No matter what the hour is, you may rely on this.

It's always *half-past kissing time*, and time again to kiss!

—*G. Anthony: Ballad.*

Such phrases as the above are generally snatches of popular songs, or are often embodied in them.

**Halfrocked** (popular), half-witted, silly.

**Half seas over** (common), half or indeed wholly drunk. Common at first among sailors, it has now spread to all classes of the community.

The Licensed Victuallers have presented a second life-boat to the R.N.L.I. Of course she will be manned by a cork's-crew, who, though they may be sometimes *half seas over*, we trust may never be whole seas under. The L. V.'s, not believing in water themselves, do their level best—their spirit level best—to save others from it.—*Fun.*

**Half 'un** (common), an abbreviation for half a glass of whisky and water.