

doubt from the propensity of those who use the expression for using their "six-shooters" on the slightest provocation.

There was *hell a-popping*. One fellow said he had roped in a sow with the left ear off. . . . Another fellow said that he had got a young boar with the right ear off. So they went to him, madder than hell they were, too.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Hell-box (printers), the receptacle for bad, broken, or "battered" letters, which are eventually melted down.

Hellion (American), a very abusive word, used in the Southern States, equivalent to "devil or hell's own." Possibly a form of hell-hound.

Hell's kitchen (American), a horrible slum. *Hell's Kitchen*, Murderer's Row, and the Burnt Rag are names of localities which form collectively the worst place in New York.

Poor old Bottle Alley, in Baxter Street, has become a mere *snoozing-ken* for vagrants made soddan and stupid with age, disease, and rum; *Hell's Kitchen*, those big Thirty-ninth Street tenements, offer harm to no one, except when a shower of stones falls from the gutters on an unpopular policeman.—*Philadelphia Press. (From MS. Collection of Americanisms, by C. Leland Harrison.)*

Hell's mint (American). "A mint of money" has led to describing a large quantity of anything as one. "Old B. has got a *mint* of houses, as I hear." Hence *hell's mint*, as a superlative of abundance.

Is that an Indian over there, or is it only a soap-weed? There's a *hell's mint* of soap-weed killed these Indian times, grease bush too—and cactus! cactus gets fits. The boys are death on cactus when they get scared. Some of them would just as soon shoot a cactus as not—they don't care what they kill.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

He makes his fun pay (American), said of a very shrewd man, one for instance who keeps horses to ride and drive, yet manages so well by "trading" that they cost him nothing. A great sharper having said to Lessing that it had cost him ten thousand dollars to see the world, Lessing replied that he feared that the world would gladly give quite as much never to have seen him.

Hemp, young (old), young scoundrel deserving the gallows.

Hempen croak (common), the hangman's rope.

Hempen widow (thieves), one whose husband was hanged.

In a cell of the stone jug I was born,
Of a *hempen widow* the kid forlorn.

—*Harrison Ainsworth.*

Hen (American), a wife or mistress, girl or woman.

This was more than Jane could endure from Emily. "My young man is as good as yours," she screamed, "and five miles out of town better." And saying this she administered an exhilarating old slap on the face which sounded like the breaking of a tall pine tree by a cyclone. The *hen*-fight lasted exactly five minutes. What was left required exactly two weeks eight hours and ten minutes to reconstruct.—*Philadelphia Newspaper.*