

and malice, and not of due prosecution, you may acquit the person that is so wrongfully prosecuted, and so justice is done between party and party, so an *Ignoramus Jury* may not be of no use."

**I guess it's all turkey** (American), a quaint saying indicating that all is equally good. It is said that an old gentleman who was asked at a Thanksgiving dinner if he preferred the white meat or dark of the standard dish, replied, "I don't care which; *I guess it's all turkey.*"

**Ikey** (popular), a Jew; a corruption of Isaac. Also said of any one who thinks himself knowing, smart, and has a great opinion of himself.

**I'll eat my head** (popular), variants. "I'll eat my hat" (some erroneously think hat here is a corruption of heart); "I'll eat my boots," "my head," &c. A boastful promise—an unmeaning way of expressing something impossible of achievement. Mr. Grimwig in "Oliver Twist" backed and confirmed nearly every assertion he made with this handsome offer.

It was the more singular in his case because, even admitting, for the sake of argument, the possibility of scientific improvements being ever brought to that pass which will enable a man to *eat his own head* in the event of his being so disposed, Mr. Grimwig's head was such a particularly large one that the most sanguine man alive could hardly entertain a hope of being able to get through it at

a sitting, to put entirely out of the question a very thick coating of powder.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

**Illegitimate** (racing), an absurd formula used by the sporting press as a synonym for steeple-chasing, hurdle-racing, and hunters' flat-races. Previous to the establishment of the Grand National Hunt Committee, these sports were unregulated by any code of law, and unrecognised by any racing tribunal, and were then properly regarded as *illegitimate*. They are now, however, as much under rules as flat-racing; nevertheless the term *illegitimate* continues to be applied to them though it has lost its force or significance.

*Illegitimate* season, also called the dead season, viz., the time between the weeks which includes the 22nd November in one year, and that which includes the 25th of March in the year following. No races under Newmarket rules are allowed during this period, which is obviously the most suitable for the other or so-called *illegitimate* branch of racing.

**I'll have your gal!** (street slang), a cry raised by street boys or roughs when they see a fond couple together. In like manner, in small theatres in Paris, the pit will raise a cry of "Il l'embrassera!" when a man and woman are sitting together apart from others.

I proffered and she took my arm,  
Which I thought would be refused;

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