

*I'll have your gal!* the urchins cried,  
At which I felt amused.

—Ballad: *The Thames Embankment.*

**I'll have your hat** (street cry).

There is a cry that drives me wild  
Which is, *I'll have your hat!*  
*I'll have your hat! I'll have your hat!*  
Will be the death of me, that's flat,  
It makes me feel so nervous that,  
Whene'er they cry, *I'll have your hat!*  
—*Broadside Ballad.*

**I'll tell you a story of old Mother**

**Morey** (American), said sarcastically of a narrative which has nothing in it. From a very old nursery rhyme repeated to children when they are importunate to be told a story.

*I'll tell you a story  
Of old Mother Morey.  
And now my story's begun  
I'll tell you another,  
About her brother,  
And now my story is done.*

**Illumina** (Winchester College), an abbreviation for "illumination." On the last Sunday night in "Short Half" before Grass Court was thrown open, candles were planted in temples or niches cut in Mead's wall. In this consisted the *illumina*. This is now done in "Short Half," and the effect is enhanced by a blazing bonfire.

**I'm afloat** (rhyming slang), a boat.

**Im-koy** (pidgin Cantonese), not ought, *i.e.*, you should not. Used politely in accepting or asking a civility.

**Immediately sooner, if not before** (American), a made-up phrase, heard occasionally among boys.

**Immense** (American), excellent, or extremely good. Such and such a person is said to be an "immense fellow," or liquor is advertised as *immense*, or a tailor notifies that he is "immense on pants," and a dress-maker that she is "immense on skirts," though she does not boast of being "immense in her charges."

**Imp.** The *imp* is the devil of the devil, or attorney-general's devils. There are many of them, and have no position whatever in the law. They only "devil," or get up cases for the junior counsel to the Treasury, though in doing this they often contrive to get work for themselves as well; thus there are many devils in the law.

**Impo.** or **impos.** (schools), abbreviation for imposition. At Cheltenham College both masters and boys call this an "impo."

**Impost-taker** (American thieves), a man who lends money to thieves and gamblers, or prostitutes, at very high rates of interest.

**Improvers** (trade), young men learning a business, and who enter into employment chiefly with a view to qualify themselves for work. *Vide* BUSTLE.

In this establishment no juniors or *improvers* are kept, and all the medicines are prepared by the proprietor himself, and by a thoroughly competent assistant. —*Advertisement of a Chemist in Westgate-on-the-Sea.*