

a significant gesture as an invitation to inspect the organ. *All my eye* is sometimes elongated into "*All my eye* and Betty Martin," which seems to have been the original phrase, and of which many explanations have been given. By many it is said to be a corruption of a Popish prayer to St. Martin, commencing with the words, "O mihi beate Martine!" which fell into discredit at the Reformation. Mr. T. Lewis O. Davies thinks that it arose from a gypsy woman in Shrewsbury, named Betty Martin, giving a black eye to a constable, who was chaffed by the boys accordingly. The expression must have been common in 1837, as Dickens gives one of the Brick-Lane testimonials as from "Betty Martin, widow, one child, one eye" ("Pickwick," ch. xxxiii.). Taking for granted that the expression originated from the beginning of a prayer (a theory which is now rejected by most etymologists), this would be but one of the many instances of a religious formula being distorted and ridiculed. Thus, the cant term "to patter flash," i.e., to talk in cant, is from "to patter" (signifying to mumble), which itself is probably derived from paternoster. The French use *patenôtres* with the signification of mumbling, and *patenôtres de singe* means muttering, grumbling; *un vobiscum*, from *dominus vobiscum*, in the

mouth of French work-people, is a disparaging epithet for priest. The familiar *cagot*, i.e. religious hypocrite, was formerly a friar of a mendicant order. Then ears polite, on both sides of the Channel, are frequently offended by vulgar allusions to the Bulgarian heretics, though the expression has lost its former opprobrious meaning. Again, some etymologists derive the word "bigot" from the first words of a prayer "by God." "Un goddam" used to be synonymous with an Englishman, at the time when it was thought in France that all Britons had red hair, sold their wives at Smithfield, got drunk regularly after dinner (this may have been a fact at the time of three-bottle men), and always had a bull-dog with his nose at their heels. Bailey ascribes the origin of *hocus pocus*, used by quacks, to *hoc est corpus meum*, when this formula fell into ridicule with many others after the Reformation. It is curious to note that old-fashioned French charlatans still use the words *prêchi-prêcha* as an opening to their *boniment* or puffing speech.

**All nations** (obsolete), a coat or garment of different patches; a woman with many colours in her dress. A glass of *all nations* was supplied at the dram shops, and consisted of the mixed drippings of the spirit taps and drops of spirits left in