

"I wish you would mind the child—it is crumpling up and playing *almighty smash* with that fim-flam book, which cost me one pound one."

"As if that was not enough to destroy and drive into '*almighty shivers*,' a decent fair-play Britisher like myself."

"Let us cut short a yarn of talk which, when it comes to likings and dislikings, might last to '*almighty crack*.'"

—*My Novel*.

"The '*almighty dollar*,' that great object of universal devotion throughout our land, seems to have no genuine devotees in these peculiar villages."—*Washington Irving: Creole Village*.

Almyra, an Anglo-Indian word for a chest of drawers, derived from the Hindustani *almāri*, and the Portugese *almario*. Old English, *ambry*, a cupboard, niche; Italian, *armadio*; Latin, *armaria*.

Alsatia (common), synonymous with low quarter. The higher *Alsatia* was a sanctuary in White Friars, where people were formerly free from arrest for debt. The lower *Alsatia* was also a sanctuary of the same description, and was situated in the Mint in Southwark.

And for this ruin the gambling-house is responsible. Huntley is but one of the thousands who are stripped annually of all they possess in this modern *Alsatia*. Not only of their money, but of their health and of their happiness.—*T. Greenwood: A Gambling Hell*.

Whitefriars, adjacent to the Temple, then well known by the cant name of *Alsatia*, had at this time, and for nearly a century afterwards, the privilege of a sanctuary, unless against the writ of the Lord Chief-Justice. . . . The place abounded with desperadoes of every description—bankrupt citizens, ruined game-

sters, irreclaimable prodigals, &c. &c.—*Scott: Fortunes of Nigel*.

The haunt of gladiators and prize-fighters—of the vicious and penniless—of the savage and the obscene—the *Alsatia* of an ancient city.—*Lord Lytton: The Last Days of Pompeii*.

Alsatian (old), a rogue, such as lived in Alsatia or Whitefriars.

He spur'd to London, and left a thousand curses behind him. There he struck up with sharpers, scourers, and *Alsatians*.—*Gentleman Instructed*.

Altemal (American thieves' slang), altogether; the sum total of a story or bill; cut it short. From the Dutch *altemal*, altogether.

What was the *altemal*? It only raised fifteen cases. The dummy raked a case and a half, and the thimble was a first, but the slang and onions were bene.—*On the Trail*.

In olden days the phrase was specially applied to the accounts rendered to the frequenters of brothels, such being given without details—a practice which allowed of gross overcharges without any possible means of verification.

Altering the jeff's click (tailors), making up a garment without reference to the cutter's chalk lines or style.

Altham (old cant), a "curtall's" wife. A curtall was a second in command in the fraternity of vagabonds.

Altitude (obsolete), a drunken man was said to be "out of his *altitude*."