

or began to "discourse," and to use alternatives such as "Brown, or Jones, or Robinson," he was promptly called to order by the cry "or any other man." It was first made known in type by Charles G. Leland in a comic sketch in the New York *Vanity Fair*. It has since been discovered that in "Waverley" there is the expression "Gif any man or any other man."

**Any racket** (rhyming slang), a penny faggot.

**Anything else, not doing** (American), a strong affirmation generally in reply to a question as to what is or has been done by a third party. "Was So-and-so drunk," or "bad tempered," or "in good spirits?" "He didn't do or want *anything else*," would be the reply.

**Anywhere down there** (tailors), an expression which comes almost simultaneously from every man in the "shop" when anything is dropped on the floor. The words are peculiarly aggravating if it is a breakable article.

**Apartments to let** (popular), a term used in reference to one who is not over bright, whose head requires metaphorically some furniture to fill its empty rooms. The French have a kindred expression for a man who shows signs of becoming crazy, and say that he is removing his furniture, "*il déménage*."

It is related of the celebrated Richard Brinsley Sheridan that his son Thomas, who was a candidate for a seat in Parliament, jestingly declared to him that he had no decided political principles, that he was inclined to serve the party which would pay him best, and that he should put a placard on his forehead inscribed with the words, "To let." His father replied, "All right, Tom; but don't forget to add, 'unfurnished!'"

**Ape**, an "ape-leader" is an old maid. The expression occurs in "The Taming of the Shrew," and is still common. The punishment of old spinsters, it was said, was to lead *apes* in Hades; whereby two equally innocent beings—the maid and the *ape*—were equally but unjustly punished. It is probably an old superstition derived from the East. In India and China, certain evil-doers are supposed to carry about or lead in hell certain animals. (*Vide* Doolittle, "China.") "To say an *ape's* paternoster," is to chatter indistinctly, either from cold or excitement. The expression corresponds to the French "dire des patenôtres de singe."

**Apes** (Stock Exchange), a nickname for Atlantic first mortgage bonds.

If anything tickles our fancy,  
We buy them "Bruns," "Caleys," or  
"Apes."

—Atkin: *House Scraps*.