

Ark floater (theatrical), an actor so loaded with years, that he is supposed, through some effort of the imagination, to have made his *début* before the "floats," *i.e.*, the footlights in Noah's ark. People will say, "You must have come out of the *ark*," or "You were born in the *ark*;" because you are so old-fashioned, and ignorant of current events.

Ark-man (old), Thames boatman (Baumann).

Ark-ruff (old), fresh-water thief.

Armpits (old), petty larceny. The term has been imported into Australia by the convicts. Vaux, in his *Memoirs*, says: "*To work under the armpits*, is to practise only such kinds of depredation as will amount, upon conviction, to what the law terms single or petty larceny, the extent of punishment for which is transportation for seven years. By following this system a thief avoids the halter, which certainly is applied above the *armpits*." Watches are stolen by using the right hand under the *armpit* of the left arm, which is put across the breast.

Armstrong, Captain (turf), a dishonest jockey. "He came *Captain Armstrong*" is equivalent to saying that the rider *pulled* with a strong arm, thus preventing his horse from winning.

'**Arry**, for Harry, a familiar general term for a young costermonger

dressed in his best clothes when taking a Sunday walk with his young woman. The corresponding word for the young woman is "Sarah Jane" or "Jemima." The '*Arries* are almost indigenous to London, are generally to be seen with short pipes in their mouths, and swarm at fairs and races and other places of public resort, talking slang and puffing tobacco smoke, and if not altogether of the same genus as the roughs and rowdies that infest great cities, are little removed from them in manners, appearance, and conversation.

'*Arry* smokes a two-penny smoke
Oh! poor '*Arry*!
'*Arry*'s pipe's enough to choke,
Bad boy, '*Arry*!
'*Arry* thinks it very good fun
To puff his cheap cigar
Into the faces of every one
While doing the la-di-da.
—*Ballad: How do, 'Arry!*

The female '*Arry* is sometimes called an "'*Arriet*."

As an inhabitant of Munster Square, I am quite content to gaze on the "green space," and should be very sorry to see it become the rendezvous of the '*Arries* and "'*Arriets*" of the neighbourhood.—*The Echo*.

Arse-board, the hinder part of a cart.

Arse coolers (vulgar), a term used by common women in speaking of dress-improvers.

Arsy-arsy (old), topsy-turvy, heels over head.

"The old mare pitched him *arsy-arsy* into the ditch."