

French cant a church was termed *entonne* or *entifle*, *tife* being Yiddish for church.

Autem bawler or **autem-jet** (old), a parson. The more modern slang has the epithets, "devil dodger," and "sky pilot."

At last Job explained the cause of my appearance, viz., his wish to pacify Dawson's conscience by dressing up one of the pals, whom the sinner could not recognise, as an *autem bawler*, and so obtaining him the benefit of the clergy without endangering the gang by his confession.—*Bulwer Lytton: Pelham.*

Autem cackle tub (old), conventicle, or Dissenters' meeting-house.

Autem cacklers (old), Dissenters. It also means married women.

Oh! where will be the culls of the bing,
A hundred stretches hence?
The bene morts, who sweetly sing,
A hundred stretches hence?
The *autem-cacklers*, autem coves,
The jolly blade who wildly roves;
And where the cuffer, bruiser, blowen,
And all the cops and beaks so knowin',
A hundred stretches hence?
—*A Hundred Stretches Hence.*

Autem cove (thieves), a married man.

Autem dippers or **divers** (old), Anabaptists, from the custom of dipping or baptizing the converts.

Autem divers (old), church pick purses, and derisively, the churchwardens and overseers of the poor.

Autem goglers (old), pretended French prophets.

Autem jet (old), one of the innumerable equivalents for a parson. *Autem*, a church; *jet*, black, from the prevailing hue in a parson's dress.

Autem mort (old cant). A legal wife, whose marriage has been celebrated in a church. It does not apply to marriages celebrated by "hedge parsons" on the highway, as rendered memorable by the lines supposed to have been given to a pair of gypsy lovers by Dean Swift:—

"Beneath this tree in rainy weather,
I've joined this whore and thief together;
And none but *He* who wields the thunder
Shall part this whore and thief asunder."

The *autem-mort* finds better sport
In bowing than in nigling,
This is bien bowse, this is bien bowse.

—*R. Brome: A Jovial Crew.*

Autem prickears (old), a general name for Dissenters. (See AUTEM CACKLERS.)

Autem quavers (old), Quakers.

Autem quaver tub (old), a Quakers' meeting-house.

Author baiting (theatrical), a sprightly pastime, invariably indulged in on the first night of an unsuccessful play. The process is as follows:—

"*First.*—Set your trap, and catch your *author*. In order to do so—call for him with spontaneity, and apparent enthusiasm.

"*Second.*—When you have caught him, that is, as soon as he puts his head before the curtain, go for him, shout, shriek, yell, bellow, hiss, emit a flood of 'obscure noises' from filthy lips."