

**Backhanders** (common), one who keeps *back* the decanter in order to *hand* himself a second glass before he passes it. Also, a drink out of turn.

Long experience has shown us that to get small advantages over us gives the Scotch so much pleasure that we should not think of grudging them the mild satisfaction, just as a kindly host affects not to notice a valued guest, who, he observes, always helps himself to an innocent *backhand*.—*The Saturday Review*.

**Back handicap** (running), the process of revising a time handicap, the time being reckoned from the second the "limit man" is sent off.

**Back-house, or backward** (common), a privy. So called from being usually situated at the rear of house. Soldiers also call it "the rear," from asking leave to fall to the rear of the company.

**Backing or turning-on** (American thieves' slang), a very usual kind of cheating, by which a man is victimised in such a manner as to render himself liable to punishment.

**Back jump** (thieves), a back window. The window seems to be considered by thieves only in the light of a convenient means of escape, hence the expression, "jump."

**Back mark** (running), the mark nearest the scratch—sometimes, of course, the scratch itself. A

man is said to be "*backmarked*" in handicapping when the handicapper sets him back, or gives him less start than he has hitherto had.

**Back of beyond, the** (American), a mythical country where large fortunes are to be made—a Tom Tiddler's ground.

I sat down to my breakfast on the morning of the second day of April 188-, with no more notion that I should find myself at dinner-time that day at sea, bound on a voyage, the story of which I now propose to write, than I have, seeing that I am come in safety home again, of setting out before to-morrow to seek my fortune in the uttermost part of the mysterious country known as the *Back of Beyond*.—*W. A. Paton: Down the Islands*.

**Back scuttle, to** (thieves), to enter by the back way.

**Back-seam** (popular), to be down on one's *back-seam* is to be at one's last breath.

**Back seats** (American), a very common slang expression signifying reserve or an obscure and modest position. It originated in a saying of President Johnson in 1868, that "in the work of reconstruction traitors should take *back seats*."

General Shelby of rebel notoriety says:—"Let it be distinctly understood at St. Louis and everywhere else that, while the issues of the war are past and forgotten, we take back nothing, and there is no use of their expecting us to do so."

That's true. You don't even take *back seats*. In the Cleveland variety show every man-jack of you is in the bald-headed row.—*Chicago Tribune*.