

crime. A man came to his house with a woman that was better-looking than his own wife, and *battered* him for a trade; so he "swapped," and paid \$1.50 to boot. As this was his first "swap" he hoped that the court would impose a light sentence.—*Chicago Tribune*.

**Banting**, the process of getting rid of superfluous fat by means of a strictly regulated diet. The method was introduced by Mr. Banting—hence the name—about twenty-five years ago.

A parlour where all the furniture seemed to have undergone a prolonged course of *banting*.—*Miss Braddon: Only a Clod*.

**Banty** (popular), saucy, impudent. Probably from bantam or *banty*-chickens, which are proverbial in America for pertness.—*New York slang Dictionary*.

**Banyan** (Anglo-Indian), an undershirt, originally of muslin, and so called as resembling the body garment of the Hindus, but now commonly applied to under body clothing of elastic cotton, woolen, or silk web.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary*.

Those were the days when even the honourable members of the Council met in *banyan* shirts, congee caps, and long drawers, with a case-bottle of good old arrack, and a gouglet of water on the table.—*India Gazette, February 24, 1781*.

An undershirt, commonly called a *banyan*.—*Williamson, V. M. i. 19*.

I have lost nothing by it but a *banyan* shirt, a corner of my quilt, and my Bible singed.—*Sufferings of a Dutch Sailor*.

**Banyan days** (nautical), those in which no flesh meat was issued to the messes. Stock-fish used

to be served out till it was found to promote scurvy.

Of kitcheny (butter, rice, and dal) the European sailors feed in these parts, and are forced at such times to a Pagan abstinence from flesh, which creates in them an utter detestation to those *banyan days*, as they call them.—*Ovington, A.D. 1690*.

May your honour never know a *banyan day*, and a sickly season for you, into the bargain!—*Marryat: Japhet in Search of a Father*.

According to Admiral Smyth, "The term is derived from a religious sect in the East, who, believing in metempsychosis, eat of no creature endowed with life." Hotten says the term is probably derived from the *Banians* or *Banyans*, a Hindoo caste, who abstain from animal food. Quite as probably from the sanitary arrangements which have in hot climates counselled the eating on certain days of *banyans* and other fruits in preference to meat.

The dinner, I own, is shy, unless I come and dine with my friends, and then I make up for *banyan days*.—*Thackeray: The Adventures of Philip*.

**Bar** (racing), except. *Bar* is used instead of the common compound form *debar*. When the bookmaker says "ten to one *bar* one," he means that he will lay ten to one against any horse *bar* (*i.e.*, except) one.

"How do they bet?" inquired the Jubilee Plunger.

"Evens," replied Gus Jacobs.

"All right. I'll bet you a monkey."

"No," said Gus. "I don't want to bet—but here I'll lay you 700 to 400 *bar* one."