

affectionately to any middle-aged woman. "The title *Bibi* is in Persian the same as among us *señora* or *doña*." — *Texeira: Relacion de Hormuz*, A. D. 1611.

Beef (Australian convicts' slang), "stop thief!" introduced by the convicts transported thither. A feature of thieves' cant, and indeed of slang generally, is its fondness for punning and rhyming, e.g., "cobbler," applied to the last sheep that is shorn, "slang-whang," and "Bolt-in-turns." Thief was canted into *beef* because they rhymed.

Beef—stop thief. To *beef* a person is to raise a hue and cry after him in order to get him stopped.—*l'aux's Memoirs*.

(English thieves' slang), to *beef* it, or to give hot *beef*, is to give chase, pursue, raise a halloo and cry.

I guyed, but the reeler he gave me hot
beef,
And a scuff came about me and hollered;
I pulled out a chive, but I soon came to
grief,
And with screws and a james I was
collared.

—*The Referee*.

(Nautical), a figurative term for strength — "more *beef!*" more men on; (common), "*beef* up!" or "put your *beef* to it!" An ejaculation meant as a request to use one's strength, to use one's muscles to good account. (Popular), the penis; to be dressed like "Christmas *beef*," to be in one's best clothes.

Man's poor heart in ecstasy
Will very often beat,
When the tart is young.

'Tis then he'll go and dress himself
Like unto Christmas *beef*,
When the tart is young!

—*When the Tart is Young*.

Beef-headed (popular), stupid, dull as an ox. *Beef-willed* is a provincialism with a like signification. "*Beef-witted*," that is, dull, thick-headed; "having no more wit than an ox" is a term used by Shakspeare.

Beef it, to (provincialism). To *beef it* is to indulge in a meal of butchers' meat; it only occurs amongst the lower and poorer classes.

Beefment (thieves), on the *beefment*, on the look-out.

Beef stick (army), the bone of the meat in the day's rations. A soldier is allowed, at home, three-quarters of a pound of meat, including bone, and when the day's mess dinner is cut up, little but the *stick* remains for those last served.

Beef straight (American). When a man has nothing but beef for a meal, and must eat it without bread, vegetables, &c., it is *beef straight*. The same term is applied to any other kind of food *per se*.

Beef to the heels, like a Mullingar heifer. Mr. H. J. Byron says: "The expression *beef to the*