

Billiard slum, the (Australian convicts' slang), false pretences. Probably introduced into Australia by the convicts transported thither. To "give on *the billiard slum*," to "mace" or "give upon the mace," *i.e.*, to obtain goods on credit which you never mean to pay for, to run up a score with the same intention, or to sponge upon your acquaintance by continually begging or borrowing from them (Vaux's *Memoirs*). To parallel the pun between "mace" and *billiard slum*, *cf.* "bolt-in-tun," "cobler," &c. Slang, and especially thieves' slang, is very addicted to these puns.

Billingsgate pheasant (common), a red herring or bloater, otherwise known under the appellation of "Yarmouth capon" or "two-eyed steak."

Bill of sale (old slang), widows' weeds.

Billy (Scotch), a silk handkerchief, also used by thieves; (common), a policeman's staff; (thieves), stolen metal; (New Zealand and Australia), a saucepan. In the Bush, everything—tea, soup, or anything else—is boiled in the *billy*, a tin saucepan with a wire poop-handle to carry it by. The sundowner or swagman, tramping the country in search of work, invariably carries this *billy* and a blanket. In the latter all his worldly goods are usually strapped up; sometimes

he goes so far as having a bit of mackintosh sheeting outside the blanket to keep it dry. He will be seen "humping" (carrying) these on the hottest day.

So much for our hero! A statuesque foot
Would suffer by wearing that heavy nailed
boot—

Its owner is hardly Achilles:
However, he's happy. He cuts a great
"fig"

In a land where a coat is no part of the
rig,

In the country of "damper" and
billies.

—*Dr. Kendall: Tim the Splitter.*

Billy boy (nautical), a Yorkshire vessel, with one mast.

Billy-button (thieves' slang), rhyming slang for mutton; also a contemptuous term for a young journeyman tailor.

Billy buzman (thieves), a pick-pocket who confines his attention exclusively to silk handkerchiefs.

Billycock (Australian), a kind of hat. The *billycock* is a low, round, hard-felt hat with a turned-up brim. Hotten describes it as a soft felt hat of the Jim Crow or "wide-awake" description.

Billy-fencer (popular), a marine-store dealer.

Billy-hunting (popular), buying old metal; one of the occupations of a "billy-fencer" or marine-store dealer. (Thieves),