

In the above the allusion is to the cousin of Nell Gwyn, Charles II.'s mistress.

These make out a strong case for the early use of the word in England. It would seem to have died out for a time and been revived, possibly under Dutch influence, in the time of the Georges.

It has been suggested that *blackguard* is from *braggart*, with a change of liquid. French of the sixteenth century *braguar*, *bragard*, or *bragghar* (gradually altered to *bragueur*, then *blagueur*), dandy, vain fellow, swaggerer, traceable to the old *braics*, breeches, dandies of the sixteenth century being known by the approved style of their breeches. More recently there are instances of dandies or others receiving the appellation of the more conspicuous articles of their dress or the colour of these—the *talon-rouge*, a dandy of the time of Louis XIV.; *col-cassé*, the modern Parisian "masher;" *casquette-à-trois-ponts*, a bully; *culs-rouges* and *cherry-bums*, hussars; *white-choker*, a clergyman, &c.

It has also been said that the term was derived from the circumstance of a number of dirty ragged boys attending on the parade to blacken the boots and shoes of the soldiers and do any other dirty offices. From their constant attendance at the time of the Royal Body Guard mounting, they were by some facetious person nicknamed the *blackguards*.

**Blackie** (American), a very old word for a negro, still occasionally used. It is to be found in a negro song which dates back to the beginning of this century.

Our son no more he serve; no more play  
de lackey,  
No more our daughter weep, cos wite man  
call dem *blackie*.

—*Ching-a-Ring Chaw.*

**Black jack** (American), rum and molasses, with or without water. A New England drink. (Winchester), a large leathern jug which formerly was used for beer.

**Black job** (undertakers'), a funeral. Lord Portsmouth's hobby was to attend all the *black jobs* he could hear of.

"What, a funeral mute?" "Yes, sir, *black job* business."—*Edmund Yates: Land at Last.*

**Black language** (Anglo-Indian), an expression, no longer common, for Hindustani and other Indian tongues. It is remarkable that the English gypsies sometimes speak of Romany as the *Kālo jib*, or black tongue. The term was doubtless originally Hindu.

**Blackleg** (common), a name formerly appropriated to swindlers in racing transactions, and to those who betted without intending to pay their losses. Also generally applied in America to gambling of any kind. In its earlier application it