

Why, he scarcely knows a jimmy from a round robin, and Jack deserved the tippet for making a law with him, as all covets of his kiuey "blow the gaff."—*On the Trail.*

Sometimes "to blow the gag," which literally signifies to blow off the metaphoric impediment which keeps one's mouth closed. *To blow off*, to treat to drinks. (Common), *blow out*, a good meal.

That was a rare good *blow out*, soliloquises Dan, complacently recalling the taste of the savoury viands.—*Savage London.*

Blowed, to *beblowed*. This expression is a weak attempt to avoid the use of the oaths "damn" or "blast," and occurs in only such expressions as "I'll be *blowed* if I do," and many others that are continually heard from the mouths of the populace. Tom Hood was asked to contribute to a new cheap periodical for nothing, or for a small advance as he termed it upon nothing, and replied to the request that he would willingly do so in the interest of cheap literature, if his butcher and baker would act upon the same principle towards himself. He cited a letter on the subject which he had received from his butcher:—

STR,—Respectin' your note; cheap literature be *blowed*! Butchers must live as well as other people, and if so be as you and the readin' public wants to have meat at prime cost, you must buy in our beastesses, and kill yourselves.—JOHN STOKES.

It's no shame to be defeated by Pecksniff. *Blow* Pecksniff.—*Dickens: Martin Chuzzlewit.*

Blowen (thieves), originally a showy courtesan, a prostitute, but now used more in the sense of woman, mistress.

Tramp it, tramp it, my jolly *blowen*,
Or be grabbed by the beaks we may,
And we shall caper a-heel-and-toeing
A Newgate hornpipe some fine day.
—*William Maginn.*

All the most fashionable prigs, or toby-men, sought to get him into their set; and the most crack *blowen* in London would have given her ears at any time for a loving word from Bachelor Bill.—*Lytton: Paul Clifford.*

It is used with a like meaning by American thieves.

Ah, Bell! you were always the *blowen* for a rum bing.—*On the Trail.*

M. O. Davis gives the definition of "*blowen*, a showy woman, used disparagingly," which would imply that it is derived from *blown*, i.e., inflated. It seems on the contrary to be used in a complimentary sense, a simile from a full-blown flower, and this poetical derivation is borne out by the closely allied term, *blowess*, a pet, and *bloss*, a woman, from *blossom* in American thieves' lingo.

Blower (American), a noisy, talkative man, a "gas-bag."

A man who earns his living by travelling about with a lung-tester was in Indianapolis the other day. He was approached by a tall, well-fed personage, who handed him five cents and prepared to blow into his machine.

"Hold on—hold on a minute!" said the street faker, excitedly, as he scanned his customer a moment, and jerked the tube out of his hand; "ain't you Dan Voorhees?"