

(Oxford and Cambridge), a man is said to get his *blue* (that is, the right to wear the University colour) when he represents his University against the rival university, in the annual boat-race, cricket-match, athletic sports, or football matches.

Blue, blew, to (common), to pawn or pledge, to spend or lose one's money at gambling, to waste money generally. Varied to *blew*, from the phrase "blown in," which refers to money that has been spent, as in the phrase, "I 'blewed' all my tin." For another derivation see BLEWED.

He'd a rooted aversion to everything blue,

And so innately modest was he
That he blushed when his optics encountered a view

Of the broadly cerulean sea.

He adored modest maidens of charming eighteen,

But blue-stockings he'd always eschew,
And he carried his tastes to the verge of the mean—

He had oof, which he never would
blew.

—*Sporting Times*.

"To *blew* a job," to make a mess of a business; from to blow in the sense of make worthless; (thieves), to *blew*, to steal; "*blewed* of his red 'un," i.e., his watch stolen from him. "I've been *blewed* of my skin," I've been robbed of my purse.

Blue-apron (common), a *blue-apron* statesman. "A lay politician, a tradesman who interferes with

the affairs of the nation. The reference is to the blue apron once worn by almost all tradesmen, but now restricted to butchers, poulterers, fishmongers, and so on" (Dr. Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable).

Blue bill (Winchester), every "man" in "Commoners," that is, school, in contradistinction to college, has his tradesman's bills enclosed in a *blue* envelope given to him by the head-master on the last evening of the half, after "preces" or prayers, at 8.45 p.m., in "Mugging Hall." (See this word.)

Blue Billy (popular), the handkerchief (blue ground with white spots) sometimes worn and used as a colour at prize-fights. Also the refuse ammoniacal lime from gas factories (Hotten).

Blue blanket (vagrants), explained by quotation:—

The vagabond brotherhood have several slang terms for sleeping out in a field or meadow. It is called "snoozing in Hedge Square," "dossing with the daisies," and "lying under the *blue blanket*."—*J. Greenwood: Under the Blue Blanket*.

The French have the equivalent "*Coucher à l'hôtel de l'Étoile*." (Popular), a large rough coat, a pilot coat.

Blue-blazer (American), a fancy drink of sugar, hot water, and spirits, but made in a peculiar manner.