

"Ow are yer, pretty *bobbish*?" "I'm much as usual, thankee."—*Punch*.

**Bobbles** (popular), the testicles. From the same word signifying in Cornwall, stones, pebbles.

**Bobby** (general), a policeman; otherwise "peeler, cop, or copper, blue-bottle, pig, reeler, crusher, frog, fly-cop," &c.

The cook, she, when  
The *bobby's* on his beat,  
Of lightens master's larder  
Of the pudding and the meat.

—*Song*.

"If you want a thing done, you should do it yourself,"

Is an excellent maxim, no doubt in its way;

But, when citizens willingly part with their pelf,

They're entitled to claim some return for their pay.

Bull does not pay *Bobbies* to lounge on their beats,

And leave him at last to look after his streets.

—*Punch*.

Some thirty years ago the man in blue (journalistic) was still sometimes called "*bobby* peeler," a fact which bears out the generally admitted origin of *bobby* from Sir Robert Peel, to whom the establishment of the force was due, in 1829, and who replaced the old "Charlies" (so called from Charles I., in whose reign the system was reorganised), who then acted as constables and night-watchers in the metropolis. According to Hotten, the official square-keeper, who is always armed with a cane to drive away idle

and disorderly urchins, has, time out of mind, been called by the same urchins, "*bobby* the beadle."

**Bobby twister** (thieves' slang), a burglar who would hesitate at nothing, even to shooting any policeman who might be endeavouring to capture him. A noted *bobby twister* was the famous burglar Peace, whose diurnal avocations were certainly in keeping with his name, as he was considered a highly respectable citizen. He was, or pretended to be, a teetotaler, and, it is said, a member of the Salvation Army. His respectability ended on the gallows.

**Bob-cull** (thieves), good fellow.

"Where be you going, you imp of the world?" cried the dame. "Get in with you, and say no more on the matter; be a *bob-cull*—drop the bullies, and you shall have the blunt!"—*Lytton: Paul Clifford*.

*Bob* is a provincial term, signifying pleasant, agreeable.

**Bobs** (schools), huge beer jugs.

Only those "juniors" attended whose office it was to bring away the portions of bread and cheese and *bobs* of beer for consumption in the afternoon.—*T. A. Trollope: What I Remember*.

**Bobstick** (old), a shilling. *Vide* BOB.

**Bobtail** (old slang), a licentious, immodest woman of the very lowest character. One who exposed her person in public. Also an impotent *debauchee*.