

Capella (theatrical), a coat. From the Italian.

Capeovi (coster), sick, seedy.

Caper (American), a device, idea, or invention.

Langtry and Daly worked the Chinese Boy, but the Arab is a change, and then this trap *caper* knocks the newspaper fiends silly.—*New York Morning Journal*.

“The proper *caper*,” the last fashionable fancy, the latest “*comme il faut* device.”

Mind-reading is now *the proper caper*. “Take hold of my left hand and tell me what I’m thinking of,” said the head of the family to his confiding spouse. “Oh, yes,” said she, grasping his hand convulsively, “you are thinking about taking me to hear Patti.” She had to guess again.—*Boston Herald*.

(Streets), device, occupation for a living.

“Are you goin’ a tottin’?” “No.” . . . “Then what *caper* are you up to?”—*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins*.

Caper-sauce (common), to “cut *caper-sauce*,” to be hanged.

Capers (thieves), “merchant of *capers*,” a dancer.

And my father, as I’ve heard say,
Fake away!
Was a merchant of *capers* gay,
Who cut his last fling with great applause.
Nix my doll pals, fake away!
—*Ainsworth: Rookwood*.

Also *caper* merchant.

Capper (American thieves), explained by quotation.

Gamblers are called knights of the green cloth, and their lieutenants, who are sent out after greenhorns, are called decoys, *cappers*, and steerers.—*New York Slang Dictionary*.

Capper-clawing (popular), a fight between females.

Captain Copperthorne’s crew (old slang), where every one wishes to rule the roast, or to take command.

Captain Crank (old cant), head of a gang of highwaymen.

Captain Hackum (old slang), a blustering bully, a Bombastes Furioso.

Captain lieutenant (old slang), the flesh of an old calf, meat that was neither veal nor beef. This phrase was of military origin, and was a simile drawn from the officer of that denomination. These men, while ranking as captains, only drew the pay of a lieutenant, and though not full captains were above the lieutenants.

Captain Queernabs (old slang), a man who was shabbily dressed and ill-conditioned.

Captain Sharp (old slang), a cheat, blackleg, or common swindler.

Captain Tom (old slang), the ringleader of a mob. Sometimes also the mob itself was so called.

Cap your lucky (American thieves), run away.

Cap your skin, to (thieves), to strip naked.

P