

The *cockatoo* settlers or free selectors fight desperately for the privilege of picking out any piece of land they may fancy.—*Grant: Bush Life in Queensland.*

A *cockatoo* fence is one on a *cockatoo's* farm.

The trees themselves, . . . woven with their branches into the stout *cockatoo* fence.—*Blackwood's Magazine: C. T., Impressions of Australia.*

**Cocked hat** (common), "knocked into a *cocked hat*," completely beaten, smashed, out of shape.

**Cocked his toes** (thieves), dead.

**Cocked it** (tailors), examined it, saw it, spoke of it.

**Cocker** (low), my *cocker*, my good fellow.

"I'm on, my *cocker*," I sez. "Giv' us your 'and on it, my pippin, and arf a quid on account."—*H. Evans: The Brighton Beach Loafer.*

**Cock-eye** (popular), one who squints.

**Cockles** (popular), more a vulgarity than slang. Literally the wrinkles.

In Bermudaey not long ago there lived a little dame;  
She was the *cockles* of my heart, and Nancy was her name.

—*Nancy Fancied a Soldier.*

**Cockneyshire** (tailors), London.

**Cock-quean**, a female cuckold, or a wife whose husband goes with other women. A beggar or cheat (Wright).

Queene June, not a little wroth against her husband's crime,  
By whom she was a *cock-quean* made.  
—*Warner: Albion's England.*

**Cockroaches** (old slang), to get *cockroaches*, a phrase used at one time to describe the practice of secret vices.

**Cockrobin shop** (printers), a small printing-office where common work is done, and where labour is badly paid for, is usually described as such. From the fact that some cheap printers were noted for the issue of fly-leaves, on which were printed stories, such as the "Death of Cock Robin."

**Cocks** (common publishing slang). According to Hotten, "fictitious narratives in verse or prose of murders, terrible accidents, &c." They are the topical legends of the street. The suggestion that the term is derived from a "cooked" statement is very far-fetched; that it came from a "cock and bull story" is at least ingenious. It is possible, though not proved, that, as these narratives were originally chiefly sung in a dull chant, the proverbially wearisome and monotonous songster, the cuckoo, gave the original name to these *cock-minstrels* and their wares. The Dutch say of such a vocalist, "Hij zingt den Kockeeks zang," he sings the cuckoo's song—"he harps always upon the same string."

(Pugilistic), blows.