

A DICTIONARY

OF

SLANG, JARGON, AND CANT.



A 1 (popular), a form used to indicate a high degree of excellence.

The magistrates all praise my zeal,
 And put me down *A 1*,
 And burglars when they hear my step
 Instantly cut and run.
 They sometimes drop things in their flight,
 Those things of course I take;
 To leave them there to tempt the poor
 Would be a great mistake.

—*Music Hall Song.*

The expression is also used adverbially.

My friends remark, "Oh, what a lark
 To see the money fly!"
 They say we're two young sillies, and
 We don't know what to buy.
 But you just leave my Fred alone,
 He's such a knowing sort,
 He lays the money out *A 1*,
 And this is what he's bought.

—*Music Hall Song.*

She is *A 1*; in fact the eye-winnest girl
 I ever saw.—*Shirley Brooks: The Gordian Knot.*

I am A 1, I am all right, comfortable.

It originated from *A 1, Lloyd's*, an abbreviation commonly used in mercantile circles to indicate the character of a ship and its appointments. To be classed *A 1* at *Lloyd's* means that the vessel, its anchors, sails, tackle, and stores have been examined by official surveyors, and found to be in good trim, entitling it to be ranked as first class. When a vessel fails to reach the highest standard, other marks are bestowed.

A. 1 or **No. 1** (fenian). The latter is often incorrectly used. It should be *A 1*, a title for the commander of goo men.

Aaron (thieves). The *Aaron* is the chief or captain of a gang or school of thieves. This cognomen is invariably accompanied with the prefix *The*—par excellence *the first*—simi-