

Darky (American), negro.

In these days of schools and school-masters for the coloured people the number of those "who cannot tell their right hand from their left will presumably rapidly diminish; but before the *darky* of anti-bellum times quite disappears among the shades of things that are past . . . —*Harper's Magazine*.

Also twilight.

Darned, darn it (common), a corruption of and euphemism for damn. Of American origin.

"Two dimes," coolly replied Jonathan. "Two devils," snarled the customer; "why, I can get just as good cider here for five cents a glass." "No, you can't," drawled the Yankee. "There ain't a pint of cider, 'cept what I've got in that 'ere barrel, this side of Orleans. I'm *darned* if there is." —*Diprose: Book of Anecdotes*.

Dash (turf), to have a *dash* on a race is to exceed largely the speculator's ordinary limit of investment.

(Popular), to "cut a *dash*," to make a great parade, dress showily.

(African Coast *patois*) a present or gratuity. Guinea negro, *dass*.

Dasher (common), an extravagant or "fast" person.

She was astonished to find in high life a degree of vulgarity of which her country companions would have been ashamed. . . These young ladies were *dashers*. —*Miss Edgeworth: Almeria*.

(Turf), one noted for his smartness.

With much regret I heard, during my visit to Newmarket, that Mr. —'s con-

dition still continues to cause his family and friends the gravest anxiety. Would I could write better news concerning the *dasher*, who is one of the best of good fellows. —*Sporting Times*.

Dash my wig, dash my buttons, senseless evasion of the honestest word damn, used at a time when profane oaths were more fashionable than they have since become.**Dashy, deva-dasi, dasis** (Anglo-Indian), girls devoted to dancing and prostitution in the idol temples, especially of Southern India.

"In Hindu *deva-dasi* means slave-girl of the gods. The like existed at ancient Corinth under the name of *ierodouloi*, which is nearly a translation of the Hindu term. These appendages of the worship of Aphrodite were the same thing as the Phœnician *Kedeshoth*, repeatedly mentioned in the Old Testament. (*E.g.* Deut. xxiii. 18.) Such girls are mentioned in the famous inscription in Citium in Cyprus . . . under the name of *alma*, curiously near that of the modern Egyptian *aiima*" (also *alma* or *almeh*). *Dasis* are the dancing girls attached to the pagodas. —*Nelson: Madura*.

Daub (low), a vulgar name for a painter; properly a coarsely painted picture, what the French call *croûte*.**Davy** (popular), a corruption of affidavit.

Ay, ay, my young coon, said she, or a silver spoon either. I'll take my *davy* it's only pewter. —*Sam Slick*.

Davy Jones (nautical), a mythical character supposed to typify the depths of ocean. *Davy*