

am., university or competitive examination; **Gent.**, gentleman; the **High**, High Street, Oxford; **I.G.**, Inspector-General; **Jocks.**, jockeys; **J.P.**, Justice of the Peace; **Mem.**, memorandum or member; **Mods.**, moderations (university); **N.C.O.**, Non-Commissioned Officer; **Nem. Con.**, *nemine contradicente*; **O.C.**, Old Cheltonian (Cheltenham College); **Ox.**, Oxford music-hall; **Pav.**, Pavilion music-hall; **Photo**, photograph; **Pops.**, popular concerts; **P.R.**, the prize ring; **Pub.**, or **public**, public-house; **Pug.**, pugilist; **Q.C.**, Queen's Counsel; **Q.M.G.**, Quarter-Master-General; **Rad.**, radical; **Rep.**, representative; **Sov.**, sovereign; **Spec.**, speculation; **Specs.**, spectacles; **S.U.O.**, Senior Under-Officer (R.M. Academy); **Tec.**, detective; **Tol** or **tol lol**, tolerable; **Tram.**, tram-car; **Typo.**, typographer or printer; **Varsity**, university; **Vet.**, veterinary surgeon; **Vice**, Vice-Chancellor.

Cab and *bus*, which were originally slang, have by dint of usage succeeded in establishing themselves in the language. In the novels of Charles Dickens they had already acquired a certain archaic flavour.

Abdar (Anglo-Indian), a tectotaller. In Hindostanee *abdar* signifies a water-carrier.

Abdeli (Anglo-Indian), a hypocrite, a canting preacher, a fastidious or false zealot.

Aberdeen cutlets (popular), cured or dried haddocks, or "haddies," as the Scotch term them.

Abiding (vagrants), "my *abiding*," generally refers to a temporary resting or hiding place, secure from capture. *Abiding-by*, hiding within call.

Abel had no friends, and as he was not considered to have an *abiding*-place, his being missed from one spot only led to the conclusion that he had gone to another.—*Mrs. Crowe: Lilly Dawson.*

Abigail (society), a lady's maid. More properly one of an ill temper, or tyrannical to her mistress.

Tyrrill, on entering his apartment, found that it was not lighted, nor were the *abigail*s of Mrs. Dods quite so alert as a waiter at Long's.—*Sir Walter Scott: St. Ronan's Well.*

Old English writers first employed it as a cant word for a termagant woman, and afterwards for a female bigamist. It seems probable that having originally received its present signification from Abigail, who called herself the handmaiden of David, the word became synonymous for a lady's maid, in the same way that Job and Samson came to be applied respectively to a model of patience and to a man of herculean strength. It was used by Beaumont and Fletcher as the name of a handmaiden in their comedy of the "Scornful Lady," and must have been further popularised by the maiden