

trifle, play the fiddle. It has been suggested by a writer in the *Cornhill Magazine* that it is derived from "fidfad," a word that has been long in use, with much the same meaning as *fad*.

In the sense of trifling, worthless, it is derived from the Anglo-Norman *fade*, meaning originally sad, faded, tainted, decoyed. It seems to have been used at a very early date to signify fanciful, whimsical.

Fad cattle (old slang), women of easy virtue.

Faddist (common), enthusiast; one addicted to "fads," which see.

Fadge (popular), a corruption of farthing.

Fadger (glaziers), a glazier's frame.

Fadmonger, a monger of "fads," which see.

It has hardly yet found its way into the dictionary, but "fads" are many, and "faddists" and *fadmongers* abound.—*Cornhill Magazine*.

Fae-gang, a gang of gypsies. *Faa* was a common name for gypsies—not assumed, but often accepted by them. "Johnnie *Faa*, the Gipsy Laddie," is the title of an ancient popular ballad, recounting how a handsome vagrant of that name ran off with the Countess of Cassilis, who was enamoured of him for his manly, hearty, and winning

manners. Robert *Faa* is the present king of the Scottish gypsies at Yetholm.

Fag, to (thieves), to beat. Expressive of the trouble in giving a beating.

(School), a young scholar who has to wait upon and do all sorts of little odd jobs for an elder one.

Fagger (thieves), a small boy put into a window to rob the house or to open it for others to rob; called also "little snakesman."

Fagot (popular), a bundle of bits of the "stickings" (hence probably its name), sold for food to the London poor (Hotten). But more probably from "fag-end." Also a term of contempt applied to a woman or child with reference originally to the slovenly garments, the person being compared to a bundle of sticks loosely put together. The French *fagoté* signifies dressed in ill-fitting, badly matched garments.

Fagot briefs, bundles of worthless papers tied up with red tape carried by unemployed barristers in the back rows of the courts to simulate briefs (Hotten).

Fagot vote (politicians), votes given by electors expressly qualified for party purposes (Dr. Brewer).

Evidently from the old term *fagots*, "dummy" soldiers or