

who has recovered an action of debt or damages, to levy the debt or damages against whom the recovery was had.

**Fifer** (tailors), a waistcoat-maker.

**Fig** (common), "to be in full *fig*," in full dress; *figuretto*, figured silk, the finest and most expensive dress. Old English from the Italian (Halliwell). Dr. Brewer says this term is a corruption of the Italian *in focchi*, in gala costume. Hotten thinks it may be an allusion to the fig-leaf of our first parents. Another but more probable etymology is that it is taken from the word full *fig*. (figure) in fashion books.

(Horsedealers), to *fig* a horse is to apply ginger to a horse to make him appear lively, to make him carry a fine tail.

**Figged out** (popular), dressed in best clothes, in full costume.

**Figger** (thieves), *vide* FAGGER.

**Fighting tight** (American), drunk and quarrelsome. Extremely drunk.

In those unburdened days a quarter of a dollar would buy enough sour mash to make an ordinary man *fighting tight*, but now it would take the larger part of a dollar.—*Chicago Tribune*.

**Fight one's weight in wild cats.** to (American), to be full of courage and "go."

John Halkett, as I learned afterwards, could *fight his weight in wild cats*.—*The Golden Butterfly*.

**Fig leaf** (common), a small ornamented apron worn by ladies. (Fencing), the apron or padding protecting the lower part of the abdomen and the right thigh.

**Figure dancer** (thieves), one who alters the numbers or figures on bank-notes.

**Figure-head** (nautical), the face.

**Figure man** (studios), the principal figure in a picture. In French artists' language, *le bonhomme*.

**Filau** (Anglo-Indian), explained by quotation.

He is ambitious of being Vice-President of the Municipal Committee, or a *Filau* (*Anglicè* Fellow) of the University, and it is requisite that his qualifications should be made more widely known.—*St. James's Gazette*.

**Filbert** (popular), cracked in the *filbert*, slightly insane.

**File** (thieves), a pickpocket; *file* is a very old English term of contempt for a worthless, dishonest person. Probably connected with "vile" or "defile."

The greatest character among them was that of a pickpocket, or, in their language, a *file*.—*Fielting*: Jonathan Wild.

"The *file* is generally accompanied by the 'Adam tiler'