

What a *flat*,
To seek such an asylum as that.
—*Ingoldsby Legends*.

(Sharpers), *flat*-catching, swindling simple-minded people or countrymen, generally by means of the confidence trick, or some such primitive "dodge."

. . . To mark the many kinds of bait that are used in *flat*-catching, as the turf slang has it.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London*.

(Prostitutes), picking up a *flat*, finding a client.

. . . On the chance that she will in the course of the evening pick up a *flat*.—*Greenwood: Seven Curses of London*.

Flat-catcher (prison), one who swindles foolish or confiding persons by selling painted sparrows, pretending to have picked up a valuable ring, the confidence trick, &c.

Flatch (back slang), half, or half-penny. (Coiners), a bad half-crown.

Flatch-enore (costermongers' back slang), half-a-crown.

"Why, I've cleared a *flatch-enore* a'ready, but kool esilop (look at the police), nammus (be off)."

Flat-feet (popular), a foot-soldier; applied generally to the Foot-guards.

Flat-fish (popular), a dull, stupid fellow.

Flat-footed (American). There is a very interesting and accurate

description of *flat-footed*, by R. A. Proctor, in his "Americanisms," published in *Knowledge*, June 1, 1887.

"The significance of this word in America is very different from that of the French word *pied-plat*, identical though the words may be in their primary meaning. A French *pied-plat* is a contemptible fellow; but an American *flat-foot* is a man who stands firmly for his party. . . . When in America General Grant said he had 'put his foot down,' and meant to advance in that line if it took him all the summer, he conveyed . . . the American meaning of the expression *flat-footed*."

It may be observed that *flat*, in the senses of downright, resolute, firm, plain, direct, straightforward, or simple, is Dutch, and that *platt Deutsch* means "plain Dutch" (Sewell). *Plat afslaan*, or *plat afzeggen*, is to give a flat refusal, or to refuse "right up and down." But the connection between setting the foot down firmly or flat, and a determinate resolution, may probably be found in most languages.

Flat-head (American) a greenhorn.

Flat-move (thieves), the action of a fool, dupe. Any attempt that miscarries, or any act of folly or mismanagement.

Flats and chits (thieves), bugs and fleas (Baumann).

Flats, mahogany (tailors), bugs; playing cards.

Flats-yad (tailors), back slang used by stock cutters, a day's enjoyment or jollification.