

Fly (popular and thieves), knowing, wide-awake, well acquainted or familiar with, versed in.

"You seem to know all that's going on?"
"Oh yes: I'm *fly*."—*The Youth's Companion*.

Although when they try their games with me, I let them see

That I am *fly* to all their tricks, . . .

—*Song: That's a Game Best Left Alone.*

To be *fly*, to understand, realise.

"Do what I want, and I will pay you well." . . . "I am *fly*," says Joe.

—*Dickens: Bleak House.*

The designer is said to be *fly* at everything, to be up to everything, and down at everything. — *Diphase: Laugh and Learn.*

The term is probably from a simile referring to rapidity of comprehension. To be *fly* in Northamptonshire signifies to be quick at taking offence, at *flying* into a passion. A *fly* was originally a light carriage for rapid motion; and *mouche*, i.e., *fly*, is the name given to penny boats on the Seine. (Popular), "to be on the *fly*," to be out for a day's pleasure.

Fly by night, to (popular), removing the furniture by night to escape paying rent. "Shooting the moon."

I remember one night while shooting the moon,

We were all in a terrible fright;
The landlord came in a little too soon,
And stopped our *fly-by-night*.

—*Sidney Barnes: Shooting the Moon.*

Fly-cop (thieves), a sharp policeman.

Flyer (sport), a term denoting excellence.

The New Zealanders are not such *flyers* as was at first imagined.—*The Tailor.*

By successful heavy plunging he acquired no little fame,
And he evidently thought himself a *flyer* at the game.

—*Sporting Times.*

(Football), to kick a *flyer*, to kick the ball high up in the air. (Common), to have sexual intercourse without disrobing. (English and American), a chance venture, a risk or hazard taken without much forethought, commonly applied to an off-hand speculation in stock.

He began . . . with a small *flyer* at the race-track.—*American Newspaper.*

Flyers (thieves), shoes (New York Slang Dictionary).

Fly-flat (turf), one who really knows little or nothing about racing, but fancies himself thoroughly initiated in all its mysteries. There are plenty of schoolmasters always ready to teach him the lesson that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

Flying a kite (commercial), drawing accommodation bills.

No doubt but he might without any great flight,

Have obtained it by what we call *flying a kite*;

Or on mortgage—or sure, if he couldn't so do it, he

Must have succeeded "by way of annuity."

—*Ingoldsby Legends.*