

**Fork** (thieves), a pickpocket; from *forks*, fingers.

**Forkers** (nautical), those who reside in seaports for the sake of stealing dockyard stores, or buying them, knowing them to be stolen.

**Forking** (tailors), hurrying over the work as if doing it with a pitchfork. Anglo-Saxon, *fork-erven*, to cut or slash through.

**Fork on, to** (American University). To *fork on* to anything is to appropriate it to one's personal use and benefit.

**Forks** (popular and thieves), the fingers. In French argot, *fourchettes*. In thieves' language *forks* is more specially applied to the fore and middle fingers used for picking a pocket. Formerly the gallows.

**Fork, to** (common), to pay.

"His fee was a tenner. *Fork*." Master *forked*.—*Sporting Times*.

Also *fork out*.

"Tip up! . . . *fork out*," said the boy. —*Greenwood: The Little Ragamuffins*.

(Thieves), to *fork*, to pick a pocket by extracting an article with two fingers only. In French argot, *vol à la fourchette*.

**Forloper** (South Africa), a man who walks in front of a team of oxen, acting as a guide.

**Form** (racing), an expression signifying a horse's present, past,

or presumed capabilities; thus, "really in *form*" means that he is just now at his best; "out of *form*," that he is not as good as usual; "lost his *form*," that he is more or less on the wane; "will show better *form*," that he will improve on his recent performances; "top *form*," that he is ranked amongst the best of his day. (Common), "good *form*," "bad *form*" refer to behaviour up or not up to a generally accepted standard of good manners or morality.

The height of "bad *form*" was reached on Thursday, when a loud cheer followed the failure of — to return a service.—*Pastime*.

**Fort** (American Universities).

At some colleges the boarding-houses for students are called *forts*.

**Forty-five** (cowboys), a revolver.

**Forty-foot** (popular), a short person.

**Forty-guts** (popular), a short person.

**Forty-'leven** (American), of negro origin. This phrase signifies indefiniteness.

Nor don't want *forty-'leven* weeks o' jawin' an' expoundin'

To prove a nigger hez a right to save him, if he's drownin'.

—*Biglow Papers*.

**Forty-rod lightning** (American), one of the innumerable names given to whisky — meaning