

this deplorable incident led to riots in New York, the calling out of the military, bloodshed, loss of life, and Macready's precipitate flight to England in disguise. Hissing is now abolished in the States. If an American audience dislikes a play, the auditors quietly get up and walk out. The odious custom still prevails in this country, and flourishes in full force on first nights, when our audiences devote themselves with ardour to the sprightly pastime of author-baiting.

There is a comic side to every tragedy. Here is an illustration of the comedy of hissing. A famous low comedian, "a fellow of infinite jest," recently deceased, while acting the First Witch in *Macbeth*, found himself in *Bacchi plenus*, and forgetful of his part. In the incantation scene, when he had spoken the two first lines—

"Round about the cauldron go,  
In the poisoned entrails throw,"

his memory failed him. After an agonising pause, he resumed—

"What comes next, I cannot guess,  
So mix the lot up in a mess."

The audience were furious at this ribald tampering with the text, and down came the *goose* most lustily.

"This sound of fear,  
Unpleasing to the actor's ear,"

sobered the comedian instantly. Pulling himself together and

looking up at the gallery with a sly wink, he proceeded—

"Funky actor, lost the word,  
*Goose* from gallery, awful bird,  
Twist his neck off like a shot,  
And boil *him* in the charmed pot."

The audacity of this quick-witted response so tickled the "gods," that they not only condoned the erring comedian's backslidings, but gave him a hearty round of applause into the bargain.

(Printers), *goose*, a curtailment of the word "wayzgoose," which see. (Old cant), a particular symptom in the *lues venerca* (Wright).

He had beake some private dealings with her and then got a *goose*.—*Webster: Cure for a Cuckold.*

**Goose, to** (popular), *to goose* a man in the sense to make a fool of him, humbug or deceive him, may naturally enough be derived from making a *goose* of him. But it is worth noting that in Dutch slang there is a word, *genscheesder*, or geese-shearers (Teirlinck explains that to shear here means to swindle), which refers to a kind of impostors who go about the country pretending to be respectable broken-down tradesmen.

(American), to enlarge or repair boots, by a process generally known as footing, *i.e.*, by putting in or adding pieces of leather. As it is a New York word, it is probably a translation from the Dutch *gans*, a goose,