

crats." "Where are you going to-day?" asked a man of a Democratic sheriff, "and why is court adjourned?" "Why, *great Scott!*" exclaimed that official, "don't you know there is going to be a prize-fight to-day in the next county?" The phrase has been acclimatised in England by the *Sporting Times*:—

How gaily they glitter, and glisten, and glow,
As they shine in their sovereign sway,
And see how they sparkle—*Great Scott!*
here's a go!

Great smoke (thieves), London.

The Colkneys, from the *great smoke*, seldom fraternised with the "hardware bikes" from Birmingham. Liverpool criminals were almost entirely of Irish origin.—*Etymology Notes*.

Great sun! (American), a mild oath, probably only a variation of "great Scott."

But something came up—up like a fountain, up like the falling over of the air's eternal teapot; a black muddy jet of stuff. *Great sun!* I think I see it now.
—*The Golden Butterfly*.

Grecian bend (society), peculiar bend given to the body by means of a large bustle and high-heeled boots. The term is by no means new. It was used in the "Etonian" more than half a century back. "In person he was of the common size, with something of the *Grecian bend*, contracted doubtless from sedentary habits."

Greek. Any language, dialect, or form of speech that the common people did not understand, was either called gibberish or **Greek**. Thus the slang of the beggars, tramps, vagabonds, gypsies, and thieves was known to the outside multitude as St. Giles's Greek, or pedlar's Greek. In "As You Like It," when Amiens sings—

"Under the greenwood tree,
Who loves to lie with me,"

he is asked what the mysterious syllables "duc da me" signify, and gives the explanation that it is a *Greek* invocation to call fools into a circle. "Duc da me" is generally explained as Latin intentionally corrupted (or by a misprint) from *duca ad me*.

Greeks (old), highwaymen, or knights of the road. The term now is applied to sharpers; *grecs* in French (not slang). Also a name given in derision to the low Irish in London who spoke Gaelic. *Vide GREEK*.

Green (common), not wide awake, inexperienced. "Do you see any *green* in my eye?" do you take me for a simpleton?

So awfully *green*, dreadfully *green*,
The greenest of *green* that ever was
seen,
He flushes and simpers—you know how
I mean,
Frightfully shy, and awfully *green*.
—*Song*.