

Hard tack (nautical), ship biscuits.

At that particular moment I should have preferred some coffee and *hard tack* to a lecture.—*O'Reilly: Fifty Years on the Trail.*

(Popular), coarse or insufficient food. *Vide TACK.*

Hard up (common), wanting for anything, short of money, poor, varied to "*hard up* for cash."

He ought, or nothing else may be,
Such is sweet woman's whim—
A "J," a knave, or e'en *hard up*,
She's still "soft down" on him.
To make a conquest where he will,
A gallant "gay young spark"
Two attributes need but possess:
He must be "tall and dark!"
—*Bird o' Freedom.*

"Sorry to say, Brown owes money to me! Is he *hard up*?" "Very."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

(Popular), a man who picks up cigar ends in the street.

Hard-upness (common), a state of impoverishment.

But in either district there were frequent failures, arising from inexperience of the parties concerned, or collapses from death or *hard-upness*.—*Hindley: Life and Adventures of a Cheap Jack.*

Hardware blokes (thieves), men of Birmingham.

Hare it (American thieves), return, come back.

Harlequin (theatrical), a sovereign.

Harman beck (old cant), a constable. It has been suggested that *harman beck* is, literally,

one who beckons, orders you off to the stocks. *Vide BEAK.*

"It is very probable that this word was derived from the name of the celebrated magistrate Harman, who was as well known to all the thieves of England during the reign of Elizabeth, as was George Borrow to the gypsies in that of Victoria" (Charles G. Leland: *MS. Notes of Gypsy Lore*).

Harmans, hartmans (old cant), the stocks.

The Bube and Ruffian cly the Harman beck and *harmans*.—*Thomas Dekker: Lanthorne and Candle Light.*

From *harre*, the back upright timber of a gate, synonymous with stock or post; and same suffix used in other cant words, such as "lightmans," day; "darkmans," night; "ruffmans," hedges, bushes, woods; "togman," coat.

Hāro, haūro, hālonō (gypsy), copper; *hōrra*, a copper, i.e., a penny.

Harper, an Irish shilling which bore the figure of a harp, and was only worth ninepence (Wright). "Harp" is a call at pitch-and-toss, also "music."

Harrower (theatrical), a term of derision used to describe a pathetic and powerful artiste, male or female, who is accustomed to *harrow* the feelings of the audience.