

glass of brandy, in allusion to the fieriness and pungency of the wretchedly bad spirit sold as brandy to the lower classes.

Ballad-basket (old cant), a street singer.

Ballast (common), money. Some of the slang synonyms for money were or are—"Oof, ooftish, stumpy, muck, brass, loaver, blunt, needful, rhino, bustle, cole, gilt, dust, dimmock, feathers, brads, chinks, pieces, clinkers, stuff, clumps, chips, coin, shekels, corks, dibbs, dinarly, horse-nails, gent, huckster, mopusses, palm oil, posh, ready, Spanish, rowdy."—*Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

A rich man is said to be well-*ballasted*. A man is said to "lose his *ballast*" when his judgment fails him, or when he becomes top-heavy from conceit.

Ballooning (Stock Exchange).

When stock is increased to a figure far beyond its real value it is said to be *ballooned*, and the operation by which this is effected is called *ballooning*. The means by which this result is attained are cooked or otherwise favourable reports, fictitious sales, and so on.

Ballooning it (American), exaggerating, indulging in bounce, pulling the long bow. It is said to have originated in a story of a man who boasted that he had fought a duel in a balloon

and brought down his adversary, balloon and all. But this was a veritable occurrence, as appears by the *St. James's Gazette* of August 5, 1887—

"Since General Boulanger's conditions are unacceptable to M. Ferry, and as the usages of duellists seem conflicting on this subject, perhaps these eminent men might try a duel on the very reasonable conditions agreed on by M. de Grandpré and M. le Pique in Paris in 1868. These gentlemen having quarrelled about a lady, agreed to have it out in balloons, each party to fire at the other's balloon and try and bring him down. A month was taken to build two similar balloons; and on a fine day the pair ascended with their seconds from the Tuileries gardens, armed with blunderbusses. When they were about half a mile up, and some eighty yards apart, the signal was given, and M. le Pique missed. M. de Grandpré, however, made a successful shot, and his opponent's balloon went down with tremendous rapidity, both principal and second being instantly killed—much to the satisfaction of the spectators."

Balls (popular), "to make *balls* of it," to make a mistake, to get into trouble.

Balls' all (popular), all rubbish.

Ballum-rankum (old), a ball where all the dancers are thieves, prostitutes, or other very degraded persons, as in the "buff-ball," in which both sexes join without clothing.

Bally (society), a word in use among the young men of the present day to emphasise a speech. Coined by the *Sporting Times*, from the Irish word "bally-hooly." It is mostly