

There is a place, down a gloomy vale,
Where burden'd nature lays her nasty
tail;
Ten thousand pilgrims thither do resort
For ease, disease, for lechery and sport.
—*Works.*

Bath, which has given its name to various things for which it was supposed to be famous, as *Bath* brick, *Bath* buns, *Bath* chairs, &c., has, besides, provided the French argot with the adjective *bath* or *bate*, an equivalent of *A1*, used in phrases such as "c'est bien *bath*," that is, excellent, first-class, tip-top. "Être de la *bate*" signifies to be lucky, fortunate. The origin of the expression is as follows:—Towards 1848 some Bath note-paper of superior quality was hawked about in the streets of Paris and sold at a low price. Thus "papier *bath*" became synonymous with excellent paper. In a short time the qualifying term alone remained, and received a general application.—*A. Barrère: Argot and Slang.*

Batha (Anglo-Indian). "Two different words are thus expressed in Anglo-Indian colloquial, and in a manner confounded: (1.) Hindu *bhātā*, an extra allowance made to officers, soldiers, or other public servants when in the field or on other special occasions, also subsistence-money to witnesses or prisoners. (2.) Hindu *batta*, agio or difference in exchange, or discount on uncurrent coins."—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Bathing machines (nautical), old 10-gun brigs are so named.

Bat mugger (Winchester), an instrument for oiling bats.

Bats (thieves' slang), old shoes or boots. In Somersetshire, low-laced boots. From *pat*, old gypsy for foot or shoe.

Battels (university), a student's account at the college kitchen. Sometimes also it is used for the goods supplied.

Buttery and kitchen cooks were adding up the sum total; bursars were preparing for *battels*.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green.*

It is an old word, originally meaning an account. In the *Gentleman's Magazine*, August 1872, it is said to be derived from *bezahlen*, "to pay." Wright gives the derivation old English *bat*, increase, and Anglo-Saxon *dal*, deal, portion. Another origin is that given by Dr. Brewer, *battens*, from the verb *to batten*, to feed. *Batten* is used by Shakespeare in *Coriolanus*, and also in *Hamlet*, where the prince addresses his mother, and asks her to compare his father's portrait with that of her second husband, whom she married so soon after the funeral of the first as to scandalise all Denmark.

Follow your function, go! and *batten* on cold bits.

—*Coriolanus*: Act IV. scene 5.

Could you on this fair mountain leave to feed,

And *batten* on this moor?

—*Hamlet*: Act III. scene 4.