

(Oxford University), to *battel*, to be indebted to the buttery for provisions and drink, to run an account for food, &c., with the college as opposed to boarding in a private house. In De Quincey's "Life and Memoirs," p. 274, there is an allusion to this practice—"Many men *battel* at the rate of a guinea a week and wealthier men more expensive, and more careless men even *battelled* much higher;" also to reside or keep terms at the university. It has been suggested that the word is derived from an old monkish word, *patella* or *batella*, a plate.

**Batter** (popular), wear and tear. "Can't stand the *batter*," *i.e.*, not equal to the task; "on the *batter*" on the streets applies to prostitutes, termed in French argot "*battre le quart*" with this special meaning; also, given up to debauchery. See **BATTY**.

**Batters** (printers), a recognised term applied to bad or broken letters which are flung into the "hell box," a receptacle to hold these discarded types, which are melted down eventually.

If you please, sir, . . . the devil has been putting live matter into hell instead of *batters*.—*American Newspaper*.

**Batting his eyes** (American), a gambler's term for men who look on but do not play.

**Battle of the Nile** (rhyming slang), a "tile," *i.e.*, a hat.

**Battlin'-finches** (bird fanciers), explained by the following quotation:—

It's all in the trainin' of 'em. I've had *battlin'-finches*—we calls 'em *battlin'-finches* when they're trained for match-singing or for pegging—wot 'ud sing in my hat as I walked along, and without being in any cage at all.—*J. Greenwood: In Strange Company*.

**Battlings** (public schools), weekly allowance given out to boys on Saturdays.

The business of the latter was to call us of a morning to distribute amongst us our *battlings* or pocket-money.—*Dickens: Household Words*, vol. i. p. 183.

**Battner** (old), an ox. "The cove has hushed the *battner*," the butcher has killed the ox; from *batten*, to fatten. According to Skeat, of Scandinavian origin, from the same root as "better."

**Batty** (workmen), wages, perquisites. Derived from *batta*, an extra pay given to soldiers while serving in India.—*Hotten's Dictionary*.

**Batty-fang** (provincialism), to thrash; *batty-fang* or *batter-fang*, blow; *batty-fanging*, a thrashing.

The Pastor lays on lusty *fangs*  
Whitehead the Pastor *batter-fangs*.  
—*Ward: England's Reformation*.

**Baulk** (Winchester), a hoax, a false report. (Popular), when street boys are playing at pitch and toss, the cry may be heard "head a *baulk!*" or "woman a *baulk!*" should the coin fall on its edge instead of flat on the ground.