

(American), to "get a beat on one," to have the laugh of one, to take a "rise" out of.

"Great Cæsar! and we've gone to press," gasped the editor. "The afternoon papers will get a beat on us tomorrow."—*San Franciscan*.

Beat daddy mammy, to (old military), to practise the elements of drum beating.

Beat the Dutch, to (popular). *That beats the Dutch*, is said of any startling statement or incredible fact. To beggar description or stagger belief. Originally used to express extreme stupidity and obstinacy, a Dutchman being popularly represented as a phlegmatic person whom nothing could move.

Beaten down to bed-rock (American), reduced to the last extremity.

Some had died, others were dying; none were well, and all were, as they tersely put it, *beaten down to bed-rock*.—*Phillipps-Wolley: Trottings of a Tenderfoot*.

Beater-cases (obsolete), shoes or boots; also called formerly "bowles;" more modern are the "trotter-cases" (termed "trottinets," or "trottins" in French slang), "grubbers, carts, beetle-crushers, crab-shells, and hock-dockies." Thieves and roughs in a poetical mood have given them the name of "daisy-roots," while mashers ruefully talk of their pointed patents as "ex-cruciators." A policeman on his beat is said by the roughs to

exercise his "plates of meat." The much despised spring side boots officers term "Jemimas."

Beaters (thieves), feet, an abbreviation of *dew-beaters*, a slang term for feet, and, in Norfolk, coarse oiled shoes that resist the dew. "To pad one's *beaters*," to walk, to walk away.

Pluck me some panam and caftar, Bill, for I want to pad my *beaters*.—*New York Slang Dictionary*.

The earlier word is "batters" or "bats," which represents the original "pats." In gypsy, *tom-pats* is in common with canting a word for feet. Hindu, *tal-pat*, the sole.

Beating the booby (nautical), the beating of the hands and arms across the chest, to warm oneself in cold weather. An older synonymous expression is "beating Jonas."

Beating the quartermaster (American), a phrase current in the army, which probably originated in the following story:—

Jonas Smith, of Washington, Indiana, towards the close of the late war, was boy servant to a Quartermaster, and after the close, and when the Quartermaster had been mustered out, as the story is told, he requested Smith, as a last service before parting, to take a large box on a dray to the freight depot and ship it, asking Smith at the same time "if he could read and write."

Jonas answered that he could not, started off with the box, and on the way to the station removed the shipping-tag, which bore the name of the Quartermaster and that of the place the box was to be shipped,