

and substituted his own name and address, and by that means obtained a box of new army blankets the Quartermaster intended to capture or steal from Uncle Sam.

Jonas, who is fairly educated, said in extenuation of this commercial transaction: "Mr. Quartermaster 'captured' the blankets from the Government, and I captured them from him. Everything is fair in war."—*Detroit Free Press*.

**Beating the road** (American), travelling in a railway train without paying. There are many ways of doing this known to the American "dead beat," adventurer, and tramp. One is to pretend to be an official employed on some other railroad, another to make a private arrangement with the conductor or an employé to be allowed to travel in a freight car, a third is to simply hide in the freight.

The problem was—twelve or thirteen hundred miles to be overpassed without paying one's fare over the rails. This would have been an easy task to many, and some months later it would scarcely have caused me so much anxiety, but I was then inexperienced, and somewhat green in the matter of passes, which are often to be obtained by a plausible man of good address, and versed in the methods of *beating the road*, or, more literally, of cheating the company.—*Roberts: The Western Avermus*.

English roughs and thieves term this kind of cheating "doing a duck," generally managed by hiding under the seat of a carriage.

**Beau.** This is a word in very general use in America to signify a lover or an especially devoted attendant. From this the verb

to *beau*, to *beau* about. In Queen Anne's time the *beau* meant rather an elegant man than a lover.

The Southern girl is more frivolous-minded than her Northern sister; she cares more for *beaux* and ribbons, a dance and a laugh. She loves the sunshine and stroll in the park with no definite end in view except perhaps a smile and a bow from the young men of her acquaintance.—*Boston Record*.

**Beau-nasty** (old), a fop who, though in exterior finely dressed, is dirty and slovenly in person and habits.

**Beautifiers** (popular). Women who, like Madame Rachel, profess to 'make people "young and beautiful for ever."' Of late years these persons have become common, and have many customers not only in the demi-monde, but even among poor girls.

Take my advice, girls; good complexions  
Only are gained by early strolls,  
Heed not the *beautifier's* directions,  
Use not her dear cosmetic rolls.  
—*Ballad: Strolling Down the Lanes*.

**Beau trap** (old), a well-dressed sharper who used to lie in wait for country visitors.

**Beauty-sleep** (common), a nap before midnight.

Are you going? It is not late. . . . A medical man, who may be called up at any moment, must make sure of his *beauty-sleep*.—*Kingsley: Two Years Ago*.

And would I please to remember that I had roused him (the hostler) up at night; and the quality always made a point of paying four times over for a man's loss of

G