

The ladies say I am bewitching,
In fact I'm a real *beltvidere*.
In bar-room, in parlour, in kitchen,
Oh, this is the language I hear.
—*The Beautiful Major: Ballad.*

Bemuse, to (common), to fuddle oneself with drink.

Ben (journalistic and theatrical), short for benefit.

BENEFIT TO JACK BURKE.—This well-known boxer, who has had the misfortune to break his leg in two places, is to be accorded a benefit at the Mason's Hall, Bow Common Lane, on Monday, December 5. A capital programme has been organised, and we hope that his fellow pro's will rally round him on the occasion, and give his *ben* a good send off. M.C.'s Jack Fay, and T. Sands.—*Sporting Life.*

(Common), an abbreviation for "Benjamin," a waistcoat (see **BENJAMIN**); to stand *ben*, to treat one to liquor.

Benamee (Anglo-Indian, also old gypsy), anonymous. Hindu, *bē-nāmi*.

A term specially applied to documents of transfer and other contracts in which the name entered as that of one of the chief parties is not that of the person interested.—*Anglo-Indian Glossary.*

Benat, benar (old cant), better.

Ben cull (thieves), a friend, a comrade, a "pal." *Cull* meant formerly a man, a fool; *ben*, an abbreviation of the cant term *bene*, good.

Bend (common), "that's above my bend," *i.e.*, beyond my power, too expensive or too difficult to perform (Hotten). This has nothing in common with the "Grecian bend," an

affected style of walking assumed by some ladies as a flattery to royalty, in keeping with the "Alexandra limp."

Bender (common), a sixpence, so called because it is easily bent; also "kick," a very old word. In old cant "half-a-borde," and now a "tanner," and in thieves' lingo a "cripple."

"What will you take to be paid out?" said the butcher. "The regular chum-mage is two-and-six; will you take three bob?" "And a *bender*," suggested the clerical gentleman.—*Charles Dickens: Pickwick Papers.*

(American), a frolic, relaxation, spree, or "party." Probably from the Dutch *bende*, an assembly, party, or band.

I led her through the festal hall,
Her glance was soft and tender;
She whispered gently in my ear,
"Say, Mose, ain't this a *bender*?"
—*Putnam's Monthly (Bartlett, p. 29).*

Hans Breitmann joined de Turners,
November in de Fall,
Und dey gived a boorsten *bender*
All in de Turner Hall.
—*Breitmann and the Turners.*

Also a leg.

Young ladies are not allowed to cross their *benders* in school.—*Longfellow: Kavanagh.*

(Thieves and roughs), the arm; over the *bender* means over the arm, over the left, *i.e.*, not really. In the same way schoolboys said, "I'll do it—fain," meaning that they will not.

Vaux, in his Memoirs, says:—"Bender is an ironical word used in conversation by flash people; as where one party affirms or professes anything