

Here you've been and gone three hours on an errand for me, and *blank* me if you ain't runnin' off without a word about it.—*Bret Harte: Gabriel Conroy.*

Because you're religious, *blank* you, do you expect me to starve? Go and order supper first! Stop! where in *blank* are you going?—*Bret Harte: Gabriel Conroy.*

"For *blank's* sake, sir, give me the office, you knows me surely, and that I'm square. Vell, then, give me the office, so help me *blank* I'll keep it dark."

Enter a closely-shaven, bullet-headed fellow in an ecstasy of excitement at having just seen Cuss, and at the exquisite "fitness" of that worthy. "So help my *blank, blank!*" he cries delightedly, "if he ain't a *blank* picter with the weins in his face down 'ere and 'ere, a showin' out just if a *blank* hartist 'ad painted him. Tell yer he's beautiful, fine as a *blank* greyhound, with a *blank* heavy air with him that looks *blank* like winnin. Take yer two quid to one, guv'nor?" adds the speaker, suddenly picking out a stout purple-faced farmer in the group of eager listeners.

—*Charles Dickens: Farce for the Championship in All the Year Round.*

Blanket, a lawful (old cant), a wife. The allusion is obvious.

Blanket hornpipe (popular) refers to the sexual intercourse.

Blanks (Anglo-Indian), a rare word used for whites or Europeans by themselves.

Blare (popular), to roar, to bawl.

He *blared* and he hollaed and swore he was hurt,
His coat got torn off and he hadn't a shirt,
Then the missus comes down and she said
to the cook,
You audacious hussey, you'd best sling
your hook.

—*The Masher and the Parrot: Broad-side Ballad.*

Blarney (common), flattery; supposed to be derived from a stone in the tower of Blarney Castle, near Cork, the kissing of which is a feat of some difficulty, from its perilous position in the wall. It is supposed to confer the gift of eloquence, of a kind peculiarly adapted to win the hearts of women. It is a common saying in Cork, when a man is trying his powers of persuasion or wheedling, "he has been to Blarney Castle," or "none of your *blarney*."

Blast (popular), a familiar name amongst the lower orders for erysipelas of the face.

Blater (popular), a calf; to "cry beef on a *blater*," to make a fuss about nothing.

Don't be glim-flashy; why, you'd cry beef on a *blater*.—*Lytton: Pelham.*

Blather (general), idle nonsense. Also thin mud or puddle.

A prize-fighter who does not fight is about as valuable a machine as an alarum clock which does not go off. He has no *raison d'être*. We do not of course wish to insinuate that any of the "fistic marvels" of to-day are guilty of such conduct. And yet there may be those who watch "Mr." John L. Sullivan revolving round the provinces in a cloud of *blather*, who think the cap should fit.—*Fair Trade.*

Blatherskite (American), a man whose tongue runs away with him; an irrepressible noisy chatterer; "blathering." Of Scotch origin (*vide* BLEATHERS).

Blaze (American). "To blaze a tree," to remove the bark so as