

thusiasm, but always with an underhand purpose. Sometimes used, especially in England, to denote mere magniloquence. Mr. Hotten has made the discovery that "it arose from a speech made by a North Carolina senator named Buncombe." The truth is that these are two words, of the same sound but of entirely different origin, and with different meanings. One originated, it is said, as follows (*vide* Bartlett): A member of the House of Representatives, when making a windy speech about nothing then before the House, being asked why he did so, replied that he was speaking to or for *Buncombe*. But long before this story arose, it was usual in New England to express great approbation or admiration of anything by calling it *bunkum*, and this was derived from the Canadian French, "Le *buncum sa*" ("il est bon comme ça"), "it is good as it is." There was a negro song fifty or sixty years ago with this refrain:—"Bom-sell ge mary, lebrunem sa." This is presumed to be negro Canuck-French for "Mam'selle je marie, elle est bonne comme ça."

The *bunkum* bestowed at Threadneedle Street Board.

—*Funch.*

Another American importation is *bunkum*, a word generally used to signify empty, frothy declamation. It is said to be derived from the action of a speaker who, persisting in talking to an empty house, said he was speaking to *Buncombe*, the

name of the place in North Carolina which he represented.—*Cornhill Magazine.*

Buncomise, to (journalistic), to talk twaddle.

Experience has taught me the inutility of interviewing. You set a man at once at weighing his words, and he either gammons you intentionally, *buncomises*, or is reticent, so as to be of no service.—*A Forbes: My Experiences of the War between France and Germany.*

Bund (Anglo-Indian), an artificial bank or wharf.

"This term is also naturalised in the Anglo-Chinese ports. It is there applied to the embanked quay above the shore of the settlements" (Anglo-Indian Glossary).

Bunder (Anglo-Indian). Persian *bundar*, a seaport landing-place, harbour, or custom-house.

Bundling (old), a custom of unmarried people of different sexes, or lovers, sleeping together, but with clothes on, or under such conditions that coition is supposed not to take place. It has been described by Wright as Welsh, by Bartlett as American, but it is to be found anywhere, or everywhere in the world among the commoner sort of people (and occasionally among the other class), when opportunity presents itself. Mr. Bartlett thinks it is not now practised in the United States. He evidently does not know the Pennsylvania Dutch or New England, where the custom still prevails.