

who excites the risible faculties so strongly that the auditors laugh until they burst their buttons.

Buttoner (card-sharppers), a confederate who entices "pigeons" into playing.

Button on (printers), see PAN ON and CHOPPER ON. An expression frequently used by printers, equivalent to "making buttons," "fit of the blues," or "down in the dumps."

Button pound (provincial), money, literally money that can be pocketed.

Buttons (common), a page.

Our present girl is an awful slowcoach; but we hope some day to sport buttons.—*E. R. Ramsay: Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character.*

Button up, to (Stock Exchange, American). When in a falling market a broker has made an unprofitable purchase, and keeps the matter secret, he is said to *button up*.

Butty (Cheap Jacks), a partner. (Provincial), a companion or partner in a piece of contract work.

A *butty* collier is one who contracts with the mine owner to raise the coal at so much per ton, employing other men to do the actual work. The word is from the ripsy dialect. A "booty pad" is a fellow-workman, literally a "work brother." In the mouths of navvies or rough workmen "pad" would soon be dropped, and *butty* would represent the original phrase.—*Ellice Edwards: Words, Facts, and Phrases.*

(Army), comrade, chum. (Popular), a policeman's assistant.

Buy a prop (Stock Exchange), a recommendation signifying that the market is flat and there is nobody to support it.

Buy his time, to (American). Before the war slaves often bought themselves free by instalments, paying down so much money at a stated time. When, for instance, a slave had thus paid half the money, half of his time would be his own. It happened thus that a man of colour who was half redeemed fell into a flood and narrowly escaped drowning. On being asked what his thoughts were on finding himself so near death, he replied that he couldn't help thinking what a fool a man was to risk money "in such unsarten property as niggers." Many negroes also hired their own time, paying so much per day or week for it, trusting to earn more.

Buz or buzz, to (common), to share equally what remains in a bottle, or to pour out the last drops from a decanter.

Get some more port, while I *buzz* this bottle here.—*Thackeray: Vanity Fair.*

(American, according to Bartlett, but quite as much English), to pick pockets while engaging a victim in conversation, or while a confederate does so, *i.e.*, while "buzzing" to him.