

the unwary by means of a paltry subterfuge (Hotten).

Catchee (pidgin-English), to get, have, own, possess, hold. "My look-see one piecee man *catchee* chow-chow"—"I saw a man eating." "My *catchee* waifo"—"I am—or am to be married." "My no *catchee* one flin inside allo t'at house"—"I have not one friend in all that family."

Suppose one man no *catchee* cash, he no can play at game;

Supposey pigeon no hab wing, can no make fly all same.

—*Wang-ti.*

Catch-em-alive (common), paper smeared with a sticky substance to catch flies.

A picture-room devoted to a few of the regular shaky old saints, with such coats of varnish that every holy personage served for a fly-trap, and became what is now called in the vulgar tongue a *catch-em-alive*, *O.*—*Charles Dickens: Little Dorritt.*

Also a small-tooth comb, alluding to the tenants in the hair of dirty people.

Catch on, to (common), imported from America; to accept an offer, to understand.

Randolph looked rather puzzled at first, but when he *did catch on* to the Archbishop's meaning, he had to be thumped on the back by his pal Chamberlain, to prevent him from choking.—*Funny Folks.*

"You *catch on*," is an invitation to take one's turn, to follow suit.

(Theatrical), a play is said to be *caught on* when successful.

Catch on the hop, to (common), to catch or find one by taking

one's chance when he is traveling or moving about. Also to catch unawares.

Catch-pole (old slang), a sheriff's officer.

Catever (popular), poor, bad, of doubtful quality. According to Hotten, from the *Lingua Franca* and Italian *cattivo*, bad. "Well, how's things: bona?" "No, *catever*."

Catfish death (American), suicide by drowning.

Col. "Pat" Donan doesn't like the play of "Hamlet." Hear the eloquent adjective slinger: "I have no patience, much less sympathy, with a wretched weakling who goes around jabbering at dilapidated old ghosts in tin helmets and green gauze veils, under bogus moonlight; everlastingly threatening to do something, and never doing it; driving his sweetheart to lunacy and a *catfish death*, by his dime-museum freaks."—*Chicago Press.*

Cat-heads (old), a woman's breasts.

Cat-lap (common), weak drink.

Cats' head (Winchester College), the fag end of a shoulder of mutton.

Cats' meat (popular), the lungs.

Cats' party (familiar), a party to which none but those of the weaker sex are invited, and at which tea drinking and singing are indulged in.

She was once introduced to young M—. This was at a *cats' party* given by Mrs. — to a few ladies.—*Standard.*