

Cheese-toaster (army), a sword.

I'll drive my *cheese-toaster* through his body.—*Thackeray: The Virginians*.

Cheesy (society), excellent, smart, varied sometimes to "rare Stilton," which might be said to be the square power of *cheesy*.

Che-muck (American), food; taken from the Indians of the North-West, and now current among the miners.

Cherpin Ilyower (tinker), book. "*Cherpin* appears to be vulgar. *Ilyower* was on second thought declared by Owen to be the right word." Gaelic, *leabhar*.—*The Gypsies*. Vide LYESKIN CHERPS, telling fortunes.

Cherry (thieves), a young girl.

Cherry-bums (army). Vide BUM.

Cherry-merry (Anglo-Indian), a present of money.

Cherry-merry-bamboo (Anglo-Indian), a beating, a term probably invented by sufferers with very thick hides indeed.

Cherry pie (common), this term was formerly used with the sense of the more modern "tart," or girl.

Cherry-pipe (thieves), a woman. Pipe is rhyming slang for ripe.

Cherry-ripe (rhyming slang), a pipe.

Chestnuts (American and English), an exclamation used in reference to stale news.

The thing's got so bloomin' stale, I was afraid you'd yell *chestnuts* at me if I said anythin'.—*Sporting Times*.

Chete (old cant), this word was extensively used by the vagrant classes in reference to anything. Teeth were called "cracking" or "crunching *chetes*," swine "grunting *chetes*," a knife a "cutting *chete*," or the gallows a "hanging" or a "topping *chete*." To strike some *chete*, to steal something.

This word is used as an affix in the formation of names (Turner), and is equivalent, not to the gypsy *engro*, which means an active agent, but to *engree*, denoting "a thing." Thus *nab-chete*, a hat, literally a head-thing; a *cackling-chete*, chicken; *hearing-chetes*, ears. Possibly of Gypsy-Indian origin in common with the Anglo-Indian *chiz*, corrupted to *chitz*. *Chit* and *chitter* have also the meaning in gypsy of "a rag, a bit, a piece." It may, however, be derived from the root of *chattel*; M. E. *chatel*, property (also cattle); Old French *catel*. This would lead to the Low Latin *capitale* (Skeat), but there is possibly a different root in common with the Westmoreland *chat*, a fragment, *i.e.*, a thing or bit.

Chew (prison), a bit of tobacco.

A piece as large as a horse-bean, called a *chew*, is regarded as an equivalent for

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