

The crib's barred up at night like a jail; but there's one part we can *crack* safe and softly.—*Dickens: Oliver Twist.*

(Tinker), *crack*, a stick. Not "modern gypsy," as declared by Hotten.

Crack a bottle, to (common), to drink a bottle of liquor.

Crack a whid, to (thieves), to talk.

Cracked nut (common), the head of an insane person.

An enthusiastic poet begs Mr. — to lift up his "crested head." *Cracked nut* would, practically speaking, be more to the point —*fun.*

Cracked up (common), ruined, "gone to smash."

Cracker (common), an untruth consequent on boastful or improbable statements. The older form is "crack," alluding to high-sounding language, as in "crack up," to loudly extol, puff up. It has been suggested that "crack" is from the Gaelic *crac*, to talk. The French *une craque* is a mild untruth, or a gasconade, and in the latter sense it is synonymous with *cracker*. Le Baron de Crac is the French Munchausen, the hero of a volume of travels, who meets with the most marvellous adventures, the type of a boastful, gasconading, story-teller.

Crackey (popular), an ejaculation. A corruption of "crikey," which see.

Cracking a crust (common), rubbing along in the world; "*cracking a tidy crust*," means doing very well. This is a very common expression among the lower orders (Hotten).

Crackling (Cambridge University), the three velvet strips worn on the sleeve by members of St. John's College, Cambridge, called "hogs."

Crack-pot (American), pretentious, petty, a small person of little account.

I'm a *crack-pot* in the city . . .
All the barmaids at me titter
When I call for mild and bitter
They say I am their little
Bit of *crack-pot* jam.

—*A Catnach Ballad: The Crack-Pot in the City.*

Cracksman (thieves), a burglar.

Some mortals disdain the calm
blessings of rest,
Your *cracksman*, for instance, thinks
night-time the best.

—*Ingoldstby Legends.*

Cram, crammer (common), a lie.

My little friend . . . pulled my nose
for telling what he called a beastly *cram*.—
Punch.

That was the *crammer* I told him, and
furthermore . . . I piled it up a bit.—
Greenwood: Left in a Cab.

To *cram*, to lie; also to acquire or impart instruction hastily in view of an approaching examination. This is an almost recognised term.

A very clever lad can dispense with the expense of being *crammed*.—*United Service Gazette.*