

was all the good it done me.—*On the Trail.*

**Dam** (up-country Australian), a pond for watering cattle. This is generally made by throwing up a bank across a hollow or little gully. When the floods come the escape of the flood-water is prevented.

The rain had been pouring down for weeks, as if to make up for the summer's drought. It had filled the *dams* and flooded the creeks, and the diggers were having a drunken bout.—*Keighley Goodchild: Waif.*

**Damber** (old cant), first *damber-cove*, a head-man.

**Dame** (Eton). At Eton the word *Dame* has no reference to the weaker sex. Any person, other than a classical master, who keeps a boys' boarding-house in College is a *Dame*. Thus all mathematical masters' houses are *Dames'* houses.

I am thankful to say that I did not attend the show. But I happened to see the World conducted back to his *Dames*, and the spectacle was gruesome. The punishment inflicted had been very considerable, and I do not think the World appeared in public for quite a fortnight.—*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

**Damnation Corner** (Eton), explained by quotation.

Meanwhile, "regardless of our doom, we little victims played," or rather watched the play; we little knew what cruel fate awaited us, or that the present head-master of Eton and the Rev. F. W. Cornish lay in ambush for our outcoming behind that very sharp turn in the High Street, which, on account of its acute angle, and the consequent danger of being nailed

in shirking in old days, was somewhat flippantly termed *Damnation Corner*.—*Sketchy Memories of Eton.*

**Damned soul** (old slang). A clerk in the Customs House, whose duty was to swear or clear merchandise, used to guard against perjury by taking a previous oath never to swear truly; he was called a *damned soul*.

**Damper** (school), a suet pudding in use at schools, introduced before meat to take off the edge of the appetite. (Thieves), a shop till. To "draw a *damper*," to rob a till.

(Tailors), a "sweater," i. e., one who gets as much work for as little pay as possible out of workmen.

**Damp-pot** (tailors), the sea.

**Dance, to** (printers). If letters drop out when the forme is lifted, the forme is said to *dance* (Academy of Armoury, R. Holme, 1688).

(Old), "to *dance* the Paddington frisk," to be hanged; also termed "to *dance* upon nothing." French "dancer une danse où i' n'y a pas d' plancher."

Just as the felon condemned to die,  
With a very natural loathing,  
Leaving the sheriff to dream of ropes,  
From his gloomy cell in a vision clothes  
To a caper on sunny greens and slopes,  
Instead of the *dance upon nothing*.  
—*Hood: Miss Kilmansegg.*

**Dancer or dancing-master** (thieves), a thief who gets on the roof of houses and effects