

Damn it! it is never used angrily.

**Danglers** (thieves), a bunch of seals.

And where the swag, so bleakly pinched,  
A hundred stretches hence?

The thimbles, slang, and *danglers* filched  
A hundred stretches hence?

—*On the Trail.*

**Darbies** (prison), handcuffs, irons.

"Stay," cried he, "if he is an old hand  
he will twig the officer." "Oh, I'm dark,  
sir," was the answer; "he won't know me  
till I put the *darbies* on him."—*Reade*:  
*Never too Late to Mend.*

It is said that handcuffs, used  
to bind two prisoners together,  
were called a Darby and Joan.

**Darble** (old cant), the devil.  
From the French.

**Darby** (old cant), ready money.

**Dark** (common), secret.

It was evident to the Devonshire gentleman that the three traitors had agreed between them to keep quite *dark* a certain little episode of the afternoon enjoyment.—*J. Greenwood*: *Dick Temple.*

(Prison), "getting the *dark*," being confined in an absolutely dark cell. Probably abolished now. There was one at Clerkenwell Prison, but it was not used for at least the last ten years of that prison's existence.

**Dark cully** (old slang), a married man who keeps a mistress, but for fear of detection only visits her secretly.

**Dark horse** (turf), a horse who has never run, or who having

run is supposed not to have exhibited his real powers in public. The sporting journals are kindly constant in their endeavours to throw light on this particular form of darkness.

The present year is likely to be memorable in racing records as the year of surprises. The first favourites have fared badly. The Derby was won by a *dark horse*; *Ténébreuse*, who carried off the Grand Prix last Saturday, was hardly in the betting.—*Standard.*

(American), a candidate who keeps his intentions in the background till he finds his opportunity.

**Dark house** (old), a lunatic asylum.

**Dark it, to** (tailors), to keep secret.

**Darkmans** (old cant), night.

Bene lightmans to thy quarromes; in what lipken hast thou lipped in this *darkmans*. whether in a lybbege or in the strummel?—*T. Harman*: *Caveat.*

*I.e.*, "Good-day to thee; in what house didst thou sleep last night, in a bed or on the straw?"

**Darkman's budge** (old cant), a man who slips in unobserved into a house in the daytime to give ready entrance to his confederates.

**Darks** (nautical), nights on which the moon does not shine—much looked to by smugglers (Admiral Smyth).

**Dark 'un** (racing), equivalent to "dark horse," which see.