

pleasure of seeing a man or woman tortured and put to shame. A criminal case without any *dirt-scraping* has become of late very exceptional, both in England and in America.

Dirty half hundred (military).

The 50th Regiment was called so, partly from having black facings which gave a sombre look to the uniform. After the battle of Badajos it was changed to the "gallant half hundred."

Dirty puzzle (common), a slut.

Discombobberated (American), discomposed, upset, "flummoxed."

An' when he seen I'd killed a deer as slick as grease he was so *discombobberated* he couldn't speak.—*New York Sun*.

Discommon, or discommune (university), not to communicate; that is, to prohibit students dealing with certain tradesmen who have transgressed the rules of the University, a species of excommunication or "boy-cotting."

Disguised in liquor (common), a common phrase in the vernacular for one who is slightly intoxicated. The expression, though vulgar, is not without merit, as conveying the truth that a drunken man is not playing a real part, but has assumed a guise that is false and unnatural.

Dish, to, to circumvent, to ruin, to frustrate an enemy's or an op-

ponent's plans. The word was used by the late Earl of Derby on a memorable occasion, when he affirmed that such and such a measure would "*dish* the Whigs." It has been supposed that the word was used in the first instance as a corruption of "dash," "dash" itself being an euphemism for "damn," as in the vulgar oath, "dash my wig," for "damn my wig," but to *dish* most probably is only one of the many expressions connected with the kitchen, as "to cook his goose," to "give one a roasting," to "do brown," &c.

Dishclout (common), a dirty, unsavoury woman. When, however, a man marries his cook, and it is said that he has made a napkin of a *dishclout*, no other meaning is attributable except that a "mésalliance" has been made.

Dispar. The following explanation of this term is given by W. H. David. "The word 'sines,' the scholars' allowance of bread for breakfast or supper, and *dispar*, his portion of meat, have their origin in a Winchester College custom which prevailed in the last century. There being neither 'hatch' nor roll-call at the College Hall in these days, the provision for breakfast was laid out on a table, and the stronger took the lion's share, and left the weaker 'sines.' So again at dinner the double plate