

is to utterly fail, but a man *fizzles* when he manages to get through somehow.

Fizzle, to rise with modest reluctance, to hesitate often, to decline finally. Generally to misunderstand the question (Yale Literary Magazine).

Fizzling has also been defined as a somewhat free translation of an intricate sentence, or proving a proposition from a wrong figure.

Flabberdegaz (theatrical), any words not in the part said by an actor whose memory fails him. Also imperfect delivery or acting.

Flabbergast, to (common), to astound, confound. From *gast*, old English, to frighten, and *flab*, to scare.

The magistrate before whom the case was brought seems to have been completely *flabbergasted* and paralysed with astonishment.—*Evening News*.

Flag (popular), an apron.

He stood flabbergasted, but I wasn't goin' to put the game away, so I says, "Ginger, 'e can 'ave the jacket and the flag, and the cards, and bust hisself shouting, he can, and jolly good luck to him."—*Sporting Times*.

Persons who wear their aprons when not at work are termed "flag-flashers."

Flag-about, a low strumpet (New York Slang Dictionary). (Provincial), "flack" or "flacket," to flap about.

Flag flying (tailors) is used in reference to a bill posted up when hands are required.

Flagge (old cant), a groat, or fourpence.

"Why, hast thou any lowre in thy bonge to bouse?" "But a *flagge*, a wyn, and a make."—*Harman: Cavcat*.

Flag of defiance is out, the (nautical), a term in use amongst sailors to imply that a man is drunk, the allusion being to his red, bloated face, and the pug-nacity due to being well primed with drink.

Flags (popular), clothes drying in the open air and flying in the wind.

Flag up (popular). "The *flag's up*" refers to menses, varied to "I've got my grandmother," "my friends."

Flag-wagging (military), flag-signalling, or signal drill.

Flam (common), obsolete English, but now used in a slangy sense; a lie, humbug, flattering lie.

. . . When with some smooth *flam*
He gravely on the public strives to
sham.

—*Earl of Rochester: Works*.

I slowly melt—this isn't *flam*,
On torrid days like these.

—*Funny Folks*.

(American University), to *flam*, to be partial to the society of ladies.

Flannels (Harrow), to get one's *flannels* is to obtain promotion