

favourite mistress. "To patter *flash*," to talk in thieves' lingo.

I'm tired of pattering *flash* and lushing Jackey.—*On the Trail*.

(Common), a *flash* girl, a woman about town, a showy prostitute.

In Australia *flash* is used with the sense of conceited, vain-glorious, dandified, foolhardy, swaggering. Australians would call a man *flash* who began slog-ging at good bowling directly he went in to bat, or took up a poisonous snake by the tail to knock its head against the wall, &c.

Flash cove (popular and thieves), a thief, sharper.

Flash drum (thieves), a thieves' tavern; also a brothel.

Flashery (thieves), elegance, boasting talk, great showing off.

Flash gentry (thieves), the higher class of thieves.

Oh, if my hands adhere to cash,
My gloves at least are clean,
And rarely have the *gentry flash*
In sprucer clothes been seen.

—*Lytton: Paul Clifford*.

Flash house, ken, panny, (thieves), a place frequented by thieves; thieves' boarding-house. Also a brothel.

Flash jig (costers), a favourite dance at a twopenny hop.

Flashy (thieves), elegantly.

Your fogle you must *flashy* tie.—*The Leary Man*.

Flashman (thieves), a thief. Also a prostitute's bully, thus described by G. Parker in his "Variegated Characters":—"A *flashman* is a fellow that lives upon the hackneyed prostitution of an unfortunate woman of the town; few of them but what keeps a *flashman*, and some of these despicable fellows, when their woman has picked up a country gentleman, or a drunken person, will bounce into the room and pretend they have surprised you with their wife, and will beat you, or threaten to bring an action against you. Thus intimidated they extort your purse from you, or rob you of your watch."

Flash of lightning (thieves), a glass of gin.

"Will you have a *flash of lightning*?"
"I am just going to have some slim."—*Parker: Variegated Characters*.

Flash, to (popular and thieves), to show; "*flash* your dibs," show your money.

Cocum gonnofs *flash* by night the cooters in the boozing kens.—*Ducange Anglicus: The Vulgar Tongue*.

"To *flash* one's ivories," to laugh. (Thieves), "*to flash* the hash," to vomit. (Common), "*to flash* the dicky," to show the shirt front.

Flashy blade (old cant), a fellow who dresses smart (G. Parker).

Flat (general), an inexperienced, easily imposed on person.