

he may, and probably will, make a more valuable business-like member of Parliament than the one who has the *gift of the gab*.—*Sporting Times*.

Gabble manufactory (American), sometimes called the "*Gabble Mill*"—the Congress of the United States, though in this respect it does not seem to be worse than other national assemblies.

A mill for the manufacture of *gabble*.—*J. Russell Lowell*.

Gabble is a diminutive of *gab*; Danish *gabberen*, to trifle, jest; old French *se gabber*, to mock. From the Scandinavian *gab*, mockery, according to Littré; Dutch *gabbern*, to jabber.

Gaby (common), a simpleton, a fool or country bumpkin. (The synonym "gawcum" is used in Somersetshire.) Probably from "to gape;" Danish *gabe*. This derivation seems to be borne out by the analogous *badaud*, booby, idler; from the low Latin *badare*, to yawn, to gape.

Gad (gypsy), a shirt; (popular), "upon the *gad*," upon the sudden. It also signifies restless, going about.

I have no very good opinion of Mrs. Charles' nursery-maid. . . . She is always upon the *gad*.—*Miss Austen: Persuasion*.

Gadding or **gadding about**. Hotten says this is only to be heard now among the lower orders, but in America it is still

used by everybody. It does not mean merely "moving about," but going here and there in an irregular way, making short calls or brief pauses on the way.

She was always fond of *gadding*, and was now employed in adding

Certain graces to her charms, which some mistake

For nature's simple beauty, as apart from fashion's duty, Although fashion's oft synonymous with "fake."

—*Sporting Times*.

Gadding the hoof (popular), walking about without shoes. Same as "padding the hoof."

Gaff (American), a steel spur fixed to the "heel" of a gamecock for fighting. From *gaff*, a barbed iron or large fishing-hook.

Gaffing is tossing, pitching, or throwing like a juggler performing. The *gaff* is a ring worn on the forefinger of the dealer. It has a sharp point (hence probably the name), on the inner side, and the gambler when dealing from a two-card box can deal out the card he chooses. Some, however, are smart enough to do this trick without the *gaff*. It is out of date.

(Popular), a *gaff* or penny *gaff*, a low place of entertainment. This term is now used for any theatre or music-hall, as the Greenwich *gaff*. This appears to be allied to *gag* (which see), or from *gaffle*, to chatter.