

Gig-lamps (common), spectacles.

A person who wears spectacles is sometimes called *gig-lamps*.

He had chosen his friend Verdant to be his prompter; so that the well-known *gig-lamps* of our hero formed, as it were, a very focus of attraction.—*C. Bede: Verdant Green*.

Gills (popular), the jaws, the face; to give a "bang in the *gills*," to strike one in the face. Also a high or large shirt collar.

Gilt (popular), money; from the German *geld*, Dutch *gelt*. *Guelle*, in French shopmen's assistants' slang, is the percentage allowed them on the sale. Shakspeare has punned on the word *gilt*.

Have for the *gilt* of France,
O guilt indeed!

—*Henry I.*

(Thieves), a crowbar.

Gilt-edged (American), as the best note-paper was once always *gilt-edged*, the term passed to the Stock Exchange to denote the paper or promissory notes of the first class, on which there could be no risk. Hence the expression became general for anything superlative.

"A man is an infernal fool to play poker anywhere," said a well-known sport and politician to a *Tribune* reporter the other evening; "but he is a *gilt-edged* idiot to play the game in a card-room or anywhere else where Tom, Dick, and Harry may take a hand."—*Chicago Tribune*.

Gilt-tick (costermonger), money as represented by gold coins.

Gimcrack (provincial), a handy man, a universal mechanic or Jack of all trades. In this sense common in Northamptonshire. (Popular), a spruce person.

Gimlet-eyed (common), with very small eyes. A corresponding but coarse expression in French slang is "des yeux en trou de pine."

Gin (Australian), the wife of an Australian native.

An Australian settler's wife bestows on some poor slaving *gin* a cast-off French bonnet.—*C. Kingsley: Two Years Ago*.

Gin and Gospel Gazette (journalistic), *The Morning Advertiser*. So called from the fact of its having for a long period, in the early days of its existence, devoted a portion of its space to the announcements of its particular *clientèle*, and another to advertisements of works on theology, and notices of preachers at London churches and chapels.

Ginger (theatrical), an idiom derived from the vocabulary of the stables. If an actor plays a part tamely, or ineffectively, it is a common phrase to say "he wants *ginger*." (Popular), a man with red, yellow, or yellow-brownish-red hair.

The man that I loved was as fair as could be.

The man that I married's a sort of a *ginger*.

The man that I loved paid attention to me,
The man that I married my feelings doth injure.

—*T. C. Lewis: The Man I Loved and the Man I Married*.