

**Give away, to** (American), to inadvertently betray or injure one's self. The man who through forgetfulness or maladroitness "lets out" that he himself has been guilty of something which he had previously condemned gives himself away conspicuously. Also to communicate a thing or to violate confidence. It is said of a Yankee damsel in a university town that she once expressed great horror at the conduct of certain girls with the students. "I was going," she said, "by the College early the other morning, when I saw a great basket being let down with a young lady in it." Here the tale was interrupted, and when it was resumed the fair narrator forgetfully added — "Oh, yes! wasn't it awful? just when about ten feet from the ground the rope broke — and down I came!" "There you gave yourself away," remarked a hearer. The expression came into common use about 1868. In its original meaning it was limited to inadvertent betrayal. It is now vaguely used in several senses.

**Give a weight, to** (street), to help a person in lifting a heavy weight.

**Give best, to** (popular), to leave, leave off, to yield.

But after a time I gave him best (left him) because he used to want to bite my ear (borrow) too often.—*Horsley: Jottings from Jail.*

*To give best* means originally to acknowledge, and thus passes easily to mean the natural corollary of a confession of inferiority, relinquishing or submitting. Also used in Australia.

Accordingly after publication on Friday (it was a bi-weekly paper, the defunct *Pleasant Creek Chronicle*) we "rushed in" our "dis." and gave the case-room best on Saturday morning.—*Thos. L. Work: Australian Printer's Keepsake.*

**Give 'em Jessie,** a party war-cry widely current in the Presidential Campaign of 1856. Fremont, the Republican candidate, had fifteen years before made a runaway match with Jessie, daughter of Thomas H. Benton, and the popular favour with which runaway matches are apt to be regarded was made much of in this case, the lady's name being freely used in song and story by her husband's political supporters. It was, however, in common use a century before Jessie Fremont was born. It is probably an allusion to the "rod of Jesse" in the Old Testament.

**Give him a chance for his white alley** (American), let him have a last chance for, a forlorn hope, a fluke, give the man one more trial. A figure borrowed from the boys' game of marbles.

**Give it a bone** (common), "stop it," or "that's stale." The metaphor is, of course, that of giving a dog a bone to stop his noise.