

a metaphoric sense to signify to make even, to equalise the chances.

Handle (common), a person with a title is said to have a *handle* to his name. This is a very common and now recognised phrase.

Hand-me-down place (tailors), a repairing tailor's, now often styled a "never-too-late-to-mend shop."

The cut of his coat makes me weary! Regular *hand-me-downs*, and no mistake—ugh—how can he expect the world to swallow that necktie?—*Detroit Free Press*.

Hand out (American), an expression fully explained in the following extract from "The Western Avernus, or Toil and Travel in Further North America," by Morley Roberts—a work which should be read by every one before attempting to "rough it" in the "West":—"Up to this time they had always given us our meals in the tents with knives and forks and plates (separately), but here the cooks brought out a huge can of soup, some potatoes, great lumps of boiled beef, a pile of plates, and a bucket of knives and forks. A chorus of growls rose up from us on all sides. . . . Some of the boys said it was a regular *hand out*, and that we looked like a crowd of old bummers. Bummers is the American for beggars, and a *hand out* is a portion of food handed out to a bummer

or a tramp at the door when he is not asked inside."

Hand saw (popular), a street hawker of knives and razors.

Handseller (popular), a street or open-air vendor.

Handsome, Americanism for grand or beautiful. "The Falls of Niagara are one of the *handsomest* things in the United States." "Yes! indeed, they are very *elegant*." A similar abuse of the adjective is to be found in such vulgar phrases as "The cheese is *magnificent*," "The butter was *splendid*," "The eggs were *first-rate*," "The whole thing was *marvellous*," "The liquor was *glorious*," "The bread was *beautiful*," or "What a *grand old* time we had of it."

Handsome as a last year's corpse (American), a sarcastic compliment (C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms).

Handsomely (nautical), gently.

Handsomely over the bricks (nautical), go cautiously, have a care.

Handsprings (popular), to chuck *handsprings*, to throw somersaults.

Hang (common), "not to care a *hang*," synonymous with "not to care a fig." *Hang*, or "*hang it!*" denotes that the speaker does not care, is vexed, or disappointed.