

**Ha'porth o' coppers** (legal), Habeas Corpus.

**Happen on it, to** (American), to meet with anything by chance or accidentally. This phrase, like "to happen in," i.e., "to happen to call in," "to drop in on by accident," is evidently derived from the regular verb "to happen," but it is worth noting that in Dutch *happen* means to snatch, or snap.

Yer oughter hev *happened through* here with that instrumint of yours about that time, young feller; yer might hev kept as full as a tick, till they war busted — *Thomas Stevens: Around the World on a Bicycle.*

**Häpper, häpper** (gypsy), to carry away. *Hoppercore*, a policeman (one who carries away).

**Happy-go-lucky** (common), given as a slang term by Hotten and others, but to be found in English dictionaries of the beginning of the eighteenth century as a recognised term under the form "happy-be-lucky," at hazard, go as it will. French slang, "va comme je te pousse."

**Happy returns** (Australian popular), throwing up one's food. If a person feels sick, feels his "dinner in his mouth," as English people say, he will say that "he has the *happy returns*."

**Hard** (roughs and thieves), for *hard* labour.

. . . And then do his month's *hard* on his head. — *Sporting Times.*

(American rhyming slang), *hard* coal, silver and gold, hardware, false coin, *hard metal*.

**Hard bargain** (nautical), a lazy fellow, a skulker.

**Hard case** (American), a very common old-fashioned expression for a worthless, shameless man, or any one from whom nothing good can be expected. One may sometimes see in "stores" lists of *hard cases* hung up, i.e., of defaulting debtors.

A petrified body has been discovered in Ohio. It is not the first *hard case* that has come to light in that commonwealth. — *Detroit Free Press.*

(Nautical), a bullying, cruel officer.

**Hard cheese** (Royal Military Academy), varied sometimes to "what cheese!" or "fromage." *Vide* CHEESE.

**Hardening market** (commercial). The market is said to harden from the purchaser's point of view when prices advance. Also used when one's chances of success are decreasing.

Take it all together, his life was becoming a mockery and a misery. The matrimonial market was *hardening* against him. — *Moonshine.*

*I.e.*, the possibility of marriage was decreasing.

**Hard horse** (nautical), a tyrannical officer.