

Hard lines (common), ill luck, hardship.

'*Ar'd lines*, ain't it, Charlie, old hoyster?
A barney's a barney, dear boy,
And you know that a squeeze and a skylark is wot I did always enjoy,
A street-rush is somethink splendacious to fellers of sperrit like me,
But dints and diakkylum plaster will spile the best sport, don'tcher see.

—*Punch*.

Hard-mouthed un' (popular), an obstinate person, or one difficult to deal with.

Hard neck (tailors), a great amount of cheek and impudence.

Hard or soft drinks (American). In the United States any liquor which is decidedly intoxicating is called *hard*, while soda-water, lemonade, root-beer, ginger-beer, and the like, are *soft*. Likewise the French call these respectively *raide*, and *doux*.

Hard row to hoe (American), a very common phrase to express a hard task.

Captain Ben sighed. I thought ma'be you was having a *hard row to hoe*, and I thought like enough.—*Frances Lee Pratt: Captain Ben's Choice*.

Hard-shell (American), thoroughly orthodox, unyielding, "hide-bound," or conservative in religion or politics. The first persons known by this name were the old-fashioned Baptists in Georgia, who regarded all reforms as new-fangled fancies, so that they even disapproved of temperance. It is said that once

when there was to be a great religious revival, a member rose and said:—"I hev to complain of Brother Smith. He is a rich man, he is worth six or seven thousand dollars, and yet he has only contributed one gallon of whisky towards this revival. Now I'm a pore man, but, to uphold the cause of Christ, I hev given a whole bar'l of sperits, for when it comes to sustaining religion I'll jest do my level best." The name *hard-shell*, or "hards," was given to a division in the Democratic party in 1848. Both in religion and in politics the opponents of these "orthodox" parties were called "soft-shells."

A number of swimming-bath proprietors have been fined in the United States for opening their establishments on Sunday mornings. The prosecutors were certain religious (?) lunatics who resuscitated a quaint old law against bathing on the Sabbath. Genuine *hard-shell* fanatics, who are mad on the subject of religion, are usually dirty in their habits, and strangely ignore the text, "Cleanliness is next to godliness."—*Fun*.

Hard stuff (up-country Australian), intoxicating liquors. The bushman has a great contempt for non-alcoholic liquors. Intoxicating liquors he calls *hard stuff*, as the only thing not too "soft" for men.

He knows every one and every one knows him by his Christian name. Each time drinks are called for he is included. He cannot drink *hard stuff*; however, always. His business would suffer. He has a private bottle filled with tea, from which he fills his glass after receiving payment.—*A. C. Grant*.