

**Irishman's harvest** (costermongers), the orange season.

**Irishman's rise** (tailors and com-  
mon), wages reduced.

**Irish theatre** (military), a guard-  
room or lock-up in barracks.

**Iron** (mechanics), bad iron, used  
in reference to any bad affair,  
failure of any kind.

**Ironclads**, baked pies, so called  
from the armour-plated con-  
sistencies of the outside crust,  
of American origin. During  
the Civil War *ironclad* was ap-  
plied to everything well de-  
fended or hard. An "iron-  
clad" girl. A severely virtuous girl  
was an *ironclad*.

**Iron cow**, the pumper, so called  
by the milk dealers of London  
because it provides them with  
the water for what is some-  
times called the stretching—  
that is, the dilution and dilu-  
tion—of the milk which  
they supply to their defrauded  
customers.

**Iron face** (pilots), stern of the  
rate, iron-covered. Cantonese  
and other Mandarinized words  
with "iron" in them, such as  
"iron-mustache" and "iron-  
tooth" have had their origin  
here.

**Iron making** (pilots), working  
at iron or steel in which industry  
is to be profited.

**Ironsides** (military), of ironlike  
strength and endurance.

men-of-war, but latterly applied  
to iron and ironclad ships (Ad-  
miral Smyth).

**Irrigate, to** (American), to drink,  
to take liquor or refreshment; a  
synonymous expression is "to  
smile." Of Mexican frontier  
origin.

**Irrigate your canal** (American).  
This is becoming common in  
England as an invitation to take  
a drink.

Stumbling across a barrel of ale in the  
house, and feeling a little thirsty, Joseph  
thought he had found an excellent op-  
portunity for *irrigating his alimentary  
canal*.—*Sunday Times*.

**Isabella** (rhyming slang), an um-  
brella.

**I saw, I seen him** (American), a  
Western phrase implying agree-  
ment, harmony, or good fellow-  
ship.

He was drunk, but *I seen him* all the  
time. "Come and have a drink," says I.  
—*S. Francis, Sells and McCann*.

**I say** (pilgrims). "The Chinese  
used to call the English  
soldiers *A'says* or *I says*, from  
their frequent use of the ex-  
pression. The French gamins  
used to do the same in Bou-  
laine. At Amoy the Chinese  
used to call out after foreign-  
ers, *A-ha, a-ha!* a tradition from  
the Portuguese *agui*, 'Here!' In  
Java the French are called by  
the natives *Orang-deedong*, i.e.,  
the *Black-bone* people" (Anglo-  
Indian Glossary). It is not