

I met him going along with his head down, like he was drunk. We'd been having a time, and my *keg* was pretty full too.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Keen (American cadet), a humorous story, a joke.

Keen on (common), intent on, having great liking for, being in love with.

Keep a hotel, to (American), a phrase intimating administrative capacity. It is almost universally expressed in the negative, "He can't *keep a hotel*." The origin of it was as follows. About twenty-five years ago a man named Lynch, banjo performer in a negro minstrel troupe, lost his overcoat in a hotel in Vicksburg, Mississippi. As the landlord refused to pay him for it, he revenged himself for a long time after by a humorous dialogue in which the landlord was mentioned, and all his minor good qualities were faithfully enumerated, but which were neutralised by the other interlocutor, who drawled out, "Ya-as—but he ca-ant *keep a ho-tel!*" The expression is still current.

Keep a pig, to (Oxford), to have a lodger. A man whose rooms contain two bedchambers has sometimes, when his college is full, to allow the use of one of them to a freshman, who is called under these circumstances a "pig." The original

occupier is then said to *keep a pig* (Hotten).

Keep cave, to (Eton), explained by quotation.

Crib-fagging required two lower boys, for whilst one sat and read, another had to mount guard in the passage or on the staircase, to *keep cave*, that is, to give warning by a whistle if he should descry our tutor on the prowl.—*Brinsley Richards: Seven Years at Eton.*

Cave is of course the Latin word.

Keep dark, to (English and American). *Vide* DARK.

Keep sloom (tailors), keep quiet (stockcutter's expression).

Keep that dry (American), keep that concealed, secret.

But don't let it enter into your heart. Never let them get a chance at your sentiment; *keep that dry*.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Keep your eyes skinned (West American), keep your eyes open, be watchful.

If you have any business to attend to, you'd best go right along and do it. *Keep your eyes skinned*, of course, but don't stay home.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

The English in the island cast in their lot with sugar, and if sugar is depressed they lose heart. Americans *keep their eyes skinned*, as they call it, to look out for other openings.—*J. A. Froude: The English in the West Indies.*

Keep your hair on. *Vide* HAIR.

Keep your pecker up (common), do not lose heart. *Pecker* is the