

expression to take the *assay* or *essay*, to taste wine to prove that it is not poisoned. Hence to try, to taste, trial or sample. Shakspeare uses the term.

(He) makes vow before his uncle, never more
To give the *assay* of arms against your majesty.

—Hamlet.

Asses (printers). See DONKEYS.

Term used by pressmen for compositors, by way of retaliation in calling them "pigs." The animal creation has furnished a variety of slang terms for French printers in sufficient numbers to form a small menagerie. Thus a compositor is called "mulet;" a master or foreman, "singe;" a newspaper, "canard" (which also means false news); to have "one's monkey up," that is, to be angry, is "gober sa chèvre" or "son bœuf," from the effect produced by the horns of the animal in the metaphoric operation; a letter which has fallen from the form is termed "chien;" a creditor, "loup;" an idle workman who disturbs others, "ours." "Poser une sangsue" is to correct one's fellow-workman's work in his absence. The German typos say that one receives his "herring" when he gets dismissed from his employ.

Astern (common), behind, in the rear of; from the nautical term.

Asti (gypsy), would have, have to; *astis*, can, possible; *asti*

si, it can be; *nasti nesti*, it is not possible, *i.e.*, it cannot be.

Astral body (theosophist), a phrase borrowed from the Rosicrucians, and used by Paracelsus and Van Helmont. It signifies a semi-spiritual self, which goes forth from the body.

Then there is *the astral body*, which is a nice thing to have, as it can be made responsible for all the doings of the carnal body, and can be pressed into service for any occasion when the latter would be of no account, even to the materialising of strawberries in January, or crockery at picnics when the necessary plates and cups have been forgotten. The only difficulty with *the astral body* is its unreliability. It is such a subtle, slippery thing that the owner, unless he hangs on to it with the utmost tenacity, is apt to lose it just when he most needs it, like the Buddhist in New York who was jailed the other day. He had been in the habit of depending upon his *astral body* for the materialisation of coin to meet his expenses, and when arrested for obtaining money under false pretences could only defend himself by saying that he had lost his *astral body*. As he could not show that he had taken any pains to find it, and had not even advertised a reward for it, he had to take the same penalties that are imposed upon those who have no *astral bodies* to fall back upon in time of financial emergency. —*Chicago Tribune*.

Atch, hatch (gypsy), to remain, stay.

"Sa mandy *hatched* to kūr, my rye"—
"So I stayed to fight, my master."

Atmosphere (American, Boston), a new slang phrase of society and literature thus explained by an American journal:—

"The cant of the day is the word *atmosphere*, which has displaced 'tone.' When people tried to be exquisite they spoke of