

The lark, that tirra-lirra chants,—  
With, hey! with, hey! the thrush and  
the jay :—  
Are summer songs for me and my *aunts*,  
While we lie tumbling in the hay.

—*Shakespeare.*

The more modern expression for a concubine—who lives in a single man's house without either of them letting the world into the real secret of the connection—is "niece." Thus many reverend gentlemen in Catholic countries, whose vows of chastity debar them from enjoying the sweets of paternity, are fain to content themselves with being the uncles of pretty "nieces." A *cure's* niece is a standing joke in France. The sons of the Pope—if these high ecclesiastical dignitaries have any, as they had in ancient times far more frequently than in the present—are called "nephews."

To go to "my *aunt's*," to go to the privy. The expression is nowadays used chiefly by girls, who say among themselves, "I am going to my *aunt*," or "I am going to my *auntie*."

**Australian flag, the** (Anglo-Australian slang), the bottom of a shirt. The Australian who lives up the country generally wears a belt instead of braces, the result being that when he exerts himself, there is usually a great fold of shirt protruding between his small clothes and his waistcoat, which Englishmen have called in scorn *the Australian flag*. The Cornstalk talks of

him as a "new chum;" he talks of the Cornstalk as "showing *the Australian flag*."

**Australian grip** (up country Australian), a hearty shake of the hand (compare MASONIC GRIP.) The bushman shakes hands very heartily—a long grip with the whole hand, following three deep shakes. He does not crush your hand; but he is sarcastic about the "limp shakes" and "one-finger shakes" of people "newly out from home."

None the less

Was he a graceful, well-bred host,  
But he was hearty in accost,  
And giving the *Australian grip*  
And good up-country fellowship  
As bushmen.

—*D. B. W. Sladen: A Summer Christmas.*

**Autem or autum, a church.** This word, which is of the oldest cant, and is given by Harman, is probably the Yiddish *a'thoumme*, a church (*tife* being the common term), which in ordinary conversation would be pronounced *autem*. It seems to have been at first always associated with clerical marriage, and as in cant Adam and Eve are terms for husband and wife, it is possible that *Autem* also owes something to Outem or Oudem, as Adam is pronounced in Yiddish. *Thoumme* or *tume* really means the forbidden or impure (church). ("Unrein verboten."—*Thiele*.) "A," or "ah," is the vulgar Yiddish pronunciation for "Ein." It is curious to note that in old