

as the succeeding lines clearly prove:—

“For though between dead horses there’s
not much to choose,
Yet Tom’s were the better by the hide
and four shoes.”

Avast in old cant has the signification of away.

Avast to the pad, let us bing.—*T. Middleton: Roaring Girl.*

Avering, the trick of a beggar boy who strips himself and goes naked into a town with a false story of his being cold and robbed of his clothes, to move compassion and get other clothes. This is called *averis* and to go an *avering*.—*Old Manuscript in the Lansdowne Collection, quoted in Wright’s “Archaic Dictionary.”*

The word is evidently gypsy, from *aver*, to come or go, as further appears by *averis*, *is* or *os* being (as is common in Indian dialects) a suffix to form a noun (*vide Av*).

Āvo, āwo, auwo, āwali, avalī (gypsy), yes. *Avalī* is rare in England, but it may be commonly heard in Hungary.

Lel a chūmer del a chūmer
Āvo, āvalī!
Butī, butī, sār pa tūte,
Miro kāmlo zī.

Take a kiss—give a kiss—yes—yes. Many and many, all for you, my dear heart.

—*Janet Tuckey.*

Avoirdupois lay (old), stealing brass weights off shop counters.

Awake (general), on one’s guard, warned, put up to.

“A common expression of the ‘family people;’ thus a thief will say to his accomplice on perceiving that the person they are about to rob is aware of their intention and upon his guard, ‘Stow it, the cove’s *awake*.’ To be *awake* to any scheme, deception, or design, means, generally, to see through or comprehend it.”—*From Vaux’s Memoirs.*

Awër (gypsy), but. This recalls the German *aber*, but it is probably only a form of the affirmative *awo*.

Awful. This word does duty in fashionable slang for “very.” Girls and women are no longer “very pretty” or “very handsome,” but “*awfully* pretty” or “*awfully* handsome.” The expression is sometimes varied into “*dreadfully*.” An *awful* shame or pity, or a *dreadful* shame or pity, are common expressions both among the high and low vulgar. “An *awfully* fine day” is a favourite expletive among young and old, but especially among the young. All these, and countless other perversions of the word, might fitly be described as *awfully* destructive of the grace, elegance, and purity of the English language. In like manner *very* laughable farces are declared to be *scramingly* funny or *cruciatingly* funny; as if *very* were no longer an English word.