

Bākelo (gypsy), hungry. "Shan tu bākelo?"—"Are you hungry?"

Baker (American), a word discovered or unconsciously invented by the Baron E. de Mandat Grancey.

We got there without unduly exciting the idle curiosity of the *bakers* around us. In America they call the habitual man-about-town, the loungee—*baker*. I leave to a more learned etymologist than myself the care of discovering whether there is not in this term an ironical allusion to the way in which they make the execrable bread we are forced to eat everywhere in the country.—*Baron E. Mandat Grancey: Cow-Boys and Colonels.*

The writer of the above had heard the word *loafer*, and having inquired its meaning, innocently translated it as *baker*. In a short time *baker* will, perhaps, be current as a joke, and a few years hence some one learned in Americanisms may possibly declare it to be the original word, or at least a well-established American term, and one recently heard by him in America. (Winchester College), a *baker* is a cushion, generally a large green one, used by prefects and by boys who have studies of their own. The name is also given to a small red cushion used at chapel. Formerly it meant a portfolio. A "*baker* layer" is a junior who has to take a prefect's *baker* in and out of hall at meals. The term was probably obtained by punning on the connotation of the word loaf.

Baker-knead (workmen), an inknead man, one whose knees

knock together—the position in which bakers stand to knead their bread tending to make their knees incline inwards.

His voice had broken to a gruffish squeak, he had grown blear-eyed, *baker-knead*, and gummy.—*Coleman: Poetical Vagaries.*

Baker-legged (see BAKER-KNEED).

... His body crooked all over, big belly'd, *baker-legg'd*.—*L'Estrange: Life of Æsop.*

Baker's dozen (common), thirteen. Originally the London bakers supplied the retailers with thirteen loaves to the dozen, so as to make sure of not giving short weight.

About a *baker's dozen* of cows and calves were collected.—*P. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

To "give a man a baker's dozen" is to give him a good beating, to give him full measure in that respect.

Baker, to spell, an expression for attempting anything difficult. In old spelling-books, *baker* was the first word of two syllables, and when a child came to it, he thought he had a hard task before him.

If an old man will marry a young wife, why then—why then—why then—he must *spell baker*.—*Longfellow: The New-England Tragedies.*

Bakes (American), one's original stake in a game, a juvenile term; as "I will stop when I get my *bakes*," said by a boy playing marbles" (*Bartlett*), in refer-