

adds, is made from negro hiles; whence the saying "It sticks like grim death to a dead nigger." In another place he traces the origin of the phrase "he's been through the mill" to a local accident at Slickville.

But if Sam Slick, as might be guessed from these last incidents, is not a trustworthy etymologist, he is a past-master of slang. His sayings are quoted widely, to illustrate colloquial terms, all through Bartlett's "Dictionary of Americanisms." Some of Slick's slangy expressions are very original and forcible, as for example the following:—"If I had a got hold of him, I'd a lammed him wuss than the devil beatin' tan-bark."

He confesses that he hates poets, "lock, stock and barrel." As he sometimes purposely shocks the British sense of decorum by his Yankee irreverence, so he likes to ruffle one's sentimentality by some anti-poetical simile. Poets have thought of figure after figure to describe the changing music of a running stream. Here is Slick's contribution—"the noise water makes tumblin' over stones in a brook, a splutterin' like a toothless old woman scoldin' with a mouthful of hot tea in her lantern cheek."

It is hard to determine in some cases whether Sam Slick's utterances are intended to illustrate his character, or merely to voice the author's personal views. This doubt of course arises only when the clockmaker utters sentiments equally or more in keeping with another character than his own—with that for instance of an Englishman or Nova Scotian, or of a well-read and well-bred gentleman. There is, however, a specially strong probability that Haliburton generally en-