

tisement of the new Patent Muscle-Saving Fluting Iron, in another column.

EDITORIAL.

THE wise and timely action of the present Government in buying from the United States the Island of Santa Catalina, on the Pacific coast, for the transportation of all those unfortunate creatures of the opposite sex who still persistently and defiantly violate the law prohibiting the manufacture, importation, sale, purchase, or use of spirituous liquors, including pink lemonade and cider, has already commended itself to the general public. The idea was obtained by the ladies empowered to deal with the matter from the purpose to which the Americans themselves once devoted the island, the extermination of the Apaches. Too humane to put these poor untutored, unenfranchised savages to death upon their capture by the skillful lassoes of the Hon. Wm. Cody and a party of fellow-philanthropists, the American Government placed them upon this inaccessible island, ran a supply steamer to them once a month, and left them to meet the traditional fate of the Kilkenny cats, which the lately uninhabited state of the island, and the absence of all interesting remains, leads us to believe that they did. Whether, in the pursuance of the same merciful policy by the present Government, the wretched victims of the brewer's vat and the whiskey still will dispose of each other similarly or not, remains to be seen. We have in the meantime the cheerful assurance that they take kindly to their altered circumstances; the difficulty indeed seems to be to keep convicts away until properly sentenced.

GARTH GRAFTON.

SOME STRIKING TERMS.

IF we Britons and Americans have set other people the good example of settling international disputes by arbitration, we deserve especial credit for it. That Anglo-Saxons should have been first to substitute the appeal to reason for the appeal to arms is a supreme triumph of Christianity and education over instinct. By nature we are sons of Thor, far too apt to be "spoiling for a fight," and cherishing "noble longings for the strife." And our language displays this trait of ours no less remarkably than our history.

Archbishop Trench has observed somewhere that the present meaning of the word "quarrel," coming as it does from a Latin term that meant merely a complaint, is deeply significant of the tendency of our race to make a grievance end in a fight. The same characteristic is illustrated by other derivatives also. But it is still more clearly shown in the fact that the English language, besides numberless other fierce and warlike terms, has more than a hundred expressions nearly or quite synonymous with "to beat" or "a beating," "a hit" or "to hit." And the number would be very much greater if one counted separately verbs and nouns which are identical in form or clearly derived the one from the other.

Turning our attention first to terms which, in some cases "colloquial and vulgar," are neither local nor obsolete, we find to thrash, trounce, belabour, whale, wallop, smash, lick, beat, drub; a blow, box, slap, rap, clip, crack, hit, cuff, buffet; to thump, bat, or batter, strike, smack, slog, punch, whack, bang, smite, clout. When he is at fisticuffs, an Anglo-Saxon is wont to floor or knock down his adversary, besides doing many other unpleasant things the names of which are more slangy and will be noticed by and by.

Many such terms of aggression are highly and quaintly figurative. In fact the Anglo-American imagination seems to riot and revel in finding tropes, playful or grim, for assault and battery. A Briton sometimes volunteers to give his neighbour a *lacing*, a *jacketing*, or a *dusting*. With still greater apparent civility he offers to *polish off* a fellow-citizen, to give him a *wipe* across the mouth, a *warming*, a *dressing*, or even (according to the Slang Dictionary) a *fanning* or *anothing*. Sometimes he threatens in a less benevolent but equally tropical guise, a *basting*, *leathering*, or *tanning*; sometimes a *hammering*, *pommeling*, or *bamboozing* (which in London street slang does not, I believe, necessarily involve the use of a bamboo cane). Other figures are much more bold and terrific, as to *make one see stars*, to *knock spots out of one*, or to knock one into a *cocked hat*, or into the *middle of next week*.

Besides those that belong exclusively to the prize-ring, there are many purely slang equivalents for striking or thrashing. "Sock it into him!" is a call to hit vigorously, known in the streets of both British and American cities. A *hiding* and a *whopping* are probably understood wherever English is spoken. The Slang Dictionary is responsible for the following words and their meanings: *buckhorse*, a smart blow on the ear; a *gooser*, a blow that "cooks one's goose"; a *nobbler*, a hit on the nob, or a settler; a *bellowser*, a hit in the wind; a *click*, a knock or blow; a *ferri-cadouser*, a knock down (possibly derived from the Italian *far(e) cader(e)*, through the Lingua Franca—that fruitful source of thieves' and sailors' slang).

Americans have contributed largely to the common store of striking expressions. It is they who first threatened to *put a head on (alias, "to erect a mansard roof" upon) a body*. It is they who gave the verbs to *whip* and to *flog* the general sense of "to thrash." It is their roughs who menace you with a *lambasting*, a *lamming* and a *chawing up*—the latter operation in their parlance not of necessity involving cannibalism. The New York rowdy will undertake to *punk* an obnoxious citizen, to *fix* him (or his flint) to *bust him in the eye* or to *mask him in the snoot*. Sam Slick would sometimes threaten a self-complacent Blue Nose or a swaggering Britisher with a good *quiltin'*; but I have not seen or heard the term used in this hostile sense elsewhere. Angry Canadian youths (and possibly some youths elsewhere, for I do not profess to fix exact geographical limits to the localisms quoted) are wont to declare their determination to *pound*, *pug*, or *dig* a

teasing school or college mate. The last of the italicised terms is pretty widely used in the phrase, "a dig in the ribs," and "pug" appears as *puck* in parts of Ireland.

Paddy, who is notoriously fond of a shindy, is not only familiar with most of the general pugnacious terms quoted in this paper, but adds to them a number of his own invention, as for instance, a *flaking*, a *flailing*, and a *kicking*. For an Irish "kicking" may be given with the fists, or anything that comes handy. (He will also threaten you with a "riser," i.e., a kick that will lift you up and send you flying.)

Many additions could doubtless be made to this brawling vocabulary by collecting all the synonymous provincialisms. Among these are *cant* (Kentish for a toss or blow); *towel* (Warwickshire), to beat; *larruping*, a thrashing; *quelch*, a blow (whence "squelch"); *siserara*, a hard blow, so called from the fate of Sisera. (This word appears as *siserary* in Sir Walter Scott.) It is said that there are professional bullies in London who, for a fee, will give a man a *bashing* (beating)—a term much affected by these gentry—and that their services are occasionally engaged by quasi-respectable citizens. A few years ago some London journals, by disputing over the truth of this allegation, made the term pretty well known, and it has won admission into the Imperial Dictionary. The word appears in the West of England version of a familiar proverb:

A woman, a whelp and a walnut tree,
The more you *bash* 'em the better they be.

From time to time somebody adds another to the number of these synonyms—whether fearing that the existing dozens will soon grow threadbare from over-use, or already finding them too few for the duties they have to perform, and growing monotonous from constant repetition. Every generation we coin new equivalents for hitting and thumping, recoin old ones, borrow others from our neighbours. It seems likely, therefore, that comparatively few such words go permanently out of use. *Verberate* (used by Arbuthnot), however, is perhaps quite obsolete; so is *capulation*; and so is *pulsation* (in its old sense of a mild species of battery). "Pulsation," says Blackstone, "as well as verberation is prohibited." *Bobbing*, which occurs in "Troilus and Cressida," as a synonym for beating, is never so used now. *Fustigate*, too, is obsolete, though *fustigation* has been used by Motley.

It is further significant that so many naturally peaceful expressions are capriciously assigned a hostile sense. To *go for*, to *slip into* (or "let slip at"), to *walk into* or *sail into* a person, are all sprightly equivalents for attacking him. To *pay on*, according to Webster, may mean to beat with vigour. If we heard the exclamation, "Give it to him!" or "Let him have it!" uttered by an unseen speaker, we might feel pretty confident that the neutral "it" implied, in such a connection, a hit of some kind or another.

Of the various names and paraphrases for a blow that belong by birth or adoption, to the P. R. and the "fistiana" of sporting papers, a few have been already mentioned in other connections. Others are quite generally understood by the outside public, as for instance a *right* (or *left*) *hander* or a *backhand*, a *counter*, a *rib-roaster*. To "close his right peeper," to "rap his snuff-box," to "tap his claret," to pay marked attentions to his "potato-trap" or "bread-basket" or "snapper" or "snorter," to "send him to grass," or "on a visit to his mother" are mystic phrases to few readers of the newspapers who do not skip the sporting news. But I shall not attempt to enumerate all the ingenious metaphors of this kind, which are used to enliven the reports of "rattling mills."

[This catalogue, it will be noticed, does not aim at being complete, and it naturally excludes such mild and playful words as "nudge" and "fillip," which do not illustrate the hard-hitting character of our race. I have further omitted (except when a word also means to beat or a beating in a general sense) all terms signifying to hit with any specified weapon, as to *pistol*, *poniard*, *cowhide*, *cudgel*, etc., etc.; also terms indicating other special modes of striking, as *stab*, *thrust*, *cut*, *pelt*, *hack*, etc., etc.; also words implying beating for correctional ends only, as *caning*, *trimming*, *spanking*, *pandyng* (Ireland), *shingling* (U. S.), *swishing* (England), etc., etc. The limited scope of this article is to show the large number of words and phrases in our language that imply striking in a hostile spirit, and with no specified instrument beyond a Briton's natural weapons, the fists. Lists of other aggressive and combative terms might be compiled which would further illustrate our quarrelsome instincts. The English names of all kinds of fights, frays, and forays (from a woman's "clapper-clawing" to a pitched battle) would alone aggregate a hundred or more: A "shindy," a "struggle," "strife," a "scrimmage" or "skirmish," a "shine," a "set to," a "snarl" (Provincial) a "spat" (U. S.), a "squabble," a "spar," all beginning with the same letter, occur to me without the aid of a dictionary.]

With such a luxuriance of formidable and menacing terms, it is little wonder that the Britons are quite determined that they "never, never, never shall be slaves." For Britons have not been wont (and may they never become wont!) to bluster or threaten without acting. The growls of the British bulldog are commonly only the preludes to his bites.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

WITH all his sincere religious conviction, Justice Lush was not socially austere, still less fanatic. He did not neglect his wine, and he continued almost to the end of his days the old-fashioned habit of finishing his bottle of port after dinner. Perhaps it was a recollection of this indulgence which, in Westminster Hall, on November, 2, 1865, suggested a joke on his name and that of a colleague in the Queen's Bench appointed about the same time, Mr. Justice Shee. As the new judges walked up the hall there were loud cheers, and cries of "Lush and Shee." "Lush and Shee!" said a bystander; "that is the old toast of 'Wine and woman.'"