proved if the claimant had boiled his own pot within its boundaries for the required period—*wall* meaning to boil. The "pot-wallopers," with many other electoral anomalies, were abolished by the passing of the great Reform Bill; but a cognate abuse, that of "faggot-voting," survives in some constituencies. What "faggot-votes" are is too well known to need explanation. The name is probably taken from an old military term, "fagots," defined in Bailey's "Dictionary" as "ineffective persons who receive no regular pay, but are hired to appear at muster and fill up the companies." The word is also familiar to lawyers, "faggot-briefs" being those bundles of dummy papers sometimes carried by the briefless ones, with much the same object as Mr. Bob Sawyer had in view when he sent out his pills and other medicaments to imaginary customers and had himself hastily and repeatedly called out of church, while the service was proceeding, to attend patients. Another election term, which will not be so common in the future as it has been in the past, is the expression to "plump," and its opposite to "split." With the increase of single-membered constituencies these phrases must fall into disuse, and a "floater" will no longer be able to say with Mr. Chubb, in "Felix Holt":—"I'll plump or I'll split for them as treat me the handsomest and are the most of what I call gentlemen; that's my idee." The worthy landlord of the Sugar Loaf had a simple political test—"And in the way of hacting for any man, them are fools that don't employ me." This easy way of looking at things has not been altogether unknown even at Westminster itself, among both parties alike—the "ins" and the "outs." These expressions are of a respectable age; Goldsmith uses them in "The Good Natured Man." "Who am I?" cries Lofty, in the fifth act of that charming comedy. "Was it for this I have been dreaded both by ins and outs? Have I been libelled in the 'Gazetteer,' and praised in the 'St. James's'?"

There are many slang terms connected with parliamentary history and practice. Each new reform bill revives our old friend "gerrymander"—a word that has given a rather unenviable kind of immortality to the name of Elbridge Gerry. Gerry was one of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence, and was in office as Vice-President of the United States at the time of his death, in 1814; but it was while he held the post of Governor of Massachusetts, a few years before this date, that the unlucky word "gerrymander" was invented. The Democrats, with a majority in both Houses of the State Legislature, elected Gerry as governor, and then proceeded to so manipulate the boundaries of the electoral districts as to ensure the return of their party to power at the next election, and the disgraceful act received the official approval of the subservient governor. The editor of one of the opposition journals had a map hung in his room, whereon all the towns in one of these new districts were carefully coloured. A painter friend who looked at the map noticed the extraordinary shape of the district, and adding a few touches with a pencil, declared that the thing would do for a salamander. "Salamander?" cried the editor. "Call it *Gerrymander*." The word thus strangely called into existence has since been widely used on both sides of the Atlantic.

A Coalition Government in the last century was known by the apt nickname of the "Broad Bottom." Walpole, writing to Mann in 1741, says: "The Tories declare against any further prosecution—if Tories there are, for now one hears of nothing but the Broad Bottom; it is the reigning cant word, and means the taking all parties and people indifferently into the Ministry." John Bright invented another apt phrase when he dubbed the seceders from the Reform Party "Adullamites." Parliamentary tactics have naturally given birth to many slang phrases. To "rush a bill" is an expression well known in the American Senate, and occasionally also used here. To "hang up a bill" is to pass it through one or more of its stages and then to lay it aside and defer its further consideration for a more or less indefinite period. "Lobbying" is a process familiar to members. "Log-rolling" is a somewhat rare term in England, but is well understood at Washington. When a backwoodsman cuts down a tree his neighbours help him to roll it away, and in return he helps them with their trees; so in Congress, when members support a bill, not because they are interested therein, but simply to gain the help of its promoters for some scheme of their own, their action is called "log-rolling." Another American importation is "bunkum," a word generally used to signify empty, frothy declamation. It is said to be derived from the action of a speaker who, persisting in talking to an empty house, said he was speaking to Buncombe, the name of the place in North Carolina which he represented.

The word "platform," when used for the programme of a political party, is often classed as an Americanism, but it is really a revival of the use of the word that was very common in English literature in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, though less common, perhaps, as a noun than as a verb, meaning to lay down principles. For instance, Milton, in his "Reason of Church Government," says that some "do not think it for the ease of their inconsequent opinions to grant that Church discipline is platformed in the Bible, but that it is left to the discretion of men." A word that has been a good deal used of late years in connection with politics is "fad." It has hardly yet found its way into the dictionaries, but "fads" are many, and "faddists" and and "fadmongers" abound. Mr. Sala has suggested that the word is a "corruption of 'faddle,' to dandle—in French, *dorloter*. A 'faddist' is continually dandling and caressing his fad.'" This seems a trifle farfetched. It is more probably a contraction of "fidfad," a word that has been long in use with much the same meaning as "fad." Edward Moore, writing in "The World" in 1754, applies the word to a very precise person—"The youngest, who thinks in her heart that her sister is no better than a slattern, runs into the contrary extreme, and is, in everything she does, an absolute fidfad." From "fidfad" in this sense to the modern "fad" and "faddist" is not a very violent transition. The tendency to abbreviation is very general. The common parliamentary word "whip" is of course a contraction of "whipper-in." Dickens in "Sketches by Boz" tells us how "Sir Somebody Something, when he was whipper-in for the Government, brought four men out of their beds to vote in the majority, three of whom died on their way home again." The phrase the "massacre of the innocents," as applied to the abandonment of useful measures at the close of a session from lack of time for their discussion, was first used by "The Times" in 1859.

AN important change has just been adopted by the trustees of the British Museum. For some years back the National Library has increased to such an extent that the disposition of the books has become a serious difficulty to the authorities. There is still so much crowding that in a very short time the state of the library will necessitate the building of a new wing, unless other means are devised to obviate the difficulty. The scheme which has now been considered by the trustees, and has received their sanction, is one for the introduction of movable presses into the library. It provides additional shelf accommodation to meet the wants of the library for about fifty years to come.