

thing very indecent and improper. Thus, a violent attack on a woman's chastity is called very ridiculous behavior, and an ill-conducted house may be described as a very ridiculous one.

*Rind* as a noun is invariably used to denote the bark of a tree and as a verb to strip it off. The word *bark* on the other hand is only used as a noun to denote the tan which the fisherman applies to his net and sails, and as a verb to denote such an application of it. Thus he will say, "I have been getting some juniper or black spruce *rind* to make tan *bark*," or "I have been *barking* my net or sails," meaning that he has been applying the tannin extract to them.

One of the most singular peculiarities however of the dialect of Newfoundland, is the use of the word *room* to denote the whole premises of a merchant, planter, or fisherman. On the principal harbors, the land on the shore was granted in small plots measuring so many yards in front, and running back two or three hundred yards with a lane between. Each of these allotments was called a *room*, and according to the way in which it was employed, was known as a merchant's room, a planter's room, or a fisherman's room. Thus we will hear of Mr. M's. upper room, his lower room or his beach room, or we have Mr. H.'s room, the place where he does business, at Labrador. One of these places descending from father to son will be called a family room.

*Shall*, probably the same as *shell*, but we find it as *shale* used by older writers. Johnson defines it as "a husk, the case of seeds in siliquous plants," quoting Shakspeare's line "leaving them but the shales and husks of men," and Halliwell gives it as a noun meaning "a husk" and as a verb "to husk or shell as peas."

The word *skipper* is in universal use and so commonly applied, as almost to have lost its original meaning of master of a small vessel. It is used toward every person whom one wishes to address with respect, and is almost as common as "Mr." is elsewhere. Generally the christian name is used after it, as skipper Jan, skipper Kish. In like manner the word *uncle* is used without regard to relationship. In a community every respectable man of say sixty years of age will be so called by all the other people in it.

*Smoochin*, hair-oil, or pomade. A young man from abroad, commencing as clerk in an establishment at one of the outposts, was puzzled by an order for a "pen'orth of smoochin." The verb *smooch* is also used as equivalent to smutch, to blacken or defile. We may hear such