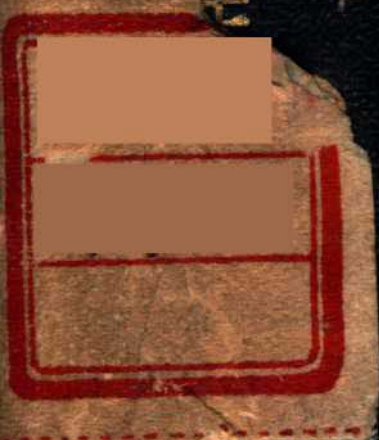


DICTIONARY
OF
IDIOMATIC
ENGLISH
PHRASES

TRANSLATED
INTO
CHINESE

英
漢
成
語
辭



THE COMMERCIAL
LTD.

英漢成語辭林敘

夫質言抽思之謂筆斧藻彌縟之謂文筆之運用在心文之炳蔚在辭英人 Giles 著中國文學史其立論以爲中國文學辭多筆尠雖官府告示猶作韻語因有 Wall Literature 之誚吾讀此疑英之文人知有筆而不知有辭所作篇章當盡如元明間摹仿時代 (Imitation age) 之一派是固易治耳既而博覽其詩書則又不然縱如至古之 Beowulf 之詩歌已有 hurly-burly 之語 Alred 之史記亦用 Bosomful 之詞蓋國種進化以至於能用文字則其程度已爲極高人之情感亦愈纏綿往復而不易達其聰明睿智高出於儕輩者有所欲云則託譬以成章或互文而見誼用能達思表之纖旨傳文外之曲致此無東西一也且以英之文字形聲合一文言口說無所區畫也不獨文言用辭口說亦用辭辭也者大抵文自古出而或九家者流百技之人取其所習成一駢言以相會意常人聞之往往奧衍迂曲而不可以常解通彼之承學之士旣難之矣而況於他國之人甄類析疑斷賴辭典昔南海

鄭其照初有成語字典之作一時學者珍爲鴻寶
顧其照所輯多本於美英美德雖同文而先民所傳
謠俗所誦未必盡同也以甲國之人學乙國之語
道莫善於翻譯而其書之爲此而作者則莫善於
雙體並列其照著書自憙而已未嘗用意及此故
書中不列華釋以此言之是書之遺憾多矣近者
英人 Dixon 教授日本見東方人士頗有味乎彼國
文字而文學一科無辭典以爲之助也因著 Dic-
tionary of Idiomatic Phrase 若干卷上自經典下至里
巷談諧之詞凡世所習用者甄采靡遺復一一載
其全句註其出處誠辭典之大觀也南海陳君取
而譯之書成復就正於顏進士惠慶經始逾歲始
克成書博綜翔實悉如原本吾知此書一出講方
言者無慮撐黎不識貽譏方聞讀之既可引以析
疑亦可據爲辭料也或謂博洽當求識字識字當
知訓詁訓詁之學求諸字典而已足矣何必此則
應之曰字典之所引主於轉註假借之用皆釋詁
類也辭林之所引主於造情比景之義皆釋言類
也如客之言則我國韻府騁字諸書可以不作而
何爲句膏挹馥至今不廢也哉他日治道日張從
事於盎格羅文以勤求其道術者將益盛則必有
踵韻府騁字之意而大爲之者此書所以導也無
錫孫毓修

英漢成語辭林

DICTIONARY

OF

ENGLISH IDIOMS

ABA

A

A

A. 1 — first-class, very good (F.), 上上; 頭等, 絕妙, 無上上品 (常).

A. 1 at Lloyd's is the term applied to a vessel of the best construction, and in the best condition for sailing. Lloyd's Coffee-house in London was the resort of sea-captains, and the name is still retained for the head-quarters of the shipping interest in London. Here people get the latest shipping intelligence and transact marine insurances.

建造至堅美, 行駛至利便之船, 作此稱謂, 英國倫敦, 有一咖啡館, 名曰來德咖啡館, 凡各船主俱集於是, 迄今倫敦航業公所尚仍此名, 船務消息此處最為靈通, 洋面保險交易, 亦多於此成事,

One of them takes his five pints of ale a day, and never leaves off smoking even at his meals.

其中有一人, 每日飲淡色酒五斤, 雖餐食時亦吸煙不輟. 'He must be a first-rater,' said Sam. 'A. 1,' replied Mr. Roker. 阿三曰, 彼必係一酒豪, 洛克先生曰, 無上上之酒豪也.

Dickens.

Aback

To take aback — to surprise or astonish (P.), 嚇一跳; 驕地一嚇 (文).

Originally a sea-phrase; used when the sails were suddenly shifted in order to stop the vessel or give it a backward motion.

此語初為航海人通用, 忽然轉帆, 使船停駛, 或使船退後, 皆用此語.

When news came that his wife had not been there, he was quite taken aback (surprised).

忽聞其妻未曾至是處, 乃喫一大驚.

Abide

To abide by—to fulfil, to refuse to depart from, to carry out (P.), 遵守; 不可須臾離, 奉行, 服從 (文).

Above

Above-board—openly, without trickery (C.), 坦白; 開心見誠, 爾無我詐我無爾虞 (談).

The man who cheats at cards keeps his hands under the table or board.

凡鬭牌欺人者, 其手常在檯下.

It is the part also of an honest man to deal *above-board* (openly) and without tricks.

公道人分派紙牌必坦白無私.

L'Estrange.

Also used in the sense of 'without concealment or shame.'

此語亦作公然, 當衆, 或不愧不怍之謂.

Now-a-days villanies are owned *above-board*.

晚近作歹事, 竟當衆直陳, 不以爲愧.

South.

Exp. At present villanies are owned *without shame*.

註. 今世作歹事者, 明認而不以爲恥.

Abraham

To sham Abraham—to feign sickness or distress (S.), 冒爲乞丐; 詐病裝窮 (俚).

An Abraham-man in England was a 'licensed' beggar, who on account of mental weakness had been placed in the Abraham Ward of Bethlehem Hospital, and was allowed on certain days to go begging. Numerous impostors took advantage of this privilege.

英國伯利恆醫院內, 有一亞伯拉罕館, 凡羸弱者留養於此, 有定期准其人出而行乞, 乃作僞之徒往往冒享此項權利.

I have heard people say

That sham Abraham you may,

But you mustn't sham Abraham Newland.

我聞人言凡人可以詐病裝窮, 惟是切不可假冒亞伯拉罕紐蘭.

From an old Song.

Exp. I have heard people say that you may *impose on people by a tale of distress*, but you must not impose on Abraham Newland (who was cashier to the Bank of England and signed its notes. This of course would be a penal offence).

註. 據我所聞, 詐病裝窮, 未嘗不可, 惟切勿冒簽亞伯拉罕紐蘭名字 (亞伯拉罕紐蘭者英國國家銀行之司庫員, 所有該行鈔票, 歸伊簽發, 若冒其名字, 則罪大矣).

Abroad

All abroad—in a state of perplexity (F.), 瞀亂; 茫無所知 (常).

The female boarder in black attire looked so puzzled, and, in fact, "*all abroad*" (perplexed after the delivery of this "counter" of mine, that I left her to recover her wits, and went on with the conversation.

衣黑衣之旅居女士,頗覺其不知所措,蓋彼收到我之帳單,竟至皆亂,於是我顧左右而言他,俾彼得以定其心神。

Holmes.

Abroad

The school-master is abroad—good education is spreading everywhere (P.), 大行其道;正學昌明,教育普及(文).

Let the soldier be abroad if he will, he can do nothing in this age. There is another personage, a personage less imposing in the eyes of some, perhaps insignificant. *The school-master is abroad*, and I trust to him, armed with his primer, against the soldier in full military array.

當今之世,英雄無用武之地,設欲大行其道,不妨好自爲之,乃有人焉,藐爾不甚動人,而教育普及,所持者,蒙學書與身被戎裝者爭衡於世,然而我所仰賴者彼耳。

Lord Brougham.

Act

To act a part—to behave hypocritically, to carry out designs under a false cloak (P.), 別有用意;虛與委蛇,優孟衣冠(文).

Your friend is either a fool, or he is acting a part.

貴友苟非蠢物,即係別有用意。

Exp. Your friend is either a fool, or he is *behaving insincerely and carrying out some design of his own.*

註. 貴友或係蠢物,否則祇是虛與委蛇,別有深謀,隱而不露。

Act of God—an event which cannot be prevented by any human foresight, but is the result of uncontrollable natural forces, *e.g.*, when a ship is struck by lightning and destroyed (P.), 天意;人所不能預防之事,乃天然勢力所致,初非人力可以挽救,即如船隻被雷火焚燬及颶風毀傷之類(文).

The act of God, fire, and all the dangers and accidents of the sea are not accepted as ordinary risks.

所有天降火災,及海面一切意外險事,不能按常價承受保險。

To act up to a promise or profession—to behave in a suitable way, considering what promises or profession one has made; to fulfil them (P.), 守信;言顧行,行顧言,踐言,實行(文).

Religious people must be very careful to act up to (not to fall below) the high standard of conduct which they proclaim to others.

傳教之士以善導人，務須踐行所言以符名實。

Ad

Ad avizandum—into further consultation and consideration (C.). A Scottish legal phrase [Latin], 再商量；從長計議(談)。蘇格蘭法律之通用名詞[拉丁]。

Meanwhile I shall take your proposal *ad avizandum* (consider your proposal more carefully).

我暫時且將尊擬從長計議。

Ad libitum—as much as you please, to any extent [Latin], 予取予攜；取之無禁，無限[拉丁]。

You are allowed bread *ad libitum* at French hotel.

在法國旅館，隨量食麵，包沒無限制。

Ad valorem—according to the value (P.) [Latin], 估價；按照價值(文)。[拉丁]。

An *ad valorem* duty of 5 p. c. is imposed on all goods coming into Japan.

一切輸入日本之貨物，按照價值每百抽五。

Adam

Adam's ale or Adam's wine—pure water (C.), 清水(談)。

Some take a glass of porter to their dinner, but I slake my mouth with Adam's wine.

用膳時有飲酒者，我祇以清水潤喉。

Exp. Some take a glass of porter to their dinner, but I drink only pure water.

註：用膳時有飲酒者，我則祇飲清水而已。

Son of Adam—a man (C.), 盤古苗裔；圓顙方趾(談)。

But as all sons of Adam must have something or other to say to the rest, and especially to his daughters, this little village carried on some commerce with the outer world.

譬之圓顙方趾者，不能不與同類交接，而婦女爲尤甚，雖此藐爾鄉村，於大千世界亦有商務往來。 *Blackmore.*

Exp. But as all men need to have friendly intercourse with other men and especially with other women, this little village, though very retired, carried on some dealings with the outer world.

註：譬之天下大勢，必與同類作交際往來，至於與婦女晉接，更不可少，所以此村雖僻處一隅，而於斯世亦有若干往來酬酢也。

Affaire

Affaire du cœur—a love affair. A French phrase, 情事；男女相悅之事(法成)。

Afternoon

An afternoon farmer—one who loses the best time for work, a lazy dilatory man (F.), 惰農; 失晨雞, 一事無成, 虛度韶光之人 (常).

John was too much of an afternoon farmer to carry on the business successfully.

約翰太覺虛度韶光, 所以不能成事.

Exp. John's habits were too dilatory for him to succeed in the business.

註: 約翰賦性太懶, 所以不能有成.

Agog

All agog—in a state of activity or restless expectation (F.), 興不可遏; 舉國若狂 (常).

So three doors off the chaise was stayed,

Where they did all get in;

Six precious souls, and all agog

To dash through thick and thin.

於是距三月之遠, 即便停車, 伊等乃超乘而上, 一家六口, 如醉如狂, 任意馳驅.

Couper.

Exp. Six precious souls are very eager to dash through every obstacle.

註: 一家六口, 興不可遏, 不顧晴雨夷險.

Airs

To give one's self airs—to be conceited or arrogant in behaviour (C.), 使氣; 盛氣陵人 (談).

'And these girls used to hold their heads above mine, and their mother used to give herself such airs,' said Mrs. Baynes.

此輩女子妄自尊大, 其母亦盛氣陵人. *Thackeray.*

Exp. And these girls used to think themselves superior to me, and their mother used to be so haughty in her behaviour.

註: 此輩女子自以爲遠出我上, 其母性亦驕傲.

All

On all fours—using both hands and feet in progression (P.), 匍匐; 手足並行 (文).

He looked up and beheld what he judged, by the voice, to be Mrs. Armytage; her face was averted from him, and kept close to the cliff, down which she had been proceeding backward, and on all fours (using hands as well as feet), until fear and giddiness had checked her progress.

彼仰視而見其身, 聆其音, 酷肖阿媚娣子夫人, 以面向巖, 不能睹其顏色, 匍匐退後, 迨昏怯交集而後止焉. *J. Payn.*

All in all—(a) completely, wholly. (b) the dearest object of affection (P.), 十足; 全, 最得意, 情好甚篤 (文).

Trust me not at all or *all in all* (entirely).

不可全倚賴我。

Tennyson.

Desdemona, a happy young wife, till a wicked enchanter's breath suddenly wraps her in a dark cloud, is *all in all* to (intensely loved and admired by) her husband.

帝士地滿娜之爲妻也，妙齡多樂，夫婿遇之，情好甚篤，後爲某術士所弄，如墮入五里霧中。 Blackwood's Magazine.

All in my eye and Betty Martin—nonsense, not to be believed (S.). Found in the contracted form, *all in my eye*. A corruption of the commencement of a Latin prayer, 'O mihi, beate Martine,' 荒謬；胡說，無稽(俚)。(拉丁文之轉音)。

'Your neighbour is about to sell his property and leave the country.' 'That's *all in my eye and Betty Martin* (I don't believe it).'

爾鄰將盡變其產，離開此地，但我不之信。

Says he, 'It really draws tears from me,' and his weak eye took to lettin' off its water; so as soon as the chap went, he winks to me with t'other one, quite knowin', as much as to say, 'You see it's all in my eye, Slick, but don't let on to any one about it, that I said so.'

其病眼有水流出，乃言曰，實足以使我流淚矣，然一俟其人行後，則以其餘一目遞我以眼色，其意若曰，士烈此不過無稽之言，爾應知之，但不可爲外人道，謂我如是云云。

Haliburton.

Exp. He said 'It really draws tears from me,' and his weak eye began to let off its water; so as soon as the man went, he winked to me with the other one, quite slyly, as if to say, 'You see its all humbug, Slick, but do not tell any one about it, that I said so.'

註。其病眼有水流出，乃言曰，此真足以令我流淚矣，然一俟其人行後，則以其餘一目鬼鬼崇崇遞我以眼色，其意若曰，士烈此不過無稽之談，爾應知之，但不可爲外人道我云然。

All serene—very good, all right, I agree to it. At one time a popular street cry in London (S.), 的的確確；好極，甚是，我亦謂然(俚)。(此乃倫敦之街談巷語，曩昔頗多稱之者)。

'You will meet me to-night at the railway station, and bring me the money.' 'All serene (Yes, I shall meet you and bring the money).'

爾今晚期我於車站，並將該款攜來與我，答曰好極(蓋即謂我將期汝於彼處，並攜該款與汝)。

All there—clever, able, possessing quick faculties (C.), 聰明，能幹，麻利，有急才(談)。

Our friend the judge is all there, I can tell you, and knows what he is about.

我敢語汝,吾友訊官,聰明人也,能自知其所爲。

Exp. Our friend the judge is a clever man, I assure you, and fully understands how best to act.

註 我實告爾,吾友訊官,乃聰明之人,應如何做法,方爲盡善,彼悉能知之。

Alma

Alma mater—nourishing mother; a name often applied to a university by its graduates (P.) [Latin], 血地; 保姆,出身之所(文)。[拉丁](大學堂學生卒業後,稱所從出學堂之詞)。

Alter

Alter ego—one who is very near and dear to a person, an inseparable friend (P.) [Latin], 形影不離; 莫逆,一人之交(文)。[拉丁]。

I am his *alter ego*—nay, he only sees what I choose to show him, and through the spectacles, as it were, that I place on the bridge of his nose.

我乃伊之莫逆友也,伊目不他視,必我所擇而示之者,始一注目,此時必用眼鏡,而是鏡又卽我親架於伊鼻上者也。

J. Payn.

Amour

Amour propre—self esteem (P.). A French phrase, 自尊; 自重(文)(法成)。

You should not call her 'child;' it wounds her *amour propre* (sense of personal dignity).

彼女子性好自尊,爾不應以孩子呼之,致傷其志。

Angel

To entertain an angel unawares—to be hospitable to a guest whose good qualities are unknown. See the Bible, Genesis, XVIIIth chapter, for the origin of the phrase (P.), 肉眼不識賢人; 有眼不識泰山,款嘉賓而不知其令德(文)。(此典本於聖經)。

He had always esteemed his sister; but as he now confessed to himself, for these many years he had *been entertaining an angel unawares* (not known how very good a woman she was).

彼平日愛重其姊妹,惟據其自陳,則數年以來竟不知其賢淑,一至於此,真所謂有眼不識泰山矣。

J. Payn.

Angels' visits—pleasant visits, occurring very rarely (P.), 神仙下降; 惠然肯來,難得之良覲,翩然而來(文)。

How fading are the joys we dote upon,
Like apparitions seen and gone;
But those which soonest take their flight
Are the most exquisite and strong;
Like angels' visits, short and bright,
Mortality's too weak to bear them long.

願暮年之樂，果何常兮，幻景小瞬而即逝，慨所逝之尤速兮，
多強壯而精細，若仙馭之偶降兮，不肯爲凡夫而滯。

John Morris.

In visits

Like those of angels, short and far between.

其來也若神仙之下降，可暫而不可久，且不可多觀。

Blair.

The Angel of the schools or The Angelic Doctor—a name given to Thomas Aquinas, the great scholastic philosopher (P.), 哲學名儒；當代儒宗(文)(時人稱哲學大儒湯馬氏阿堅那士之號)。

Apple of Sodom—a specious thing, which disappoints (P.), 杭州柑；金玉其外敗絮其中，令人敗興之寶物(文)。

The so-called 'apples of Sodom,' as described by Josephus, had a fair appearance externally, but when bitten dissolved in smoke and dust. 約瑟法士所述所多馬蘋果，其外觀甚美，入口化爲埃塵。

It will prove when attained, a very apple of Sodom dying between the hand and the mouth.

及其得也方知其爲所多馬蘋果，剛到口即泯沒矣。

Like to the apples on the Dead Sea shore

All ashes to the taste.

即如死海濱之蘋果，嚼之味若塵土。

Byron.

Apple of one's eye—a much-prized treasure (P.), 睛；至寶，掌上珠(文)。

I have kept her as *the apple of my eye* (my dearest treasure), and she runs away from me to you.

我待之如掌上明珠，竟棄我而奔汝。

Poor Richard was to me as an eldest son, the apple of my eye.

苦李直之於我猶如我之冢子，洵爲掌上之珠。 Scott.

To make apple-pie beds—to fold one of the sheets of a bed (removing the other) so as to make it impossible for the intending occupant to stretch his legs—a common practical joke (P.), 雙摺被單(文)(此乃數見不鮮之惡作劇，其法乃雙摺他人之被單，使睡時不得直伸其足)。

Apple

No boy in any school could have more liberty, even where all the noblemen's sons are allowed to make *apple-pie beds* for their masters (disarrange the beds of their teachers).

雖則貴介子弟,得以搗亂教員牀上被單,而館中學童欲求自由,決不可多得。

Apple of discord—something which causes strife (P.)
禍水;釁端,厲階(文)。

Eris, the goddess of hate, throw a golden apple among the goddesses, with this inscription attached 'to the most beautiful.' Three goddesses claimed the prize and quarrelled over its possession—Hera, Pallas and Aphrodite (Venus). Paris, son of Priam, was appointed arbiter, and decided in favour of the last.

令人交惡之神曰,伊利氏以金蘋果一枚,擲於羣仙之中,號於衆曰,其尤美者得之,於是有仙女三人,曰熙蘭,曰百麗氏,曰雅敷羅娣者,爭得此果,以致交鬭,厥後公舉仙人滿里恆之子巴禮爲公正人,判定此案,以蘋果屬雅氏焉(按雅氏即風姨也)。

Not Cythera (Venus) from a fairer swain

Received her apple on the Trojan plain.

在多羅仁平原得蘋果者,非復靚妝而妙齡之風姨也。

Falconer.

This spoon of the dead sister was quite an *apple of discord* (the cause of many quarrels).

此銀匙死物耳,顧令人相爭者,何其多也。

This great and wealthy church constantly formed an *apple of discord* (a subject of quarrel).

此廟嘗爲豐裕之大禮拜堂,不時起人之爭競。 Freeman.

Apple-pie order—extreme neatness (C.), 有條不紊;層次井然,井井有條(談)。

Dolly was anxious to have everything in *apple-pie order* (neatly arranged) before the squire should visit her.

某顯者未來之前,陶禮先行收拾各物,使之層次井然。

The children's garden is in *apple-pie order*.

小兒女之花園井井有條。

Leckhart.

Apropos des bottes—having no connection with the previous conversation (C.). A French phrase, 不接頭;不知頭緒,七搭八搭,牛頭不對馬嘴(談)(法成)。

The secretary, however, was not the man to own himself vanquished, even in anecdote, but at once began to descant (very much *apropos des bottes* [without any connection or apparent cause], as it seemed) upon a curious Anglo-French marriage case that had that day appeared in the newspapers.

該書記員,以無所不能自負,即稱述故事,亦不願居於人下,有一次衆方說一舊事,伊不願題旨,即據本日報章所載,英法人結婚新聞,手舞足蹈,當場演說。

J. Payn.

Arm

Arm in arm—walking in friendly fashion with arms linked (P.), 攜手同行; 把臂, 交臂 (文).

It was an agreeable surprise to her, therefore, to perceive them walking up to the house together, arm in arm.

兩人攜手同行, 共趨其家, 伊見之殊爲喜出望外.

Mrs. Oliphant.

Under arms—bearing arms, in martial array (P.), 備戰; 張弓以待, 磨礪以須, 弓上弦刀出鞘 (文).

In a moment the troops were *under arms* (in battle array).

俄頃間, 各兵士均備戰矣.

Robertson.

To bear arms—to serve as a soldier (P.), 從戎; 敵愾, 執干戈 (文).

He was condemned for *bearing arms* (fighting) against the king.

伊倒戈以向國王, 故爲人所唾罵.

Stand to your arms!—place yourself in readiness for fighting! (P.), 軍中備戰之口令 (文).

(There was) no cry of 'Stand to your arms!' or other notices expressive of danger near at hand.

當時無備戰之口令, 又無大敵當前之報告.

Gleig.

Up in arms—roused to anger, ready to fight (P.), 揮拳; 激怒, 激鬪, 預備用武 (文).

'No,' said Kate, now *fairly up in arms* (really angry and rebellious), 'it is not just, papa.'

閨弟怒甚, 幾有用武之意, 曰不然, 父親如此, 殊不公道.

Mrs. Oliphant.

Arrière

Arrière pensée—hidden motive (P.). A French phrase, 叵測; 城府, 陰險 (文) (法成).

You may be sure I had no *arrière pensée* in giving you this advice.

我爲爾盡忠告, 須知我並無城府.

Art

To be or have art and part in—to be concerned either in the contrivance or execution of (P.), 有關涉; 同謀, 與列 (文).

'My dear,' said she, 'it's the foolery of being Governor; if you choose to sacrifice all your comfort to being the first rung in the ladder, don't blame me for it I didn't nominate you; *I had no art nor part in it* (was wholly unconcerned in contriving or carrying out your nomination).'

彼之言曰, 我所親愛之夫君, 此煩惱皆由作無謂之督撫而來, 君既自願居萬人之上, 寧犧牲一切幸福, 我本未選舉及爾, 不能怪我也.

Haliburton.

Athenian	<p>The Athenian Bee—a name given to Plato, the great Athenian philosopher, 哲學名儒(亞芬時國大哲學家拍拉圖之稱號).</p>
Attic	<p>Attic salt—wit or refined pleasantry (P.), 佳趣談諧(文)</p> <p>Triumph swam in my father's eyes, at the repartee, the Attic salt brought water into them.</p> <p>我父見其對答如流,喜極而涕. Sterne.</p> <p><i>Exp.</i> My father showed triumph in his eyes at the repartee: it was so charmingly witty that it brought tears of pleasure to them.</p> <p>註. 我父見其對答如流,眼中大有得意之色,因此事頗有佳趣,故不覺樂極而涕.</p>
Augean	<p>The Attic Bee—a name given to Sophocles, the great Greek dramatist (P.), 詞人(文)(希臘詞曲家蘇夫可羅氏之稱號).</p> <p>To cleanse the Augean stables—to perform a great work of purification (P.). Augeas was a fabulous king of Elis, who imposed on Hercules the task of cleansing his stables, where 2000 oxen had lived for 30 years, without any purification. Hercules performed this task in one day, 大加畚除(文)(相傳伊利士國王阿智亞士,養牛二千頭,垂三十年而牛欄從未打掃,罰其臣何可魯氏爲之畚除,而何可魯氏竟能於一日之內蕆其事).</p> <p>If the <i>Augean stable</i> (sink of dramatic impurity) was not sufficiently cleansed the stream of public opinion was fairly directed against its conglomerated impurities.</p> <p>倘若此種污物,不大加畚除,恐輿論所在,實不能容此穢穢也. Scott.</p>
Augustan	<p>The Augustan age—the period of highest purity and refinement in any national literature (P.) So called from the Emperor Augustus, under whose rule Virgil and Horace wrote their immortal works, 文字極盛時代(文)(阿加士敦皇帝之時,衛智魯及何禮士二人之不朽盛業,皆成於其時).</p> <p>The reign of Queen Anne is often called the Augustan age of England.</p> <p>安女王之世,即英國文字極盛時代.</p>

Aut

Aut Cæsar aut nullus—either Cæsar or nobody (P.)
[Latin], 寧爲雞口毋爲牛後; 寧獨偷一狗毋
共偷一牛(文)[拉丁].

I mean to be *aut Cæsar aut nullus* (either first or nothing at all) in the concern.

我於此項事業, 寧爲雞口, 毋爲牛後.

Axe

An axe to grind—a personal pecuniary interest in a matter (C.), 從中取利; 令人甘爲己用, 諛之令爲己用, 損人利己(談).

The story is told by Franklin, that when he was a boy in his father's yard, a pleasant-spoken man came up to him and made himself very agreeable. Among other things the visitor praised the grindstone, and asked young Franklin to let him see how it worked. He then got the boy to turn the stone, while he sharpened an axe he had with him. The boy was flattered with his compliments and honeyed words, and worked till his hands were blistered. When the man was satisfied he sent the boy off with an oath. That man had an axe to grind—he had a concealed reason for his conduct. All his politeness was prompted by selfish motives.

佛蘭克利幼時, 在其父院中有甘言者, 造其前與之款曲, 所有各物, 無不加意稱譽, 中有一磨石, 因請其推轉, 以開眼界, 於是佛蘭克利立轉其磨, 伊即由身畔取出一斧, 就磨砥礪, 童子無知, 惑其甘言, 竭力轉磨, 兩手生胼, 其人見斧已利, 乃唾罵而麾之使去, 此人有斧待礪, 其所以如是行誣者, 蓋有詭計存於其間, 所謂禮下於人, 必有所求者是也.

In the first place let me assure you, gentlemen, that I have not an axe to grind.....I can in no way be pecuniarily benefited by your adopting the system of bridges herein proposed.

諸君我先請切實聲明, 我並無從中取利之心,現時所擬橋梁辦法, 我有何利可圖耶.

B

Back

To get one's back up—to become roused, angry, and obstinate. A cat when irritated and ready to spit and scratch arches its back, the hair becoming erect (F.), 老虎發威; 發怒, 發脾氣(常)(貓爲人激怒, 欲逞其爪牙之時, 必背聳而毛豎, 此語蓋借用也).

There is no arguing with him, once his back is up.

伊一發威, 則不能與之辨理.

Exp. He becomes quite unreasonable when in a state of irritation.

註. 伊脾氣發作之時, 不可以情勸理喻.

To break the back of—to finish the hardest part of a task (C.), 打破要緊關頭; 難事過半(談).

I always try to *break the back of* (finish the hardest part of) my day's work before breakfast.

未朝食之前,我已將今日最難辦之事,盡力爲之,此後殊易易矣。

To give or make a back—to stoop down, as in the game of leap-frog, that another may jump over you (F.). It is said that Napoleon, who was in the habit of stooping as he walked, was on one occasion used as a 'back' by a volatile student, who mistook the general for one of his companions, 偃僂; 任人從背上跳過, 如兒童跳青蛙之戲(常)(相傳拿破崙好偃僂而行, 有日一頑童見之, 誤以爲同學, 乃從其背上跳過).

The Major was giving a back to Georgy.

大佐偃僂於佐治。

Thackeray.

Exp. The Major was stooping so that Georgy might leap over his back.

註. 大佐鞠躬, 庶佐治可在其背上跳過。

To back the field—(in the language of betting) to bet in favour of the other horses in the field against a single one in particular (C.), 人棄我取; 衆人共指一馬, 決能致勝, 我則決其必敗, 而致勝自在他騎(談)(賭賽之詞).

To back up—to support (C.), 鼎力; 援助, 幫忙(談):

He prolonged Caesar's command and *backed him up* (supported him) in everything.

伊切盼西薩諸事援助。

Froude.

To back out—to retreat cautiously from a difficult position (C.), 規避; 臨陣退縮(談).

(He was) determined that Morris should not back out of the scrape so easily.

伊決定主意, 謂莫立士必不肯輕易退縮。

Scott.

Exp. He was resolved that Morris should not escape from the awkward position they were in so easily.

註. 伊立定主意, 謂伊等所處之境地, 雖至不堪, 然莫立士決不肯輕易罷手。

Backstairs

Backstairs influence — private influence of an unworthy nature, underhand intrigue at court (P.). A 'backstairs minister' is one who is not trusted by the country, but is supported by domestic influence in the king's household. For instance the Earl of Pute was despised as a backstairs minister because he owed his position to the favour of George III's mother, 內援; 夤緣, 蠅營狗苟, 官場中上下其手之事(文)(何謂有內援之大臣, 蓋大臣者, 所賴以經國者也, 乃於王宮之內, 有人乎繆公之側, 故號爲有內援之大臣, 卽如標德侯, 當時以有內援, 爲人所輕, 因其夤緣佐治第三之太后, 以竊爵位故也).

The administration of Swift's friends was hampered by backstairs plots (plots in the household of Queen Anne).

有謀藉內援以擾亂士威夫黨人之政策者.

Bacon

To save one's bacon — to escape from personal injury, generally in an undignified way (F.), 倖免; 幾及於難, 臨難苟免(常)(貶詞).

But as he ran to save his bacon,

By hat and wig he was forsaken.

逃難縱教能倖免, 何堪棄髮與捐冠.

Combe.

Exp. But as he ran to escape bodily hurt, he lost his hat and wig.

註. 當其逃走, 身雖倖免, 然已失去冠髮矣.

To sell one's bacon — to sell one's body (C.), 以身許國; 策名委贄, 致其身(談).

To the Kaiser, therefore, I sold my bacon,

And by him good charge of the whole is taken.

策名委贄於可薩兮(可薩德國皇帝之稱), 惟陛下之所使.

Schiller trans. by Carlyle.

Exp. I therefore sold my body to the Emperor, who takes good care of it and of me.

註. 我於是致身於皇帝, 一身一己, 皆任其處置.

Bad

To go to the bad — to become debauched, to sink into poverty and disgrace (C.), 淪落; 墮落, 墮入下流, 流爲下賤(談)(公卿之後, 淪於輿臺).

(He) went, as the common saying expressively phrases it—to the bad.

誠如俗語所云, 他已淪爲下賤矣(墮入下流, 喪節墮行, 爲衆不齒).

Pall Mall Gazette.

Exp. He became a wreck.

註. 他愈趨愈下.