Cripes! A List of Victorian Vulgarities

Bracket-faced
adj. unattractive, ugly

Cooler
n. a person’s backside

Cupid’s Kettledrums
n. a woman’s breasts

Dirty Puzzle
n. a promiscuous woman

Fumbler
n. an old or impotent man

Flustered
adj. drunk, intoxicated

Gum
n. vulgar, abusive language

Hoydon
n. an uncultured woman

Lickspittle
n. one who uses flattery for positive attention

Mutton-Monger
n. a frequenter of brothels

Nation
n. an abbreviation of "damnation"

Public Ledger
n. a prostitute

Ralph Spooner
n. an idiot, a fool

Squab
n. an overweight man or woman

Thornback
n. an old maid

Whirlygigs
n. a man’s testicles

In Praise of Profanity, Michael Adams offers a provocative, unapologetic defense of profanity, arguing that we’ve oversimplified profanity by labeling it as taboo. Profanity is valuable, even essential, both as a vehicle of communication and an element of style.

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In Praise of Profanity
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