

of legerdemain, now commonly used for any formula of cheating, delusion, or humbug. Crabb ("Gipsies' Advocate," p. 18) says that gypsies pronounce habeas corpus, *hawcus pacous*, a manifest error, as in doing this they simply follow the word for a joke. That it is derived from a burlesque rendering of *hoc est corpus* in the Latin Church-service is a mere bit of conjectural philology. In the Roman tongue *hoc* or *hūk* is the root signifying deceit or falsehood in a very extended sense. "Quite a little family of words has come into English from the gypsy *hoc*, *hocben*, *huckaben*, *hokeny*, and *hooker*, all meaning a lie, deception, and humbug. Mr. Bonar shows us that *hocus*, to bewitch liquor with an opiate, and *hoax* are probably from the same root; and I have no doubt that the expression, 'Yes, with a *hook*,' meaning 'it is false,' comes from the same. 'Hookey' and 'Walker' are of this family" ("The English Gypsies," p. 81). *Hoc* therefore means deceit or delusion, and the English gypsy, like many Hindus, adds *us* in a most arbitrary and irregular manner to any root whatever to make a noun. It is sometimes even affixed to English words, e.g., *side-us*, a side. This gives *hocus*, a pure gypsy word. As *pocus*, it has probably something in common as to its root with "pankey" (*vide* HANKEY-PANKEY), as a certain sleight-of-hand or "substitution" cheat

is called in gypsy *huckeny pou-kee*, or *huckeny pokee*, the latter being the common word. That this is sometimes called *huckeny pokus* or *pocus* anybody can ascertain by asking the first old gypsy whom he may meet. As a proof of the soundness of this derivation, it may be observed that "hokee-pokee" (which is simply *hocus-pocus*, without the gypsy noun-terminal), is common and very old slang, used firstly as a magic formula in juggling, and sometimes in any aggregate of unintelligible words.

Hokey-pokee, winkee fum,
Flibbidee, flobbidee, buskey bum.
—*The King of the Cannibal Islands.*

Hod (American thieves), a mason or builder.

Hod of mortar (rhyming slang), a pot of porter.

Hoe in, to (American University), to work with vigour. French *piocher*.

Hog (popular), half-a-crown.

Two bobs and a half equal one *hog*.—*Punch.*

Old cant for a shilling, also a sixpence.

"Champollion - Figeac, the brother of the famous Champollion, makes in his work on Egypt the following observations: "Also it appears there were (in Egypt) masses of gold bearing another shape than that