

Probably derived from hooking an article out by the fingers, which thence are called *hooks*. Or an abbreviation of *hooker*, old cant for a thief who steals things hanging up in shops by removing them with a hook. Stealing by means of a hook is still practised by a class of French thieves, who call it "vol au boulon" (*vide* Barrère's Argot and Slang). The French popular slang has *croc* (hook) for a thief, though Littré is inclined to believe this is a contraction of *escroc* (swindler). The ancient "hooker" was also called "angler," which corresponds to the Italian cant *pescator*, a thief, literally, a fisherman. Thus the literal hook has served as a metaphor for the English hook, hooker, angler, the French *croc*, and the Italian *pescator*. The German cant has *höcken*, to lie, deceive, swindle, from the gypsy, though some derive it from *höcken*, to higgler, retail; *höke*, a higgler, huckster, which may be traced to *hake*, a hook, pedlars and porters on the continent using a contrivance for carrying their burdens, termed *crochets* (hooks) in French, hence *crocheteur*, a porter.

(Popular), a *hook*, a catch, an advantage; to take one's *hook*. *Vide* HOOK, TO SLING ONE'S.

Hooka-burdar (Anglo-Indian), a servant whose sole duty it was to take care of the master's pipe. As the *hookah* is now a thing of the past, the *burdar*

has also passed away with it into the obsolete, so far as the pipe is concerned.

Hook and eye (tailors), walking arm in arm.

Hooker (old cant), a thief who used to steal articles from shops by means of a hook.

I will take my prince's part against all that shall oppose him, or any of us, according to the best of my ability; nor will I suffer him, or any one belonging to us, to be abused by any strange abrams, ruffies, *hookers*.—*Bampfylde Moore Carew: English Gypsies' Oath.*

(American), a woman of easy virtue, generally one who plies her trade on the streets.

Hookey Walker (popular), go away! be off! Also an ejaculation of incredulity synonymous with "get along with you!" Many origins have been ascribed to this term, which naturally explains itself by its connection with "hook it," *i.e.*, "go away," and "walk away."

Hooking cow (West American), a cow that will show fight, and try to toss the cowboys who are seeking to "cut her out" from the herd. From the English "to hook," said of an ox which tosses one.

One of the former was what is termed a *hooking cow*, and to escape her repeated charges tested all our agility.—*F. Francis: Saddle and Moccasin.*

Hook it, to (common), to run away. *Vide* HOOK, TO SLING ONE'S.