

(Streets), "Who stole the *donkey*?" This was and still is a common street cry in Houndsditch and the other Hebrew quarters of London when a man wearing a white hat makes his appearance. The low Jews had or have a notion that no one but a Christian—and certainly no Jew—ever wears a white hat. They also have a saying that the Founder of Christianity stole the *donkey* on the back of which He rode into Jerusalem. Hence the expression.

(Common), "Three more and up goes the *donkey*," that is, three pennies more and the *donkey* will go up the ladder. This phrase, used by mountebanks to denote that the performance will begin when the sum required is complete, is often said mockingly to a braggart to imply disbelief in accounts of his own wonderful performances.

**Donkey-riding** (popular), cheating in weight and measure.

**Donny** (prison), a woman. From the Italian *dona*.

**Don's week** (tailors), the week before a general holiday.

**Don't go off before you start** (American), a common exhortation to any one not to be in "too precious" or too great a hurry.

Well, hold on now, I'm goin' to tell you. *Don't go off before you start!* as de darkey said to de baulky mule.—*Brudder Bones*.

**Doodle-dasher** (low), one who practises onanism; *doodle* is the penis.

**Dookering** (gypsies), fortune-telling; from *doorkit*, to prophesy.

**Dookie** (theatrical), a penny show or unlicensed theatre, usually fitted up in a large room or a cellar in a populous neighbourhood. The eminent tragedian, Charles Dillon, emerged from one of these in his youth, and handsome Conway, once the spoiled child of fashion, admired and idolised by the belles of Bath—notably by Madame Piozzi (Johnson's Mrs. Thrale)—found a temporary refuge at one of them when driven from the patent theatres by the brutal persecution of "that ferocious literary ruffian, Theodore Hook" (Byron). There are three or four performances a night at a *dookie*, and the audience is usually composed of juvenile harlots and thieves. Many of these places of resort still flourish at the East End.

**Dookin-cove**, a fortune-teller; from the gypsy *dookering* or *dukkerin*, telling fortunes.

**Door nail, dead as a**. *Vide* DEAD AS A TENT PEG.

**Door steps** (Whitechapel slang), slices of bread and butter. "I say, guvnor, give us a pennorth of weak and two *door steps*."