

The nights are spent at a poker game,
 He speaks of the ballet as something
 tame,
 And with jibe and joke, these racy men
 Refer to the season that brings his *hen*,
 And pleasures flee.
 —*Hollis W. Field.*

Hen-convention (popular), an assemblage of women at which no man is present. Also "hen-party."

Hen-frigate (nautical), a ship in which the captain's wife plays a domineering part, "wears the breeches."

Hen-house (old), a house for soldiers' wives.

Hens and chickens (thieves), explained by quotation.

The *hens and chickens* of the low lodging-houses are the publicans' pewter measures; the bigger vessels are *hens*, the smaller *chickens*.—*Mayhew: London Labour and the London Poor.*

Called also "cats and kittens."

Herder (American). In the West, a white man who has charge of a gang of Chinese.

I found large gangs of Chinamen at work in different places, in charge of a white man who was called the *herder*. This job is not always a happy one, although it is well paid, for the Chinamen who work on railroads are the very scum of China, wharf-rats from Hong-Kong, and are evil and desperate. Consequently it is no uncommon thing for a *herder* to get killed or badly beaten by them.—*M. Roberts: The Western Avernus.*

(American cowboys), baby *herder*, a nurse.

Herdic (American), a carriage for public conveyance, something like a small omnibus. They were invented and brought into use by a Mr. Herdic of Pennsylvania, whence the name. They are now common in most American cities.

Honest men, like needles in hay-mounds, are hard to find, but we have one in our midst, and his name is Joseph Carroll, driver of private *herdic*.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Hereford (American cowboy), white.

A white shirt he calls a *Hereford* shirt because Hereford cattle have white faces. Similarly calls anything *Hereford* that is white; for example, *Hereford* dishes and *Hereford* hats. Carrying this fancy still further, a "white" man is known as a *Hereford* man.—*Philadelphia Press.* (*C. Leland Harrison: MS. Americanisms.*)

Here's luck (tailors), I don't believe it.

Hermaphrodite or **morfydite schooner** (nautical) is square rigged, but without a top forward, and schooner rigged abaft; carrying only fore-and-aft sails on the mainmast; in other phrase, she is a vessel with a brig's foremast and a schooner's mainmast (Admiral Smyth).

Herring (American), all bad, all alike. Hence the later expression "sardine," applied to a man who is exactly like all his associates, a narrow-minded, average sort of person, who has been packed away as it were among others.