

The Muldoon Theory.

A California correspondent not long ago furnished a plausible theory respecting the genesis of the term "hoodlum," that mysterious word which has perplexed, yet fascinated, philologists ever since it began to pass current. According to his argument, the word was derived from the name of one Muldoon, who, if we remember rightly, wrote a series of aggressive articles for a San Francisco newspaper, and for a signature adopted an anagram reversing the letters of his name—thus: Noodlum. By a typographical error an h was substituted for the initial u. The liquid melody of this novel combination of vowels and consonants captivated the public ear, and, deriving significance from the character of the articles to which it was originally attached, it gradually came to be a synonyme for a certain type of recklessness and depravity peculiar to the Pacific coast. The Muldoon theory, we observe, like most other theories involving important philological considerations, does not pass unquestioned. The Los Angeles Express scouts it as far fetched, and advances a theory of its own. This newspaper professes to have authentic information from a gentleman who "now holds a responsible official position in the county," that many years ago a gang of street Arabs in San Francisco made a practice of stealing grain from sacks piled upon the wharves, and were in the habit of warning each other of the approach of a policeman by the cry, "Huddle 'em! huddle 'em!" "By that title," says the Express, "the young gamins of the city front were thenceforward designated and by some commonly allowed rule of phonetics the term was contracted to the present word, hoodlum." The trouble with this explanation is that there is no commonly allowed rule of phonetics by which "huddle 'em!" can be contracted to hoodlum. Max Muller says nothing of such a rule, nor can we find mention of it in any of the many writings of Richard Grant White. Hoodlum might be contracted into huddle 'em, but the converse is ridiculous. Until something less improbable than this is suggested, we must continue to regard the Muldoon theory as the best now before the public.

—J. Russell Jones, collector of customs of the port of Chicago, received news by telegraph recently, but had no official notification of the fact, that Mr. William Henry Smith had been appointed to succeed him because of his violation of the presidential order forbidding government officers to take an active part in politics. Mr. Jones expressed his determination not to resign the office, and did not see why he should be displaced before his term had expired. He justifies his action by referring to Mr. Hayes' letter of acceptance, in which he declared his intention of following out the principle laid down by the founders of the government that public officers should be secured in their tenure as long as their personal character remained untarnished and the performance of their duties was satisfactory. Mr. Jones feels warranted in assuming that no charges of official delinquency or wrong doing have been made against him, and says the records of the treasury department will show that in less than two years under his administration, \$37,000 have been saved to the government.

—In Paris, last month, there was buried the porter of a house in Rue Vintimille whose life was a notable illustration of the uncertainty of human affairs. He was by birth a Swede, and while a boy served as page to King Bernadette. Later he became the privy councillor of King Oscar, and one of the highest officials at Stockholm. Leaving Sweden for private reasons, he went to Paris, where he lost all his property and sank into such abject poverty that, being too proud to ask for charity, he must have starved to death had not a number of compassionate gentlemen secured the position of concierge for him.

Respectable Gamblers.

"Croppings" of the "Tiger" Developed in Mining Suits.

From the Mining and Scientific Press. Frank McCoppin has filed suit in the Third District court against Mark L. McDonald, and for cause of action alleges that on the 5th of March, 1877, the plaintiff placed \$5,000 in the hands of defendant to purchase certain mining stocks, the defendant agreeing to advance any sum over and above the \$5,000 that might be required, charging therefor reasonable interest and broker's commission; that the plaintiff ordered the purchase of the following stock, viz.: 910 shares of Exchequer, 200 shares of Eureka Consolidated, and 500 shares of California; that defendant purchased said stock, advancing \$9,000 of his own money; said stock becoming the property of plaintiff, subject to the lien of defendant for the sum advanced, together with \$500 interest and \$70 commissions; that on the 12th instant the defendant disposed of the stock, which was worth \$20,000, and converted the proceeds to his own use. Plaintiff therefore claims that he was damaged in the sum of \$10,000, and asks judgment for that amount.

The action brought by Mrs. Catharine Kenney to recover \$2,000 from E. J. Baldwin was tried by jury in the 15th District court. The story of the plaintiff, as given from the witness-stand, is as follows: Two years ago she kept a little store in Sacramento, and by the industrious use of her needle, and with the assistance of her mother and sister, a small fortune of some \$2,000 was collected together. A friend of hers, named Barton, being aware what money she had, suggested that it might be greatly increased by investing in mining stocks. He said that he was anxious to obtain a loan of money from Baldwin, and if she would put her money in the hands of the latter it would facilitate his negotiations for the loan. She declined to speculate in mining stocks, but had no objections to allowing Baldwin to use her money as his own for a time if he would guarantee repayment of the principal. The next day Barton brought Baldwin to her store and introduced him. She came to San Francisco, and, according to agreement, called at Baldwin's office, accompanied by Barton. This was on the first Tuesday of January, 1875. Baldwin said it was a good time to invest money and exhibited to her a list of mining stocks either of which was a good investment. Plaintiff positively declined to take any shares in stock, but said if he (Baldwin) would take the money and use it as his own for sixty days, he could have it; and if it made anything she would be thankful; if not, she would take her money back at the expiration of that time. Baldwin said he had no doubt but that he could return her two dollars for one within 30 days and asked her to return at that time. She called at the expiration of 30 days, when Baldwin said things had not turned out as well as he expected and she had better call thirty days hence. She called as requested and was informed that Baldwin had gone to Virginia City. Again she visited his office and was told he was in the mountains; and on the third visit she was informed that he had gone east. When the arrival of Baldwin from the east was announced by the newspapers she called at his office, accompanied by her sister and father, who is about 85 years of age. Baldwin did not at first identify her, and she reminded him of the \$2,000 transaction. "Oh, yes," he remarked, "yes—you owe me four or five thousand dollars." "How so?" was the reply. "Stocks have gone down," said Baldwin. "But I did not invest in stocks. You took my money to use as your own, agreeing to return it in sixty days," said the confiding woman. Some further conversation followed and she left the office. On a subsequent occasion, Baldwin told her she had better give him a receipt in full and trust to his generosity to reimburse her. She replied that she had trusted to his generosity once and would not do so again. Baldwin alleges in defense, that he purchased 25 shares of Ophir on a margin for the plaintiff at her request, for \$7,312, of which sum he paid \$5,349 out of his own pocket; that the stock depreciated greatly in value, and that the plaintiff refused to pay him the balance and broker's commission. He claims that she is indebted to him in the sum of \$5,349, and asks judgment for that amount.

It came out in Mr. Baldwin's testimony that while Mrs. Kenney's Ophir stock was going down so rapidly he had several millions in the same stock and was making about a million a month on his investment. He also testified that he is now worth between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000. The arguments were concluded and the case given to the jury. After an absence of half an hour, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$2,553.

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