

FLEC/TOR, *n.* A flexor, which sec.

FLED, *pret.* and *pp.* of *flee*; as, truth has fled.

FLEDGE, *a. flej.* [*G. flugge*; *D. vlog*, fledged, quick, nimble; connected with *G. fliegen*, *D. vliegen*, Sax. *fleogan*, to fly.]

Fethered; furnished with fethers or wings; able to fly.

His locks behind,
Illustrious on his shoulders, *fledge* with wings,
Lay waving round. *Milton.*

FLEDGE, *v. t.* To furnish with fethers; to attempt to escape; to hasten from danger or expected evil. The enemy *fled* about to shift for themselves. *L'Etrange.*

FLEDG'ED, *pp.* Furnished with fethers for flight; covered with fethers.

FLEDG'ING, *ppr.* Furnishing with fethers for flight.

FLEE, *v. i.* [*Sax. flean, fleon, fleogan*; *G. fliehen*.]

1. To run with rapidity, as from danger; to attempt to escape; to hasten from danger or expected evil. The enemy *fled* at the first fire.

Arise, take the young child and his mother, and *flee* into Egypt. *Matt. ii.*

2. To depart; to leave; to hasten away.

Resist the devil, and he will *flee* from you. *James iv.*

3. To avoid; to keep at a distance from. *Flee* fornication; *flee* from idolatry. *1 Cor. vi. x.*

To *flee* the question or from the question, in legislation, is said of a legislator who, when a question is to be put to the house, leaves his seat to avoid the dilemma of voting against his conscience, or giving an unpopular vote. In the phrases in which this verb appears to be transitive, there is really an ellipsis.

FLEECE, *n. fleess.* [*Sax. fleos, frys, flese*; *D. vlies*; *G. fleess*; most probably from shearing or stripping, as in Dutch the word signifies a film or membrane, as well as a *fleece*. The verb to *fleece* seems to favor the sense of stripping. See Class Ls. No. 25. 28. 30. But *Qui. L. vellus*, from *vello*, to pluck or tear off. *Varro*. See Class B1. In Russ. *volos* is hair or wool, written also *clas*. It was probably the practice to pluck off wool, before it was to shear it.]

The coat of wool shorn from a sheep at one time.

FLEECE, *v. t.* To shear off a covering or growth of wool.

2. To strip of money or property; to take from, by severe exactions, under color of law or justice, or pretext of necessity, or by virtue of authority. Arbitrary princes *fleece* their subjects; and clients complain that they are sometimes *fleece*d by their lawyers.

This word is rarely or never used for plundering in war by a licentious soldiery; but is properly used to express a stripping by contributions levied on a conquered people.

3. To spread over as with wool; to make white. *Thomson.*

FLEECE, *pp.* Stripped by severe exactions.

FLEECE, *a.* Furnished with a fleece or with fleeces; as, a sheep is well *fleece*d.

FLEECER, *n.* One who strips or takes by severe exactions.

FLEEING, *ppr.* Stripping of money or property by severe demands of fees, taxes or contributions.

FLEE'CY, *a.* Covered with wool; woolly; as a *fleece* flock.

2. Resembling wool or a fleece; soft; complicated; as *fleece* snow; *fleece* locks; *fleece* hosiery.

FLEER, *v. i.* [*Scot. flyre*, or *fleyr*, to make wry faces, to leer, to look surly; *lee, flyra*. In *D. ghuraen* signifies to leer, to peer; *Sw. plira*; *Dan. plirende*, ogling, leering. This word seems to be *leer*, with a prefix, and *leer* presents probably the primary sense.]

1. To deride; to sneer; to mock; to gibe; to make a wry face in contempt, or to grin in scorn; as, to *flee* and flout.

Covered with an antic face,
To *flee* and scorn at our solemnity. *Shak.*

2. To leer; to grin with an air of civility. *Burton.*

FLEER, *v. t.* To mock; to flout at. *Beaumont.*

FLEER, *n.* Derision or mockery, expressed by words or looks.

And mark the *fleers*, the gibes, and notable scorn. *Shak.*

2. A grin of civility.

A treacherous *flee* on the face of deceivers. *South.*

FLEERER, *n.* A mocker; a fawner.

FLEERING, *ppr.* Deriding; mocking; counterfeiting an air of civility.

FLEET, in English names, [*Sax. fleot*], denotes a *flood*, a creek or inlet, a bay or estuary, or a river; as in *Fleet-street*, *North-fleet*, *Fleet-prison*.

FLEET, *n.* [*Sax. flota, fliet*; *G. flotte*; *D. vloot*; *Sw. flotte*; *Dan. flode*; *Fr. flotte*. *Fleet* and *float* seem to be allied. But whether they are formed from the root of *flow*, or whether the last consonant is radical, is not obvious. See *Float*.]

A navy or squadron of ships; a number of ships in company, whether ships of war, or of commerce. It more generally signifies ships of war.

FLEET, *a.* [*Ice. fljotr*; *Ir. luath*, swift; *Russ. letayuy*, to fly; *Eng. to flit*. If the last consonant is radical, this word seems to be allied to *D. vlieden*, to flee, to fly, and possibly to the Shemitic *flit*; but from the Ethiopic it would appear that the latter word is our *split*, the sense being to divide or separate.]

1. Swift of pace; moving or able to move with rapidity; nimble; light and quick in motion, or moving with lightness and celerity; as a *fleet* horse or dog.

2. Moving with velocity; as *fleet* winds.

3. Light; superficially fruitful; or thin; not penetrating deep; as soil. *Mortimer.*

4. Skimming the surface. *Ibid.*

FLEET, *v. i.* To fly swiftly; to hasten; to fit as a light substance. To *fleet* away is to vanish.

How all the other passions *fleet* to air. *Shak.*

2. To be in a transient state.

3. To float.

FLEET, *v. t.* To skim the surface; to pass over rapidly; as a ship that *fleets* the gulf.

Spenser.

2. To pass lightly, or in mirth and joy; as, to *fleet* away time. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

3. To skim milk. [*Local, in England.*]

The verb in the transitive form is rarely or never used in America.

FLEETFOOT, *a.* Swift of foot; running or able to run with rapidity. *Shak.*

FLEETING, *ppr.* Passing rapidly; flying with velocity.

2. A transient; not durable; as the *fleeting* hours or moments.

FLEETING-DISH, *n.* A skinning bowl. [*Local.*]

FLEETLY, *adv.* Rapidly; lightly and nimbly; swiftly.

FLEETNESS, *n.* Swiftiness; rapidity; velocity; celerity; speed; as the *fleetness* of a horse or a deer.

FLEMING, *n.* A native of Flanders, or the Low Countries in Europe.

FLEMISH, *a.* Pertaining to Flanders.

FLESH, *n.* [*Sax. fleac, flec, or fleac*; *G. fleisch*; *D. vleesch*; *Dan. flek*. In Danish, the word signifies the flesh of swine. I know not the primary sense; it may be soft.]

A compound substance forming a large part of an animal, consisting of the softer solids, as distinguished from the bones and the fluids. Under the general appellation of *flesh*, we include the muscles, fat, glands &c., which invest the bones and are covered with the skin. It is sometimes restricted to the muscles.

2. Animal food, in distinction from vegetable.

Flesh without being qualified with acids, is too alkaline to a diet. *Arbuthnot.*

3. The body of beasts and fowls used as food, distinct from *fish*. In Lent, the Catholics abstain from *flesh*, but eat *fish*.

4. The body, as distinguished from the soul. As if this *flesh*, which walls about our life, Were brass impregnable. *Shak.*

5. Animal nature; animals of all kinds.

The end of all *flesh* is come before me. *Gen. vi.*

6. Men in general; mankind.

My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is *flesh*. *Gen. vi.*

7. Human nature.

The word was made *flesh*, and dwelt among us. *John i.*

8. Carnality; corporeal appetites.

Fasting serves to mortify the *flesh*. *Smalridge.*

The *flesh* lusteth against the spirit. *Gal. v.*

9. A carnal state; a state of unrenewed nature.

They that are in the *flesh* cannot please God. *Rom. vii.*

10. The corruptible body of man, or corrupt nature.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. *1 Cor. xv.*

11. The present life; the state of existence in this world.

To abide in the *flesh* is more needful for you. *Phil. i.*

12. Legal righteousness, and ceremonial services.

What shall we then say that Abraham, our father as pertaining to the *flesh*, hath found. *Rom. iv. Gal. iii.*

13. Kindred; stock; family.

He is our brother, and our *flesh*. *Gen. xxxvii.*