

bacia. If the last radical is primarily a palatal letter, this is the German *becken*; *D. becken*.]

1. A hollow vessel or dish, to hold water for washing, and for various other uses.
2. In *hydraulics*, any reservoir of water.
3. That which resembles a basin in containing water, as a pond, a dock for ships, a hollow place for liquids, or an inclosed part of water, forming a broad space within a strait or narrow entrance; a little bay.
4. Among glass *grinders*, a concave piece of metal by which convex glasses are formed.
5. Among *hatters*, a large shell or case, usually of iron, placed over a furnace, in which the hat is molded into due shape.
6. In *anatomy*, a round cavity between the anterior ventricles of the brain.
7. The scale of a balance, when hollow and round.
8. In *Jewish antiquities*, the laver of the tabernacle.

BASIS, *n.* plu. *bases*. [L. and Gr.; the same as *base*, which see.]

1. The foundation of any thing; that on which a thing stands or lies; the bottom or foot of the thing itself; or that on which it rests. See a full explanation under *base*.
2. The ground work or first principle; that which supports.
3. Foundation; support.

The basis of public credit is good faith.

Hamilton.
The basis of all excellence is truth.

4. Basis, in chemistry. See *Base*, No. 12.
- BASK**, *v. i.* [The origin of this word is not obvious. Qu. *Ir. basgain*, to rest or repose.]

To lie in warmth; to be exposed to genial heat; to be at ease and thriving under benign influences; as, to *bask* in the blaze of day; to *bask* in the sunshine of royal favor. The word includes the idea of some continuance of exposure.

BASK, *v. t.* To warm by continued exposure to heat; to warm with genial heat.

Dryden.
BASKED, *pp.* Exposed to warmth, or genial heat.

BASKET, *n.* [W. *basged*, or *basgawd*; *Ir. bascaid*; probably from weaving or texture. W. *basg*, a netting or plaiting of splinters.]

1. A domestic vessel made of twigs, rushes, splinters or other flexible things interwoven. The forms and sizes of baskets are very various, as well as the uses to which they are applied; as corn-baskets, clothes-baskets, fruit-baskets, and work-baskets.
2. The contents of a basket; as much as a basket will contain; as, a *basket* of medlars is two bushels. But in general, this quantity is indefinite.

In *military affairs*, baskets of earth sometimes are used on the parapet of a trench, between which the soldiers fire. They serve for defense against small shot.

Encyc.
BASKET, *v. t.* To put in a basket.

Croquer.
BASKET-FISH, *n.* A species of sea-star, or star-fish, of the genus *Asterias*, and otherwise called the Magellanic star-fish.

It has five rays issuing from an angular body, and dividing into innumerable branches. These when extended form a circle of three feet diameter. [See *Asterias*.] *Encyc.*

BASKET-HILT, *n.* [See *Hilt*.] A hilt which covers the hand, and defends it from injury, as of a sword. *Hudibras*

BASKET-HILTED, *a.* Having a hilt of basket-work. *Warton.*

BASKET-SALT, *n.* Salt made from salt-springs, which is purer, whiter and finer, than common brine salt. *Encyc.*

BASKET-WOMAN, *n.* A woman who carries a basket, to and from market.

BASKING, *ppr.* Exposing or lying exposed to the continued action of heat or genial warmth.

BASKING-SHARK, *n.* The sun-fish of the Irish; a species of *squalus* or shark. This fish is from three to twelve yards in length, or even longer. The upper jaw is much longer than the lower one; the tail is large and the upper part much longer than the lower; the skin is rough, of a deep leaden color on the back, and white on the belly. The fish weighs more than a thousand pounds, and affords a great quantity of oil, which is used for lamps, and to cure bruises, burns, and rheumatic complaints. It is viviparous, and frequents the northern seas. [See *Squalus*.]

Pennant. Encyc.
BASQUISH, *a.* *basquish*. Pertaining to the people or language of Biscay. *Brown.*

BASS, *n.* [It has no plural.] The name of several species of fish. In *England*, this name is given to a species of perch, called by some the sea-wolf, from its voracity, and resembling, in a degree, the trout in shape, but having a larger head. It weighs about fifteen pounds. In the *northern states of America*, this name is given to a striped fish which grows to the weight of 25 or 30 pounds, and which enters the rivers; the *perca ocellata*.

A species of striped fish, of a darker color, with a large head, is called sea-bass, as it is never found in fresh water. This fish grows to two or three pounds weight. Both species are well tasted, but the proper bass is a very white and delicious food.

Prince. Belknap.
BASS, *n.* The linden, lime or tree lime; called also *bass-wood*. [See *Bast*.]

2. [pron. *bas*.] A mat to kneel on in churches.
BASS, *n.* In music, the *base*; the deepest or gravest part of a tune. This word is thus written in imitation of the Italian *basso*, which is the Eng. *base*, low; yet with the pronunciation of *base* and plural *bases*, a gross error that ought to be corrected; as the word used in pronunciation is the English word *base*.

BASS, *v. t.* To sound in a deep tone. *Shak.*

BASS-RELIEF, *n.* In English, *bas-relief*. [From *It. basso*, low, and *relievo*, to raise; whence *relievo*, raised work. See *Liast* and *Relief*.]

Sculpture, whose figures do not stand out far from the ground or plane on which they are formed. When figures do not protrude so as to exhibit the entire body, they are said to be done in *relief*; and when they are low, flat or little raised

from the plane, the work is said to be in *low relief*. When the figures are so raised as to be well distinguished, they are said to be *bold, strong, or high, alto relievo*. [See *Relief*.] *Encyc.*

BASS-VIOL, *n.* [See *Base-viol*.]

BASSA, [See *Bashaw*.]

BASSET, [See *Bassette*.] A game at cards, said to have been invented at Venice by a nobleman, who was banished for the invention. The game being introduced into France by the Venetian ambassador, Justiniani, in 1674, it was prohibited by severe edicts. *Encyc.*

BASSET, *v. i.* [See *Basil*.] Among coal diggers, to incline upwards. Thus a vein of coal *bassets*, when it takes a direction towards the surface of the earth. This is called *cropping*, and is opposed to *dipping*. *Encyc.*

BAS SETTING, *ppr.* Having a direction upwards.

BAS SETTING, *n.* The upward direction of a vein in a coal mine.

BASSO-CONCERTANTE, in music, is the base of the little chorus, or that which plays throughout the whole piece. *Bailey.*
BASSO-CONTINUO, thorough base, which see under *base*. *Bailey.*

BASSO-REPIENO, is the base of the grand chorus, which plays only occasionally, or in particular parts. *Bailey.*

BASSO-RELIEVO. [See *Bass-relief*.]

BASSO-VIOLINO, is the base of the *base-viol*. *Bailey.*

BAS SOCK, *n.* The same as *bass*, a mat.

BASSOON, *n.* [Fr. *basson*; *It. bassone*, from *basso*, low.]

A musical wind instrument, blown with a reed, and furnished with eleven holes, which are stopped, as in other large flutes. Its compass comprehends three octaves. Its diameter at bottom is nine inches, and for convenience of carriage it is divided into two parts; whence it is called also a *fugot*. It serves for the base in a concert of hautboys, flutes, &c.

Johnson. Encyc. Busby.

BASSOON-IST, *n.* A performer on the bassoon. *Busby.*

BAST, *n.* [Qu. D. and Dan. *bast*, bark, or from twisting.]

A rope or cord, made of the bark of the lime tree, bass-wood or linden; or the bark made into ropes and mats. *Ash. Bailey.*

BASTARD, *n.* [Arm. *bastard*; *Ir. bastard*; Fr. *bitard*; D. *bastard*; G. *bastart*; *It.* and Sp. *bastardo*; W. *bastarz*; *basu*, to fall, whence *base*, and *tarz*, growth, issue, a sprout.]

A natural child; a child begotten and born out of wedlock; an illegitimate or spurious child. By the civil and canon laws, a bastard becomes a legitimate child, by the intermarriage of the parents, at any future time. But by the laws of this country, as by those of England, a child, to be legitimate, must at least be born after the lawful marriage. *Blackstone.*

Bastard cigne, or bastard elder, in law, is when a man has a bastard son, and afterward marries the mother, and has a legitimate son, called *mulier puise*, or younger. *Blackstone.*

B'ASTARD, *n.* A kind of sweet wine. [Not in use.] *Shak.*