

ment under seal. Such a debt is called a debt by *specialty*, in distinction from *simple contract*. *Blackstone.*

SPECIE, *n.* *spe'shy*. Coin; copper, silver or gold coined and used as a circulating medium of commerce. [See *Special*.]

SPECIES, *n.* *spe'shiz*. [L. from *specio*, to see. See *Special*.]

1. In *zoology*, a collection of organized beings derived from one common parentage by natural generation, characterized by one peculiar form, liable to vary from the influence of circumstances only within certain narrow limits. These accidental and limited variations are *varieties*. Different races from the same parents are called *varieties*.

2. In *botany*, all the plants which spring from the same seed, or which resemble each other in certain characters or invariable forms.

There are as many *species* as there are different invariable forms or structures of vegetables. *Martyn.*

3. In *logic*, a special idea, corresponding to the specific distinctions of things in nature. *Watts.*

4. Sort; kind; in a loose sense; as a *species* of low cunning in the world; a *species* of generosity; a *species* of cloth.

5. Appearance to the senses; visible or sensible representation.

An apparent diversity between the *species* visible and audible, is that the visible doth not mingle in the medium, but the audible doth. *Bacon.*

The *species* of letters illuminated with indigo and violet. [Little used.] *Newton.*

6. Representation to the mind.

Wit—the faculty of imagination in the writer, which searches over all the memory for the *species* or ideas of those things which it designs to represent. [Little used.] *Dryden.*

7. Show; visible exhibition.

Shows and *species* serve best with the common people. [Not in use.] *Bacon.*

8. Coin, or coined silver and gold, used as a circulating medium; as the current *species* of Europe. *Arbuthnot.*

In modern practice, this word is contracted into *specie*. What quantity of *specie* has the bank in its vault? What is the amount of all the current *specie* in the country? What is the value in *specie*, of a bill of exchange? We receive payment for goods in *specie*, not in bank notes.

9. In *pharmacy*, a simple; a component part of a compound medicine. *Johnson. Quincy.*

10. The old pharmaceutical term for powders. *Parr.*

SPECIFIC, *a.* [Fr. *specifique*; It. *specifico*.] That makes a thing of the *species* of which it is; designating the peculiar property or properties of a thing, which constitute its *species*, and distinguish it from other things. Thus we say, the *specific* form of an animal or a plant; the *specific* form of a cube or square; the *specific* qualities of a plant or a drug; the *specific* difference between an acid and an alkali; the *specific* distinction between virtue and vice.

Specific difference is that primary attribute which distinguishes each *species* from one another. *Watts.*

2. In *medicine*, appropriate for the cure of a

particular disease; that certainly cures or is less fallible than others; as a *specific* remedy for the gout. The Saratoga waters are found to be a *specific* remedy, or nearly so, for the cure of bilious complaints, so called.

Specific character, in *botany*, a circumstance or circumstances distinguishing one *species* from every other *species* of the same genus. *Martyn.*

Specific gravity, in *philosophy*, the weight that belongs to an equal bulk of each body. [See *Gravity*.]

Specific name, in *botany*, is the trivial name, as distinguished from the *generic name*. *Martyn.*

Specific name is now used for the name which, appended to the name of the genus, constitutes the distinctive name of the *species*; but it was originally applied by Linne to the essential character of the *species*, or the *essential difference*. The present *specific* names he at first called the *trivial names*. *Smith.*

SPECIFIC, *n.* In *medicine*, a remedy that certainly cures a particular disease. *Core.*

SPECIFICALLY, *adv.* In such a manner as to constitute a *species*; according to the nature of the *species*. A body is *specifically* lighter than another, when it has less weight in the same bulk than the other.

Human reason—differs *specifically* from the fantastick reason of brutes. *Grew.*

—Those several virtues that are *specifically* requisite to a due performance of duty. *South.*

SPECIFICATE, *v. t.* [L. *species*, form, and *facio*, to make.]

To show, mark or designate the *species*, or the distinguishing particulars of a thing; to specify.

SPECIFICATION, *n.* The act of determining by a mark or limit; notation of limits.

This *specification* or limitation of the question hinders the disputers from wandering away from the precise point of inquiry. *Watts.*

2. The act of specifying; designation of particulars; particular mention; as the *specification* of a charge against a military or naval officer.

3. Article or thing specified.

SPECIFIED, *pp.* Particularized; specially named.

SPECIFY, *v. t.* [Fr. *specifier*; It. *specificare*.]

To mention or name, as a particular thing; to designate in words, so as to distinguish a thing from every other; as, to *specify* the uses of a plant; to *specify* the articles one wants to purchase.

He has there given us an exact geography of Greece, where the countries and the uses of their soils are *specified*. *Pope.*

SPECIFYING, *ppr.* Naming or designating particularly.

SPECIMEN, *n.* [L. from *species*, with the termination *men*, which corresponds in sense to the English *hood* or *ness*.]

A sample; a part or small portion of any thing, intended to exhibit the kind and quality of the whole, or of something not exhibited; as a *specimen* of a man's handwriting; a *specimen* of painting or composition; a *specimen* of one's art or skill.

SPECIOUS, *a.* [Fr. *specieux*; It. *specioso*; Sp. *especioso*; L. *speciosus*.]

1. Showy; pleasing to the view.

The rest, far greater part, Will deem in outward rites and *specious* forms

Religion satisfied. *Milton.*

2. Apparently right; superficially fair, just or correct; plausible; appearing well at first view; as *specious* reasoning; a *specious* argument; a *specious* objection; *specious* deeds. Temptation is of greater danger, because it is covered with the *specious* names of good nature, good manners, nobleness of mind, &c.

SPECIOUSLY, *adv.* With a fair appearance; with show of right; as, to reason *speciously*.

SPECK, *n.* [Sax. *specca*; D. *spikkel*. In Sp. *peca* is a freckle or spot raised in the skin by the sun. This word may be formed from *peck*, for *peckled* has been used for *speckled*, spotted as though pecked. Qu. Ar.

--- bakaa, to be spotted. Class Bg. No. 31.]

1. A spot; a stain; a small place in any thing that is discolored by foreign matter, or is of a color different from that of the main substance; as a *speck* on paper or eloth.

2. A very small thing.

SPECK, *v. t.* To spot; to stain in spots or drops.

SPECKLE, *n.* A little spot in any thing, of a different substance or color from that of the thing itself.

SPECKLE, *v. t.* To mark with small spots of a different color; used chiefly in the participle passive, which see.

SPECKLED, *pp. or a.* Marked with specks; variegated with spots of a different color from the ground or surface of the object; as the *speckled* breast of a bird; a *speckled* serpent.

Speckled bird, a denomination given to a person of doubtful character or principles.

SPECKLEDNESS, *n.* The state of being speckled. *Ash.*

SPECKLING, *ppr.* Marking with small spots.

SPECTACLE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *spectaculum*, from *specio*, to behold; *specio*, to see; It. *spettacolo*.]

1. A show; something exhibited to view; usually, something presented to view as extraordinary, or something that is beheld as unusual and worthy of special notice. Thus we call things exhibited for amusement, public *spectacles*, as the combats of gladiators in ancient Rome.

We are made a *spectacle* to the world, and to angels, and to men. 1 Cor. iv.

2. Any thing seen; a sight. A drunkard is a shocking *spectacle*.

3. *Spectacles*, in the plural, glasses to assist the sight.

4. Figuratively, something that aids the intellectual sight.

Shakspeare—needed not the *spectacles* of books to read nature. *Dryden.*

SPECTACLED, *a.* Furnished with spectacles. *Shak.*

SPECTACULAR, *a.* Pertaining to shows. *Hickes.*