

**SWANSDOWN**, *n.* A fine soft thick woolen cloth.

**SWAN'SKIN**, *n.* [*swan* and *skin*.] A species of dannel of a soft texture, thick and warm.

**SWAP**, *adv.* [*Qu. sweep*.] Hastily; at a snatch. [*A low word and local*.]

**SWAP**, *v. t.* To exchange; to barter; to swap. [*See Sweep*.] (*This word is not elegant, but common in colloquial language in America*.)

**SWAPE**, *n.* [*Qu. sweep*.] A pole supported by a fulcrum on which it turns, used for raising water from a well, for churning, &c. [*This Bailey spells swiipe, and in N. England it is pronounced sweep, as in well-sweep*.]

**SWARD**, *n.* [*Sax. sward; Dan. svær; D. zwaard; G. schwarte, rind, skin; W. gweryd, an excretion, sward, moss*.]

1. The skin of bacon. [*Local*.]

2. The grassy surface of land; turf; that part of the soil which is filled with the roots of grass, forming a kind of mat. When covered with green grass, it is called *green sward*.

**SWARD**, *v. t.* To produce sward; to cover with sward. *Mortimer*.

**SWARD-CUTTER**, *n.* An instrument for cutting sward across the ridges.

**SWARDY**, *a.* Covered with sward or grass; as *swardy land*.

**SWARE**, *old pret. of swear*. We now use *swore*.

**SWARE**, } *n.* A copper coin and money  
**SCHWARE**, } of account in Bremen,  
value one fifth of a groat, and 72 groats make a thaler, [dollar.]

**SWARM**, *n.* *sworm*. [*Sax. swearm; G. schwarm; D. zwerm; Dan. søerm; Sw. svärm*.] This seems to be formed on the root of *warm*. The *Sp. hervir*, to boil, to swarm, is the *L. ferreo*, and boiling is very expressive of the motions of a swarm of bees. See the Verb.]

1. In a general sense, a large number or body of small animals or insects, particularly when in motion; but *appropriately*, a great number of honey bees which emigrate from a hive at once, and seek new lodgings under the direction of a queen; or a like body of bees united and settled permanently in a hive. The bees that leave a hive in spring, are the young bees produced in the year preceding. *Ex. viii. Judges xiv*.

2. A swarm or multitude; particularly, a multitude of people in motion. *Swarms* of northern nations overran the south of Europe in the fifth century.

**NOTE**.—The application of this word to inanimate things, as swarms of *advantages*, by Shakespeare, and swarms of *themes*, by Young, is not legitimate, for the essence of the word is motion.

**SWARM**, *v. i.* *sworm*. [*Sax. swearmian; D. zwermen; G. schwärmen; Dan. søermer; Sw. svärma*, to swarm, to rove, to wander, to swerve.]

1. To collect and depart from a hive by flight in a body, as bees. Bees *swarm* in warm, clear days in summer.

2. To appear or collect in a crowd; to run; to throng together; to congregate in a multitude.

In crowds around the *swarming* people join. *Dryden*.

3. To be crowded; to be thronged with a multitude of animals in motion. The forests in America often *swarm* with wild pigeons. The northern seas in spring *swarm* with herrings.

Every place *swarms* with soldiers. *Spenser*.  
[Such phrases as "life *swarms* with ills," "those days *swarmed* with fables," are not legitimate, or wholly obsolete. *Brown*. *Young*.]

4. To breed multitudes. *Milton*.

5. To climb, as a tree, by embracing it with the arms and legs, and scrambling.

At the top was placed a piece of money, as a prize for those who could *swarm* up and seize it. *Coxe's Russ*.

**NOTE**.—This, by the common people in New England, is pronounced *squirm* or *squurm*, and it is evidently formed on *worm*, indicating that *worm* and *warm*, on which *swarm* and *squirm* are formed, are radically the same word. The primary sense is to bend, wind, twist, as a worm, or a swarm of bees. It may be formed on the root of *veer*, *vary*.

**SWARM**, *v. t.* To crowd or throng. [*Not in use*.]

**SWART**, } *a.* *swort*. [*Sax. swart, swear;*  
**SWARTH**, } *a.* *sworth*. *Sw. swart; Dan. swarte; G. schwarz; D. zwart*.]

1. Being of a dark hue; moderately black; tawny.

A nation strange with visage *swart*. *Spenser*.  
[I believe *swart* and *swarth* are never used in the United States, certainly not in New England. *Searthy* is a common word.]

2. Gloomy; malignant. [*Not in use*.] *Milton*.

**SWART**, *v. t.* To make tawny. *Brown*.

**SWARTH**, } *n.* An apparition. [*Not used*  
**SWAIRTH**, } *n.* *cd in New England*.]

**SWARTHILY**, *adv.* [from *swarthy*.] *Duski-*  
ly; with a tawny hue.

**SWARTHINESS**, *n.* Tawinness; a dusky or dark complexion.

**SWARTHY**, *a.* [See *Swart*.] Being of a dark hue or dusky complexion; tawny. In warm climates, the complexion of men is universally *swarthy* or black. The Moors, Spaniards and Italians are more *swarthy* than the French, Germans and English.

Their *swarthy* hosts would darken all our plains. *Addison*.

2. Black; as the *swarthy* African.

**SWARTINESS**, *n.* A tawny color. *Sherwood*.

**SWARTISH**, *a.* Somewhat dark or tawny.

**SWARTY**, *a.* *Swarthy*; tawny. *Burton*.

**SWARVE**, *v. i.* To swerve. [*Not in use*.] *Spenser*.

**SWASH**, *n.* An oval figure, whose moldings are oblique to the axis of the work. *Moxon*.

[*A cant word*. *Johnson*.]

**SWASH**, *n.* A blustering noise; a vapor-ing. [*Not in use or vulgar*.]

2. Impulse of water flowing with violence. In the southern states of America, *swash* or *swosh* is a name given to a narrow sound or channel of water lying within a sand bank, or between that and the shore. Many such are found on the shores of the Carolinas.

**SWASH**, *v. i.* [*D. zwetsen*, to boast.] To bluster; to make a great noise; to vapor or brag. [*Not in use*.] *Shak*.

**SWASH**, } *a.* Soft, like fruit too ripe. *Pegge*.

**SWASH-Y**, } [*Local*.]

**SWASH-BUCKLER**, *n.* A sword-player; a bully or braggadocio. [*Not in use*.] *Milton*.

**SWASHER**, *n.* One who makes a blustering show of valor or force of arms. [*Not in use*.] *Shak*.

**SWAT**, } *v. i.* To sweat. *Obs*.

**SWATE**, } *v. i.* To sweat. *Chaucer*.

**SWATCH**, *n.* A swath. [*Not in use*.] *Tusser*.

**SWATH**, *n.* *swoth*. [*Sax. swathe*, a track, a border or fringe, a band; *D. zwaad; G. schwaden*.]

1. A line of grass or grain cut and thrown together by the sythe in mowing or cradling.

2. The whole breadth or sweep of a sythe in mowing or cradling; as a wide *swath*. *Farmers*.

2. A band or fillet. They wrapped me in a hundred yards of *swath*. *Guardian*.

**SWATHE**, *v. t.* To bind with a band, bandage or rollers; as, to *swathe* a child.

2. To bind or wrap.

Their children are never *swathed* or bound about with any thing when first born. *Abbot*.

**SWAY**, *v. t.* [*D. zwaaijen*, to turn, to wield, to swing, to sway. This word is probably formed on the root of *weigh*, *wave*, *Sax. wag, weg*, and *swag*, and probably *swing* is written for *swig*, and is of the same family; see *swecigia*; *Sw. sviga*.]

1. To move or wave; to wield with the hand; as, to *sway* the scepter.

2. To bias; to cause to lean or incline to one side. Let not temporal advantages *sway* you from the line of duty. The king was *swayed* by his council from the course he intended to pursue.

As bowls run true by being made  
On purpose false, and to be *sway'd*.

*Hudibras*.

3. To rule; to govern; to influence or direct by power and authority, or by moral force.

This was the race

To *sway* the world, and land and sea subdue. *Dryden*.

She could not *sway* her house. *Shak*.

Take heed lest passion *sway*

Thy judgment to do aught which else free will

Would not admit. *Milton*.

**SWAY**, *v. i.* To be drawn to one side by weight; to lean. A wall *sways* to the west.

The balance *sways* on our part. *Bacon*.

[This sense seems to indicate that this word and *swag*, are radically one.]

2. To have weight or influence.

The example of sundry churches—doth *sway* much. *Hooker*.

3. To bear rule; to govern.

Had'st thou *sway'd* as kings should do—

*Shak*.

4. In *seamen's language*, to hoist; particularly applied to the lower yards and to the topmast yards, &c.

**SWAY**, *n.* The swing or sweep of a weapon.

To strike with huge two-handed *sway*.

*Milton*