

degenerated or changed, as it abounds most in fields where the wheat is winter-killed. It bears some resemblance to oats. This fact is mentioned by Pliny, Nat. Hist. Lib. 18. Ca. 17. *Primum omnium frumentum vitum avena est: et hordeum in campo degenerat.* This change of wheat and barley into oats, he ascribes to a moist soil, wet weather, bad seed, &c. This opinion coincides with observations in America, as wheat is most liable to perish in moist land, and often in such places, almost all the wheat is killed, and instead of it chess often appears.

**CHESS-APPLE, n.** A species of wild service.

**CHESS-BOARD, n.** The board used in the game of chess, and from the squares of which chess has its name.

**CHESS-MAN, n.** A piece or puppet, for the game of chess.

**CHESS-PLAYER, n.** One who plays chess; one skilled in the game of chess.

**CHESS-TREE, n.** In ships, a piece of wood bolted perpendicularly on the side to confine the clews of the main sail.

**CHESS-OM, n.** Mellow earth. *Bacon.*

**CHEST, n.** (Sax. *cest* or *cyst*; L. *clista*; W. *cist*; Ir. *ciad*; Gr. *κυστήρ*; G. *kiste*; D. *kist*; Sw. *kista*; Dan. *kiste*. See *Chestnut*.)

1. A box of wood or other material, in which goods are kept or transported. It differs from a trunk in not being covered with skin or leather.

2. The trunk of the body from the neck to the belly; the thorax. Hence, *broad-chested*, *narrow-chested*, having a broad or narrow chest.

3. In commerce, a certain quantity; as a *chest of sugar*; a *chest of indigo*; &c.

*Chest of drawers* is a case of movable boxes called drawers.

**CHEST, v. t.** To reposit in a chest; to board. *Johnson.*

**CHEST-FOUNDING, n.** A disease in horses, like the pleurisy or peripneumony in the human body. *Farrier's Dict.*

**CHEST-NUT, n.** (Sax. *cystel*, and the tree in Sax. is *cystean* or *cystenbeam*; L. *castanea*, the tree and the nut; Fr. *chataigne*; Arn. *gistenen*, or *gesteren*; W. *castan*; Sp. *castaña*; Port. *castanha*; It. *castagna*; G. *kastanie*; Sw. Dan. *kastanie*; from Welsh *cast*, envelopment, the root of *castle*, from separating, defending; so named from its shell or cover.)

The fruit, seed or nut of a tree belonging to the genus *Fagus*. It is inclosed in a prickly pericarp, which contains two or more seeds.

**CHEST-NUT, a.** Being of the color of a chestnut; of a brown color. It is perhaps rarely used as a noun.

**CHEST-NUT-TREE, n.** The tree which produces the chestnut. This tree grows to a great size, with spreading branches. It is one of the most valuable timber trees, as the wood is very durable, and forms in America the principal timber for fencing. The timber is also used in building, and for vessels of various kinds.

*Dwarf-chestnut*, or *chinkapin*, is another species of *Fagus*.

*Horse-chestnut*, is a tree of the genus *Aesculus*. The common tree of this sort is a

native of the North of Asia, and admired for the beauty of its flowers. It is used for shade and ornament, and its nuts are esteemed good food for horses. The scarlet-flowering horse-chestnut is a native of Carolina, Brazil and the East, and is admired for its beauty.

The *Indian Rose-chestnut*, of the genus *Mesua*, bears a nut, roundish, pointed and marked with four elevated longitudinal sutures. *Encyc. Fam. of Plants.*

**CHESTON, n.** A species of plum. *Johnson.*

**CHEVACHIE, n.** An expedition with cavalry. [Not used.] *Chaucer.*

**CHEVAL DE FRISE, generally used in the plural, chevats de frise, pronounced chevo de frise.** (Fr. *cheval*, a horse, and *frise*, any thing curled, rough, entangled; the horse of frise, or frizzled horse. Hence called also *turnpike, tourniquet*.)

1. A piece of timber traversed with wooden spikes, pointed with iron, five or six feet long; used to defend a passage, stop a breach, or make a retrenchment to stop cavalry.

2. A kind of trimming.

**CHEVALIER, n.** [Fr. from *cheval*, a horse; Sp. *caballero*. See *Cavalry*.]

1. A knight; a gallant young man. *Shak.*

2. In heraldry, a horseman armed at all points. *Encyc.*

**CHEVEN, n.** [Fr. *chevesne*.] A river fish, the chub.

**CHEVERIL, n.** [Fr. *chevreau*, a kid, from *chevre*, a goat, L. *capra*, W. *gawar*, Arn. *gawric*, govt.]

A kid, or rather leather made of kid-skin; used as a noun or adjective. *Shak.*

**CHEVERILIZE, v. t.** To make as pliable as kid-leather. *Montagu.*

**CHEVISCANCE, n. s** as: [Fr. *chevis*, to come to the end, to perform, to prevail, from *chef*, the head, literally the end. See *Chief* and *Achieve*.]

1. Achievement; deed; performance; enterprise accomplished. *Obs. Spenser.*

2. In law, a making of contracts; a bargain. *Stat. 13 Eliz. 7.*

3. An unlawful agreement or contract. *21 James. 17.*

4. An agreement or composition, as an end or order set down between a creditor and his debtor. *Encyc.*

**CHEVRON, n.** [Fr. a rafter; W. *ceber*; Arn. *gebr*.]

In heraldry, an honorable ordinary, representing two rafters of a house meeting at the top. *Bailey.*

**CHEVRONED, a.** Having a chevron, or the form of it. *B. Jonson.*

**CHEVROTAIN, n.** [from Fr. *chevre*, a goat.] The smallest of the antelope kind.

**CHEW, v. t.** (Sax. *coean*; D. *kauwen*; G. *kauen*. See *Chaw*.)

1. To bite and grind with the teeth; to masticate, as food, to prepare it for deglutition and digestion.

2. To ruminate in the thoughts; to meditate; as, to *chew* revenge. *Shak.*

3. To champ; to bite, hold or roll about in the mouth; as, to *chew* tobacco.

4. To taste, without swallowing. *Shak.*

**CHEW, v. i.** To champ upon; to ruminate. Old politicians *chew* on wisdom past. *Pope.*

**CHEW, n.** That which is chewed; that

which is held in the mouth at once; a cud. [*Vulgar*.]

**CHEVED, pp.** Ground by the teeth; masticated.

**CHEVET, n.** A kind of pie, made with chopped substances.

**CHEWING, pp.** Grinding with the teeth; masticating; ruminating; meditating; champing.

**CHIA, n.** A beautiful Mexican plant.

**CHIAN, a.** Pertaining to *Chios*, an isle in the Levant.

*Chian earth*, a medicinal, dense, compact kind of earth, from *Chios*, used anciently as an astrigent, and a cosmetic. *Encyc.*

*Chian turpentine*, or *Cyprian turpentine*, is procured from the *Pistacia Terebinthus*. It is of the consistence of honey, clear and of a yellowish white.

**CHIASTOLITE, n.** [Gr. *χαστος*, decussated.]

A mineral, called also *maele*, whose crystals are arranged in a peculiar manner. The form of the crystals is a four-sided prism, whose bases are rhombs, differing little from squares. But each crystal, when viewed at its extremities, or on a transverse section, is obviously composed of two very different substances; and its general aspect is that of a black prism, passing longitudinally through the axis of another prism which is whitish. The term *maele*, as the name of a distinct species, applies to the whitish prisms only. *Cleveland.*

**CHIB BAL, n.** [Fr. *ciboule*.] A small sort of onion. *Beaumont.*

**CHICANE, n.** [Fr. *chicaner*; Arn. *cican* or *cicamer*; Qu. Gr. *Σιχαος*, a Sicilian, a cheat. *Lunier*.]

1. In law, shift; turn; trick; cavil; an abuse of judiciary proceedings, by artifices, unfair practices, or idle objections, which tend to perplex a cause, puzzle the judge, or impose on a party, and thus to delay or pervert justice.

2. In disputes, sophistry; distinctions and subtleties, that tend to perplex the question and obscure the truth. *Locke.*

3. Any artifice or stratagem. *Prior.*

**CHICANE, v. i.** [Fr. *chicaner*.] To use shifts, cavils or artifices.

**CHICANER, n.** [Fr. *chicaner*.] One who uses shifts, turns, evasions or undue artifices, in litigation or disputes; a caviller; a sophister; an unfair disputant. *Locke.*

**CHICANERY, n.** [Fr. *chicanerie*.] Sophistry; mean or unfair artifices to perplex a cause and obscure the truth.

**CHICH ES, n. plu.** Dwarf peas.

**CHICK LING, n.** A vetch or pea.

**CHICKLING-VETCH, n.** A vetch of the genus *Lathyrus*, used in Germany for food, but inferior to other kinds. *Miller.*

**CHICK, v. t.** To sprout, as seed in the ground; to vegetate. *Todd.*

**CHICK, n.** [Sax. *ciccn*; D. *kuiken*; *CHICKEN, n.* [G. *kuchlein*. Qu. Russ. *chikay*, to peep.]

1. The young of fowls, particularly of the domestic hen, or gallinaceous fowls.

2. A person of tender years.

3. A word of tenderness.

**CHICK-EN-HEARTED, a.** Timid; fearful; cowardly.

**CHICK-EN-POX, n.** A mild contagious