

2. A plant, a species of *Ophrys* or *twyblade*; also a species of *Orchis*. *Encyc.*
 3. In *cooking*, the nest of a small swallow, of China, and the neighboring countries, delicately tasted, and mixed with soups. This nest is found in the rocks; it is of a hemispherical figure, of the size of a goose egg, and in substance resembles isinglass. In the East, these nests are esteemed a great luxury, and sell at a very high price. *Encyc.*

BIRDSTARES and **BIRDTONGUE**: names of plants.

BIRD-WITTED, *a.* Not having the faculty of attention. *Bacon.*

BIREME, *n.* [*L. biremis, bis* and *remus*, an oar.]

A vessel with two banks or tiers of oars. *Milford.*

BIRGAUNDER, *n.* The name of a wild goose. *Qu. Bergander.*

BIRHOMBOIDAL, *a.* [*Bis* and *rhomboid*.] Having a surface composed of twelve rhombic faces, which, being taken six and six, and prolonged in idea, till they intercept each other, would form two different rhombs. *Cleveland.*

BIRKEN, *v. t.* [from *birch, Sax. birce, byrc*.] To beat with a birch or rod. *Obs.*

BIROSTRATE. *a.* [*Ch. Relig. Appeal.*]

BIROSTRATED. *a.* [*Ch. Relig. Appeal.*]
 Having a double beak, or process resembling a beak.

The capsule is bilocular and *birostrated*. *Encyc.*

BIRT, *n. burt*. A fish, called also turbot.

BIRTH, *n. berth*. [*Sax. byrd, beorth; D. geboorte; Ger. geburt; Ir. berthe; L. partus*, the parturient of *pario*, to bear.]

1. The act of coming into life, or of being born. Except in poetry, it is generally applied to human beings; as the *birth* of a son.

2. Lineage; extraction; descent; as, *Greek birth*. *Deakam.*

It is used of high or low extraction; but is often used by way of distinction for a descent from noble or honorable parents and ancestors; as a man of *birth*.

3. The condition in which a person is born. *A foe by birth* to Troy. *Dryden.*

4. That which is born; that which is produced, whether animal or vegetable. *Milton. Addison.*

5. The act of bringing forth; as, she had two children at a *birth*.

6. In a *theological* sense, regeneration is called the *new birth*.

7. Origin; beginning; as the *birth* of an empire.

BIRTH, **BERTH**, *n.* A station in which a ship rides. [See *Berth*.]

BIRTHDAY, *n.* [*birth* and *day*.] The day in which any person is born.

2. The same day of the month, in which a person was born, in every succeeding year; often celebrated as a joyful anniversary. It sometimes has the form of an attribute; as a *birth-day ode*.

BIRTHDOM, *n.* [*birth* and *dom*. See *Dom* and *Doom*.] Privilege of birth. [Not used.] *Shak.*

BIRTHING, *n.* Any thing added to raise the sides of a ship. *Ash. Bailey.*

BIRTHNIGHT, *n.* [*birth* and *night*.] The

night in which a person is born; and the anniversary of that night in succeeding years.

BIRTHPLACE, *n.* [*birth* and *place*.] The town, city or country, where a person is born; more generally, the particular town, city, or other local district.

BIRTHRIGHT, *n.* [*birth* and *right*.] Any right or privilege, to which a person is entitled by birth, such as an estate descendible by law to an heir, or civil liberty under a free constitution.

Esau, for a morsel, sold his *birthright*. *Heb. xii.*

It may be used in the sense of primogeniture, or the privilege of the first born, but is applicable to any right which results from descent.

BIRTHSONG, *n.* A song sung at the birth of a person.

BIRTH-STRANGLED, *a.* [*birth* and *strangle*.] Strangled or suffocated in being born. *Shak.*

BIRTHWORT, *n.* [*birth* and *wort*.] A genus of plants, *Aristolochia*, of many species. Of these are the snake root of America, and the contrayerva of Jamaica. *Encyc.*

BISA, *n.* A coin of Pegu, of the value of half *BIZA*, *n.* a ducent; also, a weight. *Encyc.*

BIS COTIN, *n.* [*Fr.*] A confection, made of flour, sugar, marculade and eggs.

BISCUIT, *n. bis kit*. [*Fr.* compounded of *L. bis*, twice, and *cuit*, baked; *It. biscotto*; *Sp. bizcocho*.]

1. A kind of bread, formed into cakes, and baked hard for seamen.

2. A cake, variously made, for the use of private families. The name, in England, is given to a composition of flour, eggs, and sugar. With us the name is given to a composition of flour and butter, made and baked in private families. But the compositions under this denomination are very various.

3. The body of an earthen vessel, in distinction from the glazing. *Thomson.*

BISECT, *v. t.* [*L. bis*, twice, and *seco*, secum, to cut. See *Section*.]

To cut or divide into two parts. In geometry, one line bisects another when it crosses it, leaving an equal part of the line on each side of the point where it is crossed.

BISECTED, *pp.* Divided into two equal parts.

BISECTING, *ppr.* Dividing into two equal parts.

BISECTION, *n.* The act of cutting into two equal parts; the division of any line or quantity into two equal parts.

BISEGMENT, *n.* [*bis* and *segment*.] One of the parts of a line, divided into two equal parts.

BISEXOUS, *a.* Consisting of both sexes. *Brown.*

BISHOP, *n.* [*L. episcopus; Gr. ἐπίσκοπος*, of *ἐπί*, over, and *σκοπος*, inspector, or visitor; *σκοπεῖν*, to view, or inspect; where *ἐπίσκοπος*, to visit or inspect; also *ἐπισκοπία*, to view. This Greek and Latin word accompanied the introduction of christianity into the west and north of Europe, and has been corrupted into Saxon *biscop*, *biscep*, *Sax.* and Dan. *bishop*, *D. bischof*, *Ger. bischof*, *It. vescovo*, *Fr. évêque*, *Sp.*

obispo, *Port. bispo*, *W. esgob*, and *Ir. esgob*.]

In *Ar.* and *Pers.* **مؤقف** *oskof*. This title

the Athenians gave to those whom they sent into the provinces subject to them, to inspect the state of affairs; and the Romans gave the title to those who were inspectors of provisions.]

1. An overseer; a spiritual superintendent, ruler or director; applied to *Christ*.

Ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned to the shepherd and *bishop* of your souls. *1 Pet. ii.*

2. In the primitive church, a spiritual overseer; an elder or presbyter; one who had the pastoral care of a church.

The same persons are in this chapter called elders or presbyters, and overseers or bishops. *Scott. Comm. Acts xx.*

Till the churches were multiplied, the bishops and presbyters were the same. *Phil. i. 1.*

1 *Tim. iii. 1.* 1 *Tit. i. 7.*

Both the Greek and Latin fathers do, with one consent, declare, that *bishops* were called presbyters, and presbyters *bishops*, in apostolic times, the name being then common.

Whitby.

3. In the Greek, Latin, and some Protestant churches, a prelate, or person consecrated for the spiritual government and direction of a diocese. In *Great Britain*, bishops are nominated by the king, who, upon request of the dean and chapter, for leave to elect a bishop, sends a *commissio d'trice*, or license to elect, with a letter missive, nominating the person whom he would have chosen. The election, by the chapter, must be made within twelve days, or the king has a right to appoint whom he pleases. Bishops are consecrated by an archbishop, with two assistant bishops. A bishop must be thirty years of age; and all bishops, except the bishop of *Man*, are peers of the realm. *Blackstone.*

By the canons of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, no diocese or state shall proceed to the election of a bishop, unless there are at least six officiating presbyters residing therein, who shall be qualified, according to the canons, to vote for a bishop; a majority of whom at least must concur in the election. But the conventions of two or more dioceses, or states, having together nine or more such presbyters, may join in the election of a bishop. A convention is composed of the clergy, and a lay delegation, consisting of one or more members from each parish. In every state, the bishop is to be chosen according to such rules as the convention of that state shall ordain. The mode of election, in most or all of the states, is by a concurrent vote of the clergy and laity, in convention, each body voting separately. Before a bishop can be consecrated, he must receive a testimonial of approbation from the General Convention of the church; or if that is not in session, from a majority of the standing committee in the several dioceses. The mode of consecrating bishops and ordaining priests and deacons differs not essentially from the practice in England.

Bishop Brownell.

BISHOP, *n.* A cant word for a mixture of wine, oranges, and sugar. *Swift.*