

the treble cliff, and from its being placed at the head or marking the first sound in Guido's scale, the whole scale took the name, *Gammud*, from the Greek name of the letter.

GA, in Gothic, is a prefix, answering to *ge* in Saxon and other Teutonic languages. It sometimes has the force of the Latin *cum* or *con*, as in *gawithan*, to conjoin. But in most words it appears to have no use, and in modern English it is entirely lost. *Y-cleped*, in which *ge* is changed into *y*, is the last word in which the English retained this prefix.

GAB, *n.* [Scot. *gab*, Dan. *gab*, the mouth, and a *gap* or *gaping*; Sw. *gap*; Russ. *guba*, a lip, a bay or gulf, the mouth of a river; Ir. *cab*, the mouth; connected probably with *gabble*, *giberish*, Sax. *gabban*, to mock, perhaps to make mouths. See *Gabble* and *Gape*.]

The *mouth*; as in the phrase, the gift of the *gab*, that is, loquaciousness. But the word is so vulgar as rarely to be used.

GABARDINE, *n.* [Sp. *gabardina*; *gaban*, a great coat with a hood and close sleeves; *gabacha*, a loose garment; Port. *gabum*, a frock; It. *gavardina*; Fr. *gaban*.]

A coarse frock or loose upper garment; a mean dress. *Shak.*

GABBLE, *v. i.* [D. *gabberen*, to prate; Sax. *gabban*, to jeer or deride; Fr. *gaber*, id.; Eng. to *gibe*; Sw. *gabberi*, derision; It. *gabbare*, to deceive; *gabbo*, a jeering. These may all be from one root. See Class Gb. No. 7.]

1. To prate; to talk fast, or to talk without meaning.

Such a rout, and such a rattle, Run to hear Jack Pudding *gabble*. *Swift.*

2. To utter inarticulate sounds with rapidity; as *gabbling* fowls. *Dryden.*

GABBLE, *n.* Loud or rapid talk without meaning. *Milton.*

2. Inarticulate sounds rapidly uttered, as of fowls. *Shak.*

GABBLER, *n.* A prater; a noisy talker; one that utters inarticulate sounds.

GABBLING, *ppr.* Prating; chattering; uttering unmeaning or inarticulate sounds.

GABBRÖ, *n.* In *mineralogy*, the name given by the Italians to the aggregate of diallage and saussurite. It is the *euphotide* of the French, and the *verde di Corsica duro* of artists. *Cleveland.*

GABEL, *n.* [Fr. *gabelle*; It. *gabella*; Sp. *gabale*; Sax. *gafel* or *gafol*.]

A tax, impost or duty; usually an excise.

GABELER, *n.* A collector of the *gabel* or of taxes. *Wright.*

GABION, *n.* [Fr. *id.*; It. *gabione*, a large cage; *gabbia*, a cage; Sp. *gavion*, *gabion*, a basket. In Ir. *gabham* signifies to take or hold; W. *gavael*, id.]

In *fortification*, a large basket of wicker-work, of a cylindrical form; filled with earth, and serving to shelter men from an enemy's fire. *Encyc.*

GABELE, *n.* [W. *gavael*, a hold or grasp, the *gable* of a house; *gavaetu*, to grasp, hold, arrest, Ir. *gabham*. Qu. G. *gab*, Ir. *gabhan*, a fork.]

The triangular end of a house or other building, from the cornice or eaves to the top. In America, it is usually called the *gable-end*.

GA'BRIELITES, *n.* In *ecclesiastical history*, a sect of anabaptists in Pomerania, so called from one Gabriel Scherling.

GA'BRONITE, *n.* A mineral, supposed to be a variety of *feldstein*. It occurs in masses, whose structure is more or less foliated, or sometimes compact. Its colors are gray, bluish or greenish gray, and sometimes red. *Cleveland.*

GAD, *n.* [Sax. *gad*, a goad and a wedge; Ir. *gad*, a dart.]

1. A wedge or ingot of steel. *Maron.*

2. A style or graver. *Shak.*

3. A punch of iron with a wooden handle, used by miners. *Encyc.*

GAD, *v. i.* [Ir. *gad*, a stealing, properly a roving, as *rob* is connected with *rove*; *gadann*, to steal. It coincides with the Russ. *chod*, a going or passing; *choju*, go, to pass, to march. See Class Gd. No. 17. Eth. and No. 38.]

1. To walk about; to rove or ramble idly or without any fixed purpose.

Give the water no passage, neither a wicked woman liberty to *gad* abroad. *Eccles.*

2. To ramble in growth; as the *gadding* vine. *Milton.*

GADDER, *n.* A rambler; one that roves about idly.

GAD'DING, *ppr.* Rambling; roving; walking about.

GAD FLY, *n.* [Sax. *gad*, a goad, and *fly*.]

An insect of the genus *Oestrus*, which stings cattle, and deposits its eggs in their skin; called also the *breze*.

GADO LINITE, *n.* A mineral, so called from Professor Gadolin, usually in amorphous masses of a blackish color, and having the appearance of vitreous lava. It contains a new earth called *yttria*.

Dict. of Nat. Hist.

GAD'WALL, *n.* A fowl of the genus *Anas*, inhabiting the north of Europe.

Pennant.

GA'ELIC, *a.* [from *Gael*, *Gaul*, *Gallia*.]

GA'ELIC, *a.* An epithet denoting what belongs to the *Gaels*, tribes of Celtic origin inhabiting the highlands of Scotland; as the *Gaelic* language.

GA'ELIC, *n.* The language of the highlanders of Scotland.

GAFF, *n.* [Ir. *gaf*, a hook; Sp. and Port. *gafa*; Shemitic גָּפָה, to bend.]

1. A harpoon.

2. A sort of boom or pole, used in small ships, to extend the upper edge of the mizen, and of those sails whose foremost edge is joined to the mast by hoops or lacing, and which are extended by a boom below, as the main-sail of a sloop. [Qu. Sax. *geafle*, a pole.] *Mar. Dict.*

GAFFER, *n.* [Qu. Chal. and Heb. גָּפָר, a gear, a man, vir; or Sax. *gefer*, a companion, a *peer*; or Sw. *gabbe*, an old man.]

A word of respect, which seems to have degenerated into a term of familiarity or contempt. [Little used.] *Gay.*

GAFFLE, *n.* [Sax. *geafas*, chops, spurs on cocks.]

1. An artificial spur put on cocks when they are set to fight.

2. A steel lever to bend cross-bows. *Ainsworth.*

GAG, *v. t.* [W. *cegiu*, to choke, to strangle, from *ceg*, a choking. *Ceg* signifies the mouth, an opening.]

1. To stop the mouth by thrusting something into the throat, so as to hinder speaking. *Johnson.*

2. To keck; to heave with nausea. [In Welsh, *gag* is an opening or cleft; *gagenu*, to open, clasp or gape.]

GAG, *n.* Something thrust into the mouth and throat to hinder speaking.

GAGE, *n.* [Fr. *gage*, a pledge, whence *gager*, to pledge; *engager*, to engage; G. *wagen*, to wage, to hazard or risk; *wage*, a balance; D. *waagen*, to venture, Sw. *våga*, Eng. to wage. It seems to be allied to *wag*, *weigh*. The primary sense is to throw, to lay, or deposit. If the elements are *Bg*, *Hg*, the original French orthography was *guage*.]

1. A pledge or pawn; something laid down or given as a security for the performance of some act to be done by the person depositing the thing, and which is to be forfeited by non-performance. It is used of a movable thing; not of land or other immovable.

There I throw my *gage*. *Shak.*

2. A challenge to combat; that is, a glove, a cap, a gauntlet, or the like, cast on the ground by the challenger, and taken up by the acceptor of the challenge. *Encyc.*

3. A measure, or rule of measuring; a standard. [See *Gauge*.] *Young.*

4. The number of feet which a ship sinks in the water.

5. Among *letter-founders*, a piece of hard wood variously notched, used to adjust the dimensions, slopes, &c. of the various sorts of letters. *Encyc.*

6. An instrument in joinery made to strike a line parallel to the straight side of a board. *Encyc.*

A *sliding-gage*, a tool used by mathematical instrument makers for measuring and setting off distances. *Encyc.*

Sea-gage, an instrument for finding the depth of the sea. *Encyc.*

Tide-gage, an instrument for determining the height of the tides. *Encyc.*

Wind-gage, an instrument for measuring the force of the wind on any given surface. *Encyc.*

Weather-gage, the windward side of a ship.

GAGE, *v. t.* To pledge; to pawn; to give or deposit as a pledge or security for some other act; to wage or wager. *Obs.* *Shak.*

2. To bind by pledge, caution or security; to engage. *Shak.*

3. To measure; to take or ascertain the contents of a vessel, cask or ship; written also *gauge*.

GAGED, *ppr.* Pledged; measured.

GAGER, *n.* One who gages or measures the contents.

GAGGER, *n.* One that gags.

GAGGLE, *v. i.* [D. *gaggelen*; G. *gackern*; coinciding with *cackle*.] To make a noise like a goose. *Bacon.*

GAGLING, *n.* The noise of geese.

GAGING, *ppr.* Pledging; measuring the contents.

GAHNITE, *n.* [from *Gahn*, the discoverer.] A mineral, called also *automalite* and *oc-*