

GORDIAN, *a.* Intricate. [See the next word.]

Gordian knot, in antiquity, a knot in the letter or harness of Gordius, a king of Phrygia, so very intricate, that there was no finding where it began or ended. An oracle declared that he who should untie this knot should be master of Asia. Alexander, fearing that his inability to untie it should prove an ill augury, cut it asunder with his sword. Hence, in modern language, a *Gordian knot* is an inextricable difficulty; and to cut the *Gordian knot*, is to remove a difficulty by bold or unusual measures.

Encyc. Lempriere.

GORE, *n.* [Sax. *gor*, gore, mud; *W. gor*; *Ir. gear*, blood, and red; *Gr. γορ*; from issuing.]

1. Blood; but generally, thick or clotted blood; blood that after effusion becomes inspissated. *Milton.*

2. Dirt; mud. [Unusual.] *Bp. Fisher.*

GORE, *n.* [Scot. *gor* or *gair*; *Ice. geir*; *D. geer*.]

1. A wedge-shaped or triangular piece of cloth sewed into a garment to widen it in any part. *Chaucer.*

2. A slip or triangular piece of land. *Cowel.*
3. In *heraldry*, an abatement denoting a coward. It consists of two arch lines, meeting in an acute angle in the middle of the fess point. *Encyc.*

GORE, *v. t.* [*W. gyru*, to thrust; *Gipsey, goro*, a dagger. See Heb. גור. Class Gr. No. 30. 35. 36. 53. 57. &c.]

1. To stab; to pierce; to penetrate with a pointed instrument, as a spear. *Dryden.*

2. To pierce with the point of a horn.
If an ox gore a man or a woman— *Ex. xxi.*

GORED, *pp.* Stabbed; pierced with a pointed instrument.

GORGE, *n. gorg.* [Fr. *gorge*; *It. gorga, gorgia*; *Sp. gorga*, the throat, and *gorga*, a whirlpool; *gorgear*, to warble; *G. gwergel*, whence *gurgle*; *L. gurgies*.]

1. The throat; the gullet; the canal of the neck by which food passes to the stomach.

2. In *architecture*, the narrowest part of the Tuscan and Doric capitals, between the astragal, above the shaft of the column, and the annulets. *Encyc.*

3. In *fortification*, the entrance of the platform of any work. *Encyc.*

4. That which is gorged or swallowed, especially by a hawk or other fowl. *Shak.*

GORGE, *v. t. gorg.* To swallow; especially, to swallow with greediness, or in large mouthfuls or quantities. Hence,

2. To glut; to fill the throat or stomach; to satiate.

The giant, gorged with flesh— *Addison.*

GORGE, *v. i.* To feed. *Milton.*

GORGED, *pp.* Swallowed; glutted.

GORGED, *a.* Having a gorge or throat. *Shak.*

2. In *heraldry*, bearing a crown or the like about the neck. *Encyc.*

GORGEOUS, *a.* Showy; fine; splendid; glittering with gay colors.

With gorgeous wings, the marks of sovereign sway. *Dryden.*

A gorgeous robe. *Luke xxiii.*

GORGEOUSLY, *adv.* With showy magnificence; splendidly; finely. The prince was gorgeously arrayed.

GORGEOUSNESS, *n.* Show of dress or ornament; splendor of raiment.

GORG'ET, *n.* [Fr. *gorgette*, from *gorge*.] A piece of armor for defending the throat or neck; a kind of breast-plate like a half-moon; also, a small convex ornament worn by officers on the breast.

Encyc. Todd.

2. Formerly, a ruff worn by females.

3. In *surgery*, *gorget*, or *gorgeret*, is a cutting instrument used in lithotomy; also, a concave or canulated conductor, called a *blunt gorget*. *Cyc. Encyc.*

GORG'ING, *pp.* Swallowing; eating greedily; glutting.

GORG'ON, *n.* [Gr.] A fabled monster of terrific aspect, the sight of which turned the beholder to stone. The poets represent the Gorgons as three sisters, *Stheno*, *Euryale* and *Medusa*; but authors are not agreed in the description of them.

2. Any thing very ugly or horrid. *Milton.*

GORG'ON, *a.* Like a gorgon; very ugly or terrific; as a *gorgon face*. *Dryden.*

GORGONEAN, { *a.* Like a gorgon; pertaining to gorgons. *Milton.*

Gorgonia nobilis, in natural history, red coral. *Ure.*

GOR'HEN, *n.* The female of the go-cock.

GOR'ING, *pp.* [from *gorc*.] Stabbing; piercing.

GOR'ING, *n.* A pricking; puncture. *Dryden.*

GORMAND, { *n.* [Fr. *gourmand*, from *GORMANDER*, { *n.* *W. gornant*, plenitude, exuberance; *gor*, extreme; *gornoz*, excess. A greedy or ravenous eater; a glutton.

GORMANDIZE, *v. i.* To eat greedily; to swallow voraciously. *Shak.*

GORMANDIZER, *n.* A greedy voracious eater. *Cleveland.*

GORMANDIZING, *pp.* Eating greedily and voraciously.

GORSE, { *n. gors.* [Sax. *gorst*. Qu. *coarse*, *GORSSE*, { *n. gors.* *L. crassus*, or *G. kratzen*, to scratch.]

Furz, or whin, a thick prickly shrub, of the genus *Ulex*, bearing yellow flowers in winter. *Johnson.*

GORY, *a.* [from *gorc*.] Covered with congealed or clotted blood; as *gory locks*. *Shak.*

2. Bloody; murderous. *Shak.*

GOS'HAWK, *n.* [Sax. *goshafoc*, goosehawk.]

A voracious fowl of the genus *Falco*, or hawk kind, larger than the common buzzard, but of a more slender shape. The general color of the plumage is a deep brown; the breast and belly white.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

GOS'LING, *n.* [Sax. *gos*, goose, and *ling*.] A young goose; a goose not full grown.

2. A catkin on nut trees and pines. *Bailey. Johnson.*

GOS'PEL, *n.* [Sax. *godspell*; *god*, good, and *spell*, history, relation, narration, word, speech, that which is uttered, announced, sent or communicated; answering to the

Gr. εὐαγγέλιον, *L. evangelium*, a good or joyful message.]

The history of the birth, life, actions, death, resurrection, ascension and doctrines of Jesus Christ; or a revelation of the grace of God to fallen man through a mediator, including the character, actions, and doctrines of Christ, with the whole scheme of salvation, as revealed by Christ and his apostles. This gospel is said to have been preached to Abraham, by the promise, "in these shall all nations be blessed." *Gal. iii. 8.*

It is called the *gospel of God*. *Rom. i. 1.*

It is called the *gospel of Christ*. *Rom. i. 16.*

It is called the *gospel of salvation*. *Eph. i. 13.*

2. God's word. *Hommond.*

3. Divinity; theology. *Milton.*

GOS'PEL, *v. t.* To instruct in the gospel; or to fill with sentiments of religion. *Shak.*

GOS'PEL-GOSSIP, *n.* One who is overzealous in running about among his neighbors to lecture on religious subjects. *Addison.*

GOS'PELIZE, *v. t.* To form according to the gospel. *Milton.*

2. To instruct in the gospel; to evangelize; as, to *gospelize* the savages. *E. Nutt.*

GOS'PELIZED, *pp.* Instructed in the christian religion.

GOS'PELIZING, *pp.* Evangelizing; instructing in the christian religion. *E. Stiles.*

GOS'PELLER, *n.* An evangelist; also, a follower of Wickliffe, the first Englishman who attempted a reformation from popery. [Not much used.] *Rowe.*

2. He who reads the gospel at the altar.

GOSS, *n.* A kind of low furz or gorse. *Shak.*

GOS'SAMER, *n.* [*L. gossipium*, cotton.] A fine filmy substance, like cobwebs, floating in the air, in calm clear weather, especially in autumn. It is seen in stubble fields and on furz or low bushes, and is probably formed by a species of spider. *Encyc.*

GOS'SAMERY, *a.* Like gossamer; flimsy; unsubstantial. *Pursuits of Literature.*

GOS'SIP, *n.* [Sax. *godsibb*; *god* and *sib* or *sibb*, peace, adoption and relation; a Saxon name of a sponsor at baptism.]

1. A sponsor; one who answers for a child in baptism; a godfather. *Obs.*

2. A tipping companion. *Shak. Davies.*

And sometimes *lark I in a gossip's bowl*. *Shak.*

3. One who runs from house to house, tattling and telling news; an idle tattler. [This is the sense in which the word is now used.] *Dryden.*

4. A friend or neighbor. *Obs.*

5. Mere tattle; idle talk.

GOS'SIP, *v. i.* To prate; to chat; to talk much. *Shak.*

2. To be a pot-companion. *Shak.*

3. To run about and tattle; to tell idle tales.

GOS'SIPING, *pp.* Prating; chattering; running from place to place and tattling.

GOS'SIPING, *n.* A prating; a running about to collect tales and tattle.