

- [In New England, this is never called a *beam*; pieces of timber of the proper size for rails are called *scantling*.]
2. In the *United States*, a piece of timber cleft, hewed or sawed, rough or smooth, inserted in upright posts for fencing. The common *rails* among farmers, are rough, being used as they are split from the chestnut or other trees. The *rails* used in fences of boards or pickets round gentlemen's houses and gardens, are usually sawed scantling and often dressed with the plane.
 3. A bar of wood or iron used for inclosing any place; the piece into which ballusters are inserted.
 4. A series of posts connected with cross beams, by which a place is inclosed.

Johnson.

In New England we never call this series a *rail*, but by the general term *railing*. In a picket fence, the pales or pickets rise above the rails; in a ballustrade, or fence resembling it, the ballusters usually terminate in the rails.

5. In a *ship*, a narrow plank nailed for ornament or security on a ship's upper works; also, a curved piece of timber extending from the bows of a ship to the continuation of its stern, to support the knee of the head, &c.

Mar. Dict.

RAIL, *n.* A bird of the genus *Rallus*, consisting of many species. The water rail has a long slender body with short concave wings. The birds of this genus inhabit the slimy margins of rivers and ponds covered with marsh plants.

Encyc.

RAIL, *n.* [Sax. *hrægle*, *rægle*, from *urigan*, to put on or cover, to rig.]

A woman's upper garment; retained in the word *nightrail*, but not used in the United States.

RAIL, *v. t.* To inclose with rails.

Carew. Spectator.

2. To range in a line.

Bacon.

RAIL, *v. i.* [D. *rallen*, to jabber; Sp. *rallar*, to grate, to molest; Port. *rallar*, to swagger, to hector, to huff, to scold. This corresponds nearly with the G. *prahlen*, which may be the same word with a prefix, Eng. to *brawl*, Fr. *brailer*; Sw. *ralla*, to prate; Fr. *rallier*, to rally. In Dan. *driller* signifies to drill and to banter.]

To utter reproaches; to scoff; to use insolent and reproachful language; to reproach or censure in opprobrious terms; followed by *at* or *against*, formerly by *on*.

Shak.

And *railed* at arts he did not understand.

Dryden.

Lesbia forever *on me rails*.

Swift.

RAIL-BIRD, *n.* A bird of the genus *Cuculus*.

Encyc.

RAILER, *n.* One who scoffs, insults, censures or reproaches with opprobrious language.

South. Thomson.

RAILING, *ppr.* Clamoring with insulting language; uttering reproachful words.

2. *a.* Expressing reproach; insulting; as a *railing* accusation. 2 Pet. ii.

RAILING, *n.* Reproachful or insolent language. 1 Pet. iii.

RAILING, *ppr.* Inclosing with rails.

RAILING, *n.* A series of rails; a fence.

2. Rails in general; or the scantling for rails.

RAILINGLY, *adv.* With scoffing or insulting language.

RAILLERY, *n.* [Fr. *railleur*.] Banter; jesting language; good humored pleasantry or slight satire; satirical merriment. Let *railery* be without malice or heat.

B. Jonson.

—Studies employed on low objects; the very naming of them is sufficient to turn them into *railery*.

Addison.

RAILLEUR, *n.* [Fr.] A banterer; a jester; a mocker. [Not English nor in use.]

Sprat.

RAIMENT, *n.* [for *arrayment*; Norm. *arar*, to array; *arais*, array, apparel. See *Array* and *Ray*.]

1. Clothing in general; vestments; vesture; garments. Gen. xxiv. Dent. viii.

Living, both food and *raiment* she supplies.

Dryden.

2. A single garment.

Sidney.

[In this sense it is rarely used, and indeed is improper.]

RAIN, *v. i.* [Sax. *hregnan*, *regnan*, *renian*, *rinan*, to rain; Goth. *regn*, rain; Sax. *racu*, Cimbric, *rackia*, rain; D. G. *regen*, rain; D. *regenen*, to rain; Sw. *regn*, rain; *regna*, to rain; Dan. *regn*, rain; *regner*, to rain; G. *heregnen*, to rain on. It seems that *rain* is contracted from *regen*. It is the Gr. *βρεχω*, to rain, to water, which we retain in *brook*, and the Latins, by dropping the prefix, in *rigo*, *irrigo*, to irrigate. The primary sense is to pour out, to drive

forth, Ar. *برك* *baraka*, coinciding with

Heb. Ch. Syr. *ברך*. Class Brg. No. 3.]

1. To fall in drops from the clouds, as water; used mostly with *it* for a nominative; as, *it rains*; *it will rain*; *it rained*, or *it has rained*.

2. To fall or drop like rain; as, tears *rained* at their eyes.

Milton.

RAIN, *v. t.* To pour or shower down from the upper regions, like rain from the clouds.

Then said the Lord to Moses, behold, I will *rain* bread from heaven for you. Ex. xvi.

God shall cast the fury of his wrath upon him, and shall *rain* it upon him while he is eating. Job xx.

Upon the wicked he shall *rain* snares, fire and brimstone, and a horrible tempest. Ps. xi.

RAIN, *n.* [Sax. *regn*, *regn*, *ren*.] The descent of water in drops from the clouds; or the water thus falling. *Rain* is distinguished from *mist*, by the size of the drops, which are distinctly visible. When water falls in very small drops or particles, we call it *mist*, and *fog* is composed of particles so fine as to be not only indistinguishable, but to float or be suspended in the air.

RAINBAT, *a.* Beaten or injured by the rain. [Not used.]

Hall.

RAINBOW, *n.* A bow, or an arch of a circle, consisting of all the colors formed by the refraction and reflection of rays of light from drops of rain or vapor, appearing in the part of the hemisphere opposite to the sun. When the sun is at the horizon, the rainbow is a semicircle. The rainbow is called also *iris*.

Newton.

The moon sometimes forms a bow or

arch of light, more faint than that formed by the sun, and called *lunar rainbow*. Similar bows at sea are called *marine rainbows* or *sea bows*.

Encyc.

RAIN-DEER, *n.* [Sax. *krana*; Basque, *orena* or *orina*.]

The rane, a species of the cervine genus; thus written Spect. No. 406. [See *Rane*.]

RAININESS, *n.* [from *rainy*.] The state of being rainy.

RAIN-WATER, *n.* Water that has fallen from the clouds.

Boyle.

RAINY, *a.* Abounding with rain; wet; showery; as *rainy* weather; a *rainy* day or season.

RAISE, *v. t.* *raze*. [Goth. *raisyan*, *ur-raisyan*, to raise, to rouse, to excite; *ur-raisan*, to rise. This word occurs often in the Gothic version of the gospels, Luke iii. 8. John vi. 40. 44. In Sw. *resa* signifies to go, walk or travel, and to *raise*; Dan. *rejser*, the same. These verbs appear to be the L. *gradior*, *gressus*, without the prefix; and *gradior* is the Shemitic *ררה*, which has a variety of significations, but in Syriac, to go, to walk, to pass, as in Latin. Whether the Swedish and Danish verbs are from different roots, blended by usage or accident, or whether the different senses have proceeded from one common signification, to move, to open, to stretch, let the reader judge.]

1. To lift; to take up; to heave; to lift from a low or reclining posture; as, to *raise* a stone or weight; to *raise* the body in bed. The angel smote Peter on the side and *raised* him up. Acts xii.

2. To set upright; as, to *raise* a mast.

3. To set up; to erect; to set on its foundations and put together; as, to *raise* the frame of a house.

4. To build; as, to *raise* a city, a fort, a wall, &c.

I will *raise* forts against thee. Is. xxix. Amos ix.

5. To rebuild.

They shall *raise* up the former desolations. Is. lxi.

6. To form to some highth by accumulation; as, to *raise* a heap of stones. Josh. viii.

7. To make; to produce; to amass; as, to *raise* a great estate out of small profits.

8. To enlarge; to amplify. Shak.

9. To exalt; to elevate in condition; as, to *raise* one from a low estate.

10. To exalt; to advance; to promote in rank or honor; as, to *raise* one to an office of distinction.

This gentleman came to be *raised* to great titles. Clarendon.

11. To enhance; to increase; as, to *raise* the value of coin; to *raise* the price of goods.

12. To increase in current value.

The plate pieces of eight were *raised* three pence in the piece. Temple.

13. To excite; to put in motion or action; as, to *raise* a tempest or tumult.

He commandeth and *raiseth* the stormy wind. Ps. cvii.

14. To excite to sedition, insurrection, war or tumult; to stir up. Acts xxiv.

Æneas then employs his pains
In parts remote to *raise* the Tuscan swains.
Dryden.