

claim for money; correlative to *debtor*. In a figurative sense, one who has just claim to services.

Addition.

Creditors have better memories than *debtors*. *Franklin.*

2. One who believes. [Not used.] *Shak.*

CREDITRITY, *n.* A female creditor.

CREDULITY, *n.* [Fr. *credulité*, *l.* *credulus*, from *credo*, to believe. See *Creed* and *Credulous*.]

Easiness of belief; a weakness of mind by which a person is disposed to believe, or yield his assent to a declaration or proposition, without sufficient evidence of the truth of what is said or proposed; a disposition to believe on slight evidence or no evidence at all.

CREDULOUS, *a.* [L. *credulus*, from *credo*. See *Creed*.]

Apt to believe without sufficient evidence; unsuspecting; easily deceived.

CREDULOUSNESS, *n.* Credulity; easiness of belief; readiness to believe without sufficient evidence.

Beyond all credulity is the *credulousness* of atheists, who believe that chance could make the world, when it cannot build a house.

S. Clarke.

CREED, *n.* [W. *credo*; Sax. *creda*; *ll.* and *Sp. credo*.] This word seems to have been introduced by the use of the Latin *credo*, *I believe*, at the beginning of the Apostles' creed, or brief system of christian faith. *L. credo*; W. *credu*; Corn. *credu*; *Ir. creid*; *Ir. creidin*; *ll. credere*; *Sax. creder*; *Port. crer*; *Fr. croire*; *Norm. crere*, *creer*. The primary sense is probably to throw, or to throw on; or to set, to rest on. See *Creed*. Class Rb.]

1. A brief summary of the articles of christian faith; a symbol; as the Apostolic creed.

2. That which is believed; any system of principles which are believed or professed; as a political creed.

CREEK, *v. t.* To make a harsh sharp noise. [See *Creek*.] *Shak.*

CREEK, *n. krik*. [Sax. *crecea*; *D. creek*; *Fr. crigue*; *W. crig*; a crack; *crigylt*, a creek; *rhig*, a notch or groove. See *Crack*.]

1. A small inlet, bay or cove; a recess in the shore of the sea, or of a river.

They discovered a certain creek with a shore. *Acts xxvii.*

2. Any turn or winding. *Shak.*

3. A prominence or jut in a winding coast. [This sense is probably not legitimate.] *Davies.*

4. In some of the American States, a small river. This sense is not justified by etymology, but as streams often enter into creeks and small bays or form them, the name has been extended to small streams in general.

CREEKY, *a. krikly*. Containing creeks; full of creeks; winding. *Spenser.*

CREEP, *v. i.* pret. and pp. *crept*. [Sax. *creopan*, *crepan*; W. *crepan*, *cropan*; *D. kroyen*; *Sax. krypa*; to creep; *Dan. kry*, *hen*, a creeping; *Ir. drapan*; *Sp. and Port. trepar*; *L. rept*; *Gr. reptō*. The sense is to catch, to *creep*; and the latter is from the same root, Welsh *crepan*, allied to *L. rapio*, and to *W. ripian*, to scrape or scratch. Class Rb.]

1. To move with the belly on the ground, or the surface of any other body, as a worm or serpent without legs, or as many insects with feet and very short legs; to crawl.

2. To move along the ground, or on the surface of any other body, in growth, as a vine; to grow along.

3. To move slowly, feebly or timorously; as an old or infirm man, who *creeps* about his chamber.

4. To move slowly and insensibly, as time.

To morrow, and to morrow, and to morrow, *Creeps* in this petty pace from day to day. *Shak.*

5. To move secretly; to move so as to escape detection, or prevent suspicion.

Of this sort are they who *creep* into houses, and lead captive silly women. *2 Tim. iii.*

6. To steal in; to move forward unheard and unseen; to come or enter unexpectedly or unobserved; as, some error has *crept* into the copy of a history.

7. To move or behave with severity; to fawn. *Shak.*

CREEPER, *n.* One who creeps; that which creeps; a reptile; also, a creeping plant, which moves along the surface of the earth or attaches itself to some other body, as ivy.

2. An iron used to slide along the grate in kitchens. *Johnson.*

3. A kind of patten or clog worn by women. *Johnson.*

4. Creeper or creepers, an instrument of iron with hooks or claws, for drawing up things from the bottom of a well, river or harbor.

5. A genus of birds, the *Certhia*, or ox-eye, of many species. These birds run along the body or branch of a tree, and when they observe a person near, they run to the side opposite, so as to keep out of sight. *Encyc.*

CREEPIHOLE, *n.* A hole into which an animal may creep to escape notice or danger; also, a subterfuge; an excuse. *Johnson.*

CREEPING, *ppc.* Moving on the belly, or close to the surface of the earth or other body; moving slowly, secretly, or silently; moving insensibly; stealing along.

CREEPIGLY, *adv.* By creeping; slowly; in the manner of a reptile. *Sidney.*

CREEPL. [Not used.] [See *Cripple*.]

CREESE, *n.* A Malay dagger.

CREMATION, *n.* [L. *crematio*, from *cremo*, to burn.]

A burning; particularly, the burning of the dead, according to the custom of many ancient nations. *Encyc.*

CREMOR, *n.* [L. See *Creman*.] Cream; any expressed juice of grain; yeast; seum; a substance resembling cream. *Coe.*

CRENATE, *a.* [L. *crena*, a notch.

CRENATED, *a.* whence *crenatus*, notched. See *Cranium*.]

Notched; indented; scalloped. In *botany*, a crenate leaf has its edge, as it were, cut with angular or circular incisions, not inclining towards either extremity. When the scallops are segments of small circles, it is said to be *obtusely crenated*; when the larger segments have smaller ones

upon them, a leaf is said to be *doubly crenate*. *Martyn.*

CRENATURE, *n.* A scallop, like a notch, in a leaf, or in the style of a plant. *Bigelow.*

CRENKLE, *a.* [See *Crinkle*.]

CRENGLE, *a.* [See *Crinkle*.]

CRENULATE, *a.* [dim. used by *Linne*.] Having the edge, as it were, cut into very small scallops. *Martyn.*

CREOLE, *n.* In the *West Indies* and *Spanish America*, a native of those countries descended from European ancestors.

CREPANCE, *n.* [L. *crepo*, to burst.] A

CREPANE, *n.* chop or crack in a horse's leg, caused by the shoe of one hind foot crossing and striking the other hind foot. It sometimes degenerates into an ulcer. *Encyc.*

CREPITATE, *v. i.* [L. *crepito*, to crackle, from *crepo*, to crackle, to burst with a sharp sound: *ll. crepitare*, *crepare*; *Fr. creper*; *Sax. hrepan*; *Goth. hrapjan*; *D. roepen*; allied to *Eng. rip*, and probably from the root of *rippo*, *rupi*, &c. See *رپ* and *خرق* garafa. Class Rb. No 27. and No. 18. 26. 30.]

To crackle; to snap; to burst with a small sharp abrupt sound, rapidly repeated; as salt in fire, or during calcination. It differs from *dtonate*, which signifies, to burst with a single loud report.

CREPITATING, *ppr.* Crackling; snapping.

CREPITATION, *n.* The act of bursting with a frequent repetition of sharp sounds; the noise of some salts in calcination; cracking. *Coe. Encyc.*

2. The noise of fractured bones, when moved by a surgeon to ascertain a fracture. *Encyc.*

CREPT, *pret.* and *pp.* of *creep*.

CREPUSCLE, *n.* [L. *crepusculum*, from *CREPUSCULE*, *n.* *crepo* or its root, a little burst or break of light, or broken light. *Creperus* is from the same root.]

Twilight; the light of the morning from the first dawn to sunrise, and of the evening from sunset to darkness. It is occasioned by the refraction of the sun's rays.

CREPUSCULAR, *a.* Pertaining to twilight; noting the imperfect light of the morning and evening; hence, imperfectly clear or luminous. *Brown. Glanville.*

CREPUSCULINE, *a.* Crepuscular. [Not used.]

CRESCENT, *a.* [L. *creresco*, from *creresco*, to grow; *Fr. croissant*. See *Grow*.]

Increasing; growing; as *crecent horns*. *Milton.*

CRESCENT, *n.* The increasing or new moon, which, when receding from the sun, shows a curving rim of light, terminating in points or horns. It is applied to the old or decreasing moon, in a like state, but less properly. *Dryden.*

2. The figure or likeness of the new moon; as that borne in the Turkish flag or national standard. The standard itself, and figuratively, the Turkish power. *Gibbon.*

3. In *heraldry*, a bearing in the form of a half moon.