

Port. *mim*; D. *my*; Galic, *mo*; Hindoo, *mejko*; Sans. *me*. The Hindoos use *me* in the nominative, as in Celtic and French, *mi*, *moi*.]

Follow *me*; give to *me*; go with *me*. The phrase "I followed me close," is not in use. Before *think*, as in *methinks*, *me* is properly in the dative case, and the verb is impersonal; the construction is, *it appears to me*.

ME'ACOCK, *n.* [Qu. *meek* and *cock*.] An uxorious, effeminate man. [Not used.] Johnson.

ME'ACOCK, *a.* Lame; timorous; cowardly. [Not used.] Shak.

MEAD, *n.* [Sax. *medo*, *medu*, mead or wine; D. *mede*; G. *meth*; Dan. *miød*; W. *mez*; Ir. *miodh* or *meadh*; Arn. *mez*. In Gr. *μεθυ* is wine, as is *madja* in Sanscrit, and *medo* in Zend. In Russ. *med* or *meda* is honey. If the word signifies primarily liquor in general, it may be allied to Gr. *μυδαω*, L. *madeo*, to be wet. But it may have had its name from honey.]

A fermented liquor consisting of honey and water, sometimes enriched with spices.

MEAD, { *n.* *meed*, { [Sax. *made*, *me-*
MEADOW, { *n.* *med'o*. { *dewe*; G. *matte*,
a mat, and a meadow; Ir. *madh*. The
sense is extended or flat depressed land.
It is supposed that this word enters into
the name *Mediolanum*, now *Milan*, in
Italy; that is, *mead-land*.]

A tract of low land. In America, the word is applied particularly to the low ground on the banks of rivers, consisting of a rich mold or an alluvial soil, whether grass land, pasture, tillage or wood land; as the *meadows* on the banks of the Connecticut. The word with us does not necessarily imply wet land. This species of land is called, in the western states, *bottoms*, or *bottom land*. The word is also used for other low or flat lands, particularly lands appropriated to the culture of grass.

The word is said to be applied in Great Britain to land somewhat watery, but covered with grass.

Meadow means pasture or grass land, annually mown for hay; but more particularly, land too moist for cattle to graze on in winter, without spoiling the sward.

[*Mead* is used chiefly in poetry.]

MEAD'OW-ORE, *n.* In mineralogy, conchoidal bog iron ore.

MEAD'OW-RUE, *n.* A plant of the genus *Thalictrum*.

MEAD'OW-SAFFRON, *n.* A plant of the genus *Colchicum*.

MEAD'OW-SAXIFRAGE, *n.* A plant of the genus *Peucedanum*.

MEAD'OW-SWEET, *n.* A plant of the genus *Spirea*.

MEAD'OW-WORT, *n.* A plant. Drayton.

MEAD'OWY, *a.* Containing meadow.

ME'AGER, *a.* [Fr. *maigre*; Sp. It. *magro*; L. *macer*; D. G. Dan. Sw. *ma-ger*; Gr. *μικτος*, *μικρος*, small; allied to Eng. *meek*; Ch. *מָצוּק*, to be thin, to be depressed, to subdue; Heb. *מָצוּק* id. Class Mg. No. 2. 9. and 10. 13.]

1. Thin; lean; destitute of flesh or having little flesh; applied to animals.

Meager were his looks.

Sharp misery had worn him to the bones.

Shak.

2. Poor; barren; destitute of richness, fertility, or any thing valuable; as a *meager* soil; *meager* limestone.

Journ. of Science.

3. Barren; poor; wanting strength of diction, or richness of ideas or imagery; as a *meager* style or composition; *meager* animals.

ME'AGER, *v. t.* To make lean. [Not used.] Knolles.

ME'AGERLY, *adv.* Poorly; thinly.

ME'AGERNESS, *n.* Leanness; want of flesh.

2. Poorness; barrenness; want of fertility or richness.

3. Scantiness; barrenness; as the *meager-ness* of service.

Bacon.

MEAK, *n.* A hook with a long handle.

Tusser.

MEAL, *n.* [Sax. *mal*, a part or portion; D. *maal*; G. *mahl*; probably from breaking. See the next word.]

1. A portion of food taken at one time; a repast. It is customary in the U. States to eat three *meals* in a day. The principal *meal* of our ancestors was dinner, at noon.

2. A part; a fragment; in the word *piece-meal*.

MEAL, *n.* [Sax. *mealewe*, *melewe*; G. *mehl*; Sw. *mjöl*; Dan. D. *meel*; G. *mehlich*, mealy, mellow; W. *mäl*, bruised, ground, smooth. This word seems to be allied to *mill*, L. *mola*, and to L. *mollis*, Eng. *mellow*. The radical sense is probably to break, comminute, or grind to fine particles, and hence the sense of softness; or the sense of softness may be from yielding or smoothness, and the verb may be from the noun.]

1. The substance of edible grain ground to fine particles, and not bolted or sifted. Meal primarily includes the bran as well as the flour. Since bolting has been generally practiced, the word *meal* is not generally applied to the finer part, or flour, at least in the United States, though I believe it is sometimes so used. In New England, *meal* is now usually applied to ground maize, whether bolted or unbolted, called *Indian meal*, or *corn-meal*. The words *wheat-meal* and *rye-meal* are rarely used, though not wholly extinct; and *meal* occurs also in *oatmeal*.

2. Flour; the finer part of pulverized grain. [This sense is now uncommon.]

MEAL, *v. t.* To sprinkle with meal, or to mix meal with. [Little used.]

ME'ALINESS, *n.* The quality of being mealy; softness or smoothness to the touch.

MEAL-MAN, *n.* A man that deals in meal.

ME'AL-TIME, *n.* The usual time of eating meals.

ME'ALY, *a.* Having the qualities of meal; soft; smooth to the feel.

2. Like meal; farinaceous; soft, dry and friable; as a *mealy* potatoe; a *mealy* apple.

3. Overspread with something that resembles meal; as the *mealy* wings of an insect.

Thomson.

ME'ALY-MOUTHED, *a.* Literally, having a soft mouth; hence, unwilling to tell the

truth in plain language; inclined to speak of any thing in softer terms than the truth will warrant.

L'Estrange.

MEALY-MOUTH'EDNESS, *n.* Inclination to express the truth in soft words, or to disguise the plain fact; reluctance to tell the plain truth.

MEAN, *a.* [Sax. *mane*, *gemane*; the latter word signifies common, L. *communis*. *Mean* coincides in elements with Sax. *maneg*, many, and the primary sense may be a crowd, like *vulgar*, from L. *vulgus*. If the primary sense is small, it coincides with Ir. *mion*, W. *min* or *main*, Fr. *menu*, It. *meno*, L. *minor* and *minuo*, to diminish; but I think the word belongs to the root of *common*. See Class Mn. No. 2 and 5.]

1. Wanting dignity; low in rank or birth; as a man of *mean* parentage, *mean* birth or origin.

2. Wanting dignity of mind; low minded; base; destitute of honor; spiritless.

Can you imagine I so *mean* could prove,

To save my life by changing of my love?

Dryden.

3. Contemptible; despicable.

The Roman legions and great Cesar found

Our fathers no *mean* foes.

Milton.

4. Of little value; low in worth or estimation; worthy of little or no regard.

We fast, not to please men, nor to promote
any *mean* worldly interest.

Smatridge.

5. Of little value; humble; poor; as a *mean* abode; a *mean* dress.

MEAN, *a.* [Fr. *moyen*; Sp. Port. *mediano*; L. *medium*, *medius*; Ir. *meadhan*. See *Middle*.]

1. Middle; at an equal distance from the extremes; as the *mean* distance; the *mean* proportion between quantities; the *mean* ratio.

According to the fittest style of lofty, *mean*,
or lowly.

Milton.

2. Intervening; intermediate; coming between; as in the *mean* time or while.

MEAN, *n.* The middle point or place; the middle rate or degree; mediocrity; medium. Observe the golden *mean*.

There is a *mean* in all things.

But no authority of gods or men

Allow of any *mean* in poesy.

Rosecommon.

2. Intervening time; interval of time; interim; meantime.

And in the *mean*, vouchsafe her honorable
tomb.

Spenser.

Here is an omission of time or while.

3. Measure; regulation. [Not in use.]

Spenser.

4. Instrument; that which is used to effect an object; the medium through which something is done.

The virtuous conversation of christians was a
mean to work the conversion of the heathen to
Christ.

Hooker.

In this sense, *means*, in the plural, is generally used, and often with a definitive and verb in the singular.

By this *means* he had them more at vantage.

Bacon.

A good character, when established, should not be rested on as an end, but employed as a *means* of doing good.

Atterbury.

5. *Means*, in the plural, income, revenue, resources, substance or estate, considered as the instrument of effecting any purpose. He would have built a house, but he wanted *means*.