

BEHOLDER, *n.* One who beholds; a spectator; one who looks upon, or sees.

BEHOLDING, *ppr.* Fixing the eyes upon; looking on; seeing.

2. Fixing the attention; regarding with attention.

3. Obligation. [Not used.] *Curcio.*

4. Oblige. *Bacon on Love.* A mistaken use of the word for *beholden*.

BEHOLDINGNESS, *n.* The state of being obliged. *Donne. Sidney.*

[An error, and not in use.]

BEHONEY, *v. t.* To sweeten with honey. *Sherwood.*

BEHOOF, *n.* [Sax. *behofian*, to want, to be necessary, to be expedient; hence, to be a duty; D. *behoeren*, to need; Ger. *behuf*, *behöven*, to need, to lack; *behov*, need, necessity, sufficiency, maintenance, that is, things needed; Sw. *behof*, need; *behöfva*, to need.]

1. Radically, need, necessity; whence, by an easy analogy, the word came to signify that which supplies want. Hence, in present usage.

2. That which is advantageous; advantage; profit; benefit.

No mean recompense it brings to your *behov*. *Milton.*

BEHOOVABLE, *a.* Needful; profitable.

BEHOOV, *v. t.* *behoov*. [Sax. *behofian*, to want, to be necessary, or expedient. *Sa-gra.*]

To be necessary for; to be fit for; to be meet for, with respect to necessity, duty, or convenience.

And thus it *behooved* Christ to suffer. *Luke* XXIV.

It may perhaps be used intransitively; as, let him behave as it *behooveth*; but I believe such use is rare.

BEHOOFFUL, *a.* *behoof'ful*. Needful; useful; profitable; advantageous.

BEHOOFFULLY, *adv.* *behoov'fully*. Usefully; profitably. [Obs. or nearly so.]

BEHÖT, *pret.* of *behligh*. Obs.

BEHOVE, and its derivatives. [See *Behoove*.]

BEHOWL, *v. i.* [be and howl.] To howl at. [Not used.] *Shak.*

BEING, *ppr.* [See *Be*.] Existing in a certain state.

Men, *being* in honor, abideth not. *Ps.* xlix.

BEING, *n.* Existence; as, God is the author of our being.

In God we live, and move, and have our being. *Acts* xvii.

2. A particular state or condition. [This is hardly a different sense.]

3. A person existing; applied to the human race.

4. An immaterial, intelligent existence, or spirit.

Superior beings, when of late they saw
A mortal man unfold all nature's law— *Pope*

5. An animal; any living creature.

Animals are such beings, as are endowed with sensation and spontaneous motion.

BEJA'DE, *v. t.* [be and jade.] To tire. [Not used.] *Milton.*

BEJA'PE, *v. t.* To laugh at; to deceive. [Not used.] *Chaucer.*

BEKISS, *v. t.* [be and kiss.] To kiss or salute. [Not in use.] *Jonson.*

BEKNAVE, *v. t.* [be and knave.] To call knave. [Not used.] *Pope.*

BEKNOW, *v. t.* [be and know.] To acknowledge. [Not used.] *Chaucer.*

BELABOR, *v. t.* [perhaps from *be* and *labor*; but in Russ. *bulava* is a club.] To beat soundly; to thump.

Ajax *belabors* there a harmless ox. *Dryden.*

BELACE, *v. t.* [be and lace.] To fasten, as with a lace or cord.

2. To beat; to whip.

BELACED, *a.* Adorned with lace.

Beaumont.

BELAMOUR, *n.* [Fr. *bel-amour*.] A gallant; a consort. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

BELAMY, *n.* [Fr. *bel-ami*.] A good friend; an intimate. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

BELATE, *v. t.* [be and late.] To retard or make too late. [Not used.]

BELATED, *a.* [be and lated.] Brought; abroad late at night.

2. Too late for the hour appointed or intended; later than the proper time.

BELATEDNESS, *n.* A being too late.

Milton.

BELAVE, *v. t.* [be and lave.] To wash. [Not used.]

BELAWGIVE, *v. t.* To give a law to. [Barbarous and not used.] *Milton.*

BELAY, *v. t.* [This word is composed of *be* and *lay*, to lay by, lay by, or close. See *Belaguer*.]

1. To block up, or obstruct. *Dryden. Gower.*

2. To place in ambush. *Spenser.*

3. To adorn, surround, or cover. *Spenser.*

In *seamanship*, to fasten, or make fast, by winding a rope round a cleat, kevil, or heaving-pin. It is chiefly applied to the running rigging. *Mar. Dict.*

BELAYED, *ppr.* Obstructed; ambushed; made fast.

BELAYING, *ppr.* Blocking up; laying an ambush; making fast.

BELCH, *v. t.* [Sax. *bealcen*, to belch, that is, to push out, to swell or heave; *belgan*, to be angry, that is, to swell with passion; Eng. *bulge*, *bilge*, *bulk*; allied to W. *bale*, prominent.]

1. To throw or eject wind from the stomach with violence.

2. To eject violently from a deep hollow place; as, a volcano *belches* flames and lava.

BELCH, *n.* The act of throwing out from the stomach, or from a hollow place; eruption.

2. A cant name for malt liquor. *Dennis.*

BELCHED, *pp.* Ejected from the stomach, or from a hollow place.

BELCHING, *ppr.* Ejecting from the stomach or any deep hollow place.

BELCHING, *n.* Eruption. *Barrel.*

BELDAM, *n.* [Fr. *belle*, fine, handsome, and *dame*, lady. It seems to be used in contempt, or as a cant term.]

1. An old woman. *Shak.*

Spenser seems to have used the word in its true sense for *good dame*.

2. A hag. *Dryden. Shak.*

BELAGUER, *v. t.* *bele'guer*. [Ger. *belagern*, from *be*, by, near, and *lagern*, to lay; D. *belagern*, to besiege, to convene, to belay; Sw. *belagra*, to besiege; Dan. *beligge*; Russ. *oblagay*.]

To besiege; to block up; to surround with an army, so as to preclude escape. *Dryden.*

BELEAGUERED, *pp.* Besieged.

BELEAGUERER, *n.* One who besieges. *Sherwood.*

BELEAGURING, *ppr.* Besieging; blockading up.

BELEAVE, *v. t.* [be and leave.] To leave. [Not used.] *May.*

BELEE, *v. t.* [be and lee.] To place on the lee, or in a position unfavorable to the wind. [Not used.] *Shak.*

BELEMNITE, *n.* [Gr. *βελων*, a dart, or arrow, from *βελος*, from the root of *βελαι*, pello, to throw.]

Arrow-head, or finger stone; vulgarly called thunder-bolt, or thunder stone. A genus of fossil shells, common in chalk and limestone. These shells consist of an interior cone, divided into partitions connected by a syphon, as in the nautilus, and surrounded by a number of concentric layers, made up of fibers radiating from the axis. These layers are somewhat transparent, and when burnt, rubbed or scraped, give the odor of roasted horn. The species are now extinct. *Encyc. Ed. Encyc.*

BELEPRE, *v. t.* To infect with leprosy. [Not used.] *Beaumont.*

BELFRY, *n.* [Fr. *befroy*; barb. L. *belfredus*.]

1. Among military writers of the middle age, a tower erected by besiegers to overlook the place besieged, in which sentinels were placed to watch the avenues, and to prevent surprise from parties of the enemy, or to give notice of fires, by ringing a bell. *Encyc.*

2. That part of a steeple, or other building, in which a bell is hung, and more particularly, the timber work which sustains it. *Encyc.*

BELGARD, *n.* [Fr. *bel* and *gard*.] A soft look or glance. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

BELGIAN, *a.* [See *Belgie*.] Belonging to Belgica, or the Netherlands.

BELGIAN, *n.* A native of Belgica, or the Low Countries.

BELGIC, *a.* [L. *belgicus*, from *Belgae*, the inhabitants of the Netherlands and the country bordering on the Rhine, from that river to the Seine and the ocean. The name may have been given to them from their *bulk* or large stature; W. *bale*, prominent, proud, from *bail*, a shooting out; Eng. *bulge*; Russ. *volikoi*, great. See *Pomp. Meln. Lib.* 3. 3. and 3. 5: *Tac.* Agric. *Joseph. De Bell. Jud.* 2. 16: *Herod.* 1. 6: *Strabo.* L. 4. Owen supposes the Welch name, *Belgial*, to have been given them, from their bursting forth and ravaging Britain and Ireland. But they had the name on the continent, before their irruption into Britain.]

Pertaining to the *Belgae*, who, in Cesar's time, possessed the country between the Rhine, the Seine and the ocean. They were of Teutonic origin, and anterior to Cesar's invasion of Gaul and Britain, colonies of them had established themselves in the southern part of Britain. The country was called from its inhabitants *Belgica*, not *Belgium*, which was the town of *Beauvais*. See *Cluv. Germ. Ant.* 2. 2.