

CATAMITE, *n.* [*L. catamitus*.] A boy kept for unnatural purposes.

CATAPASM, *n.* [*Gr. κατασπασμα*.] A dry powder for sprinkling the body. *Coxe.*

CATAPELT, or **CAT'APULT**, *n.* [*Gr. καταπέλτης*; *L. catapulta*; *xara* and *πέλτης*, a target, or more probably from *πάλλω* or *βάλλω*, to throw or drive, *L. pello*.]

A military engine used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for throwing stones, darts and arrows upon an enemy. Some of these would throw a stone of a hundred pounds weight. *Milford.*

CATAPELTIC, *a.* Pertaining to the catapelt. As a noun, the catapelt.

CATAPHONICS, *n.* [*Gr. κατα, and φωνή, sound*.]

The doctrine of reflected sounds, a branch of acoustics. *Encyc.*

CATAPHRACT, *n.* [*L. cataphracta*; *Gr. καταφρακτος*, from *καταφρασσα*, to arm or fortify.]

1. In the ancient military art, a piece of heavy defensive armor, formed of cloth or leather, strengthened with scales or links, used to defend the breast, or whole body, or even the horse as well as the rider. *Encyc.*

2. A horseman in complete armor. *Milton.*

CATAPLASM, *n.* [*Gr. καταπλασμα*, from *καταπλασσω*, to anoint, or to spread as a plaster.]

A poultice; a soft and moist substance to be applied to some part of the body, to excite or repel heat, or to relax the skin, &c. When mustard is an ingredient, it is called a *sinapism*. *Encyc.*

CATAPUCE, *n.* The herb spurge. *Obs.*

CATARACT, *n.* [*L. cataracta*; *Gr. καταρακτης*, from *καταρασσα*, to break or fall with violence, from *ρασσα*, *ράω*, to strike or dash.]

1. A great fall of water over a precipice; as that of Niagara, of the Rhine, Danube and Nile. It is a cascade upon a great scale.

The tremendous cataracts of America thundering in their solitudes. *Iving.*

2. In medicine and surgery, an opacity of the crystalline lens, or its capsule; a disorder in the eye, by which the pupil, which is usually black and transparent, becomes opaque, blue, gray, brown, &c., by which vision is impaired or destroyed. *Encyc.*

CATARRH, *n. catarr.* [*L. catarrhus*; *Gr. καταρροή*, from *καταρρῖω*, to flow down.]

A defluxion, or increased secretion of mucus from the membranes of the nose, fauces and bronchæ, with fever, sneezing, cough, thirst, lassitude and loss of appetite, and sometimes an entire loss of taste; called also a cold, *coryza*. An epidemic catarrh is called *Influenza*. *Hooper. Coxe.*

CATARRHAL, *a.* Pertaining to catarrh.

CATARRHOUS, *a.* Produced by it or attending it, as a *catarrhal fever*.

CATATERISM, *n.* [*Gr. κατατερισμος*, from *κατατερῖω*, to distinguish with stars, or to place among the stars; *xara* and *αστρο*, a star.]

A constellation, or a placing among the stars.

CATATROPHE, *n.* [*Gr. κατατροπή*, an *CATATROPHE*, *n.* end or overthrowing, from *κατατροפה*, to subvert; *xara* and *τροπή*.]

2. The change or revolution which produces

the final event of a dramatic piece; or the unfolding and winding up of the plot, clearing up difficulties, and closing the play. The ancients divided a play into the protasis, epistasis, catastasis, and catastrophy; the introduction, continuance, heightening, and development or conclusion. *Johnson. Encyc.*

2. A final event; conclusion; generally, an unfortunate conclusion, calamity, or disaster.

CAT'CALL, *n.* [*cat and call*.] A squeaking instrument, used in play-houses to condemn plays. *Johnson. Pope.*

CATCH, *v. t.* pret. and pp. *caught or caught.* [*Sp. coger*, to catch, coinciding in elements with *Gr. κειρω*.] The orthography of *caught* determines the radical letters to be *Cg*. The popular or common pronunciation is *ketch*.]

1. To seize or lay hold on with the hand; carrying the sense of pursuit, thrusting forward the hand, or rushing on. And they came upon him and caught him. *Acts vi.*

2. To seize, in a general sense; as, to catch a ball; to catch hold of a bough.

3. To seize, as in a snare or trap; to ensnare; to entangle.

They sent certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words. *Mark xii.*

4. To seize in pursuit; hence simply to overtake; a popular use of the word.

He ran, but could not catch his companion.

5. To take hold; to communicate. The fire caught the adjoining building.

6. To seize the affections; to engage and attach to; as, to catch the fair. *Dryden.*

7. To take or receive by contagion or infection; as, to catch the measles or small pox.

8. To snatch; to take suddenly; as, to catch a book out of the hand.

9. To receive something passing. The swelling sails no more. Catch the soft airs and wanton in the sky. *Trumbull.*

To catch at, to endeavor to seize suddenly.

To catch at all opportunities of subverting the state. *Addison.*

To catch up, to snatch; to take up suddenly.

CATCH, *v. i.* To communicate; to spread by infecting; as, a disease will catch from man to man.

2. To seize and hold; as, a hook catches.

CATCH, *n.* Seizure; the act of seizing.

Any thing that seizes or takes hold, as a hook.

3. The posture of seizing; a state of preparation to catch, or of watching an opportunity to seize; as, to lie upon the catch. *Addison.*

4. A sudden advantage taken. *Dryden.*

5. The thing caught, considered as an object of desire; profit; advantage. *Shak.*

6. A snatch; a short interval of action. *Locke.*

7. A little portion. We retain a catch of a pretty story. *Glanville.*

8. In music, a fugue in the unison, wherein to humor some conceit in the words, the melody is broken, and the sense is interrupted in one part, and caught and supported by another, or a different sense is given to the words; or a piece for three

or more voices, one of which leads and the others follow in the same notes.

CATCH-ABLE, *a.* That may be caught. *Encyc. Busby.* [*Not well authorized.*]

CATCH-ER, *n.* One who catches; that which catches, or in which any thing is caught.

CATCH-FLY, *n.* A plant of the genus *Lychnis*; campion.

CATCHING, *ppr.* Seizing; taking hold; ensnaring; entangling.

CATCHING, *a.* Communicating, or that may be communicated, by contagion; infectious; as, a disease is catching.

CATCH-PENNY, *n.* [*catch and penny*.] Something worthless, particularly a book or pamphlet, adapted to the popular taste, and intended to gain money in market.

CATCH-POLL, *n.* [*catch and poll*, the head.]. A bailiff's assistant, so called by way of reproach.

CATCH-UP, *n.* A liquor extracted from **CAT'S-UP**, { mushrooms, used as a sauce.

CATCH-WORD, *n.* Among printers, the word placed at the bottom of each page, under the last line, which is to be inserted as the first word on the following page.

CATE, *n.* [See *Cates*.]

CATECHETICAL, *a.* [See *Catechise*.] Relating to oral instruction, and particularly in the first principles of the christian religion.

2. Relating to or consisting in asking questions and receiving answers, according to the ancient manner of teaching pupils. *Socrates* introduced a catechetical method of arguing. *Addison.*

CATECHETICALLY, *adv.* By question and answer; in the way of oral instruction.

CATECHISE, *v. t.* *s* as *z*. [*Gr. κατατεχῖω*, and *κατεχῖω*, to sound, to utter sound, to teach by the voice; from *κατα*, and *τεχῖω*, to sound, whence *echo*. Hence *κατατεχῖσμος*, *κατεχῖσμος*, *catechise*, *catechism*, instruction.]

1. To instruct by asking questions, receiving answers, and offering explanations and corrections.

2. To question; to interrogate; to examine or try by questions, and sometimes with a view to reproof, by eliciting answers from a person, which condemn his own conduct.

3. Appropriately, to ask questions concerning the doctrines of the christian religion; to interrogate pupils and give instruction in the principles of religion.

CATECHISED, *pp.* Instructed.

CATECHISER, *n.* One who catechises; one who instructs by question and answer, and particularly in the rudiments of the christian religion.

CATECHISING, *ppr.* Instructing in rudiments or principles.

CATECHISM, *n.* [*Gr. κατατεχῖσμος*.] A form of instruction by means of questions and answers, particularly in the principles of religion.

2. An elementary book containing a summary of principles in any science or art, but appropriately in religion, reduced to the form of questions and answers, and sometimes with notes, explanations, and references to authorities.