

for in Dan. *hvalt* is arched or vaulted; *hvalter*, to arch or vault, D. *welven*.]

The general name of an order of animals inhabiting the ocean, arranged in zoology under the name of *Cete* or *Cetacea*, and belonging to the class *Mammalia* in the Linnean system. The common whale is of the genus *Balæna*. It is the largest animal of which we have any account, and probably the largest in the world. It is sometimes ninety feet in length in the northern seas, and in the torrid zone much larger. The whale furnishes us with oil, whalebone, &c. [See *Cachalot*.]

**WHA/LEBONE**, *n.* [*whale* and *bone*.] A firm elastic substance taken from the upper jaw of the whale, used as a stiffening in stays, fans, screens, &c.

**WHA/LE-FISHERY**, *n.* The fishery or occupation of taking whales.

**WHA/LY**, *a.* Marked with streaks; properly *wealy*.

**WHAME**, *n.* A species of fly, tabanus, the burrel fly, that annoys horses.

**WHANG**, *n.* [Sax. *thwang*.] A leather thong. [Not in use.]

**WHANG**, *v. t.* To beat. [Not in use or local.]

**WHAP**, *n.* A blow. [Vulgar.] [See *Awhap*.]

**WHAP/PER**, *n.* Something uncommonly large of the kind. So *thumper* is connected with *thump*, to strike with a heavy blow. [Vulgar.]

**WHARF**, *n.* *hworf*. [Sax. *hwarf*, *hweorf*; D. *werf*; Dan. *verf*; Russ. *vorph*. In D. *werven* signifies to raise or levy. In the plural, *wharfs* and *wharves* are both used.]

A perpendicular bank or mound of timber or stone and earth, raised on the shore of a harbor, or extending some distance into the water, for the convenience of lading and unloading ships and other vessels. This name is also given to the wider part of a canal, where boats lie while loading and unloading. The two longest *wharfs* in New England are at Boston and at New Haven. The latter is much the longest, extending into the harbor about three quarters of a mile.

**WHARF**, *v. t.* To guard or secure by a wharf or firm wall of timber or stone; as, the western bank of the Connecticut is *wharfed* at Hartford, to prevent the river from wearing away the land.

**WHARF/AGE**, *n.* The fee or duty paid for the privilege of using a wharf for loading or unloading goods, timber, wood, &c.

**WHARF/ING**, *n.* Wharfs in general.

**WHARF/INGER**, *n.* A man who has the care of a wharf, or the proprietor of a wharf.

**WHAT**, pronoun relative or substitute. [Sax. *hwat*; Goth. *waiht*; D. *wat*; G. *was*; Dan. Sw. *hwat*; Scot. *quhat*; L. *quod*, *quid*. The Sax. *hwat*, *hwat*, signifies brisk, lively, vigorous; which shows that this pronoun is the same word as *wight*, a living being, from the root of the L. *vivo*, for *vigo*. See *Wight*. The Gothic *h*, represents the Latin *c*, in *victus*.]

1. That which. Say *what* you will, is the same as say *that which* you will.

2. Which part. Consider *what* is due to nature, and *what* to art or labor.

3. *What* is the substitute for a sentence or

clause of a sentence. "I tell thee *what*, corporal, I could tear her." Here *what* relates to the last clause, "I could tear her;" this is *what* I tell you.

4. *What* is used as an adjective, of both genders, often in specifying sorts or particulars. See *what* colors this silk exhibits. I know *what* qualities you desire in a friend; that is, I know the *qualities which* you desire.

5. *What* is much used in asking questions. *What* sort of character is this? *What* poem is this? *What* man is this we see coming?

6. *What* time, at the time or on the day when. *What* time the morn mysterious visions brings. Pope.

7. To how great a degree. *What* partial judges are our love and hate! Dryden.

8. Whatever. Whether it was the shortness of his foresight, the strength of his will—or *what* it was— Bacon.

9. Some part, or some. "The year before, he had so used the matter, that *what* by force, *what* by policy, he had taken from the christians above thirty castles;" that is, he had taken above thirty castles, a part or some by force, a part or some by policy; or *what* may be interpreted partly. Knolles.

Sometimes *what* has no verb to govern it, and it must be considered as adverbially used. "*What* with carrying apples and fuel, he finds himself in a hurry;" that is, partly, in part.

10. *What* is sometimes used elliptically for *what is this*, or *how is this*?

*What!* could ye not watch with me one hour? Matt. xxvi.

11. *What* is used interrogatively and elliptically, as equivalent to *what will be the consequence?* *What will follow?* as in the phrase, *what if I undertake this business myself?*

*What* though, that is, grant this or that; allow it to be so.

*What* ho, an exclamation of calling.

**WHAT**, *n.* Fare; things; matter. [Not in use.] Spenser.

**WHATEV/ER**, pron. [*what* and *ever*.] Being this or that; being of one nature or another; being one thing or another; any thing that may be. *Whatever* is read, let it be read with attention. *Whatever* measure may be adopted, let it be with due caution. *Whatever* you do, let it be done with prudence.

2. All that; the whole that; all particulars that.

At once came forth *whatever* creeps. Milton.

**WHATSOEVER**, a compound of *what*, *so*, and *ever*, has the sense of *whatever*, and is less used than the latter. Indeed it is nearly obsolete. *Whatso*, in a like sense, is entirely obsolete.

**WHEAL**, *n.* A pustule. [See *Weal*.]

**WHEAT**, *n.* [Sax. *hwæte*; Goth. *hwit*; Ice. *hreittu*; G. *weizen*; Sw. *hrete*; Dan. *hvede*; D. *weit*. Qu. Heb. חטה; Syr. id.]

A plant of the genus *Triticum*, and the seed of the plant, which furnishes a white flour for bread, and next to rice, is the grain most generally used by the human race. Of this grain the varieties are numerous,

as red wheat, white wheat, bald wheat, bearded wheat, winter wheat, summer wheat, &c.

**WHE/AT-BIRD**, *n.* A bird that feeds on wheat. Virginia.

**WHE/AT-EAR**, *n.* The English name of the *Motacilla ananthe*; called also *white-tail* and *fallow-finch*. Cye.

**WHEATEN**, *a.* *hwætn*. Made of wheat; as *wheaten* bread. Arbuthnot. Pope.

**WHE/AT-PLUM**, *n.* A sort of plum.

**WHEE/DLE**, *v. t.* [Qu. Gr. *γογγεω*, or *γογγαω*.] To flatter; to entice by soft words. To learn th' unlucky art of *wheeling* fools. Dryden.

**WHEE/DLE**, *v. i.* To flatter; to coax.

**WHEE/DLED**, *pp.* Flattered; enticed; coaxed.

**WHEE/DLING**, *ppr.* Flattering; enticing by soft words.

**WHEE/DLING**, *n.* The act of flattering or enticing.

**WHEEL**, *n.* [Sax. *hwcol*, *hweoh*, *hweog*, *hweogul*; D. *wiel*; Sw. *hiul*. This seems to have *Hg* or *Hg* for its elements. See Syr. and Ar. No. 16. 17. Class Cg.]

1. A circular frame of wood, iron or other metal, consisting of a nave or hub, into which are inserted spokes which sustain a rim or felly; the whole turning on an axis. The name is also given to a solid circular or round piece of wood or metal, which revolves on an axis. The wheel and axle constitute one of the mechanical powers.

2. A circular body. Shak.

3. A carriage that moves on wheels. Pope.

4. An instrument for torturing criminals; as an examination made by the rack and the wheel. Addison.

5. A machine for spinning thread, of various kinds.

6. Rotation; revolution; turn; as the vicissitude and *wheel* of things. South.

7. A turning about; a compass. He throws his flight in many an airy wheel. Milton.

8. In *pottery*, a round board turned by a lathe in a horizontal position, on which the clay is shaped by the hand.

**WHEEL-ANIMAL**, *n.* A genus of animalcules, with arms for taking their prey, resembling wheels. Cye.

**WHEEL-BARROW**, *n.* [*wheel* and *barrow*.] A barrow moved on a single wheel.

**WHEEL-BOAT**, *n.* [*wheel* and *boat*.] A boat with wheels, to be used either on water or upon inclined planes or rail-ways.

**WHEEL-CARRIAGE**, *n.* [*wheel* and *carriage*.] A carriage moved on wheels.

**WHEEL/ER**, *n.* A maker of wheels. Obs.

**WHEEL-FIRE**, *n.* [*wheel* and *fire*.] In *chimistry*, a fire which encompasses the crucible without touching it. Cye.

**WHEEL-SHAPED**, *a.* [*wheel* and *shape*.] In *botany*, rotate; monopetalous, expanding into a flat border at top, with scarcely any tube; as a *wheel-shaped* corol. Smith.

**WHEEL-WRIGHT**, *n.* [*wheel* and *wright*.] A man whose occupation is to make wheels and wheel-carriages, as carts and wagons.

**WHEEL**, *v. t.* To convey on wheels; as, to *wheel* a load of hay or wood.

2. To put into a rotary motion; to cause to turn round. Milton.