

1. A thin cake or leaf; as a *wafer* of bread given by the Romanists in the eucharist.
2. A thin leaf of paste, or a composition of flour, the white of eggs, isinglass and yeast, spread over with gum-water and dried; used in sealing letters.

WATER, *v. t.* To seal or close with a wafer.

WAFT, *v. t.* [perhaps from *wave*; if so, it belongs to the root of *wag*.]

1. To bear through a fluid or buoyant medium; to convey through water or air; as, a balloon was *wafted* over the channel.

Speed the soft intercourse from soul to soul,
And *waft* a sigh from Indus to the pole.

Pope

2. To convey; as ships.

Cyc.

3. To buoy; to cause to float; to keep from sinking.

Brown.

4. To beckon; to give notice by something in motion. [*Not in use.*]

[This verb is regular. But *waft* was formerly used by some writers for *wafted*.]

WAFT, *v. i.* To float; to be moved or to pass in a buoyant medium.

And now the shouts *waft* near the citadel.

Dryden.

WAFT, *n.* A floating body; also, a signal displayed from a ship's stern, by hoisting an ensign furled in a roll, to the head of the staff.

Cyc.

WAFTAGE, *n.* Conveyance or transportation through a buoyant medium, as air or water. [*Not in use.*]

Shak.

WAFTED, *pp.* Borne or conveyed through air or water.

WAFTER, *n.* He or that which wafts; a passage boat.

2. The conductor of vessels at sea; an old word.

WAFTING, *ppr.* Carrying through a buoyant medium.

WAFTURE, *n.* The act of waving. [*Not in use.*]

Shak.

WAG, *v. t.* [Sax. *wagian* and *wægan*; G. *bewegen*; D. *bewegen*, to move, to stir; *wægen*, to weigh; G. *wägen*, to weigh; Sw. *väga*, Dan. *væge*, to wag, to weigh. This is the radix of the L. *vacillo*, Eng. *fickle*, *wagon*, *wain*, *way*, *wave*, *waggle*, &c.]

To move one way and the other with quick turns; to move a little way, and then turn the other way; as, to *wag* the head.

Every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and *wag* his head. Jer. xviii. Matt. xxvii.

[*Wag* expresses particularly the motion of the head and body used in buffoonery, mirth, derision, sport and mockery. It is applied also to birds and beasts; as, to *wag* the tail.]

WAG, *v. i.* To be quick in ludicrous motion; to stir.

'Tis merry in hall, where beards *wag* all.

Shak.

Tremble and start at *wagging* of a straw.

Shak.

2. To go; to depart; to pack off.

I will provoke him to't, or let him *wag*.

Shak.

3. To be moved one way and the other.

The resty sieve *wagg'd* ne'er the more.

Dryden.

WAG, *n.* [from the verb.] A droll; a man full of low sport and humor; a ludicrous fellow.

We wink at *wags*, when they offend.

Dryden.

The counsellor never pleaded without a piece of packthread in his hand, which he used to twist about his finger all the while he was speaking; the *wags* used to call it the thread of his discourse.

Addison.

WAGE, *v. t.* [G. *wagen*; D. *waagen*; Sw. *väga*, to venture, to dare, to wage; Fr. *gager*, for *guager*, to lay or bet; from the root of *wag*. The sense is to throw, to lay or throw down, as a glove or gauntlet.]

1. To lay; to bet; to throw down, as a pledge; to stake; to put at hazard on the event of a contest. This is the common popular sense of the word in New England; as, to *wage* a dollar; to *wage* a horse.
2. To venture; to hazard.

To wake and *wage* a danger profitless.

Shak.

3. To make; to begin; to carry on; that is, to go forward or advance to attack, as in invasion or aggression; used in the phrase, to *wage war*. He *waged war* with all his enemies.

He ponder'd, which of all his sons was fit

To reign, and *wage* immortal war with wit.

Dryden.

4. To set to hire.

Thou must *wage*

Thy works for wealth.

[*Not in use.*]

Spenser.

5. To take to hire; to hire for pay; to employ for wages; as *waged* soldiers. He was well *waged* and rewarded. [Fr.]

Obs. Raleigh.

To *wage one's law*, to give security to make one's law. The defendant is then to swear that he owes nothing to the plaintiff, and eleven neighbors, called compurgators, are to avow upon their oaths, that they believe in their consciences that he has declared the truth. This is called *wager of law*.

Blackstone.

WAGED, *pp.* Laid; deposited; as a pledge; made or begun, as war.

WAGER, *n.* Something deposited, laid or hazarded on the event of a contest or some unsettled question; a bet.

Besides these plates for horse-races, the *wagers* may be as the persons please.

Temple

If any atheist can stake his soul for a *wager* against such an inexhaustible disproportion—

Bentley.

2. Subject on which bets are laid.
3. In law, an offer to make oath of innocence or non-indebtedness; or the act of making oath, together with the oaths of eleven compurgators, to fortify the defendant's oath.

Wager of battle, is when the tenant in a writ of right, offers to prove his right by the body of his champion, and throwing down his glove as a gage or pledge, thus wages or stipulates battle with the champion of the demandant, who by taking up the glove, accepts the challenge. The champions, armed with batons, enter the list, and taking each other by the hand, each swears to the justice of the cause of the party for whom he appears; they then fight till the stars appear, and if the champion of the tenant can defend himself till that time, his cause prevails.

Blackstone.

WAGER, *v. t.* To lay; to bet; to hazard on the issue of a contest, or on some ques-

tion that is to be decided, or on some easuality.

Dryden.

WAGERED, *pp.* Laid; pledged; as a bet.

WAGERER, *n.* One who wagers or lays a bet.

WAGERING, *ppr.* Laying; betting.

Wagering policy, in commerce, a policy of insurance, insuring a sum of money when no property is at hazard; as a policy to insure money on a ship when no property is on board; that is, insurance, interest or no interest; or a wagering policy may be a policy to insure property which is already insured. Such policies in England, are by Statute 19 Geo. III. made null and void.

WAGES, *n.* plural in termination, but singular in signification. [Fr. *gage*, *gages*.]

1. Hire; reward; that which is paid or stipulated for services, but chiefly for services by manual labor, or for military and naval services. We speak of servant's *wages*, a laborer's *wages*, or soldier's *wages*; but we never apply the word to the rewards given to men in office, which are called *fees* or *salary*. The word is however sometimes applied to the compensation given to representatives in the legislature. [U. States.]

Tell me, what shall thy *wages* be? Gen. xxix.

Be content with your *wages*. Luke iii.

2. Reward; fruit; recompense; that which is given or received in return.

The *wages* of sin is death. Rom. vi.

WAGGEL, } A name given in Cornwall
WAGEL, } *n.* to the martinazzo, dung-
hunter, or dung-bird, a species of *Larus* or
sea-gull, (*L. parasiticus*.)

Cyc. Diet. Nat. Hist. Ed. Encyc.

WAGGERY, *n.* [from *wag*.] Mischievous merriment; sportive trick or gayety; sarcasm in good humor; as the *waggery* of a school boy.

Locke.

WAGGISH, *a.* Mischievous in sport; roguish in merriment or good humor; frolicsome; as a company of *waggish* boys.

L'Estrange.

2. Done, made or laid in waggery or lot sport; as a *waggish* trick.

WAGGISHLY, *adv.* In a waggish manner; in sport.

WAGGISHNESS, *n.* Mischievous sport; wanton merriment.

Bacon.

WAGGLE, *v. i.* [D. *waggelen*; G. *wackeln*; L. *vacillo*; dim. of *wag*.]

To waddle; to reel or move from side to side.

Why do you go nodding and *wagging* so?

L'Estrange.

WAGGLE, *v. t.* To move one way and the other; as, a bird *waggles* its tail.

WAGON, *n.* [D. G. *wagen*; Sw. *vagn*; Sax. *wagn*, *wæn*; W. *gwein*, a wagon, wain or sheath, L. *vagina*, the latter being from *wag*, and signifying a passage; Gaelic, *baighin*, a wagon; Malabar, *uagaham*; Sans. *wahana*. The old orthography, *waggon*, seems to be falling into disuse. See *Wag*.]

1. A vehicle moved on four wheels, and usually drawn by horses; used for the transportation of heavy commodities. In America, light wagons are used for the conveyance of families, and for carrying