

**BISHOP**, *v. t.* To confirm; to admit solemnly into the church. *Johnson.*

2. Among *horse-dealers*, to use arts to make an old horse look like a young one, or to give a good appearance to a bad horse.

**BISHOPLIKE**, *a.* Resembling a bishop; belonging to a bishop. *Fiske.*

**BISHOPRIC**, *n.* [*bishop* and *ric*, jurisdiction.]

1. A diocese; the district over which the jurisdiction of a bishop extends. In *England*, are twenty-four bishoprics, besides that of *Sodor and Man*; in *Ireland*, eighteen.

2. The charge of instructing and governing in spiritual concerns; office. Acts i. 20.

**BISHOPSWEED**, *n.* [*bishop* and *weed*.] A genus of plants, with the generic name *Ammi*.

**BISHOPSWÖRT**, *n.* A plant.

**BISK**, *n.* [*Fr. bisque*.] Soup or broth, made by boiling several sorts of flesh together.

**BISK ECT**, *n.* A biseuit. This orthography is adopted by many respectable writers.

**BISMUTH**, *n. s. s. z.* [*G. weismuth*.] A metal of a yellowish or reddish white color, and a lamellar texture. It is somewhat harder than lead, and scarcely, if at all, malleable, being so brittle as to break easily under the hammer, and it is reducible to powder. Its internal face or fracture exhibits large shining plates, variously disposed. It melts at 476° Fahr. and may be fused in the flame of a candle. It is often found in a native state, crystallized in rhombs or octahedrons, or in the form of dendrites, or thin laminae investing the ores of other metals, particularly cobalt.

*Nicholson. Encyc.*

**BISMUTHAL**, *a.* Consisting of bismuth, or containing it. *Cleveland.*

**BISMUTHIC**, *a.* Pertaining to bismuth; as *bismuthic acid*. *Lavoisier.*

**BISON**, *n.* [*L.*] A quadruped of the bovine genus, usually but improperly called the buffalo. The proper buffalo is a distinct species, peculiar to the warmer climates of the Eastern Continent. The bison is a wild animal, with short, black, rounded horns, with a great interval between their bases. On the shoulders is a large hump, consisting of a fleshy substance. The head and hump are covered with a long undulated fleece, of a rust-color, divided into locks. In winter, the whole body is covered in this manner; but in summer, the hind part of the body is naked, and wrinkled. The tail is about a foot long, naked, except a tuft of hairs at the end. The fore parts of the body are very thick and strong; the hind parts are slender and weak. These animals inhabit the interior parts of North America, and some of the mountainous parts of Europe and Asia. *Pennant.*

*Pennant* alleges that the bison of America is the same species of animal as the bison and aurochs of Europe, the *bonasus* of Aristotle, the *urus* of *Cæsar*, the *bos ferus* or wild ox of *Strabo*, the bison of *Pliny*, and the *biston* of *Oppian*.

*Cuvier* has not separated the bison of America from that of Europe. He considers their identity as doubtful. The former has

the legs and tail shorter, and the hairs of its head and neck longer than in the latter.

*Regne Anim.*

**BISSEXTILE**, *n.* [*L. bissextilis*, leap year, from *bissexus*, [*bis* and *sextus*] the sixth of the calends of March, or twenty-fourth day of February, which was reckoned twice every fourth year, by the intercalation of a day. *Johnson.*]

Leap year; every fourth year, in which a day is added to the month of February, on account of the excess of 6 hours, which the civil year contains, above 365 days. This excess is 11 minutes 3 seconds too much; that is, it exceeds the real year, or annual revolution of the earth. Hence at the end of every century, divisible by 4, it is necessary to retain the bissextile day, and to suppress it at the end of those centuries which are not divisible by 4. *Encyc.*

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pistareen, about ten cents, or five pence sterling.

4. The point of an auger, or other borer; the bite.

This word is used, like *jet* and *whit*, to express the smallest degree; as, he is not a bit wiser or better.

**BITCH**, *n.* [*Sax. bicca, bicce, bice*; Dan. *bikk*. Qu. Ger. *bete*; Basque, *potroa*. This word probably signifies a female, for the French, *biche* is a hind.]

1. The female of the canine kind, as of the dog, wolf, and fox.

2. A name of reproach for a woman. *Pope. Arbuthnot.*

**BITE**, *v. t.* pret. *bit*; pp. *bit*, bitten. [*Sax. bitan*; Sw. *bita*; Dan. *bider*; Ger. *beissen*, to bite.]

1. To break or crush with the teeth, as in eating; to pierce with the teeth, as a serpent; to seize with the teeth, as a dog.

2. To pinch or pain, as with cold; as a biting north wind; the frost bites.

3. To reproach with sarcasm; to treat with severity by words or writing; as, one poet praises, another bites.

4. To pierce, cut, or wound; as a biting faulchion. *Shak.*

5. To make to smart; as, acids bite the mouth.

6. To cheat; to trick. *Pope.*

[*Not elegant, but common.*]

7. To enter the ground and hold fast, as the bill and palm of an anchor. *Mar. Dict.*

8. To injure by angry contention. [*If ye bite and devour one another, Gal. 5.*]

**BITE**, *n.* The seizure of any thing by the teeth of an animal, as the bite of a dog; or with the mouth, as of a fish.

2. The wound made by the teeth.

3. A morsel; as much as is taken at once by biting; a mouthful.

4. A cheat; a trick; a fraud. [*A low word.*]

5. A sharper; one who cheats.

**BITER**, *n.* One who bites; that which bites; a fish apt to take bait.

2. One who cheats or defrauds.

**BITERNATE**, *a.* [*L. bis* and *ternus*, three.] In botany, doubly ternate, as when a petiole has three ternate leaflets. *Martyn.*

**BITING**, *ppr.* Seizing, wounding, or crushing with the teeth; pinching, pinning, causing to smart with cold; reproaching with severity, or treating sarcastically; cheating.

**BITING**, *a.* Sharp; severe; sarcastic.

**BITINGLY**, *adv.* In a sarcastic or jeering manner.

**BITLESS**, *a.* Not having a bit or bridle. *Fanshawe.*

**BIT MOUTH**, *a.* [*bit* and *mouth*.] The bit, or that part of a bridle which is put in a horse's mouth. *Bailey. Ash. Encyc.*

**BITTACLE**, *n.* [*Qu. Fr. boîte d'aiguille*, needle box.]

The box for the compasses and lights on board a ship. [*See Binnacle.*]

**BITTEN**, *pp. of bite.* bitten. Seized or wounded by the teeth; cheated.

**BITTER**, *a.* [*Sax. bitter*; Sw. D. Ger. and Dan. *bitter*; from *bite*.]

1. Sharp, or biting to the taste; acrid; like wormwood.

2. Sharp; cruel; severe; as bitter enmity Heb. i.