

"This same tyme [A. 1559.] srryvit the *Martykis*, quho without delay landit himself, his cofferis, and the principall Gentilmen that war with him at Leythe." *Ibid.*, p. 203.

"They caused rumours to be spread of some help to come out of France; which had come indeed under the conduct of *Martige* (of the house of Luxembourg)." Hume's Hist. Doug., p. 305.

To MARK, *v. a.* 1. [To point, direct], set (on the ground); applied to the foot, and conjoined with words meant to express whether the person be able to do so or not.

"He is sae weak that he canna *mark* a fit to the grund;" or, "He's beginnin' to recruit, for he can now *mark* his fit to the grund;" Clydes.

[2. To direct one's steps, to march, to travel.

In Inglande couthe scho get none ordinaunce;
Than to the Kyng and Courte of Scotlande
Scho *markit* hir, withoutin more demaunde.

Lyndsay, Test. and Compl. Papyngo, l. 877.

Fr. *marcher*, "to march, goe, pace," Cotgr. The origin of this verb is disputed, but it conveys the notion of regular beating, as expressed in E. by "to be on the *beat*," and so may be connected with L. *marcus*, a hammer, and *marcare*, to beat, which lead directly to the secondary meanings. V. Prof. Skeat's Etym. Dict. under *v. MARCH*.]

[To MARK, *on or upon, v. a.* 1. To make an impression upon; as, "They tried to brek the stane, but they couldna even *mark on't*," Clydes., Banffs.

2. To *mark a finger on or upon*, to touch or injure in the smallest degree, *ibid.*]

MARK, MERK, *s.* 1. A nominal weight used in Orkney.

"The malt, meil, and beare, ar delivered in Orknsay, be weicht in this maner. *Imprimis*, 24 *marks* makis an setting." Skene, Verb. Sign. vo. *Serplath*.

"24 *marks* make one setting, nearly equal to 1 stone 5 lib. Dutch." P. Cross, Orkn. Statist. Acc., vii. 477. Su.-G. *mark* denotes a pound of thirty-two ounces. V. MERK.

"*Mark*, it answers to their pound weight, but really containeth eighteen ounces." MS. Expl. of Norish words.

2. A piece of Scottish money. V. MERK.

MARK MARK LYKE. One mark for another, in equal quantities of money, penny for penny.

"That the said—Macolme & Arthure sall pay in like proporcioune of the said annuel, efferand to the part of the land that ather of thaim has, *mark mark lyke*, comptand be the ald extent." Act. Dom. Conc., A. 1480, p. 71. V. MERK.

MARKLAND, *s.* A division of land, S.

"By a decree of the Exchequer (March 11, 1585), a 40 shilling (or 3 *mark-land*) of old extent (or 8 ox-gangs,) should contain 104 acres. Consequently 1 *mark-land* should be 33 1-3d. The denomination of *mark-lands* still holds in common use of speech; and, in general, one *mark-land* may give full employ to one plough and one family in the more arable parts of the county." Agr. Surv. Argyles., p. 33. V. MERK, MERKLAND.

[In Orkn. and Shetl. a *Mark-Merkland* is a division of land, varying from one to three acres. Dan. *mark*, land, a field, a cleared field. V. Gloss.]

MARK, *adj.* Dark, S. B.

"By this time it wis growing *mark*, and about the time o' night that the boodies begin to gang." Journal from London, p. 6. V. MIREK.

It was sae *mark*, that i' the dark,
He tint his vera sheen.

Cock's Simple Strains, p. 120.

MARK, MARKE, *s.* Darkness, S. B.

Thair gouns gaue glancing in the *marke*,
They were so wrocht with gold smith warke.

Watson's Coll., ii. 7.

MARKNES, *s.* Darkness, S. B.

I in my mind againe did pance,—

Deploring and soring
Thair ignorant estaits,
Quhilk *marknes*, and darknes,
Partlie thair deids debaitis.

Burel's Pilg., Watson's Coll., ii. 46.

MARKAL, *s.*

"But what manners are to be expected in a country where folks call a ploughsock a *markal*?" The Pirate, ii. 104.

This is expl. as if it signified the ploughshare. That this, however, is not the meaning will appear from MERCAL, q. v.

MARK NOR BURN. A phrase synon. with *Hilt nor Hair, S.*

"When one loses any thing, and finds it not again, we are said never to see *mark nor burn* of it;" Gall. Encycl.

"Mactaggart seems to confine the original sense of the phrase to the burning of the sheep with a red hot iron on the horns and nose." But *mark*, I apprehend, is the same with *tar-mark*, or that made by ruddle.

MARK O' MOUTH. 1. "A *mark* in the mouth, whereby cattle-dealers know the age of the animal," S. Gall. Encycl.

This in E. seems to be called "mark of *tooth*." V. JOHNS., vo. *Mark*.

2. Transferred to persons advanced in life, S.

"Old maids are sometimes said to have lost—*mark o' mouth*." Gall. Encycl.

This, although oddly expl. by Mactaggart, refers to their loss of teeth.

MARKSTANE, *s.* A landmark, Galloway; synon. *Marchstane*.

"*Markstones*, stones set up on end for marks,—that farmers might know the marches of their farms, and lairds the boundaries of their lands." Gall. Encycl. V. MARCHSTANE.

[MARLAK, *s.* A kind of seaweed, *Zostera marina*. Shetl. Norse, *marlauk*, id.]

To MARLE, *v. n.* To wonder, corr. from *Marvel*, South of S.

"I *marle* the skipper took us on board, said Richie." Nigel, i. 79.

[To MARLE, *v. a.* and *n.* To mottle, variegated; to be or become mottled or variegated, S.]

MARLED, MERLED, MIRLED, *part. adj.* 1. Variegated, mottled, S.; as, "marled stockings," those made of mixed colours, twisted together before the stockings are woven or knitted; "marled paper," &c.

"They delight to wear marled clothes, specially that haue long stripes of sundry coloures; they love chiefly purple and blew." Monipennie's S. Chron., p. 46.

2. Chequered: as, "a marled plaid," a chequered plaid," Roxb.

If not corr. from E. *marbled*, from O. Fr. *marellet*, *marbré*, *rayé*, *bigarré*; Roquefort.

MARLED SALMON. A species of salmon. V. IESKDRUIMIN.

MARLEYON, MARLION, *s.* A kind of hawk, E. *merlin*.

Thik was the clud of kayis and crawis,
Of *marleyonis*, *mittanis*, and of *mawis*.

Dunbar, Bannatyne Poems, p. 21.

V. BELD CYTTES.

Teut. *merlin*, *sm Merlin*, *sesalon*. Fr. *esmerillon*. Kilian says that it is the smallest sort of hawk, viewing its name as derived from Teut. *merr-en*, *marr-en*, to stay; because it remains in the Low countries during the greatest part of the year, even when the other kinds of hawks are gone. Seren., however, derives *merlin* from Isl. *maer*, parus. V. G. Andr.

MARMAID, MARMADIN, MEER-MAID, *s.* 1. The mermaid, S.

The minstrellis sang with curiositie,
Sweit as the *mermaid* in the Orient sea.

Clariodis & Meliades, MS. Gl. Compl.

"The foure *marmadyns* that sang quhen Thetis was mareit on month Pillion, thai sang nocht sa sueit as did thir scheiphyrdis." Compl. S., p. 99.

The figure of the *Mermaid*, it appears, was sometimes worn as an ornament of royalty.

"Item, ane gryt targat with the *marmadin*, sett all with dyamontis, rubeis, and ane gryt ancrant." Inventories, A. 1542, p. 65.

That this was a representation of the sea-monster thus denominated, appears from another passage.

"Item, ane bonet of blak velvott with ane tergat of the *marmadin*, hir *tayll* [tail] of dyamontis, with ane rubie and table dyamont, sex settis of gold, with ane gryt rubie in every ane of thame, and xii settis with twa gryt perle in every ane of thame." *Ib.*, p. 68.

2. Used improperly as a ludicrous designation by Kennedy.

Marmadin, Mynmerkin, monster of all men.

Evergreen, ii. 74.

3. A name given in Fife to the Frog fish, *Lophius Piscatorius*, Linn.

"Rana piscatrix, the Frog-fish; our fishers call it a *Meer-maid*." Sibb. Fife, p. 120.

The ingenious editor of the Gl. Compl. observes; "The popular opinion concerning the mermaid, though often modified by local circumstances, seems to have been chiefly formed from the Sirens of antiquity." V. Gl., p. 354, 355.

Isl. *mar*, Germ. *mer*, the sea, and *maid* or *maiden*, A.-S. *maeden*; Teut. *maer-minne*, id., from *minne*, Venus amica.

[MAROOL, *s.* A sea-fish, called also Mars-gam, and Sea-devil, Shetl. Norse, *marulk*, id., Gl. Orkn. and Shetl.]

[MAROW, *s.* A companion, spouse. V. MARROW.]

MARR, *s.* An obstruction, an injury.

—"Thereby we could do nothing but render ourselves a prey to the enemy, if not a *marr* to the Lord's work." Society Contendings, p. 66.

Serenius derives the E. v. from A.-S. *mar*, morbus, damnum; but the only word he can refer to is *maru*, the night-mare. The origin certainly is as given by Johns., A.-S. *amyrr-an*, or *amerr-an*, impedit.

[To MARR, *v. n.* To purr as a cat; also, applied to the sound made by an infant, Clydes.]

[To MARR-UP, *v. a.* and *n.* 1. To make a noise like two cats when provoking each other to fight; hence,

2. To urge on or keep one to work, Ang.; perhaps from Germ. *murr-en*, to grin or snarl, Clydes.

[MARRASS, MARRAS, MARAS, *s.* A morass, marsh, Barbour, vi. 65. Fr. *marais*, O. Fr. *marois*, *mareis*, id. V. MARES.]

MARRAT, MARRIOT, *s.* Abbrev. of *Margaret*, S.

MARREST, *s.* *Mares*, *Marres*.

"—Togider with the—parkes, meadows, mures, mossis, *marrests*, commounties, pasturages," &c. Acts Cha. I., Ed. 1814, V. 149.

L. B. *marist-us*, palus.

MARRIAGE.

A variety of curious customs and superstitions still prevail in S. in regard to marriage, some of which evidently claim great antiquity, and may even be traced to the times of the ancient Romans, or manifest a striking resemblance.

In Angus, the bride's furniture is sent to the bridegroom's house a day or two before the wedding. A spinning-wheel and reel are considered as essential parts of this. Among the Romans, one thing indispensable in the procession of the bride was a distaff dressed up with a spindle and flax, as an emblem of her industrious disposition.

If any part of the bride's furniture be broken in the removal or carriage, it is viewed as an omen of unhappiness in the connubial relation.

In the same county, as soon as the bride enters the house of the bridegroom, he leads her forward to the fire, and gives into her hands the *tongs* and *crook*, or instrument on which the pot for dressing food is suspended. On this occasion, the Roman husband delivered the keys to his spouse. Both these ceremonies seem to denote the same thing, the management of household affairs. The Roman ladies also received from their husband *fire* and *water*. Hence Ovid, speaking of the virtue of these two elements, says that by means of them marriage is made:—

His nova fit conjux.—

Fasti, Lib. iv.

The *tongs* and *crook* are emblems nearly allied; the one being the instrument for managing *fire*, and the

other than for boiling *water*. By the way, I do not know whether there may not be some reference to this ancient matrimonial custom in S., in the common idea that the *tongs* is the woman's weapon.

The custom in Sweden, although differing in form, has a similar meaning. The bride is presented with *locks* and *keys*, as a symbol of the trust committed to her in the management of domestic concerns. Symbolo *serarum et clavium* sponsa materfamilias constituitur, et pars potestatis ac rei domesticæ administrandæ, bonorumque quæ clavibus et sera claudiuntur, diligens cura et fida custodia ei committitur, quod etiam moribus Græcorum et Romanorum convenit. Nam apud Græcos κλειδοχος, *clavigera*, dicebatur, materfamilias, eodem fine et usu; ut notat Hesychius. Loccenii Antiq. Sueo-Goth., p. 106.

In Angus, and perhaps in other northern counties, it is customary for the bridegroom to present the bride with a pair of pockets, made of the same cloth as his own wedding-suit; these are never sent empty. If the bridegroom can afford it, they contain every species of coin, current in the country, even down to the farthing. The money is generally the freshest that can be got.

This custom might have the same origin with that of the Germans who were of the same stock as the Goths. Among them, the wife brought no dowry to her husband, but the husband gave a dowry to his wife. Dotem non uxor marito, sed uxori maritus offert. Tacit. de Mor. Germ. Or it may correspond to the *arrhae*, the earnest, or as one would say in the language of S., the *arles*, sent by the bridegroom to the bride before marriage. V. Rosin. p. 423. Perhaps the custom established in one part of Britain, of wedding with the ring, may be traced to this source. The Roman women wore it, as with us, on the third finger. For this custom they assigned the following reason; that there is a vein in that finger which communicates with the heart. They also call it the *medicinal* finger. Ibid.

The bride presents the bridegroom with his marriage-shirt. This is generally preserved for what is called a *dead-shirt*, or that which is to be put on him after death. The only reason of this may be that it is generally finer than the rest of their linen. It is possible, however, that the custom may have originated from a religious motive, in order to impress the mind with a sense of the uncertainty of all human felicity.

Although it was customary among the Germans for the newly-married wife to make a present to her husband, it was not of ordinary dress, but of a piece of armour. Invicem ipsa, adds Tacitus, armorum aliquid viro offert. Among the Goths the bride made a present to the bridegroom. V. Pinkerton's Enquiry, i. 393.

Rain, on a wedding-day, is deemed an unlucky omen. "Oh, my heart's blythe," said she to Winifred, "to see the sun shine sae brightly; for rain's no canny, on a wedding-day." Llewellyn, iii. 283.

It is singular that the omen should be inverted in regard to death. Hence the old distich;

Happy is the corpse the sun shines on,
But happier is the corpse the rain rains on;

Or as it is otherwise expressed—

Hsppy the bride the sun shines on,
And happy the corpse the rain rains on.

"I have repeatedly heard the following rhymes, on the occasions to which they refer—

West wind to the bairn
When ga'an for its name;
And rain to the corpse
Carried to its lang hame.
A bonny blue sky
To welcoms the brids,
As sh's gangs to the kirk,
Wi' the sun on her side."

Edin. Mag., Nov. 1818, p. 412.

Mr. Allan-Hay has mentioned a superstition, in regard to marriage, which, I suppose, is confined to the Highlands:

"As the party leaves the church, the pipes again strike up, and the whole company adjourns to the next inn, or to the house of some relation of the bride's; for it is considered *unlucky* for her own to be the first which she enters." Bridal of Caolchairn, N. p. 312.

MARROT, s. The Skout, or Foolish Guillemot, a sea-bird with a dark-coloured back and snow-white belly; *Colymbus troile*, Linn. The *Lavy* of St. Kilda.

Sir R. Sibb. assigns this name to the Razor-bill; *Alca torda*, Linn.

"Alca Hoieri: our people call it the *Marrot*, the Auk or Razor-bill." Sibb. Fife, p. 112.

Penn. mentions the Lesser Guillemot as receiving the name of *Morrot* on the Firth of Forth, in common with the black-billed Auk. Zool., p. 521. It certainly should be *Marrot*.

MARROW, s. 1. A companion, a fellow, an associate, S. Exmore, id.

"Julius vald nocht hef ane *marrou* in Rome, and Pompeus vald nocht hef ane superior." Compl. S., p. 271.

The tyme complete was for thare jorney grant:

Bot sone him warnis Sibylla the sant,
His trew *marrow*, gan schortly to him say.

Doug. Virgil, 183, 3.

Ilk man drink to his *marrow* I yow pray.

Tary nocht lang; it is lait of the day.

Lyndsay, S. P. R., ii. 141.

"This Cochran was so proud in his conceit, that he counted no Lords to be *marrows* to him." *Pitcottie*, p. 78.

2. A partner in the connubial relation.

—Thow war better beir of stone the barrow
Of sueitand, ding and delfe quhill thow may dré,
Na be machit with a wicket *marrow*.

Henryson, Bannatyne Poems, p. 122.

"Scot. a husband or wife is called *half-marrou*; and such birds as keep chaste to one another are called *marrows*." Rudd.

3. A person who is equal to another, [a match in work or contest, hence, an antagonist,] S.

4. One thing that matches another, one of a pair, S.

"The word is often used for things of the same kind, and of which there are two, as of shoes, gloves, stockings, also eyes, hands, feet, &c." Rudd.

"Your een's no *marrows*;" Ramsay's S. Prov., p. 88.

"These gloves or shoes are not *marrows*, i.e., are not fellows. North." Grose, Prov. Gl.

An' wi' the laird of Cairnyhowes,
A enrler guid an' true,
Good Ralph o' Tithesbore, an' Slacks,
Their *marrows* there are few.

Davidson's Seasons, p. 164.

5. Any thing exactly like another, S.; as, "Your joktæg's the very *marrow* o' mine;" or, "our knives are juist *marrows*."

Rudd. refers to Fr. *mari*, a husband, Sibb. to *marée*, a spouse. Perhaps it is rather from anc. Su.-G. *mager*, *maghaer*, affinis, a relation; whence *maghararf*, an inheritance possessed by right of relationship. As *marrow* is applied to the matrimonial relation, it is pro-

bable that the term was primarily used to express that fellowship or equality which subsists among those who are connected by blood or marriage; especially as Fr. *macar*, which seems to acknowledge a Goth. origin, is used for a mate. V. *Maag*, Ihre.

MARROW, *adj.* 1. Equal, so as to match something of the same kind.

"At my being in England I bocht sevintene pece of perll, and, as said is, at capitane Bruce returning bak to England I ressavit of the *marrow* garnissing of thir fourtene pece thre chattonis, quhilk makis xvii in the haill." Inventories, A. 1585, p. 320.

[2. Exactly alike or equal, *s.* V. the *s.*]

To **MARROW, *v. a.* and *n.*** 1. To match, to equal, S. Rudd.

2. To associate with, to be a companion to, S. B.

Thou shalt not sit single, but by a clear ingle
I'll *marrow* thee, Nancy, when thou art my ain.
Song by a Buchan Ploughman, Burns's Works,
ii. 142, No. 51.

"That thir lordis vnderwritten be nemmit and put for keeping of the queinis grace, or ony tua of thaim quarterlie, & ane to be put and *marrowit* to thaim by my lord gouernour at his plesoure." Acts Mary, 1542, Ed. 1814, p. 414.

3. To co-operate with others in husbandry.

"To *marrow* and nychtbour with wtheris, as thai wald ansur to the king & tone [toun] thairoun." Aberd. Reg., A. 1538, V. 16.

4. Used by Montgomery, obliquely, as signifying, to fit, to adapt, exactly to match.

Scho, and the goddessis ilk ones,
Wsl'd have preferit this paragon,
As *marrowit*, but mathe, most meit
The goldin ball to bruik alone.
Maitland Poems, p. 166.

MARROWLESS, *adj.* 1. Without a match; used to denote one of a pair, when the other is lost; as, a *marrowless buckle*, S.

2. Applied to two things of the same kind, that do not match with each other; as, "ye hae on *marrowless hose*," S.

3. "That cannot be equalled, incomparable," S. Rudd.

"You are maiden *marrowless*," S. Prov.; "a taunt to girls that think much of themselves and doings." Kelly, p. 385.

MARROWSCHIP, *s.* Association.

"Throught falt of *marrowschip* or insufficient nychtbourschip." Aberd. Reg., Cent. 16.

"Throw wanting of sufficient *marrowschip*." Aberd. Reg., A. 1545, V. 19.

MARSCHAL, *s.* "Upper servant," Sibb. It seems used by Barbour for steward.

He callit his *marschall* till him tyt,
And bad him luke on all maner;
That he ma till his men gud cher;
For he wald in his chambre be,
A weill gret quhile in priuaté.

Barbour, ii. 4, MS.

This, if not radically a different word, is a deviation from the original sense. For, in the Salic law, *Marescalcus* properly denotes one who has the charge of a stable, Germ. *marschalk*, Su.-G. *marshalk*, id. from Goth. *mar*, Su.-G. *maer*, a horse, and *skalk*, a servant. The term, however, was used with great latitude. Hence some have supposed, that, although written in the same manner, it was differently derived, according to its various applications. Thus as Germ. *marschalk* also signified *praefectus servorum*, Wachter deduces it from *mer, mar*, major vel princeps; the same word, as denoting a prefect of the boundaries, from A.-S. *maera*, fines. Sibb. derives the term, as rendered by him, from A.-S. *maer*, summus, and *schalk*.

[**MARSGUM, *s.*** Same as Marool, q.v., Shetl.

The fish so named is the *Lophius piscatorius*, or Great Plucker.]

MAR'S YEAR. A common name for the rebellion in favour of the Stuart family, in the year 1715, S. It is also called *the Fyftteen*, and *Shirramuir*. V. SIERRA-MOOR.

It has received this denomination from the Earl of *Mar*, who took the lead in this insurrection, and commanded the rebel army in Scotland.

MART, MARTE, *s.* "War, or the god of war, *Mars*," Rudd.

Thare myndis so I sal inflamb alhale
By wod vndantit fers desyre of *Marte*,
Thay sal forgadder to helps from euery art.
Doug. Virgil, 227, 7.

MART, MARTE, MAIRT, *s.* 1. A cow or ox, which is fattened, killed, and salted for winter provisions, S.

"Of fleshers being burgesses, and slaying *mairts* with their awin hands." Chalmerlan Air, c. 39, s. 68.

"That all—*martis*, muttoun, pultrie,—that war in the handis of his Progenitoaris and Father—cum to our Souerane Lord, to the honorabill sustentation of his hous and nobill estate." Acts. Ja. IV., 1489, c. 24, Edit. 1566. Skene, c. 10.

"In 1565, the rents were £263 : 16 : 2 sterling—60 *marts* or fat beeves, 162 sheep," &c. Statist. Acc., V. 4.

2. A cow killed at any time for family use, Aberd.

As *mart* denotes a cow in Gael., it has been supposed that this gives the proper origin of the S. term. But as it occurs in no other dialect of the Celtic, as far as I can find, except the Irish, (which is indeed the same language,) and even in it limited, both by Lhuyd and O'Brien, to the sense of Beef, *mart óg*, and *óghart*, signifying a heifer; I am convinced that it is not to be viewed as an original Gael. word, denoting the species; but that it has been borrowed as a denomination for a cow appropriated for family use.

3. Used metaph. to denote those who are pampered with ease and prosperity.

"As for the fed *Marts* of this warld, the Lord in his righteous judgment, hes appointed them for slaughter." Bruce's Eleven Serm., 1591, A. 4, a.

The word *mart* in Gael. denotes a cow. But as used by us at least, it is probably an abbreviation of *Martinmas*, the term at which beeves are usually killed for winter store. This is commonly called *Martlemas* in E., whence the phrase mentioned by Seren. *Martle-*

mas beef, which is evidently equivalent to *Mairt*. The term is used A. Bor.

"Two or more of the poorer sort of rustic families still join in purchasing a cow, &c., for slaughter at this time, (called in Northumberland a *Mart*), the entrails of which, after having been filled with a kind of pudding meat, consisting of blood, suet, groats, &c., are formed into little sausage links, boiled, and sent about as presents, &c. From their appearance they are called *Black Puddings*." Brand's Popular Antiq., p. 355.

The *Black Puddings* are still an appendage of the *Mart* in S. They are made of blood, suet, onions, pepper, and a little oat-meal.

The season of killing beeves is sometimes called *Mart time*. This designation, as the time itself falls in November, corresponds to that which the ancient Northern nations gave to this month. For they called it *Blot-monath*, or "the month of sacrifice, because they devoted to their gods the cattle which were killed in it." Ol. Worm. Fast. Dan., p. 43. In Denmark the modern name of November is *Slacte-manet*, Ib., p. 46. V. MONETH.

[To MARTER, MARTIRE, MERTIR, *v. a.* To torture, torment; to cut down, break to pieces, destroy; to spoil, bespatter, dirty; mismanage, bungle, confuse, and spoil. V. MARTIR.]

[MARTER, MARTIR, MERTIR, *s.* A spoilt condition or appearance; also, whatever causes such condition or appearance, S.]

To MARTERISE, MARTERYZE, *v. a.* To butcher.

"Men of valour—before were wont to fight valiantly and long with the sword and lance, more for the honour of victory, then for any desire of shedding of blood: but now men are *marterized* and cut downe at more than halfe a mile of distance by those furious and thundering engines of great cannon, that sometimes shoote fiery bullets able to hurne whole cities, castles, houses or bridges, where they chance to light." Monro's Exped., P. II., p. 151.

Teut. *marter-en*, excarnificare, affligere, excruciare; vulgo *marter-iare*, & *martyriz-are*; Kilian. V. MARTYR, *v.*

MARTH, *s.* Marrow, Ettr. For.

"'Twa wanton glaikit gillies, I'll uphaud,' said Pate;—'o'er muckle *marth* i' the back, an melder i' the bruiscket.'" Perils of Man, i. 55.

Corr. from A.-S. *nearh*, *merih*, id.

[MARTIMAS, MARTYMES, *s.* Martinmas, S.]

This wes eftyr the *Martymes*,
Quhen snaw had helyt all the land.
Barbour, ix. 127, MS.

MARTIN (ST.) OF BULLION'S DAY, *s.*

The fourth of July, O. S.

The idea of prognosticating as to the future state of the weather, from the temperature of the air on certain festival days, has very generally, and very early, prevailed amongst our ancestors. It seems extremely doubtful, whether these prognostications were formed from any particular regard to the saints, with whose festivals they were conjoined, or from any peculiar influence ascribed to them. It may rather be suspected, that they were in use previous to the introduction of Christianity; and that the days formerly appropriated to such prognostication, merely changed their names. Such observations, perhaps, have been treated with more attention, in some instances, than they deserved.

Were any particular idol or saint supposed to have an influence on the weather, the idea could not be treated with too much ridicule. But certain positions of the heavenly bodies, in relation to our earth, concurring with a peculiar temperature of the atmosphere surrounding it, may have a stated physical effect, which we neither thoroughly know, nor can account for. Human life is of itself too short, and the generality of men, those especially who are crowded together in cities, are too inattentive, to form just rules from accurate observation; and they refuse to profit by the remarks of the shepherd, or the peasant. These, perhaps, they occasionally hear; but either they have not opportunity of putting them to the test, or they overlook them with contempt, as acknowledging no better origin than the credulity of the vulgar. It is certain, however, that those who still reside in the country, such especially as lead a pastoral or agricultural life, often form more just conjectures with respect to the weather than the most learned academicians. Almost all their knowledge is the fruit of experience: and, from the nature of their occupations, they are under a much greater necessity of attending to natural appearances, than those who reside in cities. We must add to this, that from their earliest years they have been accustomed to hear those traditionary calculations, which have been transmitted to them from their remotest ancestors, and to put them to the test of their own observation.

We find that the mode of prognostication from particular days, was in use in Britain, as early as the time of Bede. For this venerable author wrote a book expressly on this subject, which he entitled *Prognostica Temporum*. It has been observed, indeed, that it was much earlier. Mizaldus has remarked, that "Democritus and Apuleius affirm, that the weather of the succeeding year will correspond to that of the *dies Brumalis*, or shortest day of the year; and that the twelve following months will be similar to the twelve days immediately succeeding it; the first being ascribed to January, the second to February, and so on with respect to the rest." *Aeromantia*, Class. 5. *De signis fertilitatis*, Aphor. 16. ap. Ol. Wormii Fast. Dan. p. 110.

The Danish peasants judge in like manner of the temperature of the year, from that of the twelve days succeeding *Yule*; and this they call *Jule-mercke*. Worm. *ibid.* I have not heard that any correspondent observation of the weather is made by the inhabitants of the Lowlands. But so very similar is the account given by Wormius of the Danes, to that of our Highlanders by Pennant, that it is worth while to compare them. Speaking of the twelve days immediately following Christmas, Wormius says; *Ab hoc duodecim inclusive diligentier Agricolaе observant dies, quorum temperiem circulo creta inducto trabibus ita appingunt, ut si totus fuerit serenus, circulo saltim delineetur; si totus nubilus, totus circulus creta inducatur; si dimidius serenus, dimidius nubilus, proportionaliter in circulo descripto id annotent. Ex iis autem totius anni futuram temperiem colligere solent; affirmant namque primum diem Januarii, secundum Februarii, et ita consequenter responderent. Idque Jule-mercke vocant.* Fast. Dan. L. 2, c. 9.

"The Highlanders form a sort of *almanack*, or pre-sage of the weather, of the ensuing year, in the following manner. They make observation on twelve days, beginning at the last of December; and hold as an infallible rule, that whatsoever weather happens on each of those days, the same will prove to agree on the corresponding months. Thus January is to answer to the weather of December the 31st, February to that of January 1st; and so with the rest. Old people still pay great attention to this augury." Pennant's Tour in Scotland, 1772, Part ii., p. 48.

In Banffshire, particular attention is paid to the three

first days of winter, and to the first night of January, which is called *Oidheh' Choille*.

"On the first night of January, they observe, with anxious attention, the disposition of the atmosphere. As it is calm or beisterous; as the wind blows from the S. or the N.; from the E. or the W.; they prognosticate the nature of the weather, till the conclusion of the year. The first night of the New Year, when the wind blows from the W., they call *dár-na-coille*, the night of the fœcundation of the trees." P. Kirkmichael, *Statist. Acc.*, xii. 458.

I have specified St. Martin's day, as it is particularly attended to in the north of Scotland. The traditionary idea is, that if there be rain on this day, scarcely one day of the forty immediately following will pass without rain, and *vice versa*. It is sometimes expressed in this manner; "If the deer rises dry, and lies down dry, on St. Martin's day, there will be no rain for six weeks; but if it rises wet, or lies down wet, it will be rain for the same length of time." Some pretend that St. Martin himself delivered this as a prophecy. St. Swithin, whose day, according to the new style, corresponds to our St. Martin's, has been called the rainy saint of England, and the *weeping* saint, in consequence of a similarity of observation. Gay refers to this, in his *Trivia*—

Let cred'ulous boys, and prattling nurses tell,—
How if, on *Swithin's* Feast the welkin lours,
And ev'ry penthouse streams with hasty show'rs,
Twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drau,
And wash the pavements with incessant rain.

The same mode of prognostication was taken notice of long before by Ben Johnson:

"O here, St. Swithins, the xv day, variable weather, for the most part raine:—why, it should raine forty daies after; now, mere or lease, it was a rule held before I was able to held a plough." Every Man out of his Humour.

The vulgar in England give the following traditionary account of the reason of the rainy weather at this season. St. Swithin had given orders that his body should be interred in a particular apert. His friends, for what reason is not known, not choosing to comply with the injunction of the saint, set out to bury him in another place. He, as may well be supposed, was so highly offended at this mark of disobedience, that he deluged them, while on their way, with such torrents of rain, that they were under a necessity of relinquishing their purpose for that day. On the second, their attempt was defeated by the same means. In short, they continued in their obstinacy, still repeating the former insult, till after forty days' trial, being convinced that it was vain to contend with a saint who had the elements so much under his control, they gave him his own way. As soon as Swithin's body was deposited in the place which he had pointed out, he was appeased; not so completely, however, that he should not occasionally remind the descendants of these obstinate people of the permanency of his power.

Camden, in his *Britain*, having mentioned this saint, Holland has the following note:—

"Bishop here (at Winchester) in the 9th century. He still continues of greatest fame, not so much for his sanctity, as for the rain which usually falls about the feast of his translation in July, by reason the sun is then cosmically with *Praesepe* and *Aselli*; noted by ancient writers to be rainy constellations, and not for his weeping, or other weeping saints, Margaret the Virgin, Mary the Virgin, whose feasts are shortly after, as some superstitiously credulous have believed." *Brit.* i. 169, N.

In a very ancient vellum calendar, written 1544, in some of the northern counties of England, St. Swithin is represented with a horn as his badge. *Ibid.*, ii. 292. As this has been often used as the symbol of drinking,

the appropriation of it might respect the vulgar designation of the saint.

Martin is often denominated *the drunken saint*.

Why this saint is denominated of *Bullion*, I cannot pretend to say. It is not from Boulogne. For it does not appear that he had any connexion with this place. Du Cange calls this day *Festum Sti Martini Bullientis*, adding, *vulgo etiamnum S. Martin Bouillant*. Both words undoubtedly signify *boiling, hot, fervid*. In *Dict. Trev.* this name is supposed to originate from the warmth of the season in which this feast falls. On *appelle S. Martin bouillant, la fete de S. Martin qui vient en été*.

I have met with several intelligent people, who assert, that they have found the observation very frequently confirmed by fact. There is a remarkable coincidence with the traditionary system of Danish prognostication. The Danes indeed take their observation not from St. Martin's day, on the fourth of July, but from that of the Visitation of the Virgin, which falls on the first. Their prognostication is thus expressed by *Wermius*—

Si pluit, haud poteris coelum sperare serenum,
Transivere aliquot ni prius ante dies.

"Our peasants," he adds, "expressly assert, that, if there be rain on this day, it will continue to the day of Mary Magdalene," that is, from the fifth to the twenty-second day of the month." *Fast. Dan.*, p. 115.

MARTIN. *Saint Martynis Fowle*.

Then Myttains and *Saint Martynis Fowle*
Wend he had bene the hermit howle,
They set upon him with a yowle,
And gaif him dynt for dynt.

Dunbar, Bannatyne Poems, p. 21.

Lord Hailes says, this is, "the marten or martlet, which is supposed to leave this country about St. Martin's day in the beginning of winter." I suspect, however, that this is a translation of the French name of the ring-tail, a kind of kite, *oiseau de S. Martin*, especially as conjoined with the *Myttaine*, which is evidently a bird of prey.

To MARTIR, MARTIRE, MARTYR, MERTIR, v. a. 1. To hew down, to cut or break to pieces, to destroy.

Till him thai raid onon, or thai wald blyne,
And cryt, Lord, abide, your men ar *martyrit* doun
Rycht cruelly, her in this fals region.

Wallace, i. 422, MS.

Our Kingis men he haldis at gret wnest,
Martyris thaim doun, grete peté is to se.

Ibid., iv. 377, MS.

Quha has, allace! the *martyryt* sa and slans
By sa cruell tormentis and hyddueus pane!

Doug. Virgil, 181, 31.

2. [To hurt or wound severely; to torture, torment.] One is said to be *martyrit* when "sore wounded or bruised;" *Rudd. S.*, pron. q. *mairtird*, like *fair*. [*Martirin, martyrin*, part. pr. is used also as a *s.*, meaning ill-treatment, torture, Banffs., Clydes.]

"Bot this William Meldrum of Bines was evill *martyred*, for his hochis war cutted, and the knoppis of his elbouis war atrikin aff, and was strikin throw the bodie, so thair was no signe of lyff in him." *Pitacottie's Cron.*, p. 306.

This is undoubtedly the same "*Squyer Meldrum, ymqhile Laird of Cleische and Binnis*," whose historie is recorded by Sir David Lyndsay. His enemies, he says,

—Cams behind him cowardlis,
And hackit on his *hochis* and theis,
Till that he fell upon his kneis, &c.

Chalm. Lyndsay, ii. 297.

Rudd. also explains this *martyred*, as being the same word. This is the most probable supposition; as Fr. *martyr-er*, not only signifies to martyr, but to torment, to put to extreme pain. Hence, perhaps, by the same transition, Sw. *marter-a*, to torture, to torment. The term might, however, seem allied to Moes.-G. *maurth*, slaughter, Isl. *myrth-a*, to kill, whence E. *murder*.

[3. To bungle, mismanage, confuse and spoil,
Clydes., Ang.]

4. To dirty, to bespatter with dirt.

[MARTIR, MARTYR, *s.* One sorely afflicted;
as, "He's jist a *martir* to rhumatics," Clydes.]

[MARTIRDOME, MARTYRDOM, *s.* Laughter,
massacre, Barbour, vi. 289, xviii. 326.]

MARTLET, *s.* A martin.

"*Martlet*, more commonly *Mertrick*, a kind of large weesel, which bears a rich fur." Gl. Sibb.

MARTRIK, MERTRIK, *s.* A martin; *Mustela martes*, Linn. *Martrix*, *Mertryx*, pl., furs of the marten sable.

"Amang thame ar mony *martrikis*." Bellend. Descr. Alb., c. 8. *Martirillae*, Boeth.

"Na man sall weir—furrings of *mertrickis*,—bot alanerly Knichtis and Lordis of twa hundreth merkis at the leist of yeirly rent." Acts Ja. I., 1429, c. 133. Edit. 1566. *Martrickes*, c. 118, Skene.

Fr. *martre*, Belg. *marter*, A.-S. *maerth*, Su.-G. *maerd*, *maertur*, Germ. *maerd*, id.

MARTY, *s.* Apparently a house-steward.

"1655—Walter Campbell captain and *Marty* of Skipness." Household Book of Argyll.

Ir. Gael. *maor*, a steward, and *tigh*, *ty*, a house.

MARVAL, *s.* 1. Marble, Ayr., Gl. Picken.

This must be viewed as a provincial corruption.

[2. A small bowl used in the game of *marbles*,
Clydes.]

MARYMESS, *s.* The day (Sept. 8th) appointed in the Roman calendar to commemorate the nativity of the Virgin.

"That—William erle Marschell sall-pay to the said John lord Drummond the soume of J^c merkis—at the fest of Sanct John the baptist called midsommer nixt tocum, & ane vther J^c merkis at the latter *Marymess* nixt thareftir," &c. Act. Dom. Conc., A. 1492, p. 265. V. also p. 266.

This denotes the day appointed in the Roman calendar for commemorating the nativity of the Virgin, September 8th, which was denominated the latter *Marymess*, as distinguished from the day of her Assumption or Lady day, which falls on August 15th.

"The provest, bailleis, &c. of Irwin hes bene accusmat thir mony yeiris bigane to haif twa fairis in the yeir to be haldin within the said burgh;—the first fair beginnand vpoun the xv day of August, quhilk is the first *Ladie day*, and the nixt vpoun the viij day of September, quhilk is commonie callit the latter *Ladie day*, being only xxij dayis betuix thame," &c. Acts Ja. VI., 1578, Ed. 1814, p. 103.

Evidently from the Virgin's name, and S. *mess*, a mass, L. B. *missa*, A.-S. *maessa*.

We find the phrase indeed, On haerfeste tha fullan wucan aer Sanctam Marian maessan, expl. by J. Bromton, "Augusto plena hebdomada ante festum sanctae Mariae; i.e., In August, a full week before *Marymess*." V. Mareschall Observ. in A.-S. vers., p. 517. Bromton Chron., col. 826.

MARYNAL, MARINELL, *s.* A mariner.

"The maister quhislit, and tald the *morynalis* lay the cabil to the cabilstok." Compl. S., p. 61.

"A stout and prudent *marinell*, in tyme of tempest, seeing but one or two schippis—pas throughout any danger, and to win a sure harborie, will have gud esperance, be the lyke wind, to do the same." Dr. M'Crie's Life of Knox, first ed., p. 439.

MARY RYALL. A silver coin, of Q. Mary of Scotland, vulgarly called the *Crookstone Dollar*.

"That thair be cunyeit ane penny of silvir callit the *Mary Ryall*,—of weicht ane unce Troie weicht—havand on the ane syde ane palme-tree crownit," &c. Act. Dom. Conc., A. 1565. Keith's Hist., App. p. 118.

"Queen Mary having returned home to Scotland in the year 1561; and being married to Darnley, in four years after, these large pieces of money began to be coined among us, which were then called *reals* or *royals*, but now *crowns*." Ruddiman's Introd. to Diplom., p. 131. V. SCHELL-PADDOCK, and RYAL.

MARY'S (St.) KNOT. *To Tie with St. Mary's knot*, to cut the sinews of the hams of an animal, Border.

Then Dickis into the stable is gans,—

Where there stood thirty horses and three;

He has tied them a' wi' St. Mary's knot,*

A' these horses but barely thres.

* Ham-stringed the horses, N.

Poetical Museum, p. 27.

How such a savage practice should have been named from her, who was even by savages daily celebrated as *Mater Gratiae*, and *Dulcis Parens clementiae*, is not easily conceivable. The name must have originated with some of those ruthless marauders, who, from the constant use of the sword, had become so daring as even in some instances to cut the Gordian knot of superstition; and who over their cups might occasionally laugh at the matins and vespers of those whom they spoiled.

MASAR, *s.* A drinking cup made of maple.

V. MASER.

MASCROP, *s.* An herb.

"Argentina, the *mascrop*." Wedderb. Vocab., p. 19. In a later Ed. *mascropt*.

I find the name *Argentina* given to the *Potentilla anserina*, (E. Silverweed, Wild Tansey, or Goose-grass) Linn. Flor. Suec., N. 452. Or shall we view this as corr. from E. *Master-wort*, which Skinner expl. *Angelicae Species*.

MASE, *s.* A kind of net, with wide meshes, made of twisted straw ropes; used in Orkney. It is laid across the back of a horse, for fastening on sheaves of corn, hay, &c., also for supporting the *cassies*, or straw-baskets, which are borne as panniers, one on each side of a horse.

It is most probably denominated from its form; Su.-G. *maska*, Dan. *mask*, Teut. *masche*, signifying, *macula retis*, the *mesh* of a net.

[MASE, MACE, *s.* A mace; pl. *masis, maeyis*, and in Barbour, xi. 600, *mass.* Skeat's Ed. has *mas.* O. Fr. *mace*, id.]

[MASAR, MASARE, MASSAR, *s.* A mace-bearer: an officer of Parliament, Exchequer, and the courts of law, whose duty it was to preserve order, summon juries, witnesses, &c., S.]

MASE, *s.* Mace, a spice, Acets. L. H. Treasurer, i. 284. Generally in pl. *masis*, as,

"Item, for half a pund of *masis*, ix s."

[MASE, *v.* V. MAIS.]

MASER, MAZER, MASAR, *s.* Maple, a tree; also, maple-wood.

He's tain the table wi' his foot,
Sae has he wi' his knee;
Till siller cup and *mazer* dish
In finders he gard flee.

Gil Morrice, Ritson's S. Songs, ii. 161.

Lat. "*acer a quo f. corr. est B. maeser*, Scot. *sacpissime mazer.*" Rudd. vo. *Hattir*.

But the idea of the term being derived from the Lat. word seems groundless; especially as it assumes a form similar to that in our language, in a variety of others. Germ. *maser*, Su.-G. *masur*, Isl. *mausur, mosor*, C.B. *masarn*. Ihre derives *masur* from *mas*, macula, because of the variegation of the wood of this tree. V. MAZER.

MASER, MAZER-DISH, *s.* 1. A drinking vessel made of maple, S.

Masur in Sw. denotes a particular kind of birch.

"Item, foure *masaris* callit King Robert the Brocis, with a couir." Inventories, p. 7.

"Item, the hede of silver of ane of the coveris of *masar.*" Ibid., p. 8.

Janus Dolmerus, in his Notes to the *Jus Aulicum Norvegicum*, p. 461, says that the cups made of maple were in ancient times held in great estimation among the Norwegians; ap. Du Cange.

It must be acknowledged that the learned Du Cange, on the authority of an old Lat. and Fr. Glossary, supposes that *masar cups* are the same with those which the Latins called *Murrhina*; for in this Gl. *Murrha* is expl. *Hanap de madre. Murha*, according to some, denoted agate; according to others, porcelain. But I can see no proof of a satisfactory nature in support of either of these opinions.

Mr. Pinkerton has the following remark on *Mazer*.

"Besides plate, *mazer* cups are mentioned by the Scottish poets. This substance, corresponding with the French *madre*, appears to be china, or earthen ware, painted like the old vases ridiculously ascribed to Raphael." Hist. i. 433, N.

But Fr. *madre* is defined by Cotgr. "a thick-streaked graine in wood." And the value of the *dish* seems to have depended on the beauty of the variegation. *Madre*, at any rate, does not seem to be the correspondent term. If we trust Palsgrave, our oldest French Grammarian, it is *masiere*; and he gives such an account of it, as to exclude the idea of its being of earthen ware. He also affords us a proof of the term being used in O.E. "*Masar* of wood; [Fr.] *masiere*, hanap." B. iii. F. 47, b.

It had been known in England so late as the age of Beaumont and Fletcher:

Dance upon the *mazer's* brim,
In the crimson liquor swim.

Valentinian, p. 1398.

Drinking cups of this kind had been common among the Gothic nations. Isl. *Mausur bolli*, i.e., a *mazer bowl*, is given by Verelius as synonymous with Sw. *masarund dryckeskop*, and explained, *Poculus ex betula adultiori, nodosiori, adeoque duriori confectus*; Ind. p. 171.

2. Transferred to a cup or bowl of metal.

"Ane silver *masar* of the weycht of xv vnce & a half." Aberd. Reg.

"Ane siluer *maiser* with ane cop of tre, contenanand ten vnces of siluer." Ibid., A. 1545, V. 10. V. MAZER.

MASH-HAMMER, *s.* A large weighty hammer for breaking stones, &c., Aberd.

[To MASCHLE, *v. a.* 1. To mix or crumble into a confused mass, Clydes., Banffs.

2. To put things, or allow them to get, into confusion, *ibid.*

3. With prep. *up* the passive voice implies, closely connected by marriage and blood relationship. Gl. Banffs.]

[MASCHLE, MEESCHLE, *s.* 1. A coarse mixture; as, "what a *maschle* ye've made," Clydes., Banffs.

2. A state of confusion; as, "A' thing 's in a *maschle*," *ibid.*]

MASHLACH, MASHLICH, MASHLOCH, MASHLIN, *adj.* Mixed, mingled, blended, but in a coarse or careless manner, S. B.

An' thus gaed on the *mashlach* fecht;

To cawm them s' John Ploughman heght, &c.

Taylor's S. Poems, p. 25.

MASHLIN, MASHLIE, MASHLICH, MASHLOCH, *s.* 1. Mixed grain, generally pease and oats, S. *mashlum*, Shirr. Gl. *mislén*, E.

"Na man sall presume to grind quheit, *maischloch*, or rye, with hande mylnes, except he be compelled be storme,—or be inlaik of mylnes, quhilk sould grind the samine." Stat. Gild., c. 19.

This has evidently the same origin with *mislén*, which, according to Johnson, is corrupted from *miscellane*. Sibb. gives a more natural etymon; Fr. *meslange, meslée*, a mixture. But this word is probably of Goth. origin. Teut. *masteluyrn*, farrago, Belg. *mas-teleyn*, id., A.-S. *mistlic*, various; Germ. *misllich*, Alem. Franc. *missilicho*, Moes.-G. *missaleiks*, id. Wachter views it as compounded of *miss*, expressing defect, and *like*. Perhaps it is rather from *missch-en*, to mix.

Palsgrave mentions *masclyne corne*, although without giving any explanation; B. iii., F. 47. But it is undoubtedly the same word.

It seems certain, indeed, that the Teut. term is from the *v.* signifying to mix. For the synonym of *masteluyrn* is *misteluyrn, misschteluyrn*, evidently from *misschel-en, miscere*.

[2. The flour or meal obtained from the mixed grain; called also *mashlin meal*, or *mashlum meal*, Clydes.]

3. *Mashlie* also denotes the broken parts of moss. *Mashlie-moss*, a moss of this description, one in which the substance is so loose that peats cannot be cast; but the *dross*, or *mashlie*, is dried, and used for the back of a fire on the hearth, S. B.

MASHLOCK, *s.* The name given to a coarse kind of bread.

—"I'll sup ye in crowdy, and ne'er mint at baking another hannock as lang's there's a mouthfu' o' *mashlock* (bread made nearly all of bran) to be had in the township." St. Johnstoun, ii. 37.

MASHLUM, *adj.* Mixed, made of mashlin; applied to grain, S.

"Let Bauldie drive the pease and bear meal to the camp at Drumclog—he's a whig, and was the auld gudewife's pleughman. The *mashlum* bannocks will suit their moorland stamachs weel." Tales of my Landlord, iii. 147, 148. V. MASHLIN.

MASHLUM, *s.* A mixture of any kind of edibles, Clydes.

To **MASK**, *v. a.* To catch in a net. In this sense, a fish is said to be *maskit*, Ayr. E. *to mesh*.

Su.-G. *maska*, Dan. *mask*, Isl. *moeskne*, Belg. *masche*, macula retis, E. *mesh*.

MASK, *s.* A term used to denote a crib for catching fish, as *synon.* with *cruise*.

"All sic cruives and *maskis* (*machinae piscariae*), and heckis thairof, sall have at the leist twa inche, and thre inche in breidth, swa that the smolt or fry may frelie swim up and down the water, without any impediment." Balfour's Pract., p. 543.

This seems merely an oblique sense of the term as properly signifying the *meshes* of a net.

To **MASK**, *v. a.* To infuse; as *to mask tea*, *to mask malt*, S.

"They grind it [the malt] over small in the mylne, that it will not run when it is *masked*." Chalmerlan Air, c. 26, s. 6.

"Lay them into a tub like unto a brewing-keave, wherein brewers *mask* their drink." Maxwell's Sel. Trans., p. 352.

—"I hope your honours will tak tea before you gang to the palace, and I maun go and *mask* it for you." Waverley, ii. 299.

To **MASK**, *v. n.* 1. To be in a state of infusion, S.

"While the tea was *masking*, for Miss Mally said it would take a long time to draw, she read to him the following letter." Ayr. Legatees, p. 181.

[2. To be gathering, preparing; as, "There's a storm *maskin*," Clydes., Banffs.]

MASK-FAT, **MASKIN-FAT**, *s.* A vat for brewing, a mash tun, S.

"John Lindsay—sall—restore—a kow of a deforce, a salt mert, a *mask fat*," &c. Act. Dom. Conc., A. 1479, p. 33.

[**MASKIN**, **MASKING**, *s.* The quantity made at one infusion; also, the quantity sufficient for one infusion; as, "a *maskin* o' tea." Clydes., Shetl.]

MASKIN-PAT, **MASKING-PAT**, *s.* A tea-pot, S.

Then up they gat the *maskin-pat*,
And in the sea did jaw, man,
An' did nae less, in full Congress,
Than quite refuse our law, man.

Burns, iii. 267.

MASKIN'-RUNG, *s.* 1. A long round stick used in stirring malt in masking, S. B.

Auld Kate brought ben the *maskin rung*,
Syne Jock flew till't w' speed,
Gas Wattle sic an awfu' fung
That maistly dang 'im dead.

Cock's Simple Strains, p. 136.

Su.-G. *mask*, bruised corn mixed with water, a mash, Arm. *mesc-a*, to mix, Alem. *misk-an*, Belg. *misch-en*. Gael. *masc-am*, id.

MASKENIS, *s. pl.* Apparently, masks or visors, used in a masquerade.

"Fyve masking garmentis of crammosie satine, freinyeit with gold, & bandit with claith of gold; Sex *maskenis* of the same, pairt of thame uncomplete." Inventories, A. 1578, p. 237.

Fr. *masquine*, "the representation of a lion's head, &c. upon the elbow or knee of some old-fashioned garment;" Cotgr. Hence it has been used to denote any odd face used on a visor.

MASKERT, *s.* Swines' maskert, an herb, S. Clown's all-heal, *Stachys palustris*, Linn.

The Sw. name has some affinity; *Swinkyler*, Linn. Flor. Suec., 528. This seems to signify, swines' *bulbs* or *knobs*. *Swine*, he says, dig the ground in order to get this root. The termination of our word is evidently from *wort*; perhaps q. *mask-wort*, the root infused for swine.

MASLE, *s.* Mixed grain; E. *maslin*.

"Similago *masle*, or mong-corn." Wedderb. Vocal., p. 21. V. MASHLIN.

Similago is not the correspondent term, as this denotes fine meal.

MASS, *s.* Pride, haughtiness, self-conceit; Ettr. For.

MASSIE, **MASSY**, *adj.* Full of self-conceit or self-importance, and disposed to brag, Berwicks., Roxb.

This seems to be the sense in the following passage:—"I can play with broadsword as weel as Corporal Inglis there. I hae broken his head or now, for as *massy* as he's riding ahint us." Tales of my Landlord, iii. 20.

"I sat hinging my head then, an' looking very blate, but I was unco *massy* for a' that." Brownie of Bodsbeck, ii. 25.

"I was a *massy* blade that day when I gaed o'er Craik-Corse riding at my father's side." Perils of Man, ii. 229.

Fr. *massif*, Teut. Sw. id., firm, strong, unbroken; transferred to the mind.

MASSIMORE, *s.* The dungeon of a prison or castle, S. A.

"It is said, that, in exercise of his territorial jurisdiction, one of the ancient lairds had imprisoned, in the *Massy More*, or dungeon of the castle, a person named *Porteous*." Border Minstrelsy, i. Intr., xcvi. N.

This is evidently a Moorish word, either imported during the crusades, or borrowed from the old romances.

Proximus huic est carcer subterraneus, sive ut *Mauri*, appellat, *Mazmorra*, custodile Turcarum inserviens. Jac. Tollii Epist. Itinerarie, p. 147.

Grose gives a different orthography, in his description of Crighton Castle, Edinburghshire.

"The dungeon called the *Mass-More* is a deep hole, with a narrow mouth. Tradition says, that a person of some rank in the country was lowered into it for irreverently passing the castle without paying—his respects to the owner." Antiq. of Scotland, i. 53.

I am informed by a learned friend, that "*Mazmorra* is at this day the common name in Spain for a dungeon."

The term *maz*, which, as used by Roman writers, seems to have assumed the form of *Massa*, was used in the Moorish territories at least as early as the third century. For *Massa Candida* was the name given to the place in Carthage into which, during the reigns of the persecuting emperors, the Christians, who would not sacrifice to their gods, were precipitated. It was a pit full of chalk, whence called *the white pit*. Prudentius refers to it, Peristeph. Hymn 4.

Candida Massa dehinc dici meruit per omne seclum. V. Du Cange, vo. *Massa*, 6.

MASSONDEW, s. An hospital.

"The said declaration—all have the strenth, force, and power, of an legall and perfyte interruption aganis all personis having enteresse, and that in sua far al-nerliche, as may be extended to the particulars following.—Aganis unlawful dispositiouns of quhatsumeuer landes, teinds, or rentes, dotit to Hospitalis or *Mas-sondews*, and unlawfully disopnit againis the actis of Parliament." Acts Sederunt, p. 43. In Ed. 1740, by mistake, it is *massindewris*.

Fr. *maison Dieu*, id., literally, a house of God.

MAST, adj. Most. V. MAIST.

[MASTEN, s. A mast, Shetl. Dan. *masten*, Isl. *mastr*, id.]

MASTER, s. A landlord, S. V. MAISTER.

MASTER, s. Stale urine. V. MAISTER.

MASTER-TREE, s. The trace-tree or *swingle-tree* which is nearest the plough in Orkn. This in Lanarks. is called the *threeep-tree*.

MASTER-WOOD, s. The principal beams of wood in the roof in a house, Caithn.

—"The tenant being always bound to uphold the original value of the *master-wood*, as it is termed." Agr. Surv. Caithn., p. 30.

MASTIS, MASTICHE, s. A mastiff.

The cur or *mastis* he haldes at small auale, And culyeis spanyearthis, to chace partrik or quale.

Doug. Virgil, 272, 1.

"Gif anie *mastiche* hound or dog is found in anie forest; and he be nocht bound in bands: his maister or owner salbe culpable." Forrest Lawes, c. 13, s. 2. Fr. *mastin*, Ital. *mastino*, L. B. *mastin-us*, perperam *mastiv-us*; Du Cange.

I have met with a curious etymon of this word.

"Budaens calleth a Mastine *Molosus*, in the olde British speeche they doe call him a *Masethefe*, and by that name they doe call all manner of barking curres, that doe vse to barke about mens houses in the night, because that they doe *mase* and feare awais *theefes* from the houses of their masters." Manwood's Forrest Lawes, Fol. 93, b.

[MASTRICE, MASTRIS, s. Mastery, superiority; also a feat of skill. V. MAISTRIS.]

[MASTRY, s. Mastery, force, Barbour, iv. 706, vii. 354, Skeat's Ed. V. MAISTRJ, MAISTRY.]

MAT, MOT, aux. v. May.

O thou my child, derer, so *mat* I thrus,
Quhill that I leuit, than myne awin line.

Doug. Virgil, 152, 5.

"*Wel' mat*, or *mot ye be*, well may it be, or go with you, S." Rudd. *Mat* is more commonly used, S. B.

Ane wes Jhon of Hsliburtown,
A nobil sqwyere of gud renewu;
Jamys Turnbule the tothir was.
Thare sawlys til Paradys *mot pas*.

Wyntown, viii. 42. 160.

So *mot* thou Troye, quham I sall saif fra skaith,
Kepe me thy promys, and thy lawté bayth,
As I schaw sall the verité ilk deille,
And for my lyfe sall render you ane grste wele.

Doug. Virgil, 44, 5.

It occurs in the form of *mote* in one of the oldest specimens of the E. language.

Eft he seyde to hem selfe, Woe *mote ye* worthen
That the toubes of profetes tildeht vp heighs.

P. Ploughmanes Crede, D. ij. a.

"*May wo be to you*," or "befal you."

Rudd. derives it from Belg. *moet-en*, debere, teneri, obligari. Were this the etymon, there would be a change from the idea of possibility to that of necessity. Belg. *Ik moet*, I must, is certainly from *moet-en*. A.-S. *mot* signifies possum licet mihi; *we moton*, we might. Su.-G. *maatte*, pron. *molte*, is used in the same manner. *Iag maatte goerat*; it is necessary for me to do, or, I must do. The true origin seems to be Isl. Su.-G. *maa*, *maatte*, possum, potuit. Seren. derives E. *may* from this root: and certainly with good reason. For although, at first view, this form of the v. may appear to imply permission only, it necessarily includes the idea of power. Thus, when a wish is expressed in this manner, *Well mot ye be*, if the language be resolved, the sense is; "May power be granted to you to continue in health and prosperity!" *Mot* is indeed the sign of the optative.

MATALENT, MATELENT, s. Rage, fury.

On him he socht in ire and propyr teyn;
Vpon the hed him straik in *matalent*.

Wallace, iv. 465, MS.

Lavinia is thy spous, I not deny,
Extend ns farther thy wraith and *matalent*.

Doug. Virgil, 447, 23.

Wynt. *matalent*, and *mawvetalant*. Fr. *mal-talen*, spite, anger; *chagrin*, Gl. Rom. Rose, from *mal*, bad, and *talent*, will, desire. V. TALENT.

To MATE, v. a. "To kill or wound," Rudd.

Our childer ying exercis beselye,
Hunting with houndis, hornes, schout and crye,
Wylde dere out throw the woddis chace and *mata*.

Doug. Virgil, 299, 15.

In this sense it might seem allied to Isl. *meid-at* mutilare, laedere, membris truncare; Moes.-G. *maitan*, laedere, conscindere. But the language of the original is;

Venatu invigilant pusri, silvasque *fatigant*.

It therefore signifies, to weary out, to overcome the game by fatiguing it. *Mait*, q. v. may therefore be viewed as the part. pa. of this verb.

MATED OUT, part. pa. Exhausted with fatigue, Roxb. V. MAIT.

[MATEIR, MATER, MATIR, *s.* 1. Matter, substance, Lyndsay, Thrie Estaitis, l. 81.

2. Subject, discourse, story. Lyndsay, Syde Taillis, 159.]

[MATE-LUM, *s.* A kettle in which food is cooked, Shetl.]

[MATE-MITHER, *s.* The person who serves out food to others, Shetl.]

[MATENIS, *s. pl.* Matins, Lyndsay, The Cardinall, l. 385.]

MATERIS, *s. pl.* Matrons; Lat. *matres*, mothers.

Thus thay reconterit thame that command were,
And samin ionit cumpanyis in fere,
Quham als fast as the *materis* can espye,
They smat thare handis, and raisit vp ane cry,
Doug. Virgil, 463, 54.

MATHER-FU', *s.* The fill of the dish denominated a *mather*, Galloway.

The laird o' Mumfield merry grew,
An' Maggy Blyth was fainer—
An' Michael wi' a *mather-fu'*,
Crys, "Welcome to the manor."
Davidson's Seasons, p. 89.

V. MADDER, MADDERS-FULL.

MATHIT, *part. pa.* *Mathit on mold.*

The silly pig to reskew
All the samyn are thay met trew;
Be than wes *mathit* on mold
Als mony as thay wold.
Colkelbie Sow, F. i. v. 414.

This should undoubtedly be *machit*, i. e., "matched," or pitted against each other "on the field."

[MATILOT, *s.* The black window-fly, Orkn.]

MATTIE, *s.* Abbrev. of *Matthew*. "*Mattie* Irving called Meggis *Mattie*." Acts iii. 392.

To MATTLE *at, v. a.* To nibble, as a lamb does grass, Teviotdale.

Isl. *miatl-a*, detrahere parum, *miatl*, parva iterata detractio. *Mootle*, id. Loth.

MATTY, *s.* The abbrev. of the female name *Martha*, S.

Fraunces gives "*Mailkyn* or *Mawte*" for "*Matildis*; *Matilda*." Prompt. Parv.

[MATURITE, *s.* Slowness, deliberation, Barbour, xi. 583.]

[MATUTYNE, *adj.* Morning, Lyndsay, Ex-per. and Court., l. 147.]

MAUCH, MACH, MAUK, *s.* A maggot, S. A. Bor. *mauk*.

"A *mach* and a horse's hoe are baith alike;" S. Prov., Ferguson, p. 7.

This seems to have as much of the enigma, as of the proverb.

Mauch mutton is one of the ludicrous designations that Dunbar gives to Kennedy, in his *Flyting*; *Evergreen*, ii. 60. He evidently alludes to mutton that has been so long kept as to become a prey to maggots.

The cloken hen to the midden rins,
Wi' a' her burds about her, fyking fain,
To scrape for *mauks*.—*Davidson's Seasons*, p. 5.

This term is used proverbially—perhaps in allusion to the feeble life of a maggot—"As dead's a *mauk*."

O man, pray look what ails my watch,
She's faintit clean away,
As dead's a *mauk*, her case is such,
Her pulse, see, winna play.

A. *Scott's Poems*, p. 203.

"O. E. *Make* or maggot worme. *Taxinus*. *Cimex*." Prompt. Parv.

Su.-G. *matk* signifies not only a worm but a maggot; Dan. *maddik*, Isl. *madk-ur*, id. Seren. views Isl. *maa*, terere, as the origin; perhaps, because a maggot gnaws the substance on which it fixes.

MAUCHIE, MAUCHY, *adj.* [1. Maggoty, full of maggots, S.]

Yorks. "*mawkie*, full of maddochs;" Clav. i. e., maggots.

2. Dirty, filthy, S.; radically the same with E. *mawkish*, q. what excites disgust, generally derived from E. *maw*, Su.-G. *mag*, the stomach, whence *maegtig*, *mawkish*. V. Seren.

MAUCH, MAUCH, (*gutt.*), *s.* Marrow; hence, pith, power, ability. Fife., Perth. *Maich*, Angus.

[These are only varieties of the following. Indeed, in the West of S., and especially in Clydes., where there is a strong tendency to drop or slur the letter *t*, both *mauch* and *maucht* are used still.]

MAUCHT, MAUGHT, MACHT, *s.* 1. Might, strength, S.

—To Philip sic ront he raucht,
That thoct he wes off mekill *maucht*,
He gert him galay disyly.

Barbour, ii. 421, MS.

"Than the marynalis began to heis vp the sail, cryand,—Ane lang draucht, ane lang draucht, mair *maucht*, mair *maucht*." Compl. S., p. 63.

Yet fearfu' aften o' their *maught*,
They quit the glory o' the faught
To this same warrior wha led
Thae heroes to bright honour's bed.

Fergusson's Poems, ii. 96.

2. In pl. *machts*, power, ability, in whatever sense. It often denotes capacity of moving the members of the body. Of a person who is paralytic, or debilitated by any other malady, it is said; *He has lost the machts*, or *his machts*, S. B.

The sakeless shepherds stroove wi' might and main,
To turn the dreary chase, but all in vain:
They had nae *maughts* for sick a toilsome task;
For barefac'd robbery had put off the mask.

Ross's Helenore, p. 22.

3. It also denotes mental ability.

O gin thou hadst not heard him first o'er well,
Fan he got *maughts* to write the Shepherd's tale,
I meith ha' had some hap of landing fair!

Ross's Helenore, Introd.

Moes.-G. *mahts*, Teut. *macht*, *maght*, A.-S. *meaht*, *maeht*, Franc. Alem. *maht*, id., from Moes.-G. A.-S. *mag-an*, Alem. *mag-en*, O. Su.-G. *mag-a*, Isl. *meg-a*, *meig-a*, posse, to be able.

MAUCHTLESS, MAUGHTLESS, *adj.* Feeble, destitute of strength or energy, S. Sw. *maktlos*, Germ. *maghtlos*, id.

If Lindy chane'd, as synle was his lot,
To play a wrangous or a feckless shot,
Jeering, they'd say, Poor Lindy's *maughtless* grown ;
But maksna, 'tis a browst that he has brown.
Ross's Helenore, p. 17.

Its black effects ye'll shortly fin',
When *maughtless* ye'll be laid
Some wae'fu', night.
Cock's Simple Strains, p. 127.

MAUCHTY, MAUGHTY, *adj.* Powerful, S. B.

Amo' the herds that plaid a *maughty* part,
Young Lindy kyth'd himsel wi' hand and heart.
Ross's Helenore, p. 22.

Teut. *maechtigh*, Alem. *mächtig*, Su.-G. *maegtig*, Isl. *magtug-er*, potens.

MAUCHT, MAUGHT, *part. adj.* 1. Tired, worn out, so as to lose all heart for going on with any business, Roxb.

2. Puzzled, defeated, *ibid.*

Evidently the same with *Mait*, *Male*, with the interjection of the guttural.

MAUD, *s.* A grey striped plaid, of the kind commonly worn by shepherds in the south of S. This seems the proper orthography.

"Besides the natural produce of the country, sheep wool, skins, yarn, stockings, blankets, *mauds*, (plaids), butter, cheese, coal, lime, and freestone, are considerable articles of commerce; and some advances have lately been made to establish a few branches of the woollen manufactures at Peebles." *Armstrong's Comp. to Map of Peebles*, Introd.

"He soon recognised his worthy host, though a *maud*, as it is called, or a grey shepherd's plaid, supplied his travelling jockey coat, and a cap, faced with wild-cat's fur, more commodiously covered his bandaged head than a hat would have done." *Guy Mannering*, ii. 50.

A *maud*, red check'd, wi' fringe and dice,
He o'er his shoulders drew.
Lintoun Green, p. 12.

V. MAAD.

MAUGERY. V. MANGERY.

MAUGRE', *s.* V. MAWGRE'.

MAUK, *s.* A maggot. V. MAUCH.

MAUKIE, *adj.* Full of maggots, S.

MAUKINESS, *s.* The state of being full of maggots, S.

MAUKIN, MAWKIN, MALKIN, *s.* 1. A hare, S.

"Thair's mair maidens nor *maukins*;" *Ferguson's S. Prov.*, p. 31.

For fear ahe cow'r'd like *maukin* in the seat.
Ross's Helenore, p. 62.

Or tell the pranks o' winter nights ;
How Satan blazes uncouth lights,
Or how he does a core convene,
Upon a witch-frequented green ;
Wi' spells and cauntrips hellish rantin',
Like *maukins* thro' the fields they're jauntin'.
Morison's Poems, p. 7.

"The country people are very forward to tell us where the *maukin* is, as they call a hare, and are pleased to see them destroyed, as they do hurt to their *calleyards*." *Burt's Letters*, i. 164.

[2. The pubes mulieris. V. MALKIN.]

3. Used metaph. to denote a subject of discourse or disputation.

"He then became merry, and observed how little we had either heard or seen at Aberdeen; that the Aberdonians had not started a single *maukin* (the Scottish word for hare) for us to pursue." *Boswell's Tour*, p. 99.

Gael. *maigheach*, id.

4. Used proverbially. "The *maukin* was gaun up the hill;" *i.e.*, matters were succeeding, business was prospering, Roxb.

This proverb refers, it would seem, to the fact in natural history, that as the hind legs of a hare are longer than the fore, it always chooses to run up hill, by which the speed of its pursuers is diminished, while its own remains the same. In this direction, it has, of consequence, the best chance of escaping. V. *Goldsmith's Anim. Nat.*, iii. 121.

MAUKIN, *s.* A half-grown female, especially when engaged as a servant for lighter work; *e.g.*, "a lass and a *maukin*," a maid-servant and a girl to assist her, S.

I cannot view this word as originally the same with that signifying a hare; for there is no link between the ideas. It might be deduced from Su.-G. *make*, socius, a companion. But as Moes.-G. *mawi* signifies puella, Dan. *moe*, Isl. *mey*, a virgin; it may be a diminutive, the termination *kin* being the mark of diminution. But we may trace it directly to Teut. *maeghdeken*, virguncula, a little maid; which has been undoubtedly formed as a dimin. from *maeghd*, virgo, puella, by the addition of *ken* or *kin*.

MAULIFUFF, *s.* A female without energy; one who makes a great fuss and does little or nothing; generally applied to a young woman, S. B.

Su.-G. *male*, Germ. *mal*, voice, speech, and *pfuffen*, to blow; q. vox et praeterea nihil. V. *FUFF*. Or it may be from Belg. *maal-en*, to dote.

MAULY, *s.* The contracted form of *Mali-fuff*, Aberd.

To MAUM, *v. n.* To soften and swell by means of rain, or from being steeped in water; to become mellow, S. Malt is said to *maum*, when steeped, S.B.

Probably from the same origin with E. *mellow*; Su.-G. *miuell*, mitis, mollis, Isl. *mioll*, snow in a state of dissolution; q. *maln*, if not corrupted from Su.-G. *mogn-a*, to become mellow. It may be observed, however, that Teut. *moln* signifies rottenness; caries, et pulvis ligni cariosi; Kilian.

MAUMIE, *adj.* Mellow, S. *Maum*, ripened to mellowness, A. Bor. V. the *v.*

Grose explains *maum*, "mellow, attended with a degree of dryness;" Gl.

[MAUMIENESS, *s.* Mellowness, Banffs.]

MAUN, *aux. v.* Must. V. MON.

MAUN, a term used as forming a superlative; sometimes *maund*, S.

Muckle maun, very big or large; as *muckle maun chield*, a young man who has grown very tall; a *muckle maun house*, &c. This phraseology is very much used in vulgar conversation.

—Uncanny nicksticks

—Aften gie the maidens sick licks,
As mak them blyth to screen their faces
Wi' hats and *muckle maun* bon-graces.

Fergusson's Poems, ii. 68.

Was ye e'er in Crail town?
Did you see Clark Dishington?
His wig was like a drouket hen,
And the tail o't hang down,
Like a *meikle maun* lang draket gray goose-pen.

Sir John Malcolm, Herd's Coll., ii. 99.

A.-S. *mægen*, in composition, has the sense of great or large; *mægen-stan*, a great stone; hence E. *main*. Isl. *magn*, vires, robur; *magandemadr*, adultus, et pollens, nearly allied to the phrase, a *maun man*, S., i. e., a big man; *magn-ast*, invalescere, incrementa capere, Verel. Ind.

To MAUN, *v. a.* To attain, to be able to accomplish, South of S.; [hence, to overcome, to master, Ayr., Banffs.]

E'en some o' thy unequal'd lan',
Whare hills like heav'n's strang pillars stan',
Rough Mars hinsell could never *maun*,
Wi' a' the crew
O' groosome chaps he could comman',
Yet to subdue!

T. Scott's Poems, p. 350.

Isl. *megn-a*, valeo efficere, pollere; a derivative from *maa*, *meg-a*, valere, Moes.-G. A.-S. *mag-an*, &c. Hence Isl. *megn*, vires. V. MAN, *v.*

To MAUN, *v. n.* To shake the head, from palsy, Shetl.

I see no terms to which this can be allied, unless perhaps Su.-G. *men*, debilitatus, *men-a*, impedire; Isl. *mein*, impedimentum, *meintak*, violenta attractatio membrorum tenerrimorum, *meintak-a*, violenter torquere membra; Halderson. Thus it seems to claim affinity with S. *Manyie*, a hurt or maim, q. v.

To MAUN, *v. a.* To command in a haughty and imperious manner; as, "Ye maunna *maun* me;" "She's an unco *maunin* wife; sho gars ilka body rin whan she cries *Iss*;" Clydes.

This, I suppose, is merely a peculiar application of the auxiliary and impersonal *v. Mann*, must; as denoting the assumption of such authority as implies the necessity of giving obedience on the part of the person to whom the term is addressed. It resembles the formation of the French *v. tutoyer*, from the pronoun *tu*, thou.

MAUNA. Must not, from *maun* and the negative, *na*.

But a bonny lass *mauna* be pu'd till she's ripe,
Or she'll melt awa like the snaw frae the dyke.

Remains Nithsdale Song, p. 108.

"I *mauna* cast thee awa on the corse o' an auld carline." Blackw. Mag., Aug. 1820, p. 513.

MAUN-BE, *s.* An act of necessity, Clydes. V. MON, *v.*

To MAUNDER, *v. n.* To talk incoherently, Ettr. For.; to mutter, pron. *Maunner*, Ayr.

"Brother, ye're *maunering*;—I wish ye would be still and compose yoursel." Sir A. Wylie, iii. 286.

Slawly frae his hams he wanners,
Slawly, slawly climbs a bras,
Whare nas tell-tale echo *mauners*,
Ance to mock him when'sae wae.

T. Scott's Poems, p. 353.

"While her exclamations and howls sunk into a low, *maundering*, growling tone of voice, another personage was added to this singular party." Tales of my Landlord, 2 Ser., iii. 98.

Expl. "palavering; talking idly;" Gl. Antiq.

I have sometimes been disposed to view the S. *v. to mauner*, as the same with the E. *v. to maunder*, to murmur, to grumble. But there is no analogy in sense; and it seems far more probably corr. from *meander*, as denoting discourse that has many windings in it. Perhaps *Maundrels* ought to be traced to the same origin.

MAUNDERIN, MAUNNERING, *s.* Incoherent discourse, Ayr.

"Having stopped some time, listening to the curious *maunering* of Meg, I rose to come away; but she laid her hand on my arm, saying, 'No, Sir, ye maun taste before ye gang.'" Annals of the Parish.

MAUNDREL, *s.* A contemptuous designation for a foolish, chattering, or gossiping person; sometimes "a haiverin *maundrel*," Loth., Clydes.

"'What's that? what's that?' said he. 'O just a bit mouse-web, Sir; the best thing for a' kin kind o' wounds and bruises,—'" 'Haud your tongue, *maundrel*,' cried the surgeon, throwing the cob-web on the floor, and applying a dressing." Saxon and Gael., iii. 81.

To MAUNDREL, *v. n.* To babble; to play the *mundrel*, Clydes.

MAUNDRELS, *s. pl.* 1. Idle stuff, silly tales; *auld maundrels*, old wives' fables; Perth., Border. *Jawthers*, *haivers*, are nearly synon.; with this difference, that *maundrels* seems especially applied to the dreams of antiquity.

2. Vagaries; often used to denote those of a person in a fever, or in a slumbering state, Fife.

Perhaps a derivative from E. *maunder*, to grumble, to murmur. This Johnson derives from Fr. *maudire*, to curse, (Lat. *maledicere*); Seren. from Su.-G. *man-a*, provocare, exorcizare.

[To MAUNGE, MUNGE, *v. a.* and *n.* To munch, to eat greedily or noisily, Clydes.]

MAUSE, *s.* One abbrev. of *Magdalen*, S.

MAUSEL, *s.* A mausoleum.

"Where are nowe the *mausels* and most glorious tombes of Emperours? It was well said by a Fagan, Sunt etiam sna fata sepulchris."

Boyd's Last Battell, p. 1045.

MAUT, s. 1. Malt, S.

[O Willie brew'd a peck o' *maut*,
And Rob and Allan came to pree,

Burns.

2. Malt liquor, ale, or spirits.]

The *maut* is said to be *aboon the meal*, S. Prov., when one gets drunk, as intimating that he has a larger proportion of drink than of solid food.

Syne, shortly we began to reel,
For now the *maut's aboon the meal*,

W. Beattie's Tales, p. 18.

Fare ye weel, my pyke-staff,
Wi' you nae mair my wife I'll baff;
The *malt's aboon the meal* the night
Wi' soms, soms, soms.

Herd's Coll., ii. 223.

"*Malt abune the meal*, expresses the state of slight intoxication, half seas over;" *Gl. Antiq.*

"*The malt's aboon the meal with you*, S. Prov.; that is, You are drunk;" *Kelly*, p. 320.

MAUT-SILLER, s. 1. Literally, money for malt, S.

2. Most frequently used in a figurative sense; as, "That's ill-paid *maut-siller*;" a proverbial phrase signifying, that a benefit has been ill requited, S.

Probably in allusion to the fraud of a maltster, who, after making use of the grain received from a farmer, denied his obligation, or quarreled about the stipulated price. Sometimes, if I mistake not, it is used in another form, although in the same sense; "Weel! ye've gotten your *maut-siller*, I think;" uttered as the language of ridicule, to one who may have been vain of some new scheme that has proved unsuccessful.

To MAUTEN, MAWTEN, v. n. To begin to spring; a term applied to grain, when steeped in order to be converted into malt, S.

Evidently formed from A.-S. *malt*, or the Su.-G. *v. maelt-a*, hordeum potui preparare. Ihre derives the term *malt* from Su.-G. *miæll*, soft, (E. *mellow*,) q. softened grain. Hence,

MAUTEN, MAWTEN, MAUTENT, part. pa. 1.

Applied to grain which has acquired a peculiar taste, in consequence of not being thoroughly dried, Lanarks.

This most frequently originates from its springing in the sheaf. The Sw. *v.* is used in a similar sense; *Kornet maeltor*, the barley spoils, *Wideg.*; S. *the corn is maulent*.

2. To be moist and friable; applied to bread that is not properly fired, S.

3. Applied to a person who is dull and sluggish. One of this description is commonly called a *mauten'd* or *mautent lump*, i.e., a heavy inactive person, Ang.; synon. *Mauten'd loll*, Buchan.

There tumbled a mischievous pair
O' *mauten'd* lolls aboon him.

Christmas B'ing, Skinner's Misc. Poet., p. 130.

[MAVIE, MEEVIE, s. The slightest noise, Banffs.]

MAVIS, s. A thrush, *Turdus musicus*, Linn., S.

This is an O. E. word; but, although obsolete in South Britain, it is the common name, and almost the only one known among the peasantry in S.

MAVIS-SKATE, MAY-SKATE, s. The Sharp-nosed Ray. V. FRIAR-SKATE.

MAW, SEA-MAW, s. The common gull, S. *Larus canus*, Linn.

"Through the whole of the year, the sea gulls (called by the vulgar *sea maws*) frequently come upon land; but when they do so, it assuredly prognosticates high winds, with falls of rain from the E. and S.E.; and as soon as the storm abates, they return again to the frith, their natfual element." P. St. Monance, *Fife, Statist. Acc.*, ix. 339.

"Give your own *sea maws* your own fish guts;" S. Prov. "If you have any superflinities, give them to your poor relations, friends, or countrymen, rather than to others." *Kelly*, p. 118. "Keep your ain fish-guts for your ain *sea-maws*," is the more common mode of expressing this proverb.

"It is here to be noted, that no *maws* were seen in the lochs of New or Old Aberdeen since the beginning of thir troubles, and coming of soldiers to Aberdeen, who before flocked and clocked in so great abundance, that it was pleasing to behold them flying above our heads, yea and some made use of their eggs and birds." *Spalding*, i. 332.

It does not appear that the author views this, as in many similar occurrences of little importance, as a prognostic of approaching calamities. He seems, therefore, to suppose, that the great resort of soldiers to Aberdeen had the same effect on the mews, which the vulgar ascribe to cannon-shot in the Roads of Leith. For it is believed by many, that during the war with France the great scarcity of white fish in the Frith, in comparison of former times, was to be attributed to the frequent firing of guns in the Roads, in consequence of which, it is said, the fish were frightened away from our coasts.

Dan. *maage*, a gull; Su.-G. *maase*, *fisk-maase*, id. As *maase* signifies a bog, a quagmire, Ihre thinks that these birds have their name from the circumstance of their being fond of bogs and lakes.

To MAW, v. a. 1. To mow, to cut down with the scythe, S.

'Guiddeen,' quo' I; 'Friend! hae ye been *mawin*,
'When ither folk are busy sawin?'

Burns, iii. 42.

"It is not vnknawin—the innumerall oppressionis committit—be burning &c. of thair houssis &c. *mawing* of thair grene cornis," &c. *Acts Ja. VI.*, 1585, Ed. 1814, p. 42.

In summer I *mawed* my meadows,
In harvest I shure my corn, &c.

Herd's Coll., ii. 221.

2. Metaph. to cut down in battle.

— All quhom he arekis nerrest hand,
Wythout reskew doune *mawis* with his brand.

Doug. Virgil, 335, 38.

A.-S. *maw-an*, Isl. *maa*, Su.-G. *maj-a*, Belg. *mayen*, id.

MAW, s. A single sweep with the scythe, Clydes.

MAWER, s. A mower, S.; *Mawster*, Gallo-way.

"Hay mowed off pasture land is more difficult to

mow than any other kind, for it has what *mawsters* call a matted sole;" Gall. Encycl., vo. *Lyse-Hay*.

"*Mawster*, a mower;" Ibid. in vo. Belg. *maaijer*, id.

MAWIN, *s.* 1. The quantity that is mowed in one day, *S.*

2. As much grass as will require the work of a day in mowing; as, "We will hae twa *mawins* in that meadow;" *S.*

MAW, *s.* A whit or jot. *V. MAA.*

[**MAWCH**, *s.* A kinsman. *Isl. mágr*, *A.-S. mæg*, id.

Walter steward with hym tuk he,
His *manoeh*, and with him gret menzhe;
And othir men of gret nobillay.
Barbour, xv. 274, *Skeat's Ed.*]

MAWCHTYR, *s.* Probably, mohair.

"Ane dowblett of *mawchtyr*, ane coit of ledder, & ane pair off bres." *Aberd. Reg.*, Cent. 16.

MAWD, *s.* A shepherd's plaid or mantle. *V. MAAD.*

MAWESIE, *s.* *V. MALVESIE.*

MAWGRE', **MAUGRE'**, **MAGRE'**, *s.* 1. Ill-will, despite; *Barbour*.

2. Vexation, blame.

Peraventure my scheip ma gang besyd,
Quhyll we haif liggit full neir;
Bot *maugre* haif I and I byd,
Fra they begin to steir.
Henryson, *Bannatyne Poems*, p. 99.

3. Hurt, injury.

Clym not oner hie, nor yet oner law to lycht,
Wirk na *magré*, thoch thou be nener sa wicht.
Doug. Virgil, *ProL* 271, 24.

Fr. maulgré, *maugre*, in spite of; from *mal*, ill, and *gré*, will.

[**MAWHOUN**, *s.* *V. MAHOUN.*]

[**MAWITE**, *s.* Wickedness, malicious purpose or intent, *Barbour*, iv. 730, v. 524. *O. Fr. mauté.*]

[**MAWMAR**, *s.* The discharge pipe of a ship's pump. *Accts. L. H. Treasurer*, i. 279. *Dickson*.

Dutch, mammiering, scupper-hose.]

MAWMENT, *s.* An idol.

The Saracens resawyd the town,
And as thai enteryd thare tenplis in,
Thai fand thare *mawmentis*, mare and myn,
To frwschyd and to brokyn all.
Wyntown, vii. 10. 70.

Be Salomon the first may provit be;—
Thou gert him errs into his latter elde,
Declyne his God, and to the *mawmentis* yeld.
S. P. Repr., iii. 130.

Chaucer uses *maumet* in the same sense, and *maumetrie* for idolatry; corrupted from *Mahomet*, whose false religion, in consequence of the crusades, came to be so hated, even by the worshippers of images, and of saints and angels, that they represented his followers as if they had actually been idolaters; imputing, as

has been often done, their own folly and criminality to those whom they opposed.

R. Glouc. uses the term in the same sense.

A temple heo fonde faire y now, & a *mawmed* a midde,
Thai ofte tolde wonder gret, & wat thing mon bi tidde.—
Of the *mamet* he tolden Brut, that heo fonden there.
Cron., p. 14.

MAWN, *s.* A basket, properly for bread, *S. B. maund*, *E.*

A.-S. mand, *Teut. Fr. mande*, *corbis*.

To **MAWNER**, *v. a.* To mock by mimicry; as, "He's ay *mawnerin'* me;" he still repeats my words after me; *Dumfr.*

[To **MAWP**, *v. n.* To mope, to move about in a listless, absent manner, *Clydes.*]

[**MAWPIE**, **MAWPY**, *s.* A moper, a listless, dreamy person, *ibid.*]

MAWS, *s.* The herb called *Mallows*, of which term this seems merely an abbreviation, *Roxb.*

MAWSIE, *s.* A drab, a trollop; a senseless and slovenly woman, *S.*

Isl. mas signifies nugamentum, *masa*, nugor; *Su.-G. mes*, homo nauci; *Germ. matz*, vanns, *futulis*, *inanis*, also used as a *s.* for a fool; *musse*, otium. In the same language *metse* denotes a whore. This has been deduced from *Mazzen*, the name anciently given to the warlike prophetesses of the Northern nations, whom the Greeks called *Amazons*; *Keysler*, *Antiq. Septent.*, p. 460. *Ed. Sched. de Dis Germ.*, p. 431. *Masca*, *saga*, quae viva hominis intestina exedit; *vox Longobardica*; *Wachter*.

Mosse in old *Teut.* signifies a female servant, *famula*, *Hisp. moca*. *Vuyt mosse*, *sordida ancilla*, *sordida mulier situ et squalore foeda*; *Kilian*.

MAWSIE, *adj.* [1. Stout, thick, massive; as, "That's a gran', *mawsie*, gown ye've got," *Clydes.*, *Banffs.*]

2. Stout, well made; generally applied to females, *ibid.* Expl. strapping, as *synon.* with *Sonsie*, *Ayrs*.

Teut. Fr. massif, *solidus*; "well knit," *Cotgr.*

To **MAWTEN**, *v. n.* To become tough and heavy; applied to bread only half fired. *Mawtend*, *mawtent*, dull, sluggish, *Ang.*

This is probably a derivative from *Mait*, *mate*, *q. v.*

[**MAWYTE'**. *Errat.* for *Anciente*, antiquity, length of time.

A gret stane then by hym saw he
That throw gret a *mawyté*,
Wes lowsyt redy for to fall.
Barbour, vi. 252, *MS.*

In *Prof. Skeat's Ed.*, the line runs thus—
'That throu the gret *anciente.*']

MAY, *s.* A maid, a virgin, *S.*

The *Kyngis dowchtyr* of Scotland
This *Alysandrys* the thryd, that *fsyre May*,
Wyth the *Kyng* wes weddyt of Norway.
Wyntown, vii. 10. 309.

This Margaret was a pleysand *May*.

Ibid., viii. 6. 269.

"The word is preserved in *Bony May*, the name of a play among little girls." Gl. Wynt. It is also still used to denote a maid.

The term frequently occurs in O. E.

The coronyng of Henry, & of Malde that *may*,
At London was solemply on S. Martyn's day.

R. Brunne, p. 95.

Henry kyng our prince at Westmynster kirke
The erly's douhter of Prounce, the fairest *may*,
o lif.—

Ibid., p. 213.

Mid harte I thohte al on a *May*,
Sweetest of al thinge.

Harl. MS. Warton, Hist. Poet., ii. 194.

Isl. *mei*, Su.-G. Dan. *moe*, anc. *moi*, A.-S. *maeg*, Norm. Sax. *mai*, *may*, Moes.-G. *mawi*, diminutively, *mawilo*, id. Some have viewed *mage*, familia, cognatio, as the root; "because a maiden still remains in her father's house, or if her parents be dead, with her relations." V. Schilter, Gl., p. 560, vo. *Magt*. Lye mentions Norm. Sax. *mai*, as not only denoting a virgin, but as the same with *mag*, cognatus. In relation to the former sense, he adds; "Hence, with the O. E. *The Queen's Meys* the queen's maidens: among whom it came also to be a proverb, *There are ma Meys than Margery*." V. MARIES.

Perhaps O. Fr. *mye*, maitresse, amie, is from the same origin. V. Gl. Rom. Rose. As Belg. *maeghd*, also *meysden*, *meysen*, are used in the same sense with our term, Mr. MacPherson ingeniously inquires, if the latter be "the word *Miss*, of late prefixed to the names of young ladies?"

MAY, *s.* Abbrev. of *Marjorie*, S. V. MYSIE.

* MAY, *s.* The name of the fifth month.
This is reckoned unlucky for marriage, S.

"Miss Lizy and me, we were married on the 29th day of April, with some inconvenience to both sides, on account of the dread that we had of being married in May; for it is said,

Of the marriages in May,
The bairns die of a decay."

Ann. of the Par., p. 66.

"As a woman will not marry in May, neither will she *span* (wean) her child in that month." Edin. Mag., Nov., 1818, p. 410.

The ancient Romans deemed May an unlucky month for matrimony.

Those days are om'nous to the nuptial tye,
For she who marries then ere long will die;
And let me here remark, the vulgar say,
'Unlucky are the wives that wed in May.'

Ovid's Fasti, by *Massey*, p. 278.

MAY-BIRD, *s.* A person born in the month of May, S.

The use of the term *bird*, in relation to man, is evidently borrowed from the hatching of birds.

It would seem that some idea of wantonness is attached to the circumstance of being hatched or born in this month. Hence the Prov., "*May-birds* are ay wanton," S.

[MAY, *adj.* More, more in number, Barbour, i. 458, ii. 229. V. MA.]

MAY-BE, *adv.* Perhaps, S.

"Your honour kens mony things, but ye dinna ken the farm o' Charlie's-hope—it's aae weel atoked already, that we sell *maybe* sax hundred pounds off it ilka year, flesh and fell thegither." Guy Mannering, iii. 224.

VOL. III.

[MAYN, MAYNE, *s.* Main, strength, Barbour, i. 444, x. 634. V. MAIN.]

[MAYN, MAYNE, *s.* Moan, lament, lamentation, Barbour, v. 175, xx. 277.]

MAYNDIT. Wall., i. 198, Perth Ed. V. WAYNDIT.

[To MAYNTEYM, MAYNTEME, *v. a.* To maintain, Barbour, ii. 189, viii. 252.]

MAYOCK, *s.* A mate. V. MAIK.

MAYOCK FLOOK. A species of flounder, S.

"The *Mayock Flook*, of the same size with the former, without spots." Sibb. Fife, 120. "Pleuronectes flesus, Common Flounder." Note, *ibid.*

[MAYR, *adj.* and *adv.* More, Barbour, i. 39, vii. 555. V. MARE.]

[MAYS, MAYSE, MAISS, *v.* Makes; forms common in Barbour.]

[MAY-SPINK, *s.* A primrose, Mearns.]

MAZE, *s.* A term applied to herrings, denoting the number of five hundred.

"Friday, the supply of fresh herrings at the Broomielaw, Glasgow, was uncommonly large; twelve boats, some of them with nearly forty *maze* (a *maze* is five hundred), having arrived in the morning." Caled. Mercury, 24th July, 1815. V. MESE.

MAZER, MAZER-DISH, *s.* "A drinking-cup of mapple," Sibb.

"Take now the cuppe of salvation, the great *mazer* of his mercie, and call vpoun the name of the Lord." Boyd's Last Battell, p. 1123. V. MASER.

MAZERMENT, *s.* Confusion, Ang.; corrupted from *amazement*, E.

To hillock-heads and knows, man, wife, and wean,
To spy about them gather ilka ane;
Some o' them running here, some o' them there,
And a' in greatest *mazerment* and care.

Ross's Helenore, p. 23.

MAZIE, *s.* A straw net, Shetl.

Apparently derived from Su.-G. *maska*, macula retis, as referring to the *meshes* of a net. Dan. *mask*, Belg. *masche*, Isl. *moskne*, id.

MEADOW, *s.* A bog producing hay, S.

"It may be proper to remark, that the term *meadow*, used by Mr. Home, is a provincial name for green bog, or marshy ground, producing coarse grass, mostly composed of rushes and other aquatic plants, and that the word has no reference to what is called meadow in England, which is here termed old-grass land, and which is very seldom cut for hay in Scotland." Agr. Surv. Berw., p. 29.

MEADOW-HAY, *s.* The hay which is made from bogs, S.

"*Meadow-hay*—is termed in Renfrewshire *bog-hay*." Agr. Surv. Renfr., p. 112. V. BOG-HAY.

MEADOWS. *Queen of the meadows*, meadow-sweet, a plant, S. V. MEDUART.

MEAL, s. The quantity of milk which a cow yields at one milking, Clydes.

This is not to be viewed as a secondary sense of the E. word of the same form, denoting a repast. It is from A.-S. *mael*, the origin of E. *meal*, in its primary sense, which is *pars*, *portio*, also *mensura*. Dr. Johns., in consequence of overlooking the structure of the radical language, has in this, as in many other instances, given "part, fragment," as merely an oblique signification. *Meal* denotes a repast, as being the portion of meat allotted to each individual, or that given at the fixed time.

The quantity or *portion* of milk yielded at one time is, in the same manner, called the cow's *meltith* or *meltid*, Ang. V. MELTETH.

MEAL, s. The common name for oatmeal. The flour of oats, barley, or pease, as distinguished from that of wheat, which by way of eminence is called *Flour*, S.

"Her two next sons were gone to Inverness to buy *meal*, by which *oat-meal* is always meant." Journey to the West Isl., Johnson's Works, viii. 240.

To MEAL, v. n. To produce meal; applied to grain; as, "The beer disna *meal* that dunze weel the year;" The barley of this year is not very productive in the grinding; S.

[**MEAL-AN'-ALE, MEAL-AN'-YILL.** A dish, consisting of oatmeal, ale, and sugar, spiced with whisky, partaken of when the grain crop has been cut, S.]

MEAL-AN'-BREE. "Brose," Gl. Aberd.

"It wis time to mak the *meal-an-bree*, an' deel about the castacks." Journal from London, p. 9.

[**MEAL-AN'-BREE NICHT.** Halloween, Moray.]

[**MEAL-AN'-KAIL.** A dish consisting of mashed kail mixed with oatmeal and boiled to a fair consistency, Gl. Banffs.]

MEAL-AN'-THRAMEL. V. THRAMEL.

MEAL-ARK, s. A large chest appropriated to the use of holding meal, in a dwelling-house, S.

"He was a confessor in her cause after the year 1715, when a whiggish mob destroyed his meeting-house, tore his surplice, and plundered his dwelling-place of four silver spoons, intronmitting also with his mart and his *meal-ark*, and with two barrels, one of single and one of double ale, besides three bottles of brandy." Waverley, i. 136, 137.

This, even in houses, is sometimes called the *meal-girnal*, S. V. ARK.

[**MEAL-BOWIE, s.** A barrel for holding oatmeal, Clydes., Banffs.]

MEAL-HOGYETT, MEAL-HUGGIT, s. "A barrel for holding oatmeal;" Gall. Encycl.

A corr. of *hoghead*, as the *hogshhead* is often named in S. Teut. *ockshood*, *oghshood*, id. V. Todd.

MEALIN, s. A chest for holding *meal*, Aberd.; synon. *Girnal*.

[**MEAL-IN, s.** A dish consisting of oat or barley cakes soaked in milk, Gl. Banffs.]

MEALMONGER, s. One who deals in meal, a mealman, S.

—"The day before I must be at Cavertonedge to see the match between the laird of Kittlegirth's black mare and Johnston the *meal-monger's* four-year-old colt." Bride of Lammermoor, iii. 23.

MEAL'S CORN. Used to denote every species of grain. *I haena tasted meal's corn the day; I have eaten nothing to-day that has ever been in the form of grain, S.*

And will and willsom was she, and her breast
With wae was bowden, and just like to burst.
Nae sustenance got, that of *meal's corn* grew,
But only at the cauld bilberries gnew.

Ross's *Helenore*, p. 61.

MEAL-SEEDS, s. pl. That part of the outer husk of oats which is sifted out of the meal, S.

They are used for making *sowens* or flummery.

MEALS-MORE, s. Ever so much. This term is applied to one who is given to prodigality; "Gie them *mealsmore*, they'll be poor;" Fife.

Shall we trace it to A.-S. *maeles*, pl. of *mael*, *pars*, *portio*, and *mor*, *magis*; q. additional shares or portions?

MEALSTANE, s. A stone used in weighing meal, S.

"*Mealstones*. Rude stones of seventeen and a half pounds weight used in weighing *meal*." Gall. Encycl.

To MEAL-WIND, v. a. To *meal-wind* a bannock or cake, to rub it over with *meal*, after it is baked, before it is put on the *girdle*, and again after it is first turned, S. B.; *Mell-wand*, South of S.

A.-S. *melwe*, *farina*, and *waend-ian*, *vertere*; for the act is performed by turning the cake or bannock over several times in the dry meal; or Teut. *wind-en*, *involvere*, q. "to roll up in meal."

To MEAN, v. a. To lament; or, to merit sympathy. V. MENE, v.

MEAREN, s. "A slip of uncultivated ground of various breadth, between two corn ridges;" S. B., Gl. Surv. Moray; synon. *Bauk*.

This seems the same with *Mere*, a boundary, q. v. Only it has a pl. form, being precisely the same with Teut. *meer*, in pl. *meeren*, boundaries. The term may have been first used in the province by some settlers from the Low Countries. Gael. *mircan*, however, signifies a portion, a share, a bit.

To MEASE, v. a. To allay, to settle, to moderate. V. MEISE.

MEASSOUR, s. A mace-bearer, one who carries the *mace* before persons in authority, S. *Macer*.

"My lordis, lieutenantis, and lordis of secreit counsall, ordanis ane *meassour* or vther officiare of arnes, to pass and charge William Harlaw, minister, at St. Cuthbertis kirk, to pray for the quenis maiestie,— in all and sindrie, his sermondis and prayeris," &c. R. Bannatyne's *Transact.*, p. 247.

Richard must be mistaken in supposing that they ordered ministers to convert their very sermons into a liturgy. V. MACER.

[MEAT, MEITE, *s.* 1. Food, sustenance, S.
2. Animal food, specially butcher-meat, S.]

MEAT-GIVER, *s.* One who supplies another with food.

"That the receipt, fortifier, maintener, assister, *meat-giver*, and intercommoner with sik persones, salbe called therefore at particular diettis criminally, as sirt and pairt of thir thiteous deidis." Acts Ja. VI., 1567, c. 21. Murray.

MEAT-HALE, *adj.* Enjoying such a state of health, as to manifest no failure at the time of meals, S.; synon. *Parridge-hale*, *Spune-hale*.

"The introductory compliment which poor Winpenny had carefully conned, fled from his lips, and the wonted 'A' *meat hale*, mony braw thanks,' was instinctively uttered." Saxon and Gael, i. 44.

I have met with no similar idiom.

MEAT-LIKE, *adj.* Having the appearance of one who is well-fed. "He's baith *meat-like* and *claith-like*," a common phrase in S.

MEAT-RIFE, MEIT-RYFE, *adj.* Abounding with *meat* or food, S. O., Roxb.

"*Meit-ryfe*, where there is plenty of meat," Gl. Sibb.

[MEATIES, *s. pl.* Dimin. of *meat*; applied to food for infants or very young children, Mearns.]

MEATHS, *s. pl.*

They bad that Baich should not be but—
The weam-ill, the wild fire, the vomit, and the vees,
The msir and the migraine, with *meaths* in the melt. —
Montgomery, Watson's Coll., iii. 13, 14.

Does this signify worms? Moes.-G. A.-S. *matha*, *vermis*; S. B. *maid*, a maggot.

MEAYNEIS, *s. pl.* Mines.

—"With all and sindrie *meayneis* of quhatsumeuir qualitie of metallis, mineralis and materialis," &c. Acts Ja. VI., 1600, Ed. 1814, p. 249.

MEBLE, *s.* Any thing moveable; *meble* on *molde*, earthly goods. Fr. *meuble*.

If anyes mstens, or mas, might mende thi mys,
Or eny *meble* on *molde*; my merthe were the mare.
Sir Gawain and Sir Gal., i. 16.

MECKANT, *adj.* Romping, frolicsome, Aberd.

Fr. *mechant*, mischievous, viewed in relation to boyish pranks.

MEDCINARE, MEDICINAR, MEDICINER, *s.* A physician.

"This Saxon (that wes subornat in his slauchtir) was ane monk namit Coppa: and fenyceit hym to be ane

medcinare hauand remeid aganis all maner of infirmities." Bellend. Cron., B. ix. c. 1.

"Ye suld vse the law as ane spiritual urinal, for lyk as lukiug in ane urinal heilis na seiknes, nochtheles, quhen the watter of a seik man is lukit in ane urinal, the seiknes commonly is knawin, and than remede is socht be sum special medcein, geuin be sum expert *medcinar*." Abp. Hamiltoun's *Catechisme*, 1552, Fol. 80, a.

"Live in measure, and laugh at the *medciners*;" S. Prov. Kelly, p. 236.

"Tell me now, seignor—you also are somewhat of a *medciner*—is not brandy-wine the remedy for cramp in the stomach?" St. Johnstoun, ii. 228.

MEDE, *s.* A meadow.

I walkit furth about the feildis tyte,
Quhilkis tho replenist stude ful of delyte,—
Plente of store, birdis and besy beis,
In anerand *medis* fleand est and west.

Doug. Virgil, ProL 449, 13.

A.-S. *maede*, *med*, Teut. *matte*, id.

MEDFULL, *adj.* Laudable, worthy of reward.

Throwth thare wertws *medfull* dedis
In state and honowr yhit thare sed is.

Wyntoun, vii. ProL 41.

From O. E. *mede*, E. *meed*.

MEDIAT, *adj.* Apparently used for *immediate*, as denoting an heir next in succession.

"And this is to be extendit to the *mediat* air that is to succed to the persoune that happinis to deceiss during the tyme and in maner foirsaid." Acts Ja. VI., 1571, Ed. 1814, p. 63.

MEDIS, *v. impers.* Avails, profits.

Quhst *medis*, said Spinagrus, sic notis to nevin?
Gawan and Gol., ii. 16.

Either formed from A.-S. *med*, O. E. *mede*, reward; or an ancient verb synon. with Su.-G. *maet-a*, retribuire, mentioned by Seren. as allied to E. *meed*.

MEDLERT, *s.* The present state, this world. V. MYDDIL ERD.

MEDUART, MEDWART, *s.* Meadow-sweet. *Spiraea ulmaria*, Linn.

"Than the scheiphyrdis vyuis cuttit raschis and seggis, and gadrit mony fragrant grene *meduart*, vihtth the quhilkis tha courrit the end of ane leye rig, & syne sat doune al to gyddir to tak their refectiione." Compl. S., p. 65.

From A.-S. *maede*, *med*, a meadow, and *wyrt*, E. *wort*. Sw. *mioed-oert*, id. Isl. *maid-urt*, *spiraea* [*spiraea*] *ulmaria*, Van Troil's Letters on Iceland, p. 114. The Swedish word is written as if formed from *mioed*, mead, hydromel.

MEEDWIF, *s.* A midwife, Aberd. Reg.

[MEEL, *s.* and *v.* Banffs. form of *Mule*, *Mool*, q. v.]

[MEELACH, *s.* Banffs. form of *Muloch*. V. under MULE, v.]

[MEEL-AN'-BREE. V. under MEAL.]

[MEEN, *s.* The moon; Banffs. and Aberd. form of *moon*.]

[MEERAN, *s.* A carrot, Aberd. Gael. *miuron*, id.]

MEER-BROW'D, *adj.* Having eye-brows which meet together, and cover the bridge of the nose, Loth.

Fris. *marr-en*, ligare; *q.* bound together.

MEERMAID, *s.* V. MARMAID.

[MEESH-MASH, *s.* and *v.* Same as MISH-MASH, *q. v.* Banffs., Aberd.

It is also used as an *adj.* and as an *adv.*]

[MEESCHLE, *s.* and *v.* Same as MASCHLE and MUSCHLE, *q. v.* Banffs.

The redupl. form, MEESCHLE-MASCHLE, is also used to express great confusion, and the act of putting things into that state.]

To MEET *in wi*?. To meet with, S. B.

MEET-COAT, *s.* A term used by old people for a coat that is exactly *meet* for the size of the body, as distinguished from a *long coat*, S.

MEETH, *adj.* 1. Sultry, hot, S. B.

The day is *meeth*, and weary he,—

While cozie in the bield were ye;

Sae let the drappie go, hawkie.

Jamieson's Popul. Ball., ii. 363.

Ross writes *meith* in his first Edit.

—But *meith*, *meith* was the day,

The summer cauls were dancing brae frae bras.

Ross's Helenore, p. 82.

—*Het*, *het* was the day.—

Ed. Third, p. 87.

2. Warm, as expressive of the effect of a sultry day, S. B.

And they are posting on whate'er they may,
Baith *het* and *meeth*, till they are haling down.

Ross's Helenore, p. 73.

This word may originally have denoted the fatigue occasioned by oppressive heat, as radically the same with *Mait*, *q. v.*

MEETHNESS, *s.* 1. Extreme heat, S. B.

The streams of sweat and tears thro' ither ran
Down Nory's cheeks, and she to fag began,
Wi' wae, and faut, and *meethness* of the day.

Ross's Helenore, p. 27.

2. "In some parts of Scotland it signifies soft weather." Gl. Ross.

MEETH, *s.* A mark, &c. V. MEITH.

[To MEATH, *v. a.* To mark a position at sea by the bearings of objects on land, Shetl. V. MEITH.]

MEETH, *adj.* Modest, mild, gentle, Border.

Allied perhaps to A.-S. *myth-gian*, lenire, quietem praestare. This may also be the root of the *adj.* as used in a preceding example from Ross.

MEETHS, *s. pl.* Activity; applied to bodily motion. One is said to have *nae meeths*, who is inert, S. Perhaps from A.-S. *maegthe*, potestas.

[MEEVE, *s.* and *v.* Banffs. and Aberd. form of *Move*.]

[MEEVIE, *s.* The slightest motion or noise, Gl. Banffs.]

MEG, MEGGY, MAGGIE. 1. Abbrev. of the name *Margaret*, S. "Mathe Irving called *Meggis Mathe*." Acts iii. 392.

2. *Meg* is used by Lyndsay as a designation for a vulgar woman.

Ans mureland *Meg*, that milkes the yowis,

Claggit with clay abone the howis,

In barn, nor byr, scho will nocht byde

Without her kirtill tail bs syde.

Suppl. against Syde Tailis, Chalm. Ed. ii. 201.

[MEG DORTS, *s.* A name given to a saucy or pettish young woman, Clydes., Loth.

"But I can guess, ys're gawn to gather dew."

She scour'd away, and said—"What's that to you?"

"Then fare ys weel *Meg Dorts*, and e'en's ye like,"

I careless cry'd, and lap in o'er the dyke.

Ramsay, *The Gentle Shepherd*.]

MEGGY-MONYFEET, *s.* The centipede, Roxb.; in other counties *Meg-wi²-the-mony-feet*. V. MONYFEET.

MEGIR, *adj.* Small.

Dependant hang thair *megir* bellis,—

Qnhilks with the wind concordanlie sa knellis,

That to be glad thair sound all wicht compellis.

Palice of Honour, i. 35.

Douglas is here describing the chariot of Venus, the furniture of which was hung with little bells; as the horses of persons of quality were wont to be in former ages. Mr. Pink. leaves *megir* unexplained. But although it cannot admit of the common sense of E. *meagre*, it is certainly the same word. It seems to have been used by our S. writers with great latitude. It occurs in this very poem, i. 21, as denoting timidity, or some such idea connected with pusillanimity.

—Certes my hart had brokin,

For *megirness* and pusillamitie,

Remainand thus within the tre all lokin.

MEGIRKIE, *s.* A piece of woollen cloth worn by old men in winter, for defending the head and throat, Ang. V. TROT COSIE.

MEGIRTIE, *s.* A particular kind of cravat. It differs from an *Ourlay*. For instead of being fastened with a loop in the same form, it is held by two clasps, which would make one unacquainted with it suppose that it was part of an under-vest, Ayrs.

Probably a relique of the old Stratylde Welsh; as C. B. *myngwair* has the very same meaning; collare, Davies. The root seems to be *munug*, *munwg*, the neck; Ir. *muin*, id.

MEGRIM, *s.* A whim, a foolish fancy, Ettr. For.; probably an oblique use of the E. term, of the same form, denoting "disorder of the head."

MEGSTY, *interj.* An exclamation, expressive of surprise, Ayr., Loth.

"Eh! *megsty*, maister. I thought you were soun' sleeping." Sir A. Wylie, iii. 284.

"Eh, *Megsty me!*" cried the ledly; 'wha's yon at the yett tirling at the pin?' The Entail, i. 166.
The phrase in this form is often used by children in Loth.

MEID, *s.* Appearance, port.

Wi' cunning skill his gentle *meid*
To chant or warlike fame,
Ilk damsel to the minstrels gied
Some favorit chieftain's name.
Laird of Woodhouslie, Scot. Trag. Ball., i. 94.
Neir will I forget thy seemly *meid*,
Nor yet thy gentle lurs.
Lord Livingston, *ibid.*, p. 101.

A.-S. *maeth*, persona; also, modus; dignitas.

To MEIK, *v. a.* 1. To soften, to tame.

"All the nature of bestis and byrdis, and of serpentes, & vther of the see, ar meikit and dantit be the nature of man." Abp. Hamiltoun's Catechisme, 1551, Fol. 69, b.

Isl. *myk-ia*, Su.-G. *moek-a*, mollire; from *miuk*, mollis.

2. To humble.

"*Humiliauit semetipsum*, &c. He *meikit* him self and became obedient euen to his dede, the verrai dede of the crosse." *Ibid.* Fol. 106, a.

[MEIKLE, *adj.* Great, much. V. MEKIL.]

MEIL, MEEL, MEIL, *s.* A weight used in Orkney. V. MAILL, *s.* 2.

[MEILL, *s.* Meal, Barbour. V. 398, 505.]

To MEILL of, *v. a.* To treat of.

Off king Eduuard yeit mar furth will I meill,
In to quhat wyss, that he couth Scotland deill.
Wallace, x. 1063, MS.

This seems the same with *Mel*, to speak, q. v.

MEIN, MENE, *adj.* Common, public.

"*A mein pot played never even*;" S. Prov. A common pot never boiled so as to please all parties. Kelly, p. 27.

A.-S. *maene*, Alem. *maen*, Su.-G. *men*, Isl. *min*, *id.*

MEIN, *s.* An attempt, S. B. V. MENE, *v.* 3.

MEINE, *s.* Apparently as signifying insinuation.

"Quhare he makes ane *meine*, that I go by naturall ressonis to persuade, to take the suspicion of men iustly of me in this, I say and do affirme, that I haue done not [nocht?] in that cause as yit, bot conforme to the scriptures althrough." Ressoning betuix Crosraguell and J. Knox, E. iii. a. V. MENE, MEAN, *v.* sense 3.

To MEING, MENG, *v. n.* Corn is said to *meing*, when yellow stalks appear here and there, when it begins to ripen, and of course to change colours, S. B.

Q. To mingle; A.-S. *meng-ean*, Su.-G. *meng-a*, Alem. Germ. Belg. *meng-en*, *id.*

To MEINGYIE, *v. a.* To hurt, to lame, Fife. V. MANYIE, MANGYIE, &c.

To MEINGYIE, *v. n.* To mix; applied to grain, when it begins to change colour, or to whiten, Fife. V. MEING, *v.*

MEINGING, *s.* The act of mixing, Selkirks.

This term occurs in a specimen of a very strange mode of prayer, which had better been kept from the eye of the public;—"the *meinging* of repentance." Brownie of Bodsbeck, i. 238.

MEIR, *s.* 1. A mare, S. Yorks. *meer*.

"Ane soir, [sorrell] broune *meir*." *Aberd. Reg.*, A. 1545, V. 19.

2. To ride on a *meir*, used metaph.

Nor yit tak thai this cair and pame,
On fute travellan on the plaine,
Bot rydes rycht softlie on a *meir*,
Weil mountit in thair ryding geir.

Mailland Poems, p. 183.

This, as would seem, denotes pride, but it gives the universal pronunciation of S.

MEIRIE, *s.* A diminutive from *Meir*, S.

"Meere, a mare—Dimin. *meerie*." Gl. Picken.

MEIRDEL, *s.* A confused crowd of people or animals; a numerous family of little children; a huddle of small animals, Moray.

Gael. *mordhail*, an assembly, or convention; from *mor*, great, and *dail*, a meeting.

To MEIS, MEISE, MESE, MEASE, *v. a.* 1. To mitigate, to calm, to allay.

King Eolus set heich apoun his chare,
With sceptre in hand, thair mude to *meis* and still,
Temperis thare yre.

Doug. Virgil, 14. 52.

"He should be sindle angry, that has few to *mease* him;" S. Prov., Kelly, p. 138. This corresponds to the E. Prov. "He that has none to still him, may weep out his eyes."

"But whae's this kens my name sae weil,
And thus to *meise* my waes does seek?"

Minstrelsy Border, 1. 177.

"Therfor the saidis Lordis for *mesing* of sic suspicounne," &c. Acts of Sed., 29 Nov., 1535.

"The king offendit heirwith wes *measit* be my lord Hamiltoun." Bel. M. Mem. of Jas. VI., fo. 32, v.

2. To mellow, mature; 'as, by putting fruit into straw or chaff, Roxb.

V. AMEISS.

To MEIS, MEASE, *v. n.* To become calm.

"Crab without a cause, and *mease* without amends;" S. Prov. Kelly, p. 80.

To MEISE, MAISE, *v. n.* To incorporate, to unite into one mass. Different substances are said to *maise*, when, in consequence of being blended, they so incorporate as to form a proper compost or manure, S. B.

Germ. *misch-en*, to mix.

MEIS, *s.* 1. A mess.

—Als mony of the sam age young swanys
The coursis and the *meisis* for the nanyis
To set on burdis.

Doug. Virgil, 35, 38.

2. Meat, as expl. in Gl.

Servit thai war of mony dyvers *meis*,
Full sawris suetit and swyth that culd thame bring.
King Hart, l. 53.

Alem. *muos*, *maz*, Su.-G. *mos*, meat in general.

To MEISSLE, MEISLE, MEYSEL, *v. a.* and *n.*

1. To waste imperceptibly, to expend in a trifling manner, Fife; *smatter*, synon.

It is said of one with respect to his money, *He meisslit it awa*, without smelling a must; He wasted it, without doing any thing to purpose.

[2. To eat slowly, to nibble daintily, as children do with sweets, Clydes., Loth., Banffs.]

Isl. *mas-a*, nugor, Su.-G. *mes*, homo nauci; *misshelde*, mala tractatio, from *mis*, denoting a defect, and *hall-a*, to treat; Germ. *metzen*, mutilare; Isl. *meysl*, truncatio, Verel.

Or, it may be allied to Belg. *meusel-en*, pitissare, ligurire et clam degustare paulatim, (*smaigher*, synon. Ang.); as primarily referring to the conduct of children, who consume any dainty by taking a very small portion at once.

[MEISLE, MEISSLE, *s.* A small piece, a crumb, *ibid.*]

[To MEISLEN, MEYSLEN, MEISSLEN, *v. n.* 1. To consume or waste away gently, *ibid.*]

2. To eat slowly, to nibble, *ibid.*]

[MEISLENIE, *s.* A very small piece, a mere crumb, Banffs.]

MEIT-BUIRD, *s.* An eating table.

"Item, thre *meit-buirdis* with thair formes." Inventories, A. 1566, p. 173.

MEITH, *aux. v.* Might. V. MITH.

MEITH, MEETH, METH, MYTH, MEID, *s.* 1.

A mark, or any thing by which observation is made, whether in the heavens, or on the earth, S. pron. q. *meid*, Ang. as, *I hae nae meids to gae by*.

Not fer hens, as that I beleif, sans fale,
The freyndlie brotherly coistis of Ericis,
And souir portis of Sicil bene, I wys,
Gif I remember the *meithis* of sternes wele.
Doug. Virgil, 128, 6.

Where she might be, she now began to doubt.
Nae *meiths* she kend, ilk hillock-head was new,
And a' thing unco' that was in her view.

Ross's Helenore, p. 25.

"The fishermen direct their course in sailing, by observations on the land, called *meeths*, and formed from the bearings of two high eminences." P. Unst., Shetl. Statist. Acc., v. 191.

Myth, Brand's Orkn. V. LUM.

This seems to be the primary sense of the term: Isl. *mid*, a mark, *mid-a*, to mark a place, to take observation; locum signo, spatia observo et noto; G. Andr., p. 178; *mid*, a certain space of the sea, observed on account of the fishing; certum maris spatium, ob piscaturam observatum. Isl. *mid-a*, also signifies, to aim in a right line, to hit the mark; Su.-G. *matt-a*, id. I're supposes, rather fancifully perhaps, that both these verbs are to be deduced from Lat. *med-ium*, q. to strike the middle. But that of hitting a mark seems to be only a secondary idea. It is more natural to view

them as deducible from those terms which denote measurement, especially as Dart. *maade* signifies both a measure, and bounda; Alem. *mez*, a measure, the portion measured, and a boundary. V. Schilter. The ideas of marking and measuring are very congenial. For the memorials of the measurement of property are generally the marks by which it is afterwards known.

2. A sign, a token, of any kind, S.

For I awow, and here promittis eik,
In sing of trophé or triumphale *meith*,
My louyt son Lausus for to cleith
With epulye and al harnes rent, quod he,
Of younder rubaris body fals Enee.

Doug. Virgil, 347, 34.

Isl. *mid*, signum, nota intermedia in re quapiam inserta, G. Andr.

3. A landmark, a boundary.

"Ane schyre or schireffedome, is ane parte of lande, cutted and separated be certaine *meithes* and marches from the reste." Skene, Verb. Sign. vo. *Schireffe*, par. 1.

"Gif the *meithes* and marches of the burgh, are wel keiped in all parties." Chalmerlan Air, c. 39, s. 13.

In this sense the term is synon. with Lat. *met-a*, a boundary.

A.-S. *mytha*, meta, limes, finis.

4. The boundary of human life.

Thare lysis thou dede, quhom Gregioum oistis in ficht
Nowthir vincus nor to the erde smite nicht,—
Here war thy *methis* and thy terme of dede.

Doug. Virgil, 430, 11.

5. A hint, an innuendo. One is said to give a *meith* or *meid* of a thing, when he barely insinuates it, S. B.

Perhaps we ought to trace the word, as thus used, to Mocs.-G. *maud-jan*, to suggest. V. MYTH, v.

To MEITH, *v. a.* To define by certain marks.

"Gif the King hes gevin ony landis of his domain, at his awin will, merchit and *meithit* be trow and leill men of the countrey, chosin and sworn thairto, or yit with certain *meithis* and merchis boundit and limit in the infestment, he to quhom the samin is gevin sall bruik and joice peciabiillie and quietlie in all time to cum the saidis landis, be thair said boundit *meithis* and *marchis*," &c. Balfour's Pract., p. 438. V. MYTH, v.

—"That—portioun of the lordschipe of Dumbar boundit, *meithit*, and merchit as eftirfollowes," &c. Acts Cha. I., Ed. 1814. V. 103. V. MEITH, *s.*

"I will also give—that land lying beyond the Cart, which I and Allan, my son, *meithed* to them." Transl. Charter of Walter, Steward of Scotland, about the year 1160. In the original the word is *perambulavimus*. It is also written *Meath*.

—"The said nobill lord and remanent personis—bindis and obliissis thameselvis—to met denyd excamb seperat *meath* and march the foirsaid outfeald arable lands naymit Burnflet and How Meur," &c. Contract, 1634. Memor. Dr. Wilson of Falkirk, v. Forbes of Callendar, App., p. 2.

MEITH, *adj.* Hot, sultry. V. MEETH.

MEKIL, MEKYL, MEIKLE, MYKIL, MUCKLE, *adj.* 1. Great, respecting size, S.

—The *meikle* hillis
Bemys agane, hit with the brute so schill is.

Doug. Virgil, 132, 30.

It is customary in vulgar language in S. to enhance any epithet by the addition of one of the same meaning; as, *great big*, *muckle main*, i.e., very big; *little wee*, very little. This, however, rarely occurs in writing. But our royal inventory exhibits one example of it.

"Item, twa *great meikle* bordclaitis of dornik contenaund fourtenc ellis the twa." Inv. A. 1561, p. 150.

2. Much; denoting quantity or extent, S.

"Little wit in the head makes *muckle* travel to the feet;" Ramsay's S. Prov., p. 51. This is the most general pronunciation, S.

A.-S. *micl*, *micel*, *mucl*, Alem. Isl. *mikil*, Dan. *megil*, Moes.-G. *mikils*, magnus, Gr. *μεγαλ-ος*.

3. Denoting pre-eminence, as arising from rank or wealth. *Mekil fouk*, people distinguished by their station or riches, S.

—They've plac'd this human stork
Strict justice to dispense;
Which plainly shews, yon *meikle fòk*
Think siller stands for sense.

Tannahill's Poems, p. 137.

This is a very common phrase, S. O.

In the same sense Moes.-G. *mikilans* signifies principes, Isl. *mikilmenne*, vir magnificus, magnus.

It is also used adverbially.

MEKILDOM, *s.* Largeness of size, S.

"*Meikledom* is nae virtue;" Ramsay's S. Prov., p. 53.

TO MAK MEKIL or MUCKLE of one. To shew one great attention, S.; to make much of one.

In Isl. this idea, or one nearly allied, is expressed by a single term; *mykta*, magnifacio; G. Andr.

MEKILWORT, *s.* Deadly nightshade: *Atropa belladonna*, Linn.

"Incontinent the Scottis tuk the ius of *mekilwort* berijs, & mengit it in thair wyne, aill, & breid, & send the samyn in gret quantité to thair ennymes." Belend. Cron. B. xii. c. 2. *Solatro amentiali*. Boeth.

This seems to receive its name from *mekil*, great, and A.-S. *wyrt*, E. *wort*, an herb; but for what reason it receives the designation *mekil* does not appear.

MEKIS, *s. pl.*

"In the laich munitioun hous. Item, sex cut-throttis of irne with thair *mekis*." Inventories, A. 1566, p. 169.

TO MEL, MELL, *v. n.* To speak.

Thairfore meikly with mouth *mel* to that myld,
And mak him na manance, bot all mesoure.

Gawain and Gol., ii. 4.

Pierce Plowman, as the learned Hicke has observed, often uses the term in this sense.

To Mede the mayde *melleth* these words.

—To Mede the mayde he *melled* these words.

It may be observed in addition, that, as the form of the Moes.-G. verb is *mathl-jan*, this had been its original form in A.-S. It had indeed gone through three stages before it appeared as E. *mell*; *mathel-an*, *maedl-an*, *mael-an*.

Su.-G. *mael-a*, Isl. *mal-a*, A.-S. *mael-an*, Germ. Belg. *meld-en*, Precop. *mathl-ata*, Moes.-G. *mathl-jan*, loqui; Su.-G. *mael*, voice or sound, Isl. *mal*, speech. This seems to be the same with *Meill*, q. v.

Mell is still used in the same sense, to mention, to speak of, S. B.

[MELANCHOLIE (accent on second syllable), *s.* Love-sickness, Shetl.]

MELDER, MELDAR, *s.* 1. The quantity of meal ground at the mill at one time, S.

When bear an' ate the earth had fill'd,
Our simmer *meldar* niest was mill'd.

Morison's Poems, p. 110.

"*Melder* of oats; a kiln-full; as many as are dried at a time for meal. Cheshl." Gl. Grose.

2. Flour mixed with salt, and sprinkled on the sacrifice; or a salted cake, *mola salsa*.

The princis tho, quhylk suld this peace making,
Turnis toward the bricht sonnys vprisying,
Wyth the salt *melder* in thare handis raith.

Doug. Virgil, 413, 19. Also, 43, 4.

"Lat. *molo*, to grind, q. *molitura*;" Rudd. But Isl. *malldr*, from *mal-a*, to grind, is rendered *molitura*, G. Andr., p. 174. Sw. *malld*, id. Seren. Indeed Germ. *mehlder* seems to be the same with our word.

DUSTY MELDER. 1. The last milling of the crop of oats, S.

2. Used metaph. to denote the last child born in a family, Aberd.

MELDROP, MELDRAP, *s.* 1. A drop of mucus at the nose, whether produced by cold or otherwise; Roxb., Upp. Lanarks. V. MILDROP.

There is a common phrase among the peasantry in Roxb., when one good turn is solicited, in prospect of a grateful requital; "Dight the *meldrop* frae my nose, and I'll wear the midges frae yours."

2. It is often used to denote the foam which falls from a horse's mouth, or the drop at the bit; South of S.

3. It also denotes the drop at the end of an icicle, and indeed every drop in a pendant state, *ibid.*, Roxb.

This word is obviously very ancient. It can be no other than Isl. *meldrop-i*, a term used in the Edda to denote drops of foam from the bit of a horse. It is defined by Verelius; Spuma in terram cadens ex lupato vel fraeno, ab equo demorso. It is formed from *mel*, Sw. *myl*, a bit, and *drop-a*, stillare. Lye gives A.-S. *mael-dropiende*, as signifying phlegmaticus. But I question whether the first part of the word is not *mael*, pars, or from *mael-an*, loqui, q. speaking piece-meal, or slowly. For the A.-S. word signifying fraenum, lupatum, is *mill*. It is singular, that this very ancient word should be preserved, as far as I can learn, only in S. and in Iceland, where the old language of the Goths remains more uncorrupted than in any country on the continent.

[MELDY-GRASS, *s.* A name for the weed *Spergula arvensis*. Corn Surrey, Shetl.]

MELG, *s.* The milt (of fishes), Aberd.

Gael. *mealag*, id. This, however, seems to be a word borrowed from the Goths; as not only is there no correspondent term in any of the other Celtic dialects, but it nearly resembles Su.-G. *miolk*, id. In piscibus *miolk* dicitur album illud quod mares pro

intestinis habent; Germ. *milcher*; Ihre. Isl. *miolk*; lactes piscium; Dan. *maelken i fisk*, the white and soft row in fishes; Wolff.

MELGRAF, MELLGRAVE, *s.* A quagmire, Lanarks.

This is pron. *Melgrave*, Galloway. M'Taggart expl. it "a break in a high-way."

"It is said that a horse with its rider once sunk in a *mellgrave* somewhere in Ayrshire, and were never more heard of." Gall. Encycl.

Isl. *mael-ur* signifies solum salebris obsitum, a rough or rugged place; G. Andr., p. 177. The same word, written *mell-r*, is thus defined by Haldorson; Solum arena, glare, vel argilla, obsitum, glabretum planitie. As *graf-a* is to dig, and *graf* any hole that is dug; *mellgraf* might originally denote the hole whence sand, gravel, &c., were dug.

MELL, *s.* 1. A maul, mallet, or beetle, S. A. Bor.

Quo Colin, I has yet upon the town,
A quoy, just gaing three, a berry brown;—
She's get the *mell*, and that shall be right now.
Ross's Helenore, p. 113.

He that takes a' his gear frae himsel,
And gies to his bairns,
It were well wair'd to take a *mell*,
And knock out his barns.
Ferguson's S. Prov., p. 16.

This proverb is given in a different form by Kelly, p. 156.

"He that gives all his gear to his bairns,
Take up a beetle, and knock out his barns."

"Taken from the history of one John Bell, who having given his whole substance to his children was by them neglected. After he died there was found in his chest a mallet with this inscription;

"I John Bell leaves her a *mell*, the man to fell
Who gives all to his bairns, and keeps nothing to
himself."

[2. A great broad fist, Shetl.]

3. A blow with a maul.

The hollin souples, that were sae snell,
His back they loundert, *mell* for *mell*,
Mell for *mell*, and baff for baff,
Till his hide flew about his lugs like caff.
Jamieson's Popular Ball., ii. 238.

Hence the phrase, to *keep mell in shaft*, to keep straight in any course, to retain a good state of health, Loth.; a metaph. borrowed from the custom of striking with a *maul*, which cannot be done properly when the handle is loose.

[4. A big, strong, stupid person, S.]

5. Used to denote a custom connected with the *Broose* or *Bruse* at a wedding, South of S.

"The shouts of laughter were again renewed, and every one was calling out, 'Now for the *mell*! Now for the *mell*!'"

—"I was afterwards told that in former ages it was the custom on the Border, when the victor in the race was presented with the prize of honour, the one who came in last was, at the same time, presented with a mallet, or large wooden hammer, called a *mell* in the dialect of the country, and that then the rest of the competitors stood near at hand, and ready instantly to force the *mell* from him, else he was at liberty to knock as many of them down with it as he could. The *mell* has now, for many years, been only a nominal prize; but there is often more sport about the gaining of it than the principal one." Hogg's *Wint. Tales*, ii. 193.

It is scarcely worth while to form a conjecture as to the origin of a custom apparently so absurd. It would have certainly been more natural to have given the power of the mallet to the victor than to him who was defeated, as the writer speaks of "the disgrace of *winning the mell*."

Whatever was the original meaning of the phrase, it seems to occur in the same sense in the following passage:—

Since we have met we'll merry be,
The foremost hame shall bear the *mell*:
I'll set me down, lest I be fee,
For fear that I should bear't mysell.
Herd's Coll., ii. 47, 48.

[6. PICK AND MELL. A phrase used to imply energy, determination, thoroughness; "He went at it, *pick an' mell*," Clydes.]

[TO KEEP MELL IN SHAFT, TO KEEP SHAFT IN MELL. 1. To keep straight in any course, to keep in good health, to go on rightly, Ayr., Loth.

2. To be able to carry on one's business, to make ends meet, to pay one's way, *ibid*.

"When a person's worldly affairs get disordered, it is said the *mell* cannot be *kept in the shaft*; now, unless the *mell* be *kept in the shaft*, no work can be done:—and when, by struggling, a man is not overset, he is said to have *kept the mell in the shaft*." Gall Encycl.

[TO MELL, *v. a.* and *n.* 1. To strike with a maul, or other such instrument, Clydes., Banffs.

2. To strike or knock with force, *ibid*.

3. To beat or thrash severely, *ibid*.

4. To *pick and mell*, to work vigorously; to use every means in one's power, Clydes. In Shetl. it means, to maul, to beat. V. Gl.]

[MELLIN, MELLAN, *s.* Hammering, striking hard with maul or fist; a severe beating, Clydes., Banffs.]

This has been derived from Lat. *malleus*, in common with Fr. *mail*. But it may be allied to Moes.-G. *maul-jan*, Isl. *mol-a*, *contundere*, to beat, to bruise.

To MELL, *v. a.* To mix, to blend; part. pr. *melland*, *mellin*, mixing, blending.

This nobil King, that we off red,
Mellyt all tyme with wit manheid.
Barbour, vi. 360, MS.

To MELL, MEL, MELLAY, *v. n.* 1. To meddle with, to intermeddle, to mingle; the prep. *with* being added, S.

Above all vtheris Dares in that stede
Thame to behald abasit wox gretumly,
Tharwith to *mel* refusing aluterlie.
Doug. Virgil, 141, 14.

"They thought the king greatly to be their enemy because he intended to *mell with* any thing that they had an eye to, and specially the Priory of Coldingham." *Pitcottie*, p. 86.

It sets you ill,
Wi' bitter, dearthfu' wines to mell,
Or foreign gill.

Burns, 111. 16.

This sometimes assumes the form of a reflective *v.*
"Yitt he melled him not with no public affaires, bot baid ane better tyme, quhill he sould have beine purged be ane assyse," &c. Pitscottie's Cron., p. 57. "Meddled not with," Edit., 1728, p. 23.

This is the Fr. idiom, *Se meler de*, to intermeddle with. Hence,

2. To be in a state of intimacy, S. B.

But Diomede mells ay wi' me,
And tells me a' his mind;
He kens me sicker, leal, an' true.

Poems in the Buchan Dialect, p. 24.

3. To contend in fight, to join in battle.

Forthi makis furth ane man, to mach him in feild,—
Doughty dyntis to dell
That for the maistry dar mell
With schaft and with scheild.

Garwan and Gol., ii. 18.

Dar is inserted from Edit. 1508.

Thare Willame Walays tuk on hand,
Wyth mony gret Lordys of Scotland,
To mellay with that Kyng in fycht.

Wyntown, viii. 15. 19.

Rudd. properly enough derives this from Fr. *meller*, to meddle. But the Fr. word itself has undoubtedly a Goth. origin; Isl. *mille*, *i mille*, Su.-G. *mellan*, between (*amell*, id. Gl. Yorkshire.) This, again, *q. medlom*, is deduced from *medla*, to divide, (Isl. *midla*) *medla emell-an*, to make peace between contending parties. The primary term is Su.-G. *mid*, middle. For to meddle, to mell, is merely to interpose one's self between other objects. V. Ihre vo. *Mid*. Teut. *mell-en*, conjungi.

MELL, s. A company.

"A dozen or twenty men will sometimes go in, and stand a-breast in the stream, at this kind of fishing, [called *heaving* or *hauling*], up to the middle, in strong running water for three or four hours together: A company of this kind is called a *mell*." P. Dornock, Dumfr. Statist. Acc., ii. 16.

Germ. *mal*, A.-S. Teut. *mael*, comitia, coetus, conventus; from *mael-en*, conjungi, or Su.-G. *mael-a*, loqui. Hence L.B. *mall-us*, *mallum*, placitum majus, in quo majora Comitatus negotia, quae in Villis, Centuriisve terminari non poterant, a Comite finiebantur. Spelm. Gl. vo. *Mallum*; Schilter, Gl.

Allied to this seems *mell-supper*; "a supper and merry-making, dancing, &c., given by the farmers to their servants on the last day of reaping the corn or harvest-home. North." Grose, Prov. Gl. Teut. *maet*, convivium.

MELLA, MELLAY, adj. Mixed. *Mellay hew*, mixed colour, id.

"The price litting of the stane of *mellay hew* xxxii sh." &c. Aberd. Reg., A. 1551, V. 21. "Ane *mella* kirtill." Ibid., V. 24. *Mellay wool*, mixed wool, *ibid.* Fr. *melee*, id.

It seems to be the same article that is meant under the name of *Mellais*, in pl. "iiij ellis & 3 of *mellais* that is rycht gud." Ibid., V. 15. V. CRANCE.

MELLE, MELLAY, s. 1. Mixture, medley; *in melle*, in a state of mixture.

2. Contest, battle.

Rycht peralous the semlay was to se
Hardy and hat contenyt the fell *mella*.

Wallace, v. 834, MS.

It is sometimes requisite that it should be pron. as a monosyllable.

This Schyr Johne, in till playn *melle*,
Throw sowerane hardiment that felle,
Wencussyt thaim sturdely ilkan.

Barbour, xvi. 515, MS.

Thus it also occurs in the sense of mixture, or the state of being mingled—

Fede folke, for my sake, that failen the fode,
And menge me with matens, and masses in *melle*.
Sir Garwan and Sir Gal., i. 25.

Fr. *melée*, id. whence *chaude melée*; L.B. *melleia*, *melletum*, certamen, praedium.

"You know Tacitus saith, *In rebus bellicis maxime dominatur Fortuna*, which is equiponderate with our vernacular adage, 'Luck can maist in the *mellee*.'" Waverley, ii. 355.

Hence A. Bor., a *mell*, also *amell*, among, betwixt; Ray's Collect., p. 2.

MELLING, MELLYNE, MELLIN, s. 1. Mixture, confusion.

—Meill, and malt, and blud, and wyne,
Ran all to giddy in a *mellyne*,
That was unsemly for to se.
Tharfor the men off that countré,
For swa fele thar *mellyt* wer,
Callyt it the³ *Douglas Lardner*.

Barbour, v. 406, MS.

Fr. *mellange*, id.

2. The act of intermeddling.

—"Inhibiting the personis now displacet of all further *melling* and intromission with the saidis rentis." Acts Ja. VI., 1579, Ed. 1814, p. 182.

To MELL, v. n. To become damp; applied solely to corn in the straw, Upp. Clydes.

C. B. *melli*, softness; *mell*, that shoots out, that is pointed or sharp; Owen. These terms might originally be applied to grain beginning to sprout from dampness. Isl. *mygl-a*, however, signifies, mouldiness, and *mygl-a*, to become mouldy, mucere, mucescere.

MELLER, s. The quantity of meal ground at the mill at one time, Nithsdale; the same with *Melder*, q. v.

Young Peggy's to the mill gane,
To sift her daddie's *meller*.

Remains, Nithsdale Song, p. 66.

MELLGRAVE, s. "A break in a highway," Gall. Obviously the same with *Melgraf*, q. v.

[MELLINS, s. pl. The meal kept at hand to dust over the bannocks before they are baked, Shetl.]

MELMONT BERRIES. Juniper berries, Moray.

MELT, s. The milt or spleen, S.

"I sau madyn hayr, of the quhilk ane sirop maid of it is remeid contrar the infectioun of the *melt*." Compl., S. p. 104.

—The bleiring Bats and the Bean-shaw,
With the Mischief of the *Melt* and Maw.

Montgomerie, Watson's Coll., iii. 13.

Su.-G. *mielte*, A.-S. Alem. *milte*, Dan. *milt*, Isl. *millte*, id. A.-S. *mittesec*, lienosus, sick of the spleen; *mittesare*, the disease or sore of the spleen; probably the same called the *infectioun*, and the *mischief*, of the *Melt*.

MELT-HOLE, *s.* The space between the ribs and the pelvis, whether in man or beast, Clydes. V. MELT.

To MELT, *v. a.* To knock down; properly, by a stroke in the side, where the *melt* or spleen lies, S.

But I can teet an' hitch about,
An' *melt* them ere they wit;
An' syne fan they're dung out o' breath
They hae na maughts to hit.

Poems in the Buchan Dialect, p. 36.

"The phrase, to *melt* a person, or an animal, is used, when either suddenly sinks under a blow on the side," Gl. Compl.

[**To MELT**, *v. a.* To spend money on drink; a low term, but much used; as, "I've jist ac saxpence left, let's *melt* it," S.]

MELTETH, MELTITH, *s.* 1. A meal, food, S. *mellet*, S. B.

Unhalsome *melteith* is a fairy mous,
And namely to a nobil lyon strang,
Wont to be fed with gentil venison.

Henryson, Evergreen, l. 193.

The feckless *mellet* did her head o'erset,
Cause nature frae't did little sust'nance get.

Ross's Helenore, p. 26.

"A hearty hand to gie a hungry *melteith*;" S. Prov. "an ironical *ridicule* upon a niggardly dispenser;" Kelly, p. 27.

"Twa hungry *melteiths* makes the third a glutton;" Ferguson's S. Prov., p. 32.

"And vpone the fishe day xvij or xx dische as thay may be had at every *melteith* at the M^r of houshaldis discretioun." Estate of the King and Quenis Maties houshald, &c., 1590, MS. G. Reg. House.

2. A cow's *melteit*. The quantity of milk yielded by a cow at one time, Ang., Perth. V. MEAL, *id.*

Verstegan, *meal-tide*, "the time of eating;" Chauc. *mele-tide*, according to Tyrwhitt, dinner-time. Isl. *mael-tid*, hora prandii vel coenae; Gl. Edd. Teut. *maal-tyd*, convivium, from *maal*, *mael*, a meal, a repast, and *tyd*, tempus; literally, the time, the hour of eating. Thus Belg. *midday-maal*, dinner, or the meal at midday; *avond-maal*, supper, or the meal taken at evening. A.-S. *maele*, *id.* LL. Canut. *aermaele*, dinner, i.e., an early meal. *Yfel bith thaet, man faestentide aer-maele etc*; Malum est hominem jejunii tempore prandium edere. Ap. Somner. The use of the word in this sense seems to shew, that they were not wont in the time of Canute to take what we call breakfast. Dan. *maaltid*, a meal. Ihre observes that Su.-G. *maaltid* signifies supper. But Seren. renders this word simply, a meal, a meal's-meat; for supper he gives *afon-maaltid*. Some derive the word *maal* from Su.-G. *maal-a*, molere, because we use our teeth in *grinding* our food. Wachter from *maal*, sermo, because conversation is one of the principal enjoyments at a feast. Ihre observes that the word *maaltid* is a pleonasm, *tid* and *mal* equally denoting *time*, as Sn.-G. *maal* is a sign either of time or of place. Allied to Su.-G. *maal-a*, mensurare, *maal*, mensura; as set measures or portions were given to servants at fixed hours.

To MELVIE, *v. a.* To soil with meal, S.

Waesucks! for him that gets nae lass,
Or lasses that hae naething!
Sma' need has he to say a grace,
Or *melvie* his braw clathing!

Burns, iii. 38.

MELVIE, *adj.* Soiled with meal, S. B. Shirr. Gl.

Isl. *miolveg-r matr*, fruges; G. Andr.

To MELWAND, *v. a.* To rub with meal; as, "Lassie, *melwand* that banna," Roxb. V. MEALWIND.

A.-S. *mealewe*, *melewe*, *melwe*, *meal*.

MELYIE, *s.* A coin of small value.

And gif my claiht felyie,
Yeis not pay a *melyie*.

Evergreen, i. 182.

Fr. *maille*, a half-penny. The term may be originally from A.-S. *mal*, Su.-G. *maala*, &c., tribute; or Alem. *mal*, signum et forma monetæ, which is allied to *mal-en*, to mark with the sign of the cross; this, in the middle ages, being common on coins; Su.-G. *maal*, a sign or mark of any kind.

MEMBRONIS, Houlate, iii. i.

Than rerit thro *membronis* that montis so he.

Leg. *thir marlionis*, as in MS., i.e., *mertins*. V. BELD CYTTES.

To MEMER, *v. n.* To recollect one's self.

Hit stemersd, hit stonayde, hit stode as a stone;
Hit marred; hit *memered*; hit mused for madde.

Sir Gawain and Sir Gal., i. 9.

A.-S. *mymer-ian*, reminisci.

MEMERKYN, MYNMERKIN, *s.* A contemptuous term, apparently expressive of smallness of size.

—Mandrag, *memerkyn*, mismade myting.

Stewart, Evergreen, i. 120.

Marinadin, *mynmerkin*, monster of all.

Ibid., ii. 74.

Mynmerkin seems the primary form. As connected with *marmadin*, it might seem to suggest the idea of a sea-nymph; the last part of the word being allied to C. B. *merch*, a virgin, a maid. But it may be Goth., *min*, signifying little. Lord Hailes has observed; "Within our own memory, in Scotland, the word *merekyn* was used for a girl, in the same sense as the Greek *μειρακίον*." *Annals*, i. 318. As it seems doubtful whether an O. E. word, of an indelicate sense, does not enter into the composition, I shall leave it without further investigation.

MEMMIT, MEMENT, *part. pa.* Connected by, or attached from, blood, alliance, or friendship, Ayr.

Thay forge the friendship of the fremmit,
And fleis the favour of their freind;
Thay wald with nobill men be *memmit*,
Syne laittandy to lawar leinds.

Scott, Bannatyne Poems, p. 208, st. 7.

"Probably, matched," Lord Hailes. This conjecture is certainly well founded. From the connexion, the word evidently means alliance by marriage. Women are here represented, as first wishing to be allied to nobility, and afterwards as secretly leaning or inclining to those of inferior rank. It is most probably formed from Teut. *moeme*, *mume*, an aunt by the father or the mother's side; in Mod. Sax., an ally. *Muomon suni*, consobrini, Gloss. Pez. Wachter observes, that the word is used to denote every kind of consanguinity.

MEMORIALL, *adj.* Memorable.

"Among all his *memoriall* workis ane thing was maist apprisit," &c. *Bellenden's T. Liv.*, p. 37.

MEMT, *part. adj.* V. MEMMIT.

MEN, *adj.* Apparently for *main*, E. principal.

"That the said George—salhaue power to denunce thame rebellis,—and inbring all thair movable guidis, and namelie the *men* half to his ain particular vsc." Acts Ja. VI., 1584, Ed. 1814, p. 359.

A.-S. *maegn*, vis, *maegen*, magnus; Su.-G. *megn*, potestas.

[To MEN', *v. a.* and *n.* 1. To mend, repair, put to rights; pret. *ment*, S.

2. To improve, better, behave better; as, "men' yer maners," improve your manners, behave better, Clydes.

But, fare you weel, auld Nickie-ben!
O wad ye tak a thocht an' men!
Ye aiblins might—I dinna ken—
Still hae a stake.—
Burns. Address to the Deil.

3. To improve in health, conduct, or circumstances; as, "He's aye *menin*," he is daily growing stronger; "things are *menin*" wi' him now," his circumstances are improving, *ibid.*]

[MEN', MENIN, *s.* An eke, a patch, a repair, Clydes.]

MENAGE, *s.* A friendly society, of which every member pays in a fixed sum weekly, to be continued for a given term. At the commencement, the order of priority in receiving the sum collected, is determined by lot. He, who draws No. 1. as his ticket, receives into his hands the whole sum collected for the first week, on his finding security that he shall pay in his weekly share during the term agreed. He who draws No. 2. receives the contributions of all the members for the second week; and so on according to their order. Thus every individual has the advantage of possessing the whole weekly contribution for a term proportionate to the order of his drawing. Such friendly institutions are common all over S. The members usually meet in some tavern or public house; and a certain sum is allowed by each member for the benefit of the landlord.

O. Fr. *mesnage*, "a household, familie, or meyne;" Cotgr. It is not improbable that the term, as denoting a friendly institution, might be introduced by the French, when residing in the country during the reign of Mary. It might be used in reference to the retention of the money in the manner described above. L. B. *menagium* occurs in this sense in a charter by Johu Baliol. Fidelity et homagium—ratione terrarum quas in nostro regno, et etiam ratione *Menagii*, seu retentionis nostrae—reddimus. Chron. Trivet. V. Du Cange.

MENANIS (SANCT). Apparently St. Monau's in Fife; also written "*Sanct Mynnanis*," Aberd. Reg., A. 1545, v. 19.

MENARE, *s.* One of the titles given to the Virgin, in a Popish hymn; apparently synon. with *Moyaner*, q. v., as denoting one who employs means, a mediatrix.

The feind is our felloun fa, in thê we confyde,
Thou moder of all mercy, and the *menare*.

Houlate, iii. 9, MS.

Teut. *maener*, however, signifies monitor, from *maen-en*, monere, hortari.

MENCE, *s.* Errat. for MENSE, q. v.

"The blessed sea for *mence* and commerce!" said a familiar voice behind." Saxon and Gael, ii. 99.

MENDIMENT, *s.* Amendment; pron. *menniment*, Aberd.

MENDS, *s.* 1. Atonement, expiation.

—"He hais send his awin sone our saluifer Jesus Christ to vs, to make ane perfite *mendis*, and just satisfaction for all our synnis." Abp. Hamiltoun's Catechisme, 1551, Fol. 17, b. Thus he renders *propitiationem*.

In this sense it occurs in O. E. "*Mendes* for a trespass, [Fr.] *amende*." Palsgr. B. iii. F. 48.

2. Amelioration of conduct.

"There is nothing but *mends* for misdeeds;" S. Prov. Kelly, p. 320.

3. Addition. *To the mends*, over and above; often applied to what is given above bargain, as E. *to boot*. V. Keltie.

"I will verily give my Lord Jesus a free discharge of all, that I, like a fool, laid to his charge, and beg him pardon *to the mends*." Rutherford's Lett., P. i. ep. 161.

4. Revenge. *To get a mends of one*, to be revenged on one, S.

"Ego ulciscar te, si vivo; I shall *get a mends of you*, if I live." Wedderb. Vocab., p. 31.

This seems nearly allied to sense 1, q. "I shall force you to make atonement for what you have done."

Contr. from O. E. *amends*, compensation, which is evidently Fr. *amende* used in pl. It appears that *amends* had been also used in S., from the phrase, applied both to persons and things; *He would thole amends*; i. e., He would require a change to the better.

To MENE, MEYNE, MEANE, *v. a.* and *n.*

1. To bemoan, to lament; to utter complaints, to make lamentation, S.

Sic mayn, he maid men had gret ferly;
For he was nocht custummabillly
Wont for to *meyne* men ony thing.

Barbour, xv. 237, MS.

Quhen thai of Scotland had wittering
Off Schir Eduuardis wencussing,
Thai *menyt* thaim full tendrely.

Ibid., xviii. 207, MS.

Quhat ferly now with nane thoch I be *meind*,
Sen thus falsly now failyes me my friend.

Priests of Peblis, S. P. R., i. 42.

O. E. *mene*, id. pret. *ment*.

Edward sore it *ment*, when he wist that tirpeil,
For Sir Antoyne he sent, to cum to his conseil.

R. Brunne, p. 255.

If you should die for me, sir knight,
There's few for you will *mean*;
For mony a better has died for me,
Whose graves are growing green.
Minstrelsy Border, iii. 276.

Biment, bemoaned, K. of Tars. E. M. R. ii. 200.

2. To mean one's self, to make known one's grievance, to utter a complaint.

"Then the marquis said, he should take order therewith: whilk he did in most politick manner; to stamp it out he *means himself* to the parliament; the lord Ker is commanded to keep his lodging," &c. Spalding, i. 324.

—"Ye shall not hereafter advocat unto you any matter, from any Presbyterie within that kingdom, without first the partie, suiter of the same, have *meaned himself* to that Archbishop and his conjunct commissioners, within whose Province he doth remain, and that he do complain as well of them, as of the Presbyterie." Letter Ja. VI. 1608, Calderwood's Hist., p. 581.

In nearly the same sense it is said, in vulgar language, to one who is in such circumstances, that he can have no reason for complaint, or can have no difficulty of accomplishing any matter referred to; *I dinna mein you*, or, *You're no to mein*, i. e., Your situation is such as to excite no sympathy.

Your bucks that birl the forain berry,
Claret, and port, and sack, and sherry,
—I dinna *mein* them to be merry,
And lilt awa.

Skinner's Misc. Poet., p. 178.

I think, my friend, an' fowk can get
A doll of roast beef piping het,—
And be nae sick, or drown'd in debt,
They're *no to mean*.

Ramsay's Poems, ii. 350.

Yes, said the king, we're *no to mean*,
We live baith warm, and snug, and bien.

R. Galloway's Poems, p. 132.

3. "To indicate pain or lameness, to walk or move as if lame," Sibb. Gl.

"You *mein* your leg when you walk."

This seems an oblique sense of the same v.

4. To utter moans, as a person in sickness, S.

A.-S. *maen-an*, dolere, ingemiscere.

MENE, MEIN, MAIN, *s.* 1. Moaning, lamentation, S. "He maks a great *mene* for himsell." N.B. The quotation from Wallace, vo. *Main*, *s.* affords an example.

2. Condolence, expression of sympathy, S. "I didna mak mickle *mein* for him;" "My *mené's* made."

[MENAND, MENIN, *part. pr.* Moaning over, lamenting, Barbour, iii. 186, vii. 232.]

[MENYNG, *s.* Lamentation, moaning, Barbour, xiii. 483.]

To MENE, MEAN, MEEN, *v. a.* 1. To intend; as E. *mean*, S.

How grete wodnes is this that ye now *mene*!

Doug. Virgil, 40, 3.

A.-S. *maen-an*, Germ. *mein-en*, Su.-G. *men-a*, velle, intendere.

2. To esteem, to prize.

And ilk, for they beheld before thare ene
His dochty dedis, they him loue and *mene*.
Doug. Virgil, 330, 29.

3. To take notice of, to mention, to hint.

She drew the curtains, and stood within,
And all amazed spake to him:
Then *meened* to him his distress,
Heart or the head whether it was;
And his sickness less or mair;
And then talked of Sir Egeir.

Sir Egeir, p. 32.

A.-S. *maen-an*, memorare, mentionem facere.

There is scarcely any variation in the sense, in which it occurs in the Kyng of Tars.

Dame, he seide, ur doughter hath *ment*
To this soudan for to weende.

Ritson's E. M. R., ii. 167.

i. e., she hath made a proposal to this purpose.

4. To make known distinctly.

Sa hein and eirth salbe all one,
As *menis* the Apostil John.

Lyndsay's Warkis, 1592, p. 175.

—"Gif refusing the same, ye declare thareby your evill mynd towards the common-welthe and Libertie of this Realme, we will (as of befoir) *mein* and declair the caus unto the hail Nobillite and Comounis of this Realme." Knox's Hist., p. 181.

It is often conjoined with *schaw*, *shew*, in old law-deeds.

"Unto your Lordschips humblie *meinis* and *schawis*, I Sir James Elphinston of Barneton, Knight," &c. Act. Sed., 3 Nov., 1599.

It occurs also in this sense, O. E.

The toun he fond paired & schent,
Kirkes, houses beten doun.
To the kyng they *ment* tham of the town,
That many of the best burgeis
Were fled & ilk man yede his weis.

R. Brunne, App. to Pref., clxxxviii.

Menyng also denotes mention.

Whilk tyme the were kynges, long or now late,
Thei mak no *menyng* whan, no in what date.

Ibid., Chron., p. 25.

Germ. *mein-en*, Su.-G. *men-a*, significare, cogitara sermone vel alio signo demonstrare. Alem. *gemein-en*, id. Schilter suggests a doubt, however, whether this be not rather from *meina*, commune, publicum.

5. To know, to recognise.

He bigan at the shulder-blade,
And with his pawn al rafe he downe,
Bath hauberk and his actoune,
And all the fless down til his kne,
So that men myght his guttes se;
To ground he fell, so alto rent,
Was thar noman that him *ment*.

Ywaine and Gawin, E. M. R., i. 110.

It is also used as a neut. v.

6. To reflect, to think of; with *of* or *on* added.

Bot quhen I *mene off* your stoutnes,
And off the mony grete prowes,
That ye haff doyne sa worthely;
I traist, and trowis sekryly,
To haff plane victour in this fycht.

Barbour, xii. 291, MS.

Lat ilkane on his lemman *mene*;
And how he mony tyme has bene
In gret thrang, and weill enmynn away.

Ibid., xv. 351, MS.

—Althocht hys Lord wald *mene*
On his ald sernyce, yet netheles I wene,
He sal not some be tender, as he was are.

Doug. V. Prol., 357, 34.

A.-S. *maen-an*, in animo habere; Germ. *mein-en*, cogitare; reminisci. Su.-G. *men-a*, Isl. *mein-a*, Moes.-G. *mun-an*, cogitare. Alem. *farmana*, suggests the contrary idea; aspernatio, Jun. Etym., vo. *Mean*. *Farmon*, contemtor, Schilter.

7. To make an attempt.

"Finding in his Majestie a most honourabil and Christian resolution, to manifest him self to the world that zelous and religious Prince quhill he hes hiddertill professit, and to employ the means and power that God hes put into his handis, as well to the withstanding of quhatsumever forreyne force sall *mean* within this island, for alteration of the said religion, or endangering of the present estate; as to the ordering and repressing of the inward enemies thairto amangis our selfis," &c. Band of Maintenance, Collection of Conf. ii. 109.

MENE, MEIN, s. 1. Meaning, design; desire, lust.

To pleis hys lufe sum thoct to flatter and fene,
Sum to hant bawdry and vnleisum *mene*.
Doug. Virgil, Proel., 402, 50.

2. An attempt, S. B. *mint*, synon.

Alem. *meimon*, Germ. *meinung*, intentio.

He wad ha geen his neck, but for ae kiss;
But yet that gate he durst na mak a *mein*;
Sae was he conjur'd by her modest een,
That tho' they wad have warm'd a heart of stane
Had yet a cast sic freedoms to restrain.

Ross's Helenore, p. 32.

Perhaps it strictly signifies, an indication of one's intention.

MENE, *adj.* Middle, intermediate; *mene gate*, in an equal way, between two parties.

I sall me hald indifferent the *mene gate*,
And as for that, put na diuersité,
Quhiddir so Rutulianis or Troianis thay be.
Doug. Virgil, 317, 14.

Fr. *moyen*, id.

MENE, *adj.* Common. V. MEIN.

MENFOLK, s. *pl.* Males, S.

"'Mr. Tyrrel,' ehe said, 'this is nae sight for *men folk*—ye maun rise and gang to another room.'" St. Ronan, iii. 308.

Women-folk is also used to denote females.

To MENG, *v. a.* To mix, to mingle, to blend, Berwicks.; as, "to *meng tar*," to mix it up into a proper state for smearing sheep, greasing carts, &c.; Roxb.

To MENG, *v. n.* To become mixed. "*The corn's beginnin to meng*," the standing corn begins to change its colour, or to assume a yellow tinge; Berwicks. V. MING, *v.*

To MENGE, *v. a.*

Fede folke, for my sake, that failen the fode;
And *menge* me with matens, and masses in melle.
Sir Gawain and Sir Gal., l. 25.

It seems to signify, soothe, assuage; perhaps obliquely from A.-S. *meng-an*, *myneg-ian*, monere, commonefacere.

MENIE, MAINIE, s. One abbrev. of *Marianne*; in some instances, of *Wilhelmina*, S.

MENISSING, s. The act of diminishing.

"Braking of commound ordenans & statutis of this gude towne, in *menissing* of the past [paste or crust] of quhyt breyd, & selling thairtof." *Aberd. Reg.*, V. 16.

[MENIT, *pret.* Bemoaned, lamented, Barbour, V. 451. V. MENE, *v.*]

MENKIT, *pret.* Joined.

Now, fayr sister, fallis yow but fenyceing to tell,
Sen men first with matrimonie yow *menkit* in kirk,
How have ye farne?

Dunbar, Mailland Poems, p. 51.

This is the reading of Edit. 1508, instead of *mensit*, Edit. 1786.

A.-S. *mencg-an*, miscere; also, concumbere.

MENOUN, MENIN, s. A minnow; *pl. menounys*; S. *mennon*, *minnon*.

—With his handis quhile he wrocht
Gynnys, to tak geddiss and salmonys,
Trowtis, elys, and als *menounys*.

Barbour, ii. 577, MS.

To where the saugh-tree shades the *menin* pool,
I'll frae the hill come down when day grows cool.

Ramsay's Poems, ii. 133.

Alem. *mina* is rendered *fannus piscis*. Perhaps the minnow has its name from Germ. *min*, little. Since writing this, I am informed that its Gael. name *meanan*, is traced to *meanbh*, little.

[Fr. *min*, small, *miniasq*, small fish. O. Fr. *menuise*, "small fish of divers sorts, the small frie of fish," Cotgr.]

To MENSE, *v. a.* To grace. Nithsdale Song, 242. V. MENSCK, *v.*

MEN'S-HOUSE, s. A cottage attached to a farm-house where the men-servants cook their victuals, S. B.

"Some of the landed proprietors, and large farmers, build a small house called the bothy, and sometimes the *men's house*, in which their men-servants eat and prepare their food." *Agr. Surv. Aberd.*, p. 518.

MENSCK, MENSE, s. 1. Manliness, dignity of conduct.

Tharfor we suld our hartis raiss,
Swa that na myscheyff ws abais;
And schaip always to that ending
That beris in it *mensck* and lowing.

Barbour, iv. 549, MS.

2. Honour.

Now dois weill; for men sall se
Quha luffis the Kingis *mensck* to-day.

Barbour, xvi. 621, MS.

—Blythly I took up the spring,
And bore the *mense* awa, Jo!

Rem. Nithsd. Song, p. 47.

3. Good manners, discretion, propriety of conduct, S.

Thair manheid, and thair *mense*, this gait thay murle;
For marlage thus unyte of ane churle.

Priests of Peblis, p. 13.

V. MOCHRE.

Auld Vandal, ye but show your little *mense*,
Just much about it wi' your scanty sense.

Burns, iii. 54.

"He hath neither *mense* nor honesty;" S. Prov. *Rudd. Mense*, A. Bor. id.

"I have baith my meat and my *mense*;" Ramsay's S. Prov. p. 39; "spoken when we proffer meat, or any thing else, to them that refuse it." Kelly, p. 212. "Meat is good, but *mense* is better;" S. Prov. "Let not one's greediness on their meat intrinch on their modesty." Kelly, p. 244. "*Mence* is handsomness, or credit." Gl. Yorks. Dial. "*Mense*, decency, credit." Gl. Grose.

4. It is obliquely used in the sense of thanks or grateful return, S.

We've fed him, cled him—what's our *mense* for't a' ?
Base wretch, to steal our Dochter's heart awa' !

Tannahill's Poems, p. 12.

This, indeed, seems the meaning of the term as used in the Prov. "I have baith my meat and my *mense*."

5. Credit, ornament, or something that gives respectability, South of S.

An' monnie day thou was a *mence*,
At kirk, i' market, or i' spence,
An' snug did thou my hurdies fence,
Wi' cozie biel,
Tho' in thy pouches ne'er did glance
Nae goud at weil.

Old Brecks, A. Scott's Poems, p. 105.

6. It is said of any individual in a family, who, either in respect of personal or mental accomplishments, sets out or recommends all the rest, "He" or "She's the *mense* of the family," or "of a' the family," Dumfr., Loth.

Isl. *menska*, humanitas; *menskur*, A.-S. *mennisc*, Su.-G. *maennisklig*, humanus; formed from *man*, in the same manner as Lat. *human-us* from *homo*.

MENSKE, *adj.* Humane.

Thou gabbest on me so
Min em nil me nought se ;
He threteneth me to slo,
More *menske* were it to the
Better for to do,—

This tide ;
Or Y this loud schal fle,
In to Wales wide.

Sir Tristrem, p. 118.

V. the s.

- To MENSK, MENSE, *one, v. a.* 1. To behave with good manners, to make obeisance to one in the way of civility; to treat respectfully. It is opposed, however, to giving homage, *bowing ane bak*.

I sall preive all my pane to do hym plesance ;
Baith with body, and beild, bowsum and boun,
Hym to mensk on mold, withoutin manance.
Bot nowther for his senyeoury, nor for his summoun,
Na for dreid of na dede, na for na distance,
I will nocht bow me ane bak, for berne that is borne.

Gawan and Gol., ii. 11.

2. To do honour to, to grace; written *menss*, *mense*.

Cum heir, Falsat, and *menss* this gallowis ;
Ye mon hing up amang your fallowis.—
Thairfoir but dowt ye sall be hangit.

Lindsay's S.P.R., ii. 191.

"They *mense* little the mouth that bites aff the nose;" Ferguson's S. Prov., p. 33; "spoken when people, who pretend friendship for you, traduce your near friends and relations." Kelly, p. 302.

Sit down in peace, my winsome dow ;
Tho' thin thy locks, and beld thy brow,
Thou ance were armfu' fit, I trow,
To *mense* a kintra en', Jo.

Remains of Nithsdale Song, p. 47.

3. To do the honours of, to preside at. *To mense a board*, to do the honours of a table, Dumfr.

Convener Tamson *mens'd* the board,
Where sat ilk Deacon like a lord.

Mayn's Siller Gun, p. 57.

4. To fit, to become, Ettr. For.

"They'll rin after a when clay-cakes haken i' the sun, an' leave the good substantial ait-meal bannocks to stand till they moul, or be pouched by them that draff an' bran wad better hae *mensed*!" Brownie of Bodsbeck, &c., ii. 164.

MENSKIT, *part. pa.* Prob. honourably treated.

The mereist war *menskit* on mete at the maill,
With menstralis myrthfully makand thame glee.

Gawan and Gol., i. 17.

Mr. Pink. renders this, *arranged*. But it may mean, that those, who were most gay, behaved with *moderation* and *decorum*, while at that meal, from respect to the royal presence. Or perhaps it rather signifies that they were *honourably treated*; in reference to the

—seir courssis that war set in that sembles ;
and especially the music which accompanied it.

Thus it is merely the passive sense of the v. *Mensk*.

MENSKFUL, MENSEFUL, MENSFOU, *adj.* 1.

Manly; q. full of manliness.

Schyr Golagros' mery men, *menskful* of myght,
In greis, and garatouris, graithit full gay ;
Sevyne score of scheildis thai schew at ane sicht.

Gawan and Gol., ii. 14.

2. Noble, becoming a person of rank.

He is the riallest roy, reverend and rike.—
Mony burgh, mony bour, mony big bike ;
Mouy kynrik to his clame cumly to know ;
Maneris full *menskfull*, with mony deip dike.

Gawan and Gol., ii. 8.

3. Modest, moderate, discreet, S. In Yorks. it signifies comely, graceful.

But d' ye see fou better bred
Was *mens-fou* Maggy Murdy,
She her man like a lammy led
Hame, wi' a weel-wail'd wurdy.

Ramsay's Poems, i. 278.

V. MISTIRFUL.

4. Becoming, particularly in regard to one's station, S.

—"Lay by your new green coat, and put on your raploch grey; it's a mair *mensfu'* and thrifty dress, and a mair seemly sight, than thae dangling slops and ribbands." *Tales of my Landlord*, ii. 139.

5. Mannerly, respectful, S.

Thus with attentive look *mensfou* thsy sit,
Till he speak first, and shaw some shining wit.

Ramsay's Poems, i. 327.

MENSEFULLIE, MENSKFULLY, *adv.* In a mannerly way, with propriety, S.

MENSKLES, MENSLESS, *adj.* 1. Uncivil, void of discretion, S.

This *menskless* goddes, in enery mannis mouth,
Skalis thyr newis est, weist, north and south.

Doug. Virgil, 106, 39.

2. It is more generally used in the sense of greedy, covetous, insatiable, S.

The staik indeid is unco great ;—
I'm seer I hae nae need
To get fat cou'd be ettl'd at
By sik a *menless* thief.

Poems in the Buchan Dialect, p. 3.

3. Immoderate, out of all due bounds, S.

But fu rules trade, are hats, and stockings dear,
And ither trocks that's fit for country wear?
Things has wi' dearth been *menless* here awa,
Since the disturbance in America.

Morison's Poems, p. 133.

- MENSKLY**, *adv.* Decently, honourably, with propriety; *contr.* for *menksfully*.

And quhen thir wordis spokyn wer,
With sary cher he held him still,
Quhill men had done of him thair will.
And syne, with the leve of the King,
He broucht him *menksly* till erding.

Barbour, xix. 86, MS.

A.-S. *menislice*, humaniter, more hominum.

- MENSWORN**, *part. pa.* Perjured. **V.** **MANSWEIR**.

- To MENT, MENTE**, *v. n.* 1. "To lift up the hand affectedly, without intending the blow;" *Gl. Surv. Moray*.

2. "To attempt ineffectually;" *ibid.*

This seems merely a provincial pronunciation of the *v. Mint*, to aim, &c., q. v.

- MENT**, *pret.* Mended, South of S.

O faithless Watty, think how aft
I *ment* your sarks and hose!
For you how many bannocks stown,
How many cogues of brose!

Watty and Madge, Herd's Coll., ii. 199.

I've seen when wark began to fail,
The poor man cou'd have *ment* a meal,
Wi' a hare-bouk or sa'mon tail;

But let him try
To catch them now, and in a jail
He's forc'd to lie.

T. Scott's Poems, p. 329.

- MENTENENT**, *s.* One who assists another; *Fr. mainten-in.*

"With powar—to the said burcht of Inuernes, proveist, bailleis, &c., and their successouris, thair *mentenentis* and servandis, off sailling, passing, returning," &c. *Acts Cha. I.*, Ed. 1314, V. 630.

- MENTICAPTE**, *s.* Insanity, derangement; a forensic term.

"In the accioune—persewit be Robert lord Flemyn aganis James lord Hammiltoune—and Archibald erle of Anguss—for his wrangwis—proceeding in the seruing of ane breif of inquesicion—impetrate be the said Archibald erle of Anguss, of *menticapte*, prodigalite & furiosite of the said Robert lord Flemyn," &c. *Act. Dom. Conc.*, A. 1491, p. 195.

Lat. mente captus, mad; *Cic.*

- MENYEIT**, *part. pa.* Maimed. **V.** **MAN-YIED**.

- MENYIE**, **MENGYIE**, **MENYE**, **MENYHE'**, *s.* 1. The persons constituting one family.

"Properly the word," according to Rudd., "signifies the domesticks, or those of one family, in which

sense it is yet used in the North of England; as, *We be six or seven a Meny* (for so they pronounce it) i. e., 6 or 7 in family, *Ray*."

It is thus used by our old Henrysone—

Hes thow no reuth to gar thy tennent suet
Into thy lawbour, full faynt with hungry wame?
And syne hes littill gude to drink or eit,
Or his *menyè* at evin quhen he cumis hame.

Bannatyne Poems, p. 121, st. 21.

It is used in a similar sense by Wicliff and Langland.

"If thei han clepid the housebonde man Belzebug: how myche more his houshold *meynee*?" *Matt.* 10.

I circumcised my sonne sithen for hys sake;
My selfe and my *meyny*, and all that male were
Bled bloud for the Lordes loue, & hope to blyss the tyme.
P. Ploughman, Fol. 90, b.

It occurs in the same sense in R. Brunne, p. 65.

Tostus over the se went to S. Omere,
His wife & his *meyne*, & duelled ther that yere.

O. Fr. *mesnie* signifies a family.

"*Meny*, a housholde, [Fr.] *menye*;" *Palsgr.* B. iii. f. 48, a.

2. A company, a band, a retinue. *A great menyie*, a multitude, S. B. *A few menyie*, was formerly used; i. e., a small company.

In nowmer war thay but ane few *menye*,
Bot thay war quyk, and valseant in mellè.

Doug. Virgil, 153, 8.

Thus Wyntown uses it to denote those who accompanied St. Serf, when he arrived at Inchkeith.

Saynt Adaman, the haly man,
Come til hyme thare, and fernly
Mad spyrytuale band of cumpany,
And tretyd hym to cum in Fyfe,
And tyme to dryve oure of hys lyfe.
Than til Dysard hys *menyhè*
Of that counsale fwrth send he.

Cron., v. 12. 1170.

3. The followers of a chieftain.

"If the laird slights the lady, his *menyie* will be ready;" *Ramsay's S. Prov.*, p. 42, i. e., ready to follow his example.

Till Louchmabane he went agane;
And gert men with his lettres ryd,
To freyndis apon ilk[a] sid,
That come to hym with thar *menyie*;
And his men als assemblyt he.

Barbour, ii. 75, MS.

4. Troops, an army in general, or the multitude which follows a prince in war.

The King Robert wyst he wes thar,
And quhat kyn chyftans with him war,
And assemblyt all his *menyie*;
He had feyle off full gret bountè.

Barbour, ii. 228, MS.

Nor be na wais me list not to deny
That of the Grekis *menyè* ane am I.

Doug. Virgil, 41, 15.

Neque me Argolica de gente negabo.

Virg., ii. 78.

It is used by R. Glouc. as denoting armed adherents or followers—

Tuelf yer he bylenede tho here wyth nobleye y nou,—
And bygan to astrengthy ys court, & to eche ys *maynye*.
P. 130.

5. A crowd, a multitude; applied to persons, Dumf.

Three loud huzzas the *menyie* gaed,
And clear'd the stance, that ilka blade
The mark might view.

Mayne's Siller Gun, p. 38.

6. A multitude, applied to things, S.

Black be the day that e'er to England's ground
Scotland was eikit by the *Union's* bond ;
For mony a *menyie* o' destructive ills
The country now maup brook frae mortmain bills.

Fergusson's Poems, ii. 86.

In this sense it occurs in O.E. "Company or *meiny* of shippes ; [Fr.] *flotte* ;" Palsgr. B. iii. f. 25. "*Meny* of plantes, [Fr.] *plantaige* ;" F. 48. "And they can no more skylle of it than a *meany* of oxen." *Ibid.*, F. 180, a. b.

The word is evidently allied to A.-S. *menigeo*, *menigo*, *menigu*, *menge*, &c., *multitudo*, *turba*. Isl. *meingi*, id. Alem. *menigi*, *multitudo*, also, *legio* ; Moes.-G. *manag*, A.-S. *maenige*, Alem. Belg. *menige*, O. Teut. *menie*, *multus* ; whence E. *many*. Wachter derives these terms from *man*, *plures* ; Ihre views them as having a common origin with Su.-G. *men*, *publicus*, *communis*. Jun. deduces them from *man*, *homo*, as being properly used to denote a multitude of men. V. Goth. Gl. vo. *Manag*.

"*Many*," Mr. Tooke says, "is merely the past participle of (A.-S.) *meng-an*, *miscere*, to mix, to mingle : it means *mixed*, or *associated* (for that is the effect of *mixing*) *subaud.* *company*, or any uncertain and unspecified *number* of any things." *Divers*. Purley, ii. 387.

I have given that as the first sense, which Rudd. views as the *proper* one. But I am convinced that the term primarily respected a multitude, because it uniformly occurs in this sense in Moes.-G. A.-S. and Alem. Not one example, I apprehend, can be given from any of these ancient languages, either of the adj. or subst. being used, except as denoting a *great* company. The phrase, which Mr. Tooke quotes from Douglas,—*a few menyie*, in support of the idea, that from the term itself we can learn nothing certain as to number, is a solitary one ; and only goes to prove what is evident from a variety of other examples, that the term gradually declined in its sense. Originally, signifying a multitude, it was used to denote the great body that followed a prince to war ; afterwards it was applied to those who followed an inferior leader, then to any particular band or company, till it came to signify any association, although not larger than a single family.

I hesitate greatly as to A.-S. *meng-an* being the origin. It seems in favour of this hypothesis, that a multitude, or crowd, implies the idea of mixture. But this is one of these theories which will turn either way. Wachter conjecturally deduces the Germ. synon. *mengen*, *miscere*, from *menge*, *many*, or a multitude. "For what is it to mingle," he says, "but to make one of *many* ?" This, indeed, seems the most natural order. For, although a multitude or crowd necessarily includes the idea of mixture ; there may be mixture where there is not a multitude of objects.

[For fuller statement and illustration. V. Prof. Skeat's Etymol. Dict., under *Mingle*.]

MENYNG, s. Pity, compassion, sympathy.

Than lukyt he angryly thaim to,
And said grynmand, Hyingis and drawys.
That wes woudir of sic sawis,
That he, that to the dede wes ner,
Suld ansuer apon sic maner ;
For owtyng *menyng* and mercy.

Barbour, iv. 326, MS.

V. *Mene*, to lament ; q. that principle which makes one *bemoan* the helpless situation of another.

[MENYWERE, MYNNYFERE, s. Miniver, a species of fur ; Fr. *menu vair*.

"Item fra Marioun of Coupland, tane at the Quenis command be Johne furrou and Caldwell, *menywere* to

lyne my Lordis cot, extending to xxxvij s. ijd." *Accts.* L. H. Treasurer, i. 40, Dickson.]

[MENZ, s. Skill or ability in getting well through any kind of work, Shetl. V. MENDS, MENSK.]

To MER, v. a. To put into confusion, to injure ; mar, E.

Wald ye wyth men agayn on thaim releiff,
And *mer* thsaim ays, I sall quhill I may leiff,
Low yow fer mar than ony othir knycht.

Wallace, x. 724, MS.

So thik in stale all *merrit* wox the rout,
Vneis mycht ony turne his hand about,
To weild his wappin, or to schute sne dart.

Doug. Virgil, 331, 53.

Isl. *mer-ia*, *contundere*.

MERCAL, s. A piece of wood used in the construction of the Shetland plough ; the head of a plough.

"A square hole is cut through the lower end of the beam, and the *mercal*, a piece of oak about 22 inches long, introduced, which at the other end, holds the sock and sky." P. Aithsting, Shetl. Statist. Acc., vii. 585.

[Su.-G. *mer*, large, *kulle*, head, crown, top.]

MERCAT, s. A market.

MERCAT-STEAD, s. A market-town ; literally, the place where a market stands.

"At the mouth of the water, stands the *tonne* of Air, a notable *mercat-stead*." *Descr.* of the Kingdome of Scotland.

MERCH, MERGH, (gutt.) s. 1. Marrow ; synon. *smergb*.

— Of hete amouris the subtell quent fyre
Waystis and consumis *merch*, banis and lire.

Doug. Virgil, 102, 4.

V. FARRACH.

But they hae run him thro' the thick o' the thie,
And broke his knee-pan,
And the *mergh* o' his shin ban has run doun on his spur
leather whang.

Minstrelsy Border, i. 208.

It is commonly said, when a person is advised to take something that is supposed to be highly nutritive, *That will put mergh in your beins*, S. B. It is singular that the same mode of expression is used in Sweden : "They prepare themselves [for the hard labour of ploughing] on this day [the first of May] by frequent libations of their strong ale, and they usually say, *Maste man dricka marg i benen* ; You must drink marrow in your bones." Von Troil's Lett. on Iceland, p. 24, N.

2. Strength, pith, ability, S.

Now steekit frae the gowany field,
Frae ilka fav'rite *houff* and bield,
But *mergh*, alas ! to disengage
Your bonny buik frae fettering cage,
Your free-horn bosom beats in vain
For darling liberty again.

Fergusson's Poems, ii. 36.

But *mergh*, i. e., without strength.

3. Transferred to the mind, as denoting understanding.

"The ancient and learnit—Tertulian sayes, that the trew word of God consists in the *merch* and innart

intelligence, and not in the vntart scruf & external wordis of the scriptures." Hamilton's Facile Traictise, p. 31.

MERCHY (gutt.), *adj.* Marrow, marrowy, S. B.

"The Lord is reserving a *merchy* pieco of the word of his promise to be made out to many of his friends & people, till they get some sad hour of trial and tentation."—"The *merchie* bit of the performance of this he kept till a black hour of temptation, and a sharp bite of tryal." Mich. Bruce's Soul-Conf., p. 18.

MERCHINESS, *s.* The state of being marrowy; metaph. used.

"The Israelites had never known the *merchiness* of that promise, if a Red sea had not made it out." Ibid.

A.-S. *merg*, *maerh*, Su.-G. *maerg*, Isl. *mergi*, Belg. *marg*, C. B. *mer*, Dan. *marfwe*, id. It has been supposed that *maerg-el*, the Goth. name of marle, Lat. *marg-a*, is to be traced to this as its origin, q. fat or marrowy earth. V. MERKERIN.

[**MERCHANDREIS**, *s.* Merchandise, Accts. L. H. Treasurer, i. 219, Dickson.]

MERCHANGUID, *s.* Merchandise. "Sufficient *merchanguid*," sufficient or marketable merchandise; Aberd. Reg., V. 24.

* **MERCHANT**, *s.* 1. A shopkeeper, a pedlar, S.

"A peddling shop-keeper, that sells a pennyworth of thread, is a *Merchant*.—The word *Merchant* in France—signifies no more than a shop-keeper, or other smaller dealer, and the exporter or importer is called a *Negociant*." Burt's Letters, i. 77, 78.

[2. A buyer, purchaser, dealer; as, "Na, I'll no brek the price; I can get a *merchant* for my guidis ony day at my ain siller," Clydes.]

3. A man's eye is proverbially said to be *his merchant*, when he buys any article entirely on his own judgment, without any recommendation or engagement on the part of another, S.

"Esto the horse had been insufficient, *sibi imputet*, his eye being *his merchant*; unless he will—offer him to prove that the seller—promised to warrant and uphold the horse," &c. Fountainh. Dec. Suppl., iii. 34.

[**MERCHAT**, **MERCHET**, *s.* V. MARCHET.]

MERCHIT, *part.pa.* Bounded. V. MARCH, v.

MERCIBLE, **MERCIAL**, *adj.* Merciful.

Hye Quene of Lufe! sterre of beneuolence!
Pitouse princesse, and planet *mercible*!
Vnto your grace lat now bene acceptable
My pure request.—

King's Quair, iii. 26.

Thankit mot be the scantis *merciall*,
That me first causit hath this accident!

King's Quair, vi. 19.

MERCIAL, *adj.* Martial, warlike; Bel-
lend. Cron. pass.

MERCIMENT, *s.* 1. Mercy, discretion,
power, influence, S. B.

"I maun be at," or "come in, your *merciment*;" I must put myself completely under your power.

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Most probably abbrev. from O. Fr. *amerciment*, L. B. *amerciament-um*, amonde pecuniare imposee pour un delit; Roquef. The term is very commonly used in money-matters.

Du Cange views L. B. *amerciamentum* (a fine) as itself formed from Fr. *merci*, because the offender was in the *mercy* of the judge as to the extent of the fine.

2. A fine, E. *amerciament*, Aberd. Reg. Cent. 16.

MERCURY LEAF. The plant *Mercurialis perennis*, South of S.

[**MERCY**. Errat. for *Mastry*, q. v., Barbour, xiii. 412, MS.]

[**MERDAL**, **MERDL**, *s.* A contemptuous name for a fat, clumsy female, Shetl. Isl. *mardöll*, a mermaid.]

[**MERDALE**, *s.* Lit., a dirty crew; a band of camp-followers, Barbour, ix. 249, Skeat's Ed.

In Herd's Ed., *powerail*, rabble, and in the MS., a blank space, which Jamieson's Ed. fills with *powerail*.]

MERE, *s.* 1. A march, a boundary; pl. *merys*.

The thryd castelle was Kyldrwm,
That Dame Crystyane the Brws stowly
Held wyth knychtis and Sqwyeris,
That reddy t about thame welle thare *merys*.
Wyntown, viii. 27. 230.

To *redd marches*, is a synon. phrase still used, as signifying to determine the limits. That employed here has a metaph. sense,—to keep off the enemy from their boundaries; as our modern one often means, to settle any thing that is matter of dispute.

O. E. "*Mere* or marke betwyx two londys [lands]. Meta. Limes." Prompt. Parv.

The same term occurs in the Cartulary of Aberdeen, A. 1446.

"Than they fullly accordit among thaim of the assys; naman discrepand, deliuerit and gaf furth the marchis and *meris* betwix the said lands debatable," &c. Macfarlan's Transcr., p. 8.

A.-S. *maera*, Su.-G. *maere*, Belg. O. E. *meer*, id. Ihre derives it from Gr. *μερα*, dividio.

[**MERE**, **MEIR**, **MEERE**, *s.* A mare, West of S.]

[**MERE**, **MEER**, *s.* A moor, Banffs., Aberd.]

MERE, *s.* 1. The sea.

He Lord wes of the Oryent,
Of all Judè, and to Jordane
And to the *mere* swa Mediterane.

Wyntown, ix. 12. 38.

O. E. *mer* had been used in the same sense. "*Mer watyr*. Mare." Prompt. Parv. *Water* is not added as a part of the denomination, but as determining the object spoken of; which is the mode observed by the good monk Fraunces.

2. An arm of the sea.

—"The river of Forth, commonly called the Frith, —maketh great arnes or *meres*, commonly called the Scottis sea: quhairin, besyd vtheris, is the illaud of St. Columbe, by name callit Aemonia." *Pitscottie's Cron. Introd.* xvi.

K 2

3. A pool, caused by the moisture of the soil; often one that is dried up by the heat, Ang.

It differs in signification from the E. word, which "commonly" denotes "a large pool or lake," Johns.

A.-S. Alem. *mere*, Isl. *maere*, *mar*, Moes.-G. *marei*, Germ. Belg. *mer*, Lat. *mare*, Fr. *mer*, C. B. *mor*, Gael. Ir. *muir*. Su.-G. *mar* signifies either the sea, or a lake; any large body of water. The terms, in different languages, denoting any great body of water, are promiscuously used in this manner. Thus the lake of Gennesaret is also called the sea of Gennesaret; and in A.-S. the same word is sometimes rendered a lake, and at other times a sea.

MERESWINE, MEER-SWINE, s. 1. A dolphin.

Bot hir hynd partis ar als grete wele nere
As bene the hidduous huddum, or ane quahale,
Quhareto bene cuplit mony *mereswyne* tale,
With empty mawis of wolfis rauenus.

Doug. *Virgil*, 82, 26.

Delphinum caudas, Virg. Elsewhere the same word is rendered *dalphyne* by Doug. But that this name was, at least occasionally, given to the dolphin by our forefathers, appears also from the evidence of Sir R. Sibbald.

"The bigger beareth the name of dolphin; and our fishers call them *Meer-swines*."—"Delphinus Delphis," N. "The lesser is called Phocaena, a porpess."—"Delphinus phocaena," N. Fife, p. 115, 116.

2. A porpoise. This is the more modern and common use of the term.

As a vast quantity of fat surrounds the body of this animal, it has given occasion to the proverbial allusion, "as fat as a *mere-swine*," S.

Cepede adds Dan. *marsouin*, Germ. *meerschwein*. Hist. de Cétacées, p. 250.

Teut. *maer-swijn*, delphinus, q. d. porcus marinus; Su.-G. *marswin*, Fr. *marsoin*, a porpoise.

To **MERES**, *v. n.* [A vulgar pron. of *merge*, to join, to blend, to mingle, to combine; pron. *merse* in Ayr.]

"Eneas—callit baith thaim and the Trojanis under ane name of Latinis; to that fyne, that baith the pepill suld *meres* togidder, under ane minde and lawis." Bellenden's T. Livius, p. 6.

As the corresponding word in Livy is *conciliaret*, should this be *meise*, i. e., incorporate?

MERETABILL, adj. Laudable.

"Sen neidfull it is & *meretabill*," &c. Aberd. Reg., A. 1543, V. 18.

MERGH, s. Marrow. V. **MERCH**.

MERGIN, adj. (g hard). Most numerous, largest. *The mergin part*, that which exceeds in number, or in size, S. B.

Su.-G. *marg*, Isl. *marg-ur*, multus; *mergd*, multitudine.

These words, as Ihre observes, are evidently allied to Su.-G. *mer*, magnus.

To **MERGLE, v. n.** To wonder, to express surprise, Fife.

Perhaps the term was first used to express wonder at quantity, or caused by the appearance of a multitude, from Su.-G. *marg*, multus; as, "Eh! *mergie* me!" is a phrase used in Fife denoting surprise.

MERITOR, s. "Sene [since] *meritor*, is to beir leill & suchtfest witnessing." Aberd. Reg., Cent. 16.

I know not if this can denote one who makes profit by a bargain, from L. B. *merit-um*, pretium; proventus.

MERK, s. A term used in jewellery.

"A chayn of rubeis, with tuelf *merkis* of diamantis and rubeis, and ane *merk* with tua rubyis." Inventories, A. 1578, p. 262. It is written *mark*, p. 318.

Fr. *merques*, "Be, in a paire of beads, the biggest, or least," Cotgr.

MERK, MERKE, s. A Scottish silver coin, formerly current, now only nominal; value, thirteen shillings and fourpence of our money, or thirteen pence and one third of a penny Sterling, S.

"In the year 1561 [1571] it was ordained by the Earl of Lennox, then regent, and the lords of the secret council, that two silver pieces should be struck;—that the weight of the one should be eleven penny weight twelve grains Troy, to be called *merks* [a merk]; the other one half of that weight, and to be called *half a merk*." Introd. to Anderson's Diplom., p. 150.

It does not appear, however, that any such coins were struck at this time.

"The *mark*," says Mr. Pinkerton, "was so called as being a grand limited sum in account (*Marc*, limes, Goth.) It was of eight ounces in weight, two thirds of the money pound." Essay on Medals, ii. 73, N.

Su.-G. *mark*, as applied to silver, denoted 8 ounces. The term has still this sense in Denmark. Ihre says, that it had its name from *maerke*, or a note impressed, signifying the weight.

MERK, MERKLAND, s. A certain denomination of land, from the duty formerly paid to the sovereign or superior, S. Shetl.

"The lands are understood to be divided into *merks*. A *merk* of land, however, does not consist uniformly of a certain area. In some instances, a *merk* may be less than an acre; in others, perhaps, equal to two acres. Every *merk* again consists of so much arable ground, and of another part which is only fit for pasture; but the arable part alone varies in extent from less than one to two acres. Several of these *merks*, sometimes more, sometimes fewer, form a town." P. Unst, Shetland Statist. Acc., v. 195. N.

"These *merks* are valued by sixpenny, ninepenny, and twelpenny land. Sixpenny land pays to the proprietor 8 *merks* butter, and 12s. Scotch per *merk*." P. Aithsting, Shetland, Ibid., vii. 580.

An inferior denomination of land is *Ure*.

"The lands of that description—are 329 *Merks* and three *Ures* or eighths, paying of Landmails yearly 109 Lisponds 19 *Merks* weight of butter, and £238 : 14. Scots money." MS. Acc. of some lands in the P. of Unst.

At first it might seem that this term should be traced to Su.-G. *mark*, a wood, a territory, a plain, a pasture, rather than to *mark* as a denomination of money; because a *merk* of land receives different designations, borrowed from money of an inferior value, as sixpenny, ninepenny, &c. But although the name *merk* seems now appropriated to the land itself, without regard to the present valuation, there is no good reason to doubt that the designation at first originated from the duty, imposed on a certain piece of land, to be paid to the King or the superior.

This exactly corresponds to the division of property, among the Northern nations, according to this mode of estimation. The *ures* mentioned above, are merely the *orae* of Ihre, also used as a denomination of land. According to Widegr. three *oeres* make an English farthing; but Seren. says that a farthing is called *halfœre*.

One sense given of *mark*, by Ihre is, Certa agrorum portio, quae dividitur, pro ratione numerandi pecunias in *marcas, oras, oertugas et penningos*; vo. MARK.

The same learned writer, after giving different senses of *oere*, adds;

IV. Apud agrimensores nostros *oere, oertig, & penning* est certa portio villae dividendae in suas partes. *Elt oeres land, en oertig land, &c.* cujus ratio olim constitit in *censu*, quem pendebant agri, nunc tantum rationem indicant unius ad alterum, ita ut qui *oram* possidet in villa triplo plus habet altero qui *oertugam, &c.* Ihre, vo. *Oere*.

Verel gives a similar account, vo. *Oere*, p. 193. V. URE, s. 4.

The same mode of denomination has been common in S.

"The Lordes of the Session esteeme ane *marke land*, of auld extent, to four *mark land* of new extent." Skene, Verb. Sign. vo. *Extent*.

"The common burdens were laid on, not according to the retour or *merkland*, but the valuation of the rents." Baillie's Lett., i. 370.

MERK, *adj.* Dark. V. MARK.

To MERK, *v. n.* To ride.

Than hs *merkit* with myrth, our ans grens meid,
With all ths best, to the burgh, of lordis I wis.

Gawan and Gol., i. 14.

"Marched," Gl. Pink. But it seems rather to mean, rode.

O. Fr. *march-er*, C. B. *marchogaeth*, Arm. *marck-at*, Ir. *markay-im*, to ride; C. B. *march*, Germ. *marck*, *mark*, a horse, (probably from Goth. *mar*, id.); whence Teut. *marck-grave*, equitum praefectus, Kilian.

To MERK, *v. a.* To design, to appoint.

—To reds I began—

Of all the mowis in this mold, sen God *merkit* man,
Ths mowing of the mapamound, and how the mone
schane.

Doug. Virgil, 239, a. 54.

Merkit is often conjoined with *made*, S. B. "The like of that was nevir *merkit* nor *made*." A.-S. *mearc-ian*, designare; *merced*, statutus.

MERKE SCHOT. A term in archery; "seems the distance between the *bow markis*, which were shot at in the exercise of archery," Gl. Wynt.

About him than he rowmyt thare
Thretty fute on breid, or mare,
And a *merke schot* large of lenth.

Wyntown, ix. 27. 419.

V. Acts Ja. I., c. 20, Ed. 1566. A.-S. *merc*, Germ. *mark*, a mark, a boundary.

MERKERIN, *s.* The spinal marrow, Ang.

Merg, *q. v.*, signifies marrow; and Germ. *kern* has the same sense; also signifying pith. The spinal marrow may have received this denomination, as being the principal marrow, that which constitutes the pith or strength of the body.

Isl. *kiarne*, medulla, nucleus, vis, cremor; Dan. *kaerne*, id. This is the obvious origin of E. *kernel*; Su.-G. *kaerne*, signifying nucleus.

MERKIE-PIN, *s.* That part of a plough on which the share is fixed, Orkn.

To MERL, *v. n.* To candy; applied to honey, &c., Galloway. V. MERLIE.

MERLIE, *adj.* "Sandy and sweet; when honey is in this state, it is said to be *merlie*; when it is beginning to grow this way, it *merles*;" Gall. Encycl.

Allied perhaps to C. B. *merl*, freestone; also friable because it becomes "sandy," as Mactaggart expresses it, and feels *gritty* in the mouth.

MERLE, *s.* The blackbird.

To heir it was a poynt of Paradyce,
Sic mirth the mavis and the *merle* couth maa.

Henryson, Evergreen, I. 186.

"Than the mavis maid myrth, for to mok the *merle*." Compl. S., p. 60.

Fr. *merle*, Ital. *merla*, Hisp. *murla*, Teut. *meriaen*, *merie*, Lat. *merula*, id.

MERLED, MIRLED, *part. pa.* Variegated. V. MARLED.

MERLINS, *interj.* Expressive of surprise, Loth.

Formed from Fr. *merveille*, a prodigy; or perhaps *q. marvellings*.

MERMAID'S-GLOVE, *s.* The name given to the sponge, Shetl.

"The sponge, called *Mermaid's Glove*, is often taken up, upon this coast, by the fishermen's hooks." P. Unst, Stat. Acc., v. 186.

"Spongia Palmata, *Mermaid's Glove*." Edmonstone's Zetl., ii. 325.

A very natural idea for these islanders who, in former times, were well acquainted with mermaids. The Icelanders call coral *marmennils-smidi*, i.e., the workmanship of mermen.

MERMAID'S PURSE. The same with the *Mermaid's Glove*, Gall.

"A beautiful kind of sea-weed box, which is found driven in on the shores, of an oblong shape—about three inches and a half one way, and three the other—of a raven-black colour on the outside, and sea-green within." Gall. Encycl.

[This description applies neither to a sponge, nor fucus, but to the horny case that contains the young either of the skate, or dog-fish. V. SKATE-PURSE, or CROW-PURSE. Syn. Skate-barrows, Cumberl.]

[MERRING, *s.* Marring, injury, Barbour, xix. 155, Skeat's Ed.; Edin. MS. *nethring*.]

MERRIT. V. MER.

*MERRY, *adj.* A term used by a chief or commander in addressing his soldiers; *My merry men*.

Sir W. Scott deduces *merry* as thus used, from Teut. *mirigh*, strong, bold. But I cannot find this word in any lexicon.

MERRY-BEGOTTEN, *s.* A spurious child, Ang.

This singular term nearly resembles an O. E. idiom. Knoute of his body gats sonnes thre,
Tuo bi tuo wives, the thrid in *jolifte*.

R. Brunne, p. 50.

i.e., jollity.

MERRY-DANCERS, *s. pl.* 1. A name given to the Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, S.

"In the Shetland islands, the *merry dancers*, as they are there called, are the constant attendants of clear evenings, and prove great reliefs amidst the gloom of the long winter nights." Encycl. Brit., vo. *Aurora Borealis*.

These lights had appeared much less frequently in former times than in ours, and were viewed as portents. The first instance mentioned by Dr. Halley, is that which occurred in England, A. 1560, when what were called *burning spears* were seen in the atmosphere. Baddam's Mem. Royal Soc., vi. 209. Phil. Trans., N. 347.

They are mentioned by Wyntown, as appearing in S. in a very early period—

Sevyn hundyr wynter and fourty
And fyve to rekyng fullyly,
Sternys in the ayre fleand
Wes sene, as *flawys of fyre brynnand*,
The fyrst nycht of Januere,
All that nycht owre schynand clere.
Cron., vi. i. 75.

Their Su.-G. name, *nordsaken, norrsken*, corresponds to that of *Northern lights*, *q. north shine*.

2. The vapours arising from the earth in a warm day, as seen flickering in the atmosphere, Roxb. *Summer-couts*, S. B.

"I've seen the *merry-dancers*," is a phrase commonly used, when it is meant to intimate that one has remarked a presage of good weather.

MERRY-HYNE, *s.* 1. *A merry-hyne to him or it*, a phrase used by persons when they have got quit of what has rather annoyed them, Aberd.

2. *To get one's merry-hyne*, to receive one's dismissal rather in a disgraceful manner; applied to servants, *ibid.*; from *Hyne*, hence,

MERRY-MEAT, *s.* "The same with *kim-mering*, the feast at a birth;" Gall. Encycl. V. BLITHE-MEAT.

MERRY-METANZIE, *s.* A game among children, generally girls, common throughout the lowlands of Scotland. They form a ring, within which one goes round with a handkerchief, with which a stroke is given in succession to every one in the ring; the person who strikes, or the *taker*, still repeating this rhyme:—

Here I gae round the jingie ring,
The jingie ring, the jingie ring,
Here I gae round the jingie ring,
And through my *merry-metanzie*.

Then the handkerchief is thrown at one in the ring, who is obliged to take it up and go through the same process.

The only probable conjecture I can form is, that the game had been originally used in grammar-schools, in which Latin seems to have been employed even in their plays; and that thus it has been denominated from the principal action, *Me tange*, "touch me." This may have been combined with an E. adjective supposed to characterise the game. Though apparently insipid

enough, it might be accounted a very merry pastime by those who had broke loose from their confinement under a pedagogue. *Merry* may, however, be from Fr. *miré*, pried into, narrowly observed; in allusion to the eye of the person who watches the ring, in order to throw the handkerchief to most advantage.

The following account of the game has also been given me, which must be descriptive of the mode in some part of the country:—A sport of female children, in which they form a ring, dancing round in it, while they hold each other by the hands, and singing as they move. In the progress of the play, they by the motion of their hands imitate the whole process of the laundry, in washing, starching, drying, and ironing, S.

MERSE, *s.* 1. A flat and fertile spot of ground between hills, a hollow, Nithsdale.

There's a maid has sat o' the green *merse* side,
Thae ten lang years and mair;
An' every first night o' the new moon,
She kames her yellow hair.

Mermaid of Galloway.

"Sit down i' the gloaming dewfall on a green *merse* side, among the flowers," &c. Remains of Nithsdale Song, p. 230, 247.

2. Alluvial land on the side of a river, Dumfr.

3. Also expl. "Ground gained from the sea, converted into moss," Dumfr.

Perhaps as having been originally a marsh, or under water, from Teut. *mersche, marse*, palus. But I rather think that it is from C. B. *meryz*, "that is flat or low, a wet place," *meryz y mor*, "the sea-sledge;" Owen. He refers to *mer*, "that is down or stagnant," and *gweys*, a bottom, also, "low."

MERT, *s.* V. MART.

MERTRIK, *s.* A marten. V. MARTRIK.

MERVIL, *adj.* Inactive; applied both to body and mind, Roxb.; evidently the same with *Marbel*, Loth.

C. B. *marwaawl*, of a deadening quality; *marwald*, torpid; *marwal-au*, to decaden.

MERVY, MARVIE, *adj.* 1. Rich, mellow; applied to fruits, potatoes, &c., Dumfr.

2. Savoury, agreeable to the taste, *ibid.*; synon. *Smervy*, S. B.

Dan. *marv*, marrow; whence *marvagtig*, full of marrow.

MERVADIE, *adj.* Sweet, and at the same time brittle, Galloway.

"Any fine sweet cake is said to be *mervadie*; this word and *merlie* are some way connected." Gall. Enc.

MERVYS, *3rd p. pr.* of the *v. MER*.

—Thryldome is weill wer than deid;
For quhill a thryll his lyff may leid,
It *mervys* him, body and banys,
And dede anoyis him bot anys.

Barbour, l. 271. In MS. *merrys*. V. MER.

MERY, *adj.* "Faithful, effectual;" Gl. Wynt.

On what authority this sense is given, I have not observed. The phrase *merry men*, as denoting adherents or soldiers, is very ancient.

Be it was mydmorne, and mare, merkit on the day,
Schir Golagros' *merymen*, menksful of myght,
In greis, and garatouris, grathit full gay ;
Sevyne scora of scheildis thai schew at ane sicht.
Garvan and Gol., ii. 14.

Sibb. rcfers to *mor*, great, Su.-G. *maere*, illustrious.
But this seems to be merely a phrase expressive of the
affection of a chief to his followers, as denoting their
hilarity in his service; from A.-S. *mirige*, cheerful.

MES, MESS, s. The Popish mass; still pron.
mess, S.

There is na Sanct may saif your saull,
Fra the transgres ;
Suppose Sanct Petor and Sanct Paull
Had baith said *Mes*.

Spec. Godly Ballads, p. 38.

Su.-G. Ital. *messa*, Germ. Fr. *messe*, Belg. *messe*.
This has been derived from the concluding words of
this service, *Ite, missa est*; or from the *dismissal* of
the catechumens before the mass. Ten Kate, however,
deduces it from Moea.-G. *mesa*, A.-S. *mýsa, mýse*,
O. Belg. *misse*, a table, q. *mensa Domini*. V. Ihre, vo.
Messa.

MES, or MASS JOHN, a sort of ludicrous de-
signation for the minister of a parish, S.
Gl. Shirr.

This breeds ill wiles, ye ken fu' aft,
In the black coat,
Till poor *Mass John*, and the priest-craft
Goes ti' the pot.

Poems in the Buchan Dialect, P. ii. 42.

This has evidently been retained from the time of
Popery, as equivalent to *mass-priest*.

MESALL, MYSEL, adj. Leprous.

Bellenden, speaking of salmon, says; "Utheris
quhilkis lepis nocht cleirlic ouir the lyn, brekis thaym
self be thair fall, & growia *mesall*." Descr. Alb., c. 11.
"They open the fishe, and lukes not quither they
be *mysel* or lipper fish or not." Chalmerlan Air, c. 21,
s. 9.

It also occurs in O. E.

—To *meselle* houses of that same lond,
Thre thousand mark vnto ther spense he fond.

R. Brunne, p. 136.

It is applied to swine, Aberd. Reg. "Ane *mysell*
swyne." V. 15, p. 656.

It is also conjoined with the synon. term *lyper*, or
leprous. "The quhilk swyne wes fund in *lyper mesell*."
Ibid.

O. E. "*Mysell*. Leprosus." Prompt. Parv.

Fr. *mesel, mescau*, leprous, Su.-G. *mastig*, scabiosus,
from *massel*, scabies; this Ihre deduces from Germ.
mas, masel, macula. Hence,

MESEL, MESELLE, s. A leper.

Coppe and clapper he bare,
Till the fiftenday ;
As he a *mesel* ware.

Sir Tristrem, p. 181.

Baldewyn the *meselle*, his name so hight,
—For foule *meselrie* he comond with no man.

R. Brunne, p. 140.

De Baldeiano *leproso*, Marg.

[MESELRIE, MESALRIE, s. Leprosy, Mearns.]

MESCHANT, adj. Wicked. V. MISCHANT.

To MESE, v. a. To mitigate. V. MEIS.

MESE of HERRING. Five hundred herrings.

"*Mese* of herring, conteinis fwe hundreth : For the
common vse of numeration & telling of herring, be

reason of their great multitude, ia vsed be thousands ;
and therefore ane *Mese* comprehendis fwe hundreth,
quhilk ia the halfe of ane thousand. From the Greek
word μέσον, in Latin medium," &c. Skene, Verb. Sign.
in vo.

It may have originated, however, from Isl. *meis*, a
netted bag in which fish are carried, or Alem. *mez*,
Germ. *mes*, a measure, *mess-en*, to measure.

Or it may be viewed as of Gaelic origin; as *maois-
eisg*, signifying "five hundred fish," Shaw. *Maois*,
however, simply signifies a pack or bag, corresponding
to Isl. *meis*; and *eisg*, Gael. is fish.

Armor. *maes*, a bushel; Roquefort, vo. *Mui*.

[MESESE, MESEISE, s. Trouble, anxiety,
misery, S.]

MESH, s. A net for carrying fish, S.

Ial. *meis*, saccua reticulatus, in quo portantur pisces;
Verel.

MESLIN, MASLIN, s. Mixed corn, S. O.,
Gl. Sibb. V. MASHLIN.

"Wheat, rye, *meslin*." Aberd. Reg., A. 1545, V. 19.

MESOUR, MESUR, s. 1. Measure, Aberd.
Reg.

[2. Moderation, discretion, Barbour, xvi. 323.
Fr. *mesure*.]

[MESURABILL, *adj.* Moderate, middle-sized,
Barbour, x. 280.]

To MESS AND MELL. 1. To have familiar
intercourse, Ayrs.

"But this is an observe that I have made on the
intellectual state of my fellow-citizens, since I began,
in my voyages and travels, to *mess and mell* more with
the generality of mankind." Steam-Boat, p. 88.

2. To *mingle* at one *mess*. It seems to be a
proverbial phrase in the West of S.

MESSAGE, s. Embassy; ambassadors, mes-
sengers.

Wallace has herd the *message* say thair will.—
The samyn *message* till him thair send agayn,
And thar entent thair tald him in to playn.—
Thair wald nocht lat the *message* off Ingland
Cum thaim amang, or thair suld wdirstand.

Wallace, viii. 541, 633, 672, MS.

This is a Fr. idiom; for Fr. *message* denotes not
only a message, but a messenger or ambassador. V.
Cotgr.

MESSAN, MESSIN, MESSOUN, MESSAN-DOG,
s. 1. Properly, a small dog, a lapdog, S.

Ha is our mekill to be your *messoun* ;
Madame, I red you get a les on ;
His gangarris all your chalmers achog.
Madame, ye heff a dangerous Dog.

Dunbar, Maitland Poems, p. 91.

This term occurs in a prov. expressive of the strong-
est contempt and ridicule that can well be conceived.

"We *hounds* alew the hare, quoth the *messon* ;—
spoken to insignificant persona when they attribute
to themselves any part of a great achievement."
Kelly, p. 349.

2. It is also used, more laxly, to denote such
curs as are kept about country houses.