

America, Minsheu tells us, is "the Fourth Part of the World, late found-out in the west part of the world by Americus Vesputius, of whom it retains the name of America." A mercurialist is "one born under the planet Mercurie; also humorous, phantastically, as one having mercurie or quicksilver in his head." To storm is "to make a foull coyle." One of the interpretations of "Groin" is "a port of Spain, Coruña." (This sailor's corruption is more commonly spelt Groyne.") A Griffin is a winged quadruped so powerful that it can lift and carry away through the air an armed horseman with his horse.

We have penny, penie, and pennie, for penny. The equivalent given for the word in German is denier; in Italian, dinaro; in Spanish, dinero; in Latin, denarius. What a pity that in England penny or penny should have been adopted to represent denarius, when its equivalents in all other countries are so different in form. It has led to such absurd ideas in the English popular mind. In denarius there is the notion of *ten*, of which there is no inkling in penny. In *militari enim stipendio semper pro decem assibus est datus*. It was the pay per day of a Roman soldier, and was deemed a fair day's wage for an ordinary labourer. On this continent, at the present day, dime for denarius would be better than penny, as it involves the notion of ten, although it would fail by about three cents to come up to the value intended to be signified.

We have clues to pronunciation in Minsheu's day, in some instances. Thus, "boy," now usually spelt "buoy," is the floating object which indicates the place of an anchor; and we are told that it comes from the French *bois*, a piece of wood, although, I believe, it is better derived from a Dutch word denoting leather or skin, possibly the stuffed skin of an animal.

For "colonel," which, by the way, is from the Latin *columna*, and indicates one of the lesser pillars, the *colonnellæ*, as it were, of an army, we are referred to coronal, this being then as now, the corrupted vocal rendering of the word. Then, we have the "keie" of a river or haven spoken of, meaning a wharf or landing-place; with the "keie" of a lock spelt just the same. In regard to the *l* in "chestnut," there is no hesitation, as there long was with English and United States lexicographers (happily there is none now). With Minsheu, the French *chastaigne*, the Italian *castigna*, the Spanish *castaña*, the Teutonic *kastanie*, the Latin *castanea*, the Greek *kastanicon caryon*, settled the question. "Things not generally known" are told us about fingers in Minsheu. Each one of the fingers has special associations connected with it. The following verse which recalls some of these—*Miles, mercator, stultus, maritus, amator*—we may imagine the mediæval school-boy repeating over, as he passed from the thumb to the little finger. The thumb denotes the soldier: without it, the man who handles the bow, would be powerless. For *miles* in this verse, *doctor* was sometimes substituted, *i. e.*, preceptor or teacher; without the thumb how could the almighty birch be applied? The next was the merchant or trader: it is wanted for counting and calculating: it is styled also the index, and has the epithets sometimes of *minans*, and *minitans*. The middle finger stands for folly. In the Middle Ages this middle finger had a bad reputation and seems to have been occasionally put to base uses. It is styled *digitus infamis*, *impudicus*, *verpus*. In one of the old dictionaries I have seen it called in plain English, "lick-pot," from the use to which gluttons sometimes put it. The next is *maritus*, the wedded man (not merely the wedded woman as now), the *digitus annularis*, or ring