

If the name was so given, how happened all memory of its origin to be lost—even to the Adamses—before 1763? In that year John Adams, in his Diary, gives an account of “the *Caucus-club*”—not ‘*Caulkers*’—which met “at certain times in the garret of Tom Dawes, the adjutant of the Boston regiment,” and which numbered among its members Samucl Adams, William Cooper, and other Boston worthies. In the same paragraph, Mr. Adams uses “those *caucuses*,” in the plural (J. Adams’ *Works*, ii. 144). In 1774, Gordon, after “repeated applications to different gentlemen,” could obtain no “satisfactory account of the origin of the name.” A less plausible conjecture than Mr. Pickering’s was made by a writer in the *Knickerbocker Magazine*, and cited, sub verbo, in the last revision of Webster’s Dictionary. According to this writer, “the rope-makers and calkers,” after the Boston massacre, so called, formed a society, “at the meetings of which inflammatory addresses were delivered,” &c., and “the tories in derision called these assemblies *calkers*’ meetings, and the term was at length corrupted to *caucus*.” But the “Boston massacre” occurred in 1770,—and, as has been seen, John Adams, who was not a tory, wrote of “caucuses” and a “caucus club” in 1763.

The verb from which *cawcawwassough*, *cockarouse*, and *caucus* are derived means, primarily, ‘to talk to;’ hence, ‘to give counsel, to advise, to encourage,’ and ‘to urge, promote, incite to action.’ Compare, with *caucau-āsu*,

Abnaki *kakeso-ma*”, he incites, arouses, encourages.

Chip. *gagānsoman*, “he exhorts, encourages, incites, persuades, urges, animates, instigates, counsels, pushes him to do something.” (Baraga.)

*gāgisoman*, he appeases, pacifies.

“*Cawcawwassough*” or *caucauasu*, the active-intransitive or verb-adjective form, was ‘one who advises, urges, encourages, pushes on,’ ‘a promoter,’ a *caucusser*.

What New Englanders managed by a caucus, the Virginians preferred to accomplish by a *barbecue*. The French translator of Burnaby’s *Travels in America* (published in 1775), thinking some explanation of this Virginian word was