

the French "pêche" and the English "peach." The cherry came from Cerasus in Asia Minor. The "Jerusalem" artichoke, however, is a misnomer. It came first from Peru and was called by the Italians "girasole"—sun flower—from its appearance, which in England was corrupted into "Jerusalem." The old fashioned "cravat" is said to have been adopted by the French from the Croats or Cravates. That queer word "demijohn" is said to have been brought home by the Crusaders from "Damaghan," a city in Khorassan, Persia, famous for its glassware. The mention of the Crusaders reminds us of the word "saunter"—which is derived from "Sainte Terre"—Holy Land—and came to have its present lazy force after that pilgrimage had become the resort of every idle or disreputable adventurer. To "levant"—to make a trip eastward—has another meaning, and our word "roam" may be derived in the same manner from the custom of making pilgrimages to the Eternal City. Burgundy, Champagne, Madeira, Cape, Port (oportó), Sherry (xeres), Teneriffe, Marsala, &c., give their own history. Perhaps the most curious origin for a word of which we have any account is that of the universally acceptable "dollar" or "thaler." It had its beginning in the mines of the little German town of Joachinsthal, from the silver of which a large coin was made, called the "joachinsthaler." In the course of time the former portion of the name was dropped and "thaler" (dollar) soon came into general use.

In adopting foreign words the English people have in many cases succeeded in giving them a domestic look, though frequently at the cost of the sense. Familiar instances are "beaf-eater"—a yeoman of the royal guard—which is a corruption of "buffetier"—one of those who were stationed at the sideboard for the distribution of wine and viands; "marigold," which has nothing to do with Mary, but is simply "mere" or marsh gold; "liquorice," which has no connection with liquor, but is a corruption of a Greek word (glycorrhiza) signifying "sweet root;" "lifeguard," which is from the German "leib" or Swedish "lif," meaning "body"—being thus equivalent to body guard; "wiseacre,"

which is a mutilation of the German "Weissager"—a prophet or diviner, and several others. The phrase "sleep like a top" is a half-translation of the French "dormir comme une taupe"—to sleep like a mole. "Helter-skelter" is the Latin "hilariter, celeriter"—merrily and quickly. "Quandary" is the French "Qu'en dirai-je?"—"what shall I say about it?" Welsh *rabbit*, every one knows, is Welsh *rarebit*. Kickshaw is a modification of "Quelque chose"—something, anything. *Gooseberry* is *gorseberry* and *free-mason* is claimed to be simply *frère-maçon*—brother-mason. When Orangemen drink "bumpers" to each others' health, perhaps they do not always know that they are drinking "au bon père"—"to the good Father"—the Pope. The word "orange" (the fruit), which is derived from an Arab word, not unnaturally suggested to mediæval Latinists its connection with gold (Lat. *aurum*, Fr. *or*) and they accordingly Latinized it "aurantium"—by which name it is still known in the *Materia Medica*. We have "limner," and even the absurd verb to "limn," from "enlumineur" (illuminator.) "Hussy" has preserved little of the dignity of "housewife" either in name or meaning. "Captive" and "cattiff" are really the same word—the latter form being a comment on the effects of slavery on the character. Compare the French "chétif." In Italian "cattivo" is the usual word for "bad." "Zealous" and "jealous" are also modifications of the same original form. The "canon" of the church and the "canon" of war are both derived from the Greek word for "reed"—the former from its being used as a measuring rule, the latter from its shape, when hollowed. "Mystery" had once three meanings—a truth of Revelation, inexplicable by reason, a sort of sacred drama and a trade. In French this divergence of meaning has produced two forms, "mystère" and "mêtier." The Latin word "pecunia" (money) is derived from "pecus" (cattle), as at one time all property consisted in "stock." In like manner the English "cattle" and "chat-tel" are the same. "Gentle," "genteel" and "gentile" are all derived from the Latin "gens"—a family or race. "Gentle" means primarily, "of good birth," then