

This word we have vernacularized from *meslier*, a French transformation of *mespilus* or *mespilum*, the classic name of the same fruit.—*Berberis*, the botanical Latin for a well-known ornamental and useful shrub growing in abundance wild on the New England coasts, we have adroitly made *barberry*, catching at the sound of the last two syllables. The original of the term corresponds to the Arabic name of the shrub.—The Anglo-Indian *jack-fruit* is an obvious modification of the native *tsjaka* and *iaca*.

8. The appellations of animals, of fish and of birds, of insects and various creeping things, furnish instances of vernacularized terms. I take first the case of the *Muscovy duck*. Muscovy knows little of him. His home is Nicaragua. He has his name from a tribe of Mexican Indians, the *Myscas*. He was at first known as the *mysca*, then as the *musco* duck. Finally, Muscovy being a name more familiar than either of the other two to the British ear, he became the *Muscovy duck*.—Again: the syllable *prey* in *osprey* has a good predatory sound. The Latin name of the creature is literally the *bone-crusher*, *ossifraga*. The French have vernacularized it into *orfraie*; we, into the word of the satisfactory seeming just mentioned. To our unsophisticated forefathers, *caterpillar* very probably appeared a well-selected appellation. It hinted of insects somewhat cat-like, whose habit was to “pill” and lay waste. But the element *-pil-* has reference to the *hairiness* of caterpillars. In the Italian of Lombardy the silkworm is *gatta* and *gattola*, “little cat.” (*Chenille*, the French for caterpillar, is “little dog,” *canicula*.) In Spanish it is *fel-pilla*, *felis pilosa*, good Latin corrupted. In Norman French this became *chatte-pelouse*, which we vernacularize into “caterpillar.”—In the first instance, we see, it meant the silk-worm only. In connection with “cat,” I may mention that in the Walloon, i. e. the Flemish spoken between the Scheldt and the Lys, the name of this animal is said to be *pisice*, which may originate what Archbishop Whately called the English irregular vocative of “cat.”—In the same connexion I add that *scate*, the name of a not unfamiliar fish, is properly “sea-cat” pronounced short. Its Welsh name is *morgath*, which is, to the letter, “sea-cat.”

The monastic annalists had alarming ideas about *cockatrices*. In heraldic zoology these beings still exist. It appears that *crocodiles* were meant. The Low-Latin word was *culcatrices*, whence came the Italian *culatrice*, the French *cocatrix*, and the English *cockatrice*. The emblazoners of arms, carried away by a vernacular sound, figured