

F E A

the other, consisting of thin laminae. The fethers which cover the body are called the *plumage*; the fethers of the wings are adapted to flight.

2. Kind; nature; species; from the proverbial phrase, "Birds of a fether," that is, of the same species. [Unusual.]

I am not of that fether to shake off
My friend, when he most needs me. *Shak.*

3. An ornament; an empty title.

4. On a horse, a sort of natural frizzling of the hair, which, in some places, rises above the lying hair, and there makes a figure resembling the tip of an ear of wheat. *Far. Dict.*

A fether in the cap, is an honor, or mark of distinction.

FEATHER, } *v. t.* To dress in fethers; to
FETHER, } fit with fethers, or to
cover with fethers.

2. To tread as a cock. *Dryden.*

3. To enrich; to adorn; to exalt.

The king cared not to plume his nobility and
people, to feather himself. *Bacon.*

To fether one's nest, to collect wealth, particularly from emoluments derived from agencies for others; a proverb taken from birds which collect fethers for their nests.

FEATHER-BED, } *n.* A bed filled with
FETHER-BED, } fethers; a soft bed.

FEATHER-DRIVER, } *n.* One who beats
FETHER-DRIVER, } fethers to make
them light or loose. *Derham.*

FEATHERED, } Covered with feth-
FETHERED, } ers; enriched.

2. *a.* Clothed or covered with fethers. A fowl or bird is a fethered animal.

Rise from the ground like feathered Mercury. *Shak.*

3. Fitted or furnished with fethers; as a fethered arrow.

4. Smoothed, like down or fethers. *Scott.*

5. Covered with things growing from the substance; as land fethered with trees. *Core.*

FEATHEREDGE, } *n.* An edge like a feth-
FETHEREDGE, } er.

A board that has one edge thinner than the other, is called featheredge stuff. *Moxon.*

FEATHEREDGED, } *a.* Having a thin
FETHEREDGED, } edge.

FEATHER-FEW, a corruption of *feverfew*.

FEATHER-GRASS, } *n.* A plant, gramen
FETHER-GRASS, } plumosum. *Johnson.*

FEATHERLESS, } *a.* Destitute of fethers;
FETHERLESS, } unfledged. *Hewel.*

FEATHERLY, } *a.* Resembling fethers.
FETHERLY, } [Not used.] *Brown.*

FEATHER-SELLER, } *n.* One who sells
FETHER-SELLER, } fethers for beds.

FEATHERY, } *a.* Clothed or covered with
FETHERY, } fethers. *Milton.*

2. Resembling fethers.

FEATLY, *adv.* [from *feat*.] Neatly; dextrously; adroitly. [Little used.] *Shak. Dryden.*

FEATNESS, *n.* [from *feat*.] Dexterity; adroitness; skilfulness. [Little used.]

FEATURE, *n.* [Norm. *failure*; *L. factura*, a making, from *facio*, to make; *It. fattura*.]

1. The make, form or cast of any part of the face; any single lineament. We speak of

large features or small features. We see a resemblance in the features of a parent and of a child.

2. The make or cast of the face.

Report the feature of Octavia, her years. *Shak.*

3. The fashion; the make; the whole turn or cast of the body.

4. The make or form of any part of the surface of a thing, as of a country or landscape.

5. Lineament; outline; prominent parts; as the features of a treaty.

FEATURED, *a.* Having features or good features; resembling in features. *Shak.*

FEAZE, *v. t.* To untwist the end of a rope. *Ainsworth.*

FEBRIFACIENT, *a.* [*L. febris*, a fever, and *facio*, to make.] Causing fever. *Beddoes.*

FEBRIFACIENT, *n.* That which produces fever. *Beddoes.*

FEBRIFIC, *a.* [*L. febris*, fever, and *facio*, to make.] Producing fever; feverish.

FEBRIFUGE, *n.* [*L. febris*, fever, and *fugo*, to drive away.]

Any medicine that mitigates or removes fever. *Encyc.*

FEBRIFUGE, *a.* Having the quality of mitigating or subduing fever; antifebrile. *Arbuthnot.*

FEBRILE, *a.* [Fr. from *L. febrilis*, from *febris*, fever.]

Pertaining to fever; indicating fever, or derived from it; as febrile symptoms; febrile action.

FEBRUARY, *n.* [*L. Februarius*; Fr. *Fevrier*; *It. Febbraio*; Sp. *Febrero*; Arm. *Fevrer*; Port. *Fevereiro*; Ir. *Feabhra*; Russ. *Phébral*. The Latin word is said to be named from *februo*, to purify by sacrifice, and thus to signify the month of purification, as the people were, in this month, purified by sacrifices and oblations. The word *februo* is said to be a Sabine word, connected with *ferreo*, *ferreo*, to boil, as boiling was used in purifications. *Varro. Ovid.*

This practice bears a resemblance to that of making atonement among the Jews; but the connection between *ferreo* and *February* is doubtful. The W. *quever*, February, Arm. *heuvrer*, Corn. *hwevral*, is from W. *quevery*, violence; the severe month.]

The name of the second month in the year, introduced into the Roman calendar by Numa. In common years, this month contains 28 days; in the bissextile or leap year, 29 days.

FEBRUATION, *n.* Purification. [See *February*.] *Spenser.*

FE'CAL, *a.* [See *Feces*.] Containing or consisting of dregs, lees, sediment or excrement.

FECES, *n. plu.* [*L. feces*.] Dregs; lees; sediment; the matter which subsides in casks of liquor. *Arbuthnot.*

2. Excrement.

FE'CIAL, *a.* [*L. fecialis*.] Pertaining to heralds and the denunciation of war to an enemy; as *fecial* law. *Kent.*

FECULA, *n.* The green matter of plants; chlorophyl. *Ure.*

2. Starch or farina; called also *amylaceous fecula*.

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This term is applied to any pulverulent matter obtained from plants by simply breaking down the texture, washing with water, and subsidence. Hence its application to starch and the green fecula, though entirely different in chemical properties. *Cyc.*

FECULENCE, } [*L. faculentia*, from
FECULENCY, } *n.* *facula*, *faces*, *fax*,
dregs.]

1. Muddiness; foulness; the quality of being foul with extraneous matter or lees.

2. Lees; sediment; dregs; or rather the substances mixed with liquor, or floating in it, which, when separated and lying at the bottom, are called lees, dregs or sediment. The refining or fining of liquor is the separation of it from its feculencies.

FECULENT, *a.* Foul with extraneous or impure substances; muddy; thick; turbid; abounding with sediment or excrementitious matter.

FECULUM, *n.* [from *faces*, supra.] A dry, dusty, tasteless substance obtained from plants. *Fourcroy, Trans.*

[This should be *fecula*.]

FE'CUND, *a.* [*L. fecundus*, from the root of *fetus*.] Fruitful in children; prolific. *Graunt.*

FE'CUNDATE, *v. t.* To make fruitful or prolific.

2. To impregnate; as, the pollen of flowers fecundates the stigma. *Anacharsis, Trans.*

FE'CUNDATED, *pp.* Rendered prolific or fruitful; impregnated.

FE'CUNDATING, *ppr.* Rendering fruitful; impregnating.

FECUNDATION, *n.* The act of making fruitful or prolific; impregnation.

FECUNDIFY, *v. t.* To make fruitful; to fecundate. [Little used.]

FECUNDITY, *n.* [*L. fecunditas*.] Fruitfulness; the quality of producing fruit; particularly, the quality in female animals of producing young in great numbers.

2. The power of producing or bringing forth. It is said that the seeds of some plants retain their fecundity forty years. *Ray.*

3. Fertility; the power of bringing forth in abundance; richness of invention.

FED, *pret.* and *pp.* of *feed*, which see.

FEDERAL, *a.* [from *L. fedus*, a league, allied perhaps to Eng. *wed*, Sax. *weddian*, *L. vas*, *radis*, *vador*, *radimonium*. See Heb. Ch. Syr. *ܩܕܝܫ* to pledge, Class Bd. No. 25.]

1. Pertaining to a league or contract; derived from an agreement or covenant between parties, particularly between nations.

The Romans, contrary to federal right, compelled them to part with Sardinia. *Grew.*

2. Consisting in a compact between parties, particularly and chiefly between states or nations; founded on alliance by contract or mutual agreement; as a federal government, such as that of the United States.

3. Friendly to the constitution of the United States. [See the Noun.]

FEDERAL, } *n.* An appellation in
FEDERALIST, } America, given to
the friends of the constitution of the United States, at its formation and adoption, and to the political party which favored