

17. *LL.* *Merovingi* descendants of *Meroveus*, Latinized name of a supposed early king of the Franks. Cf. -*ING*.) Designating, or pertaining to, the first Frankish dynasty in Gaul or France, founded by Clovis I. about 500. It was succeeded in 752 by the Carolingian dynasty. — *Merovingian* script. See *German* script, under GERMAN, n., 2.

**Mer'o-vin'gi-an**, n. One of the kings (or members) of the Merovingian dynasty; also, Merovingian script.

**mer'ri-ly** (mēr'tī-lī), *adv.* [From MERRY.] In a merry manner; esp., with mirth; gayly; joyously; jovially.

*Merrily* sing, and sport, and play. *Genevieve.*

**mer'ri-ment** (-mēt), n. 1. A thing that causes mirth; a jest; specif., a short dramatic piece of such a kind; — also applied as a title to comic pamphlets or the like. *Obs.*

2. Act of merry-making; gayety; mirth; hilarity; fun; frolic. "Follow and light merryment." *Spenser.*

3. Amusement; diversion. *Obs.*

**mer'ry** (mēr'tī), n.; MER'RY-ER (-tēr); MER'RY-EST. [ME. *merie*, *mairie*, *marie*, merry, pleasant, AS. *myrre*, *myrige*, pleasant; prob. akin to OHG. *myrr*, short (in comp.), Goth. *gumurgjow* to shorten; cf. L. *surcus* a coward, who cuts off his thumb to escape military service; the Anglo-Saxon and English meanings coming from the idea of making the time seem short. Cf. MIRTH.] 1. Productive of pleasure, delight, or happiness; pleasant; agreeable; delightful; hence, of sounds, etc., sweet; sweet-sounding; of a wind, favorable; of taste or smell, savory; etc. *Archaic.*

The merry harp Ps. lxxxi. 2 (*Rt. of Gen. Proper*)  
Merry wind and weather. *Spenser.*

2. Causing laughter or mirth; amusing; comical; funny; as, a merry jest. *Obs. or Archaic*, or merged in def. 3.

I had my good wit out of the "Hundred Merry Tales." *Shak.*

3. Laughingly gay; overflowing with good humor and good spirits; joyous; jovial; mirthful; hilarious; inclined to mirth, laughter, or play; sportive.

They drank, and were merry with him. Gen. xlii. 34

I am never merry when I hear sweet music. *Shak.*

4. Hence, cheerful; happy. *Obs.*

Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Job. v. 13.

5. Diverted; hence, facetious; jocular. *Obs. or Archaic.*

His lordship is but merry with me. *Shak.*

6. Given to, or marked by, gayety or festivity; as, I wish you a merry Christmas.

**Syn.** — Cheerful, blithe, lively, sprightly, vivacious, gleeful, joyous, mirthful, jocund, sportive. See JOCLAR.

**Christ'mas** (krīz'mās), n. [*Christ* + *mass*.] 1. An annual church festival, kept on December 25 in memory of the birth of Christ. It is celebrated generally by a particular church service, and by special gifts, greetings, and hospitality, and in most Christian communities is a legal holiday. Vaguely, the season about Christmas Day; Christmastide.

2. Something connected with the celebration of Christmas, as a gift.

3. Evergreens, as the European holly, used for decorations at Christmas. *Colleg., Eng.*

**Christmas bells.** The orange-colored flowers of the Garden lily (*Blandfordia nobilis*). *Australia.*

**Christmas berry.** The fruit of the toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*); also, the shrub itself. See TOYON.

**Christmas box.** a A closed box with a slit for the reception of coins, in which money is deposited for a person or persons (as servants, formerly apprentices, begging friars, etc.) who are supposed to open it on Christmas. b A box into which gamblers put a part of their winnings, to be given away at Christmas. *Obs.* c A present or small gratuity given at Christmas, esp. to public servants, as letter carriers, policemen, etc. d A box of Christmas presents.

**Christmas bush.** a An Australian eucalyptous tree (*Ceratopetalum gussoneferum*), often used in Christmas decorations; — called also *officer plant*, from its bright red appearance, and *Christmas tree*. b In Bermuda, a naturalized cespitose shrub (*Cassia bicapsularis*) used for hedges.

**Christmas creeper.** Any creeping or trailing evergreen used in Christmas decorations.

**Christmas daisy.** An American aster (*Aster grandiflorus*) cultivated in England, where it blooms in autumn. *Eng.*

**Christmas Day.** December 25; Christmas.

**Christmas Eve.** The evening before Christmas Day.

**Christmas fern.** A North American evergreen polypodiaceous fern (*Polypodium ornithoideum*), the fronds of which are much used for decoration in winter.

**Christmas rose.** A European ranunculaceous plant (*Heliborus niger*), often cultivated for its handsome flowers, resembling single roses, produced in winter.

**Christ'mas-tide** (krīz'mās-tīd'), n. [*Christmas* + *tide* time.] The season of Christmas.

**Christmas tree.** 1. A small evergreen tree, set up indoors, decorated with ornaments, bearing presents for distribution, and illuminated on Christmas Eve or Christmas night.

2. a In Australia, the Christmas bush. b In New Zealand, the pohutukawa.

**Christ'ma** (krīz'mā). *Combining form* from Gr. *Χριστός* or