

and economy of a company, society or corporation. The board of trustees appoint annually a committee to manage the *prudentials* of the corporation.

N. England.

PRUDENTLY, *adv.* With prudence; with due caution or circumspection; discretely; wisely; as domestic affairs *prudently* managed; laws *prudently* framed or enacted.

2. With frugality; economically; as income *prudently* expended.

PRUDERY, *n.* [from *prude*.] Affected scrupulousness; excessive nicety in conduct; stiffness; affected reserve or gravity; coyness. *Tatler.*

PRUDISH, *a.* [from *prude*.] Affectedly grave; very formal, precise or reserved; as a *prudish* woman; *prudish* manners.

A formal lecture, spoke with *prudish* face.

Garrick.

PRUNE, *v. t.* [perhaps from Fr. *provigner*, to lay down vine stocks for propagation. If not, I know not its origin.]

1. To top or cut off the superfluous branches of trees, to make them bear better fruit or grow higher, or to give them a more handsome and regular appearance.

Encyc. Milton.

2. To clear from any thing superfluous; to dress; to trim.

His royal bird

Prunes the immortal wing, and cloy's his beak. *Shak.*

PRUNE, *v. i.* To dress; to prink; *a* ludicrous word. *Dryden.*

PRUNE, *n.* [Fr. *prune*; It. Sp. *pruna*; L. *prunum*; D. *pruim*. In Latin, *prunus* is a plum tree, Gr. *προυνή*, and *prunum*, the fruit.]

A plum, or a dried plum. *Bacon.*

PRUNED, *pp.* Divested of superfluous branches; trimmed.

2. Cleared of what is unsuitable or superfluous.

PRUNEL, *n.* A plant. *Ainsworth.*

PRUNELLO, *n.* A kind of stuff of which clergymen's gowns are made. *Pope.*

PRUNELLO, *n.* [Fr. *prunelle*, from *prune*.] A kind of plum. *Ainsworth.*

PRUNER, *n.* One that prunes trees or removes what is superfluous.

PRUNIFEROUS, *a.* [L. *prunum*, a plum, and *fero*, to bear.] Bearing plums.

PRUNING, *ppr.* Lopping off superfluous branches; trimming; clearing of what is superfluous.

PRUNING, *n.* In gardening and agriculture, the lopping off the superfluous branches of trees, either for improving the trees or their fruit.

PRUNING-HOOK, } *n.* An instrument
PRUNING-KNIFE, } *n.* used in pruning trees. It is of various forms.

Dryden. Philips.

PRURIENCE, } *n.* [L. *pruriens*, *prurio*, to
PRURIENCY, } *n.* itch.]

An itching, longing desire or appetite for any thing. *Swift.*

PRURIENT, *a.* Itching; uneasy with desire. *Warton.*

PRURIGINOUS, *a.* [L. *pruriginosus*, from *prurio*, an itching, from *prurio*, to itch.] Tending to an itch. *Greenhill.*

PRUSSIAN, *a.* [from *Prussia*.] Pertaining to Prussia.

Prussian blue, a combination of iron with ferrocyanic acid. This is used as a pigment of a beautiful blue color.

PRÜSSIATE, *n.* A salt formed by the union of the prussic acid, or coloring matter of prussian blue, with a salifiable base; as the *prussiate* of alumina.

Lavoisier. Fourcroy.

PRÜSSIC, *a.* The *prussic acid* is a compound of kyanogen or cyanogen, prussic gas and hydrogen, and hence called hydrocyanic acid. It is one of the strongest poisons known.

PRÛY, *v. i.* [a contracted word, the origin of which is not obvious.]

To peep narrowly; to inspect closely; to attempt to discover something with scrutinizing curiosity, whether impertinently or not; as, to *prÛy* into the mysteries of nature, or into the secrets of state.

Nor need we with a *prÛying* eye survey
The distant skies to find the milky way.

Cretch.

PRÛY, *n.* Narrow inspection; impertinent peeping. *Smart.*

PRÛY, *v. t.* To raise or attempt to raise with a lever. This is the common popular pronunciation of *prize*, in America. The lever used is also called a *prÛy*.

PRÛYING, *ppr.* Inspecting closely; looking into with curiosity.

PRÛYINGLY, *adv.* With close inspection or impertinent curiosity.

PRÛYTANE, } *n.* [Gr *πρυτανεύς*.] In ancient
PRÛYTANIS, } *n.* Greece, a president of the senate of five hundred.

Encyc. Anacharsis.

[It is to be noted that in words beginning with *Ps* and *Pt*, the letter *p* has no sound.]

PSALM, *n. s'am.* [L. *psalmus*; Gr. *ψαλμος*, from *ψαλλω*, to touch or beat, to sing; Fr. *psaume*; It. Sp. *salmo*.]

A sacred song or hymn; a song composed on a divine subject and in praise of God. The most remarkable psalms are those composed by David and other Jewish saints, a collection of one hundred and fifty of which constitutes a canonical book of the Old Testament, called *Psalms*, or the *book of Psalms*. The word is also applied to sacred songs composed by modern poets, being versifications of the scriptural psalms, or of these with other parts of Scripture, composed for the use of churches; as the *Psalms* of Tate and Brady, of Watts, &c.

PSALMIST, *n.* A writer or composer of sacred songs; a title particularly applied to David and the other authors of the scriptural psalms.

2. In the church of Rome, a clerk, precentor, singer or leader of music in the church.

PSALMODY, *n.* The act, practice or art of singing sacred songs. *Psalmody* has always been considered an important part of public worship.

PSALMOGRAPHY, } *n.* [See *Psalmog-*
PSALMOGRAPHIST, } *n.* *raphy*.]

A writer of psalms or divine songs and hymns.

PSALMOGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *ψαλμος*, psalm, and *γραφω*, to write.]

The act or practice of writing psalms or sacred songs and hymns.

PSALTER, *n.* [L. *psalterium*; Gr. *ψαλτηριον*; It. Sp. *salterio*; Fr. *psautier*.]

1. The book of Psalms; often applied to a book containing the Psalms separately printed.

2. In *Romish countries*, a large chaplet or rosary, consisting of a hundred and fifty beads, according to the number of the psalms.

PSALTERY, *n.* [Gr. *ψαλτηριον*.] An instrument of music used by the Hebrews, the form of which is not now known. That which is now used is a flat instrument in form of a trapezium or triangle truncated at the top, strung with thirteen chords of wire, mounted on two bridges at the sides, and struck with a plectrum or crooked stick. *Encyc.*

Praise the Lord with harp; sing to him with the *psalter*, and an instrument of ten strings. Ps. xxxiii.

PSAMMITE, *n.* [Gr. *ψαμμος*, sand.] A species of micaceous sandstone. *Brongniart.*

PSEUDO, Gr. *ψευδος*, false, a prefix signifying false, counterfeit or spurious.

PSEUDO-APOSTLE, *n.* A false apostle; one who falsely pretends to be an apostle.

PSEUDO-CHINA, *n.* The false China root, a plant of the genus *Smilax*, found in America. *Encyc.*

PSEUDO-GALENA, *n.* False galena or black jack.

PSEUDOGRAPH, } *n.* [Gr. *ψευδος*, false,
PSEUDOGRAPHY, } and *γραφη*, writing.]

False writing. *Holder.*

PSEUDOLÖGY, *n.* [Gr. *ψευδολογια*; *ψευδος*, false, and *λογος*, discourse.]

Falsehood of speech. *Arbutnot.*

PSEUDO-METALLIC, *a.* *Pseudo-metallic* luster is that which is perceptible only when held towards the light; as in minerals. *Phillips.*

PSEUDOMORPHOUS, *a.* [*pseudo* and Gr. *μορφη*, form.]

Not having the true form. A *pseudomorphous* mineral is one which has received its form from some extraneous cause, not from natural crystallization.

PSEUDO-TINEA, *n.* In *natural history*, the name of a remarkable species of insect or larva, resembling a moth. It feeds on wax, and is a terrible enemy to bees, as it enters the hive and sometimes compels the bees to abandon it, being covered with a coat that is impervious to their stings. *Encyc.*

PSEUDO-VOLCANIC, *a.* Pertaining to or produced by a pseudo-volcano. *Cleveland.*

PSEUDO-VOLCANO, *n.* A volcano that emits smoke and sometimes flame, but no lava; also, a burning mine of coal. *Kirwan.*

PSIAW, *exclam.* An expression of contempt, disdain or dislike.

PSOAS, *n.* [Gr.] The name of two inside muscles of the loins.

PSORA, *n.* [Gr.] The itch.

PSYCHOLOGIC, } *a.* Pertaining to a
PSYCHOLOGICAL, } treatise on the soul, or to the study of the soul of man. *Literary Mag.*

PSYCHOLOGY, *n.* [Gr. *ψυχη*, soul, and *λογος*, discourse.]

A discourse or treatise on the human soul;