

body, we call it *flame*. A piece of charcoal in combustion, is of a red color and very hot. In this state it is said to be on *fire*, or to contain *fire*. When combustion ceases, it loses its redness and extreme heat, and we say, the *fire* is extinct.

2. The burning of fuel on a hearth, or in any other place. We kindle a *fire* in the morning, and at night we rake up the *fire*. Anthracite will maintain *fire* during the night.

3. The burning of a house or town; a conflagration. Newburyport and Savannah have suffered immense losses by *fire*. The great *fire* in Boston in 1711 consumed a large part of the town.

4. Light; luster; splendor.

Stars, hide your *fires*!

5. Torture by burning.

6. The instrument of punishment; or the punishment of the impenitent in another state.

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring *fire*? Is. xxxiii.

7. That which inflames or irritates the passions.

What *fire* is in my ears?

8. Ardor of temper; violence of passion.

He had *fire* in his temper.

9. Liveliness of imagination; vigor of fancy; intellectual activity; animation; force of sentiment or expression.

And warm the critic with a poet's *fire*.

10. The passion of love; ardent affection.

The God of love retires;

Dim are his torches, and extinct his *fires*.

11. Ardor; heat; as the *fire* of zeal or of love.

12. Combustion; tumult; rage; contention.

13. Trouble; affliction.

When thou walkest through the *fire*, thou shalt not be burnt. Is. xlii.

To set on *fire*, to kindle; to inflame; to excite violent action.

St. Anthony's *fire*, a disease marked by an eruption on the skin, or a diffused inflammation, with fever; the Erysipelas.

Wild *fire*, an artificial or factitious fire, which burns even under water. It is made by a composition of sulphur, naphtha, pitch, gum and bitumen. It is called also Greek *fire*.

FIRE, *v. t.* To set on *fire*; to kindle; as, to *fire* a house or chimney; to *fire* a pile.

2. To inflame; to irritate the passions; as, to *fire* with anger or revenge.

3. To animate; to give life or spirit; as, to *fire* the genius.

4. To drive by *fire*. [Little used.]

5. To cause to explode; to discharge; as, to *fire* a musket or cannon.

6. To canterize; a term in *farriery*.

FIRE, *v. i.* To take *fire*; to be kindled.

2. To be irritated or inflamed with passion.

3. To discharge artillery or firearms. They *fire* on the town.

FIREARMS, *n. plu.* Arms or weapons which expel their charge by the combustion of powder, as pistols, muskets, &c.

FIRE-ARROW, *n.* A small iron dart, furnished with a match impregnated with powder and sulphur, used to fire the sails of ships.

Encyc.

FIREBALL, *n.* A grenade; a ball filled with powder or other combustibles, intended to be thrown among enemies, and to injure by explosion.

2. A meteor which passes rapidly through the air and disintegrates.

FIREBARE, *n.* In old writers, a beacon.

FIREBARREL, *n.* A hollow cylinder used in fireships, to convey the fire to the shrouds.

FIREBAVIN, *n.* A bundle of brush-wood, used in fireships.

FIREBLAST, *n.* A disease in hops, chiefly towards the later periods of their growth.

FIREBOTE, *n.* An allowance of fuel, to which a tenant is entitled.

FIREBRAND, *n.* A piece of wood kindled on or fire.

2. An incendiary; one who inflames factions, or causes contention and mischief.

FIREBRICK, *n.* A brick that will sustain intense heat without fusion.

FIREBRUSH, *n.* A brush used to sweep the hearth.

FIREBUCKET, *n.* A bucket to convey water to engines for extinguishing fire.

FIRECLAY, *n.* A kind of clay that will sustain intense heat, used in making fire-bricks.

FIRECOCK, *n.* A cock or spout to let out water for extinguishing fire.

FIRECOMPANY, *n.* A company of men for managing an engine to extinguish fires.

FIRECROSS, *n.* Something used in Scotland as a signal to take arms; the ends being burnt black, and in some parts smeared with blood.

FIREED, *pp.* Set on *fire*; inflamed; kindled; animated; irritated.

FIREENGINE, [See Damp.]

FIREBRAKE, *n.* A fiery serpent.

2. An ignis fatuus.

FIREENGINE, *n.* An engine for throwing water to extinguish fire and save buildings.

FIRE-ESCAPE, *n.* A machine for escaping from windows, when houses are on *fire*.

FIREFLAIR, *n.* A species of ray-fish or Raja.

FIREFLY, *n.* A species of fly which has on its belly a spot which shines; and another species which emits light from under its wings, as it flies.

FIREHOOK, *n.* A large hook for pulling down buildings in conflagrations.

FIRELOCK, *n.* A musket, or other gun, with a lock, which is discharged by striking fire with flint and steel.

FIREMAN, *n.* A man whose business is to extinguish fires in towns.

2. A man of violent passions. [Not used.]

FIREMASTER, *n.* An officer of artillery who superintends the composition of fireworks.

FIRENEW, *a.* Fresh from the forge; bright.

FIREOFFICE, *n.* An office for making insurance against fire.

FIREORDEAL, *n.* [See Ordeal.]

FIREPAN, *n.* A pan for holding or conveying fire. Ex. xxvii.

FIREPLACE, *n.* The part of a chimney appropriated to the fire; a hearth.

FIREPLUG, *n.* A plug for drawing water from a pipe to extinguish fire.

FIREPOT, *n.* A small earthen pot filled with combustibles, used in military operations.

FIRER, *n.* One who sets fire to any thing; an incendiary.

FIRESHIP, *n.* A vessel filled with combustibles and furnished with grappling irons to hook and set fire to an enemy's ships.

FIRESHOVEL, *n.* A shovel or instrument for taking up or removing coals of fire.

FIRESIDE, *n.* A place near the fire or hearth; home; domestic life or retirement.

FIRESTICK, *n.* A lighted stick or brand.

FIRESTONE, *n.* A fossil, the pyrite. [See Pyrite.]

2. A kind of freestone which bears a high degree of heat.

FIREWARD, } *n.* An officer who has authority to direct others in the extinguishing of fires.

FIREWOOD, *n.* Wood for fuel.

FIREWORK, *n.* Usually in the plural, fireworks.

Preparations of gun-powder, sulphur and other inflammable materials, used for making explosions in the air, on occasions of public rejoicing; pyrotechnical exhibitions. This word is applied also to various combustible preparations used in war.

FIREWORKER, *n.* An officer of artillery subordinate to the firemaster.

FIRING, *pp.* Setting fire to; kindling; animating; exciting; inflaming; discharging firearms.

FIRING, *n.* The act of discharging firearms.

2. Fuel; firewood or coal.

FIRING-IRON, *n.* An instrument used in farriery to discuss swellings and knots.

FIRK, *v. t.* To beat; to whip; to chastise. [Not used.]

FIRKIN, *n. fur'kin.* [The first syllable is probably the Dan. *fire*, *D. vier*, four, and the latter, as in *kilderkin*.]

A measure of capacity, being the fourth part of a barrel. It is nine gallons of beer, or eight gallons of ale, soap or herrings. In America, the *firkin* is rarely used, except for butter or lard, and signifies a small vessel or cask of indeterminate size, or of different sizes, regulated by the statutes of the different states.

FIRLOT, *n.* A dry measure used in Scotland. The oat firloft contains 21½ pints of that country; the wheat firloft 224 cubic inches; the barley firloft 21 standard pints.

FIRM, *a. ferm.* [L. *firmus*; Fr. *ferme*; Sp. *firme*; It. *fermo*; W. *fyre*. This Welsh word may be from the Latin. The root of the word is probably Celtic: W. *fer*, hard, solid; *fyf*, a solid; *feru*, to concrete or congeal, to fix, to freeze. This is the root of L. *ferream*, iron.]

1. Properly, fixed; hence, applied to the matter of bodies, it signifies closely com-