

to the North, the continent is called North America, and to the South, it is called South America.

AMERICAN, *a.* Pertaining to America.

AMERICAN, *n.* A native of America; originally applied to the aboriginals, or copper-colored races, found here by the Europeans; but now applied to the descendants of Europeans born in America.

The name American must always excite the pride of patriotism. *Washington.*

AMERICANISM, *n.* The love which American citizens have to their own country, or the preference of its interests. *Analogically, an American idiom.*

AMERICANIZE, *v. t.* To render American; to naturalize in America.

AMERICAN, *n.* A species of lizard in South America, not more than two inches in length, and the third of an inch in diameter. Its legs are of the size of a hog's bristles. *Dict. of Nat. Hist.*

AMETHYST, *n.* A quack. [*Nat. used.*]

AMETHYST, *n.* [*L. amethystus*; Gr. *amethystos*, which the Greeks supposed to be formed from a neg. and *μῆναι*, to inebriate, from some supposed quality in the stone of resisting intoxication. *Plin. xxxv. 9*, mentions an opinion that it takes its name from its color approaching that of wine, but not reaching it.]

A sub-species of quartz, of a violet blue color, of different degrees of intensity. It generally occurs crystallized in hexahedral prisms or pyramids; also in rolled fragments, composed of imperfect prismatic crystals. Its fracture is conchoidal or splintery. It is wrought into various articles of jewelry. *Cleveland. Encyc.*

AMETHYST, *n.* In heraldry, signifies a purple color. It is the same, in a nobleman's escutcheon, as *purple*, in a gentleman's, and *mercury*, in that of a prince. *Encyc.*

AMETHYSTINE, *a.* Pertaining to or resembling amethyst; anciently applied to a garment of the color of amethyst, as distinguished from the Tyrian and hyacinthine purple.

AMIA, *n.* A genus of fish, of the abdominal order, found in the rivers of Carolina.

AMIALE, *a.* [*Fr. amiable*; *L. amabilis*; from *amo*, to love.]

1. Lovely; worthy of love; deserving of affection; applied usually to persons. But in *Ps. lxxxiv. 1*, there is an exception, "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord."
2. Pretending or showing love.

Lay amiable siege to the honesty of this Fool's wife. *Shak.*

But this use is not legitimate. *Shak.*

AMIALENESS, *n.* The quality of deserving love; loveliness.

AMIALELY, *adv.* In an amiable manner; in a manner to excite or attract love.

AMIANTH, *n.* [*Gr. amiantos*, of a neg. *amiantus*, *n.* and *μῆναι*, to pollute, or vitiate; so called from its incombustibility. *Plin. 36. 13.*]

Earth-flax, or mountain flax; a mineral substance somewhat resembling flax; usually grayish, or of a greenish white; sometimes of a yellowish or silvery white, olive or mountain green, of a pale flesh red or other color. It is composed of delicate filaments, very flexible and somewhat

elastic, often long and resembling threads of silk. It is incombustible, and has sometimes been wrought into cloth and paper. *Kirwan. Encyc. Cleveland.*

AMIANTHIFORM, *a.* [*Amiant* and *form*.] Having the form or likeness of amiant.

Amiant form arsenate of copper. *Phillips.*

AMIANTHINITE, *n.* A species of amorphous mineral, a variety of actinolite; its color ash, greenish or yellowish gray, often mixed with yellow or red; its fracture confusedly foliated and fibrous.

Kirwan.

AMIANTHOID, *n.* [*Amiant* and *Gr. eidos*, form.]

A mineral which occurs in tufts, composed of long capillary filaments, flexible and very elastic; more flexible than the fibers of asbestos, but stiffer and more elastic than those of amiant. The color is olive green, or greenish white. *Huys. Cleveland.*

AMIANTHOID, *a.* Resembling amiant in form.

AMICABLE, *a.* [*L. amicus*, from *amici*, a friend, from *amo*, to love.]

1. Friendly; peaceable; harmonious in social or mutual transactions; usually applied to the dispositions of men who have business with each other, or to their intercourse and transactions; as, nations or men have come to an amicable adjustment of their differences.
2. Disposed to peace and friendship; as, an amicable temper. [*But rarely applied to a single person.*]

AMICABLENESS, *n.* The quality of being peaceable, friendly, or disposed to peace; friendliness; a disposition to preserve peace and friendship.

AMICABLY, *adv.* In a friendly manner; with harmony or good will; without controversy; as, the dispute was amicably adjusted.

AMICE, *n.* [*L. amictus* from *amictor*, to clothe; *Fr. amict*; *Sp. amito*; *Port. amicto*.]

A square linen cloth that a Catholic priest ties about his neck, hanging down behind under the alb, when he officiates at mass.

Sp. and Port. Dict.

AMID, *prep.* [*of a and Sax. midd*, the middle, *L. medius*.]

Amidst is the superlative degree *middest*, a contraction of *Sax. mid-nesta*, mid-most. See *Middle* and *Midst*.

1. In the midst or middle.
2. Among; mingled with; as, a shepherd amidst his flock.
3. Surrounded, encompassed, or enveloped with; as, amidst the shade; amidst the waves. *Amid* is used mostly in poetry.

AMID-SHIPS, in marine language, the middle of a ship, with regard to her length and breadth.

AMHLOT, *n.* A white fish in the Mexican lakes, more than a foot in length, and much esteemed at the table. *Clavigero.*

AMISS, *a.* [*a and miss*. See *Miss*.]

1. Wrong; faulty; out of order; improper; as, it may not be amiss to ask advice. [*This adjective always follows its noun.*]
2. *adv.* In a faulty manner; contrary to propriety, truth, law or morality.

Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss. *James, iv.*

Applied to the body, it signifies indisposed; as, I am somewhat amiss to day.

AMITY, *n.* [*Fr. amitie*; *It. amista*, *amistade*; *Sp. amistad*, from *amistar*, to reconcile; *Port. amizade*; *Norm. amiste*, friendship, *amet*, friends, *ameis*, *ametz*, beloved. *Qu. L. amo*, amicitia.]

Friendship, in a general sense, between individuals, societies or nations; harmony; good understanding; as, our nation is in amity with all the world; a treaty of amity and commerce.

AM MA, *n.* [*Heb. am mother*.]

1. An abbess or spiritual mother.
2. A girdle or truss used in ruptures. [*Gr. αμμα*.] *Coxe.*

AM MAN, *n.* [*G. ammann*; *D. ampmann*; *Dan. ammand*; a compound of *ampt*, *Sax. ambalt* or *embelt*, office, duty, charge, and *man*. See *Embassador*.]

In some European nations, a judge who has cognizance of civil causes. In *France*, a notary or officer who draws deeds and other writings. *Encyc.*

AM MITE or **HAM MITE**, *n.* [*Gr. αμμος*, sand.]

A sand-stone or free-stone, of a pale brown color, very heavy, of a lax texture, composed of small round granules, cemented by an earthy sparry matter. The grit or granules are small stalagmites, composed of crusts or coats including one another. It is the red-stone or volite of recent authors. *Da Costa. Plin. 37. 10.*

AM MOCETE, *n.* An obsolete name of the *ammodite*. In *Cuvier*, the name of a genus of fish, including the lamprey, *Petromyzon branchialis*, *Linne*.

AM MOCHRYSE, *n.* *am'mokris*, [*Gr. αμμος*, sand, and *χρυσος*, gold.]

A yellow soft stone, found in Germany, consisting of glossy yellow particles. When rubbed or ground, it is used to strew over writing, like black sand with us. *Qu. yellow mica. Plin. 37. 11. Encyc.*

AM MODYTE, *n.* [*Gr. αμμος*, sand, and *δω*, to enter.]

The sand eel, a genus of fish, of the apodal order, about a foot in length, with a compressed head, a long slender body, and scales hardly perceptible. There is but one species, the *tobianus* or lance. It buries itself in the sand, and is found also in the stomach of the porpess, which indicates that the latter fish roots up the sand like a hog. *Encyc.*

This name is also given to a serpent of the size of a viper, and of a yellowish color, found in Africa; also to a large serpent of Ceylon, of a whitish ash color, and very venomous. *Dict. of Nat. Hist.*

AMMONIA, *n.* [*The real origin of this name is not ascertained.*]

Some authors suppose it to be from *Ammon*, a title of Jupiter, near whose temple in upper Egypt, it was generated. Others suppose it to be from *Ammonia*, a Cyrenaic territory; and others deduce it from *αμμος*, sand, as it was found in sandy ground. Anglicized, this forms an elegant word, *ammony*.]

Volatile alkali; a substance, which, in its purest form, exists in a state of gas. It is composed of hydrogen and nitrogen. Combined with the muriatic acid, it forms the muriate of ammonia, called also sal ammoniac and hydro-chlorate of ammo-