

6. That which afflicts the body or depresses the spirits; any severe affliction, distress, calamity or grievance; straits, difficulties, embarrassments, or the distress they occasion. We speak of the *pressure* of poverty or want, the *pressure* of debts, the *pressure* of taxes, the *pressure* of afflictions or sorrow.

My own and my people's *pressures* are grievous. *K. Charles.*

To this consideration he retreats with comfort in all his *pressures*. *Atterbury.*

We observe that *pressure* is used both for trouble or calamity, and for the distress it produces.

7. Urgency; as the *pressure* of business.

8. Impression; stamp; character impressed.

All laws of books, all forms, all *pressures* past. *Shak.*

PREST, sometimes used for *pressed*. [*See Press.*]

PREST, *a.* [Old Fr. *prest* or *preste*, now *prêt*, *prêt* or *preste*; Sp. It. *presto*, from L. *præsto*, to stand before or forward; *præ* and *sto*.]

1. Ready; prompt. *Obs.* *Fairfax.*

2. Neat; tight. *Obs.* *Tusser.*

PREST, *n.* [Fr. *prêt*, supra.] A loan. *Obs.* *Bacon.*

2. Formerly, a duty in money, to be paid by the sheriff on his account in the exchequer, or for money left or remaining in his hands. 2 and 3 Edw. 6.

PREST'-MONEY, *n.* Money paid to men impressed into the service. *Encyc.*

PRESTA'TION, *n.* [L. *præstatio*.] Formerly, a payment of money; sometimes used for purveyance. *Encyc.*

PRESTA'TION-MONEY, *n.* A sum of money paid yearly by archdeacons and other dignitaries to their bishop, *pro exteriore jurisdictione*. *Encyc.*

PRES'TER, *n.* [Gr. *πρεστυρ*, from *πρεστω*, to kindle or inflame.]

1. A meteor thrown from the clouds with such violence, that by collision it is set on fire. *Encyc.*

2. The external part of the neck, which swells when a person is angry. *Encyc.*

PRES'TIGES, *n.* [L. *præstigia*.] Juggling tricks; impostures. *Dict.*

PRESTIGIA'TION, *n.* [L. *præstigia*, tricks.]

The playing of legerdemain tricks; a juggling. *Dict.*

PRESTIGIA'TOR, *n.* A juggler; a cheat. *More.*

PRESTIG'IATORY, *a.* Juggling; consisting of impostures.

PRESTIG'IOUS, *a.* Practicing tricks; juggling. *Bale.*

PRES'TIMONY, *n.* [Port. Sp. *prestimonio*; L. *præsto*, to supply; *præ* and *sto*.] In canon law, a fund for the support of a priest, appropriated by the founder, but not erected into any title of benefice, and not subject to the pope or the ordinary, but of which the patron is the collator.

Port. Dict. Encyc.

But in a Spanish Dictionary thus defined, "a prebend for the maintenance of poor clergymen, on condition of their saying prayers at certain stated times."

PRES'TO, *adv.* [Sp. It. *presto*, quick or quickly; L. *præsto*.]

1. In music, a direction for a quick lively movement or performance.

2. Quickly; immediately; in haste. *Swift.*

PRESTRIC'TION, *n.* [L. *præstringo*, *præstrictus*.] Diminution. *Milton.*

PRESUMABLE, *a. s* as *z.* [from *presume*.] That may be presumed; that may be supposed to be true or entitled to belief, without examination or direct evidence, or on probable evidence.

PRESUMABLY, *adv.* By presuming or supposing something to be true, without direct proof. *Brown.*

PRESUME, *v. t. s* as *z.* [Fr. *presumer*; It. *presumere*; Sp. *presumir*; from L. *præsumo*; *præ*, before, and *sumo*, to take.]

To take or suppose to be true or entitled to belief, without examination or positive proof, or on the strength of probability. We presume that a man is honest, who has not been known to cheat or deceive; but in this we are sometimes mistaken. In many cases, the law presumes full payment where positive evidence of it cannot be produced.

We not only *presume* it may be so, but we actually find it so. *Gov. of the Tongue.*

In cases of implied contracts, the law presumes that a man has covenanted or contracted to do what reason and justice dictate. *Blackstone.*

PRESUME, *v. i.* To venture without positive permission; as, we may *presume* too far. *Bacon.*

2. To form confident or arrogant opinions; with *on* or *upon*, before the cause of confidence.

This man *presumes upon* his parts. *Locke.*
I will not *presume so far upon* myself. *Dryden.*

3. To make confident or arrogant attempts. In that we *presume* to see what is meet and convenient, better than God himself. *Hooker.*

4. It has *on* or *upon* sometimes before the thing supposed.

Luther *presumes upon* the gift of continency. *Atterbury.*

It is sometimes followed by *of*, but improperly.

PRESUMED, *pp.* Supposed or taken to be true, or entitled to belief, without positive proof.

PRESUMER, *n.* One that presumes; also, an arrogant person. *Wolton.*

PRESUMING, *ppr.* Taking as true, or supposing to be entitled to belief, on probable evidence.

2. *a.* Venturing without positive permission; too confident; arrogant; unreasonably bold.

PRESUMPTION, *n.* [Fr. *presomption*; L. *presumptio*.]

1. Supposition of the truth or real existence of something without direct or positive proof of the fact, but grounded on circumstantial or probable evidence which entitles it to belief. Presumption in law is of three sorts, *violent* or *strong*, *probable*, and *light*.

Next to positive proof, circumstantial evidence or the doctrine of *presumptions* must take place; for when the fact cannot be demonstratively evinced, that which comes nearest to the proof of the fact is the proof of such circumstances as either necessarily or usually attend such facts. These are called *presump-*

tions. *Violent* presumption is many times equal to full proof. *Blackstone.*

2. Strong probability; as in the common phrase, the *presumption* is that an event has taken place, or will take place.

3. Blind or headstrong confidence; unreasonable adventurousness; a venturing to undertake something without reasonable prospect of success, or against the usual probabilities of safety; presumptuousness.

Let my *presumption* not provoke thy wrath. *Shak.*

I had the *presumption* to dedicate to you a very unfinished piece. *Dryden.*

4. Arrogance. He had the *presumption* to attempt to dictate to the council.

5. Unreasonable confidence in divine favor. The awe of his majesty will keep us from *presumption*. *Rogers.*

PRESUMPTIVE, *a.* Taken by previous supposition; grounded on probable evidence.

2. Unreasonably confident; adventuring without reasonable ground to expect success; presumptuous; arrogant. *Brown.*

Presumptive evidence, in law, is that which is derived from circumstances which necessarily or usually attend a fact, as distinct from direct evidence or positive proof.

Presumptive evidence of felony should be cautiously admitted. *Blackstone.*

Presumptive heir, one who would inherit an estate if the ancestor should die with things in their present state, but whose right of inheritance may be defeated by the birth of a nearer heir before the death of the ancestor. Thus the *presumptive* succession of a brother or nephew may be destroyed by the birth of a child. *Presumptive heir* is distinguished from *heir apparent*, whose right of inheritance is indefeasible, provided he outlives the ancestor. *Blackstone.*

PRESUMPTIVELY, *adv.* By presumption, or supposition grounded on probability.

PRESUMPTUOUS, *a.* [Fr. *presomptueux*; It. Sp. *presuntuoso*.]

1. Bold and confident to excess; adventuring without reasonable ground of success; hazarding safety on too slight grounds; rash; applied to persons; as a *presumptuous* commander.

There is a class of *presumptuous* men whom age has not made cautious, nor adversity wise. *Buckminster.*

2. Founded on presumption; proceeding from excess of confidence; applied to things; as *presumptuous* hope. *Milton.*

3. Arrogant; insolent; as a *presumptuous* priest. *Shak.*

Presumptuous pride. *Dryden.*

4. Unduly confident; irreverent with respect to sacred things.

5. Willful; done with bold design, rash confidence or in violation of known duty; as a *presumptuous* sin.

PRESUMPTUOUSLY, *adv.* With rash confidence.

2. Arrogantly; insolently.

3. Willfully; in bold defiance of conscience or violation of known duty; as, to sin *presumptuously*. *Num. xv.*

4. With groundless and vain confidence in the divine favor. *Hammond.*