

adorn vacant places, as in friezes, pannels of doors, keys of arches, &c. *Encyc.*

M'ASK, *v. t.* To cover the face for concealment or defense against injury; to conceal with a mask or visor. *Addison.*

2. To disguise; to cover; to hide. *Masking the business from the common eye. Shak.*

M'ASK, *v. i.* To revel; to play the fool in masquerade.

2. To be disguised in any way. *Shak.*

M'ASKED, *pp.* Having the face covered; concealed; disguised.

2. *a.* In botany, personate.

M'ASKER, *n.* One that wears a mask; one that plays the fool at a masquerade.

M'ASKERY, *n.* The dress or disguise of a masker. *Marston.*

M'ASK-HOUSE, *n.* A place for masquerades. *Bp. Hall.*

M'ASKING, *ppr.* Covering with a mask; concealing.

MASLIN. [See *Mastlin*.]

M'AS'ON, *n. m'a'sn.* [Fr. *maçon*; Arm. *maçonn*; D. *metelaar*. In Sp. *mazoneria* is masonry, as if from *mazo*, a mallet, *maza*, a club, a mace. It is probably from the root of *mir* or *mash*, or more probably of *mass*, and denotes one that works in mortar. See *Mass*.]

1. A man whose occupation is to lay bricks and stones, or to construct the walls of buildings, chimneys and the like, which consist of bricks or stones.

2. A member of the fraternity of free masons.

MASON'IC, *a.* Pertaining to the craft or mysteries of free masons.

MASONRY, *n.* [Fr. *maçonnerie*; Sp. *mazoneria*.]

1. The art or occupation of a mason.

2. The work or performance of a mason; as when we say, the wall is good *masonry*.

3. The craft of free masons.

MAS'ORA, *n.* [Heb.] A Hebrew work on the bible, by several Rabbins.

MASORET'IC, *a.* [Heb. מסורה, to deliver, whence *masora*, tradition, whence the *Masorites*, the adherents to the traditional readings of the Scriptures.]

Relating to the Masorites, who interpreted the Scriptures by tradition, and invented the Hebrew points to fix the true reading and pronunciation. Whence the vowel-points are denominated *masoretic*.

MAS'ORITE, *n.* One of the writers of the Masora.

MASQUERA'DE, *n.* [It. *mascherata*. See *Mask*.]

1. A nocturnal assembly of persons wearing masks, and amusing themselves with dancing, conversation and other diversions.

In courtly balls and midnight *masquerades*. *Pope.*

2. Disguise.

I came to visit thee in *masquerade*. *Dryden.*

3. A Spanish diversion on horseback. *Clarendon.*

MASQUERA'DE, *v. i.* To go in disguise.

2. To be disguised in masks. *Swift.*

MASQUERA'DE, *v. t.* To put in disguise. *Killingbeck.*

MASQUERA'DER, *n.* A person wearing a mask; one disguised. *L'Estrange.*

MASQUERA'DING, *ppr.* Assembling in masks for diversion.

M'ASS, *n.* [Fr. *masse*, a mass, a heap, a mace, or club; Port. *maça*, dough, and a mace; Sp. *masa*, dough, mortar, a mass, and *maza*, a club, a mace; *mazo*, a mallet; It. *massa*, a heap, and *mazza*, a mace; G. *masse*; L. *massa*, a mass. These words seem to belong to the root of the Greek *μασσω*, to beat or pound, the root of which is *μαγ*; hence the connection between *mass*, and *mace*, a club. If any of these words are of a different origin, they may belong to the root of *miz*.]

1. A lump; a body of matter conereted, collected or formed into a lump; applied to any solid body; as a *mass* of iron or lead; a *mass* of flesh; a *mass* of ice; a *mass* of dough.

2. A collective body of fluid matter. The ocean is a *mass* of water.

3. A heap; as a *mass* of earth.

4. A great quantity collected; as a *mass* of treasure.

5. Bulk; magnitude.

This army of such *mass* and charge. *Shak.*

6. An assemblage; a collection of particulars blended, confused or indistinct; as a *mass* of colors. *Addison.*

They lose their forms, and make a *mass* Confused and black, if brought too near. *Prior.*

7. Gross body of things considered collectively; the body; the bulk; as the *mass* of people in a nation. A small portion of morbid matter may infect the whole *mass* of fluids in the body.

Comets have power over the *mass* of things. *Bocon.*

M'ASS, *n.* [Sax. *masa*, *mæsse*; Fr. *messe*; It. *messia*; Sp. *misa*; D. *misse*; G. *Dan. messe*; Sw. *mess*; Low L. *missa*. The word signifies primarily leisure, cessation from labor, from the L. *missus*, *remissus*, like the L. *feria*; hence a feast or holiday. Laws of Alfred, 39. "Be mæsse dæge freolsc." *De festivitate diei festi*. See also Laws of Cnut, Lib. 1. 14. and 2. 42. Hence Sax. *hlafmasse*, lemmas, bread-feast, and *Martin-mas*, *Michael-mas*, *candlemas*, *christmas*.]

The service of the Romish church; the office or prayers used at the celebration of the eucharist; the consecration of the bread and wine. *Lye. Encyc. Wilkins.*

M'ASS, *v. i.* To celebrate mass. [Not used.] *Hooker.*

M'ASS, *v. t.* To fill; to stuff; to strengthen. [Not used.] *Hayward.*

MAS'SACER, } *n.* [Fr. *massacre*; Arm. **MAS'SACRE**, } *n.* *maçzaer*; It. *mazzicare*, to beat, from *mazza*, a club, a mace. So *smite* in English signifies to kill, as well as to beat.]

1. The murder of an individual, or the slaughter of numbers of human beings, with circumstances of cruelty; the indiscriminate killing of human beings without authority or necessity, and without forms civil or military. It differs from *assassination*, which is a private killing. It differs from *carnage*, which is rather the effect of slaughter than slaughter itself, and is applied to the authorized destruction of men in battle. *Massacre* is sometimes called *butchery*, from its resemblance to the killing of cattle. If a soldier kills a man in battle in his own defense, it is a lawful

act; it is killing, and it is slaughter, but it is not a *massacre*. Whereas, if a soldier kills an enemy after he has surrendered, it is *massacre*, a killing without necessity, often without authority, contrary to the usages of nations, and of course with cruelty. The practice of killing prisoners, even when authorized by the commander, is properly *massacre*; as the authority given proceeds from cruelty. We have all heard of the *massacre* of the protestants in France, in the reign of Charles IX. and frequent instances of barbarous *massacre* occur in the war between the Turks and Greeks.

2. Murder. *Shak.*

MAS'SACER, } *v. t.* To murder human beings with circumstances of cruelty; to kill men with indiscriminate violence, without authority or necessity, and contrary to the usages of nations; to butcher human beings.

MAS'SACRE, } *n.* One who massacres. [A very bad word.] *Burke.*

M'ASSER, *n.* A priest who celebrates mass.

MAS'SETER, *n.* [Gr. from *μασσω*, to chew.] A muscle which raises the under jaw.

MAS'SICOT, } *n.* [Fr. *massicot*.] Calcined **MAS'TICOT**, } *n.* white lead; yellow oxyd of lead. Lead exposed to the air while melting, is covered with a gray, dusky pellicle. This pellicle carefully taken off, is reduced by agitation to a greenish gray powder, inclining to yellow. This oxyd, separated from the grains of lead by sifting, and exposed to a more intense heat, sufficient to make it red hot, assumes a deep yellow color. In this state it is called *massicot*. *Massicot*, slowly heated by a moderate fire, takes a beautiful red color, and obtains the name of *minium*. *Fourcroy.*

Massicot is sometimes used by painters, and it is used as a drier in the composition of ointments and plasters. *Encyc.*

MAS'SINESS, } *n.* [See *Massy*, **MAS'SIVENESS**, } *n.* *ive*.] The state of being *massy*; great weight or weight with bulk; ponderousness.

M'ASSIVE, } *a.* [Fr. *massif*, from *mass*.] **M'ASSY**, } *a.* Heavy; weighty; ponderous; bulky and heavy; as a *massy* shield; a *massy* rock.

The yawning rocks in *massy* fragments fly. *Pope.*

M'ASSIVE, *a.* In mineralogy, in mass; having a crystalline structure, but not a regular form. We say, a mineral occurs *massive*.

M'AST, *n.* [Sax. *mæst*; D. G. Sw. *Dan. mast*; Fr. *mât*, for *mast*; Port. *masto* or *mastro*; Sp. *mástiles*, masts; *masteleros*, top-masts; *masto*, a trunk, a stock in which any cion is ingrafted.]

A long, round piece of timber, elevated or designed to be raised perpendicularly or nearly so, on the keel of a ship or other vessel, to which the yards, sails and rigging are attached, and by which they are supported. A mast is a single stick, formed from the trunk of a tree, or it consists of many pieces of timber united by iron bands. Masts are of several kinds, as the main-mast, fore-mast, mizzen-mast, top-mast, top-gallant-mast, &c.