

- ing over against; as the *opposition* of two mountains or buildings.
2. The act of opposing; attempt to check, restrain or defeat. He makes *opposition* to the measure; the bill passed without *opposition*. Will any *opposition* be made to the snit, to the claim or demand?
3. Obstacle. The river meets with no *opposition* in its course to the ocean.
4. Resistance; as the *opposition* of enemies. Virtue will break through all *opposition*.
5. Contrariety; repugnance in principle; as the *opposition* of the heart to the laws of God.
6. Contrariety of interests, measures or designs. The two parties are in *opposition* to each other.
7. Contrariety or diversity of meaning; as one term used in *opposition* to another.
8. Contradiction; inconsistency. *Locke*.
9. The collective body of opposers; in England, the party in Parliament which opposes the ministry; in America, the party that opposes the existing administration.
10. In *astronomy*, the situation of two heavenly bodies, when distant from each other 180 degrees.
- OPPOSITIONIST, *n.* One that belongs to the party opposing the administration.
- OPPOSITIVE, *a.* That may be put in opposition. *Hall*.
- OPPRESS, *v. t.* [Fr. *oppresser*; L. *oppressus*, from *opprimo*; *ob* and *premo*, to press.]
1. To load or burden with unreasonable impositions; to treat with unjust severity, rigor or hardship; as, to *oppress* a nation with taxes or contributions; to *oppress* one by compelling him to perform unreasonable service.
2. To overpower; to overburden; as, to be *oppressed* with grief.
3. To sit or lie heavy on; as, excess of food *oppresses* the stomach.
- OPPRESSED, *pp.* Burdened with unreasonable impositions; overpowered; overburdened; depressed.
- OPPRESSING, *ppr.* Overburdening.
- OPPRESSION, *n.* The act of oppressing; the imposition of unreasonable burdens, either in taxes or services; cruelty; severity.
2. The state of being oppressed or overburdened; misery. *Shak.*
The Lord—saw the *oppression* of Israel. 2 Kings xiii.
3. Hardship; calamity. *Addison*.
4. Depression; dullness of spirits; lassitude of body. *Arbutnot*.
5. A sense of heaviness or weight in the breast, &c.
- OPPRESSIVE, *a.* Unreasonably burdensome; unjustly severe; as *oppressive* taxes; *oppressive* exactions of service.
2. Tyrannical; as an *oppressive* government.
3. Heavy; overpowering; overwhelming; as *oppressive* grief or wo.
- OPPRESSIVELY, *adv.* In a manner to oppress; with unreasonable severity. *Burke*.
- OPPRESSIVENESS, *n.* The quality of being oppressive.
- OPPRESSOR, *n.* One that oppresses; one that imposes unjust burdens on others;

one that harasses others with unjust laws or unreasonable severity.

Power when employed to relieve the oppressed and to punish the oppressor, becomes a great blessing. *Swift*.

OPPROBRIOUS, *a.* [See *Opprobrium*.]

1. Reproachful and contemptuous; scurrilous; as *opprobrious* language; *opprobrious* words or terms.

2. Blasted with infamy; despised; rendered hateful; as an *opprobrious* name. *Milton. Daniel.*

OPPROBRIOUSLY, *adv.* With reproach mingled with contempt; scurrilously. *Shak.*

OPPROBRIOUSNESS, *n.* Reproachfulness mingled with contempt; scurrility.

OPPROBRIUM, *n.* [L. *ob* and *probrum*, disgrace.]

Reproach mingled with contempt or disdain.

OPPUGN, *v. t.* *oppu'ne*. [L. *oppugno*; *ob* and *pugno*, to fight, from *pugnis*, the fist, Sp. *puno*, Fr. *poing*.]

To attack; to oppose; to resist.

They said the manner of their impeachment they could not but conceive did *oppugn* the rights of parliament. *Clarendon*.

[It is never used in the literal sense, to fight.]

OPPUGNANCY, *n.* Opposition; resistance. *Shak.*

OPPUGNATION, *n.* Opposition; resistance. *Hall*.

OPPUGNED, *pp.* *oppu'ned*. Opposed; resisted.

OPPUGNER, *n.* *oppu'ner*. One who opposes or attacks; that which opposes. *Boyle*.

OPPUGNING, *ppr.* *oppu'ning*. Attacking; opposing.

OPSIMATHY, *n.* [Gr. *ὀψιμαθία*; *ὀψ*, late, and *μαθῆναι*, to learn.] Late education; education late in life. [Little used.] *Hales*.

OPSONATION, *n.* [L. *obsono*, to cater.] A catering; a buying of provisions. [Not used.] *Diet*.

OPTABLE, *a.* [L. *optabilis*, from *opto*, to desire.] Desirable. [Not used.]

OPTATION, *n.* [L. *optatio*.] A desiring; the expression of a wish. *Peacham*.

OPTATIVE, *a.* [L. *optativus*, from *opto*, to desire or wish.]

Expressing desire or wish. The *optative* mode, in grammar, is that form of the verb in which wish or desire is expressed.

OPTATIVE, *n.* Something to be desired. [Little used.] *Bacon*.

OPTIC, } *a.* [Gr. *ὀπτικός*, from *ὀπταί*, to see; *ὀφ*, the eye.] Re-

lating or pertaining to vision or sight.

2. Relating to the science of optics.

Optic angle, is that which the optic axes of the eyes make with one another, as they tend to meet at some distance before the eyes.

Optic axis, is the axis of the eye, or a line going through the middle of the pupil and the center of the eye. *Encyc.*

OPTIC, *n.* An organ of sight. *Trumbull*.

OPTICIAN, *n.* A person skilled in the science of optics. *Smith*.

2. One who makes or sells optic glasses and instruments. *Adams*.

OPTICS, *n.* The science which treats of light and the phenomena of vision. *Encyc.*

OPTIMACY, *n.* [L. *optimates*, grandees, from *optimus*, best.] The body of nobles; the nobility. *Howell*.

OPTIMISM, *n.* [L. *optimus*, best.] The opinion or doctrine that every thing in nature is ordered for the best; or the order of things in the universe that is adapted to produce the most good.

The true and amiable philosophy of *optimism*. *Walsh*.

A system of strict *optimism* may be the real system in both cases. *Paley*.

OPTIMITY, *n.* The state of being best.

OPTION, *n.* [L. *optio*, from *opto*, to wish or desire.]

1. The power of choosing; the right of choice or election; as the archbishop's *option* in collating to a vacant benefice.

There is an *option* left to the U. States of America, whether they will be respectable and prosperous, or contemptible and miserable, as a nation. *Washington*.

2. The power of wishing; wish.

3. Choice; election; preference. He ought not to complain of his lot; it was his own *option*. We leave this to your own *option*.

OPTIONAL, *a.* Left to one's wish or choice; depending on choice or preference. It is *optional* with you to go or stay.

2. Leaving something to choice.

Original writs are either *optional* or peremptory. *Blackstone*.

OPULENCE, *n.* [L. *opulentia*, from *opes*, wealth.] Wealth; riches; affluence. [Opulency is little used.] *Swift*.

OPULENT, *a.* [L. *opulentus*.] Wealthy; rich; affluent; having a large estate or property. *Bacon. South*.

OPULENTLY, *adv.* Richly; with abundance or splendor.

OPUSCULE, *n.* [L. *opusculum*.] A small work. *Jones*.

OR, a termination of Latin nouns, is a contraction of *vir*, a man, or from the same radix. The same word *vir*, is in our mother tongue, *wer*, and from this we have the English termination *er*.

It denotes an agent, as in *actor*, *creditor*.

We annex it to many words of English origin, as in *lessor*, as we do *er* to words of Latin and Greek origin, as in *astronomer*, *laborer*. In general, *or* is annexed to words of Latin, and *er* to those of English origin.

OR, *conj.* [Sax. *other*; G. *oder*. It seems that *or* is a mere contraction of *other*.]

A connective that marks an alternative. "You may read or may write;" that is,

you may do one of the things at your pleasure, but not both. It corresponds to *either*. You may *either* ride to London, or to Windsor. It often connects a series of words or propositions, presenting a choice of either. He may study law or medicine or divinity, or he may enter into trade.

Or sometimes begins a sentence, but in this case it expresses an alternative with the foregoing sentence. Matt. vii. and ix.

In poetry, *or* is sometimes used for *either*.

For thy vast bounties are so numberless, That them *or* to conceal or else to tell Is equally impossible. *Cowley*.