

ed his hand, his faith, his vows, his honor, his truth or troth. *Pledge* is applied to property as well as to word, faith, truth, honor, &c. To *plight* faith is, as it were, to deposit it in *pledge* for the performance of an act, on the non-performance of which, the pledge is forfeited.

2. To weave; to braid. *Spenser. Milton.* [This is the primary sense of the word, *L. plico*, but now obsolete.]

PLIGHT, *n. plite*. Literally, a state of being involved, [*L. plicatus, implicatus, implicitus*]; hence, perplexity, distress, or a distressed state or condition; as a miserable *plight*. But the word by itself does not ordinarily imply distress. Hence,

2. Condition; state; and sometimes good case; as, to keep cattle in *plight*.

In most cases, this word is now accompanied with an adjective which determines its signification; as *bad plight*; *miserable or wretched plight*; *good plight*.

3. Pledge; gage.

The Lord, whose hand must take my *plight*. *Shak.*

4. A fold [*L. plica*]; a double; a plait.

All in a silken Camus, fily white,
Purled upon with many a folded *plight*. *Obs. Spenser.*

5. A garment. [*Not used.*] *Chapman.*

PLIGHTED, *pp. plit'ed*. Pledged.

PLIGHTER, *n. plit'er*. One that pledges; that which plights.

PLIGHTING, *ppr. plit'ing*. Pledging.

PLIM, *v. i.* To swell. [*Not in use.*] *Grose.*

PLINTH, *n.* [*Gr. πλωθος*, a brick or tile; *L. plinthus*.]

In *architecture*, a flat square member in form of a brick, which serves as the foundation of a column; being the flat square table under the molding of the base and pedestal, at the bottom of the order. Vitruvius gives the name to the abacus or upper part of the Tuscan order, from its resemblance to the plinth.

Plinth of a statue, is a base, flat, round or square. *Encyc.*

Plinth of a wall, two or three rows of bricks advanced from the wall in form of a plat-band; and in general, any flat high molding that serves in a front wall to mark the floors, to sustain the eaves of a wall or the larmier of a chimney. *Encyc.*

PLOD, *v. i.* [*D. plots*, dull, heavy. *Qu.*] To travel or work slowly or with steady laborious diligence.

A *plodding* diligence brings us sooner to our journey's end, than a fluttering way of advancing by starts. *L'Estrange.*

Some stupid, *plodding*, money-loving wight. *Young.*

2. To study heavily with steady diligence.

Shak. Swift.

3. To toil; to drudge.

PLODDER, *n.* A dull, heavy, laborious person. *Shak.*

PLODDING, *ppr.* Traveling or laboring with slow movement and steady diligence; studying closely but heavily.

2. *a.* Industrious; diligent, but slow in contrivance or execution.

PLODDING, *n.* Slow movement or study with steadiness or persevering industry. *Prideaux.*

PLOT, *n.* [a different orthography of *plat*.]

1. A plat or small extent of ground; as a garden *plot*. *Locke.*

It was a chosen *plot* of fertile land. *Spenser.*

When we mean to build,

We first survey the *plot*. *Shak.*

2. A plantation laid out. *Sidney.*

3. A plan or scheme. [*Qu. the next word.*] *Spenser.*

4. In *surveying*, a plan or draught of a field, farm or manor surveyed and delineated on paper.

PLOT, *v. t.* To make a plan of; to delineate. *Carew.*

PLOT, *n.* [The French retain this word in the compounds *complot*, *comploter*; *Arm. complod*, *complodi*. It may be from the root of *plait*, to weave, *Russ. platu*, whence *opletayu*, to plait, to twist, to deceive; *oplot*, a hedge. See *Plait*.]

1. Any scheme, stratagem or plan of a complicated nature, or consisting of many parts, adapted to the accomplishment of some purpose, usually a mischievous one. A *plot* may be formed by a single person or by numbers. In the latter case, it is a conspiracy or an intrigue. The latter word more generally denotes a scheme directed against individuals; the former against the government. But this distinction is not always observed.

O think what anxious moments pass between
The birth of *plots*, and their last fatal periods! *Addison.*

2. In *dramatic writings*, the knot or intrigue; the story of a play, comprising a complication of incidents which are at last unfolded by unexpected means.

If the *plot* or intrigue must be natural, and such as springs from the subject, the winding up of the *plot* must be a probable consequence of all that went before. *Pope.*

3. Contrivance; deep reach of thought; ability to plot.

A man of much *plot*. *Denham.*

PLOT, *v. i.* To form a scheme of mischief against another, or against a government or those who administer it. A traitor *plots* against his king.

The wicked *plotteth* against the just. *Ps. xxxvii.*

2. To contrive a plan; to scheme.

The prince did *plot* to be secretly gone. *Wotton.*

PLOT, *v. t.* To plan; to devise; to contrive; as, to *plot* an unprofitable crime. *Dryden.*

PLOTTED, *pp.* Contrived; planned.

PLOTTER, *n.* One that plots or contrives; a contriver. *Shak.*

2. A conspirator. *Dryden.*

PLOTTING, *ppr.* Contriving; planning; forming an evil design.

PLOUGH. [See *Plow*.]

PLOVER, *n.* [*Fr. pluvier*, the water bird, from *L. pluvialis*, rainy; *pluo*, to rain.]

The common name of several species of birds that frequent the banks of rivers and the sea shore, belonging to the genus *Charadrius*. *Encyc.*

PLOW, *n.* [*Norm. Sax. ploeg*; *D. ploeg*; *G. pflug*; *Dan. ploug*, *plow*; *Ice. plog*; *Sw. id.*; *Russ. plug*; *Polish, plug*; *Scot. pleuch, pleugh*. It corresponds in elements with *plug*, and both perhaps from thrusting.]

1. In *agriculture*, an instrument for turning up, breaking and preparing the ground for receiving the seed. It is drawn by oxen or horses and saves the labor of digging; it is therefore the most useful instrument in agriculture.

The emperor lays hold of the *plow* and turns up several furrows. *Grosier, Trans.*

Where fern succeeds, ungrateful to the *plow*. *Dryden.*

2. Figuratively, tillage; culture of the earth; agriculture.

3. A joiner's instrument for grooving.

PLOW, *v. t.* To trench and turn up with a plow; as, to *plow* the ground for wheat; to *plow* it into ridges.

2. To furrow; to divide; to run through in sailing.

With speed we *plow* the watery wave. *Pope.*

3. To tear; to furrow. *Shak.*

4. In *Scripture*, to labor in any calling.

He that *ploweth* should *plow* in hope. 1 Cor. ix.

To *plow on the back*, to scourge; to mangle, or to persecute and torment. *Ps. cxxix.*

To *plow with one's heifer*, to deal with the wife to obtain something from the husband. *Judges xiv.*

To *plow iniquity or wickedness, and reap it*, to devise and practice it, and at last suffer the punishment of it. *Job xiv. Hos. x.*

To *plow in*, to cover by plowing; as, to *plow* in wheat.

To *plow up or out*, to turn out of the ground by plowing.

To *put one's hand to the plow and look back*, is to enter on the service of Christ and afterwards abandon it. *Luke ix.*

[The difference of orthography often made between the noun and verb is wholly unwarrantable, and contrary to settled analogy in our language. Such a difference is never made in changing into verbs, *plot*, *harrow*, *notice*, *question*, and most other words. See *Practice*.]

PLOW-ALMS, *n.* A penny formerly paid by every plow-land to the church. *Cowel.*

PLOW-BOTE, *n.* In *English law*, wood or timber allowed to a tenant for the repair of instruments of husbandry.

PLOWBOY, *n.* A boy that drives or guides a team in plowing; a rustic boy. *Watts.*

PLOWED, *pp.* Turned up with a plow; furrowed.

PLOWER, *n.* One that plows land; a cultivator. *Spenser.*

PLOWING, *ppr.* Turning up with a plow; furrowing.

PLOWING, *n.* The operation of turning up ground with a plow; as the first and second *plowing*; three *plowings*.

PLOW-LAND, *n.* Land that is plowed, or suitable for tillage.

PLOWMAN, *n.* One that plows or holds a plow.

At last the robber binds the *plowman* and carries him off with the oxen. *Spelman.*

2. A cultivator of grain; a husbandman. *Temple.*

3. A rustic; a countryman; a hardy laborer. *Shak. Arbuthnot.*

PLOW-MONDAY, *n.* The Monday after twelfth-day. *Tusser.*