

stance; as *stiff* wood; *stiff* paper; cloth *stiff* with starch; a limb *stiff* with frost.

They, rising on *stiff* pinions, tower
The mid aerial sky. *Milton.*

2. Not liquid or fluid; thick and tenacious; inspissated; not soft nor hard. Thus melted metals grow *stiff* as they cool; they are *stiff* before they are hard. The paste is too *stiff*, or not *stiff* enough.

3. Strong; violent; impetuous in motion; as in seamen's language, a *stiff* gale or breeze.

4. Hardy; stubborn; not easily subdued.
How *stiff* is my vile sense! *Shak.*

5. Obstinate; pertinacious; firm in perseverance or resistance.

It is a shame to stand *stiff* in a foolish argument. *Taylor.*

A war ensues; the Cretans own their cause,
Stiff to defend their hospitable laws. *Dryden.*

6. Harsh; formal; constrained; not natural and easy; as a *stiff* formal style.

7. Formal in manner; constrained; affected; starched; not easy or natural; as *stiff* behavior.

The French are open, familiar and talkative; the Italians *stiff*, ceremonious and reserved. *Addison.*

8. Strongly maintained, or asserted with good evidence.
This is *stiff* news. *Shak.*

9. In seamen's language, a *stiff* vessel is one that will bear sufficient sail without danger of oversetting.

STIFFEN, *v. t.* *stifn*. [Sax. *stifian*; Sw. *stifna*; D. *stipen*; G. *steifen*; Dan. *stivner*, to stiffen, to starch.]

1. To make stiff; to make less pliant or flexible; as, to *stiffen* cloth with starch.

He *stiffened* his neck and hardened his heart from turning to the Lord God of Israel. 2 Chron. xxxvi.

Stiffen the sinews; summon up the blood. *Shak.*

2. To make torpid; as *stiffening* grief. *Dryden.*

3. To inspissate; to make more thick or viscous; as, to *stiffen* paste.

STIFFEN, *v. i.* *stifn*. To become stiff; to become more rigid or less flexible.

—Like bristles rose my *stiffning* hair. *Dryden.*

2. To become more thick, or less soft; to be inspissated; to approach to hardness; as, melted substances *stiffen* as they cool.

The tender soil then *stiffning* by degrees— *Dryden.*

3. To become less susceptible of impression; to become less tender or yielding; to grow more obstinate.

Some souls, we see,
Grow hard and *stiffen* with adversity. *Dryden.*

STIFFENING, *ppr.* Making or becoming less pliable, or more thick, or more obstinate.

STIFFENING, *n.* Something that is used to make a substance more stiff or less soft.

STIFF-HEARTED, *a.* [*stiff* and *heart*.] Obstinate; stubborn; contumacious.

They are impudent children and *stiff-hearted*. Ezek. ii.

STIFFLY, *adv.* Firmly; strongly; as the boughs of a tree *stiffly* upheld. *Bacon.*

2. Rigidly; obstinately; with stubbornness. The doctrine of the infallibility of the

church of Rome is *stiffly* maintained by its adherents.

STIFF-NECKED, *a.* [*stiff* and *neck*.] Stubborn; inflexibly obstinate; contumacious; as a *stiff-necked* people; *stiff-necked* pride. *Denham.*

STIFFNESS, *n.* Rigidity; want of pliability or flexibility; the firm texture or state of a substance which renders it difficult to bend it; as the *stiffness* of iron or wood; the *stiffness* of a frozen limb. *Bacon.*

2. Thickness; spissitude; a state between softness and hardness; as the *stiffness* of sirup, paste, size or starch.

3. Torpidity; inaptitude to motion.
An icy *stiffness*
Benumbs my blood. *Denham.*

4. Tension; as the *stiffness* of a cord. *Dryden.*

5. Obstinacy; stubbornness; contumaciousness.

The vices of old age have the *stiffness* of it too. *South.*

Stiffness of mind is not from adherence to truth, but submission to prejudice. *Locke.*

6. Formality of manner; constraint; affected precision.

All this religion sat easily upon him, without *stiffness* and constraint. *Atterbury.*

7. Rigorosity; harshness.

But speak no word to her of these sad plights,
Which her too constant *stiffness* doth constrain. *Spenser.*

8. Affected or constrained manner of expression or writing; want of natural simplicity and ease; as *stiffness* of style.

STIFLE, *v. t.* [The French *etouffer*, to stifle, is nearly allied to *cloffe*, Eng. *stuff*, L. *stupa*. But *stifle* seems to be more nearly allied to L. *stipo* and Eng. *stiff* and *stop*; all however of one family. Qu. Gr. *στυψω*.]

1. To suffocate; to stop the breath or action of the lungs by crowding something into the windpipe, or by infusing a substance into the lungs, or by other means; to choke; as, to *stifle* one with smoke or dust.

2. To stop; as, to *stifle* the breath; to *stifle* respiration.

3. To oppress; to stop the breath temporarily; as, to *stifle* one with kisses; to be *stifled* in a close room or with bad air.

4. To extinguish; to deaden; to quench; as, to *stifle* flame; to *stifle* a fire by smoke or by ashes.

5. To suppress; to hinder from transpiring or spreading; as, to *stifle* a report.

6. To extinguish; to check or restrain and destroy; to suppress; as, to *stifle* a civil war in its birth. *Addison.*

7. To suppress or repress; to conceal; to withhold from escaping or manifestation; as, to *stifle* passion; to *stifle* grief; to *stifle* resentment.

8. To suppress; to destroy; as, to *stifle* convictions.

STIFLE, *n.* The joint of a horse next to the buttock, and corresponding to the knee in man; called also the *stifle* joint.

2. A disease in the knee-pan of a horse or other animal. *Cyc.*

STIGMA, *n.* [L. from Gr. *στυγμα*, from *στυγω*, to prick or stick.]

1. A brand; a mark made with a burning iron.

2. Any mark of infamy; any reproachful conduct which stains the purity or darkens the luster of reputation.

3. In botany, the top of the pistil, which is moist and pubescent to detain and burst the pollen or proflig powder. *Martyn.*

STIGMATA, *n. plu.* The apertures in the bodies of insects, communicating with the trachee or air-vessels. *Encyc.*

STIGMATIC, { *a. ma*, or with something reproachful to character. *Shak.*

2. Impressing with infamy or reproach.

STIGMATIC, *n.* A notorious profligate, or criminal who has been branded. [*Little used*.]

2. One who bears about him the marks of infamy or punishment. [*Little used*.]

3. One on whom nature has set a mark of deformity. [*Little used*.] *Bullockar.*

STIGMATICAL, *adv.* With a mark of infamy or deformity. *Stevens.*

STIGMATIZE, *v. t.* [Fr. *stigmatiser*.] To mark with a brand; in a literal sense; as, the ancients *stigmatized* their slaves and soldiers.

2. To set a mark of disgrace on; to disgrace with some note of reproach or infamy.

To find virtue extolled and vice *stigmatized*— *Addison.*

Sour enthusiasts affect to *stigmatize* the finest and most elegant authors, ancient and modern, as dangerous to religion. *Addison.*

STIGMATIZED, *pp.* Marked with disgrace.

STIGMATIZING, *ppr.* Branding with infamy.

STILAR, *a.* [from *stile*.] Pertaining to the stile of a dial.

Draw a line for the *stilar* line. *Moxon.*

STIL-BITE, *n.* [Gr. *στέλλω*, to shine.] A mineral of a shining pearly luster, of a white color, or white shaded with gray, yellow or red. It has been associated with zeolite, and called foliated zeolite, and radiated zeolite. Werner and the French mineralogists divide zeolite into two kinds, mesotype and stilbite; the latter is distinguished by its lamellar structure.

Werner. Jameson. Cleaveland.

STILE, *n.* [This is another spelling of *style*. See *Style* and *Still*.]

A pin set on the face of a dial to form a shadow.

Erect the *stile* perpendicularly over the sub-stilar line, so as to make an angle with the dial-plane equal to the elevation of the pole of your place. *Moxon.*

STILE, *n.* [Sax. *stigel*, a step, ladder, from *stigan*, to step, to walk, to ascend; G. *stegel*. See *Stair*.]

A step or set of steps for ascending and descending, in passing a fence or wall.

Swift.

STILETTO, *n.* [It. dim. from *stilo*; Fr. *stylet*. See *Style*.] A small dagger with a round pointed blade.

STILL, *v. t.* [Sax. *stillan*; G. D. *stillen*; Dan. *stiller*; Sw. *stillä*, to still, to quiet or appease, that is, to set, to repress; coinciding with G. *stellen*, to put, set, place, Gr. *στέλλω*, to send, and with *style*, *stool*, *stall*.]