

ed to appear before us to answer the contempt wherewith he stands charged.

*Blackstone. Encyc.*

2. The penalty incurred by infringing a statute.

**PRAGMATIC,** } *a.* { *L. pragmaticus;*  
**PRAGMATICAL,** } *Gr. παραπρατικός;*  
from *πράγμα*, business; *πράσσω*, to do. See *Practice*.]

Forward to intermeddle; meddling; impertinently busy or officious in the concerns of others, without leave or invitation.

The fellow grew so *pragmatical*, that he took upon him the government of my whole family. *Arbutnot.*

*Pragmatic sanction*, in the German empire, the settlement made by Charles VI. the emperor, who in 1722, having no sons, settled his hereditary dominions on his eldest daughter, the archduchess Maria Theresa, which settlement was confirmed by most of the powers of Europe.

In the civil law, *pragmatic sanction* may be defined, a rescript or answer of the sovereign, delivered by advice of his council to some college, order, or body of people, who consult him in relation to the affairs of their community. The like answer given to a particular person, is called simply a rescript. *Hottoman. Encyc.*

**PRAGMAT'ICALLY,** *adv.* In a meddling manner; impertinently.

**PRAGMAT'ICALNESS,** *n.* The quality of intermeddling without right or invitation.

**PRAGMATIST,** *n.* One who is impertinently busy or meddling. *Reynolds.*

**PRA'ISABLE,** *a.* That may be praised. [Not used.] *Wickliffe.*

**PRAISE,** *n. s* as *z.* [*D. prys*, praise and price; *G. preis*, praise, price, prize, value; *Dan. pris*. *Sw. pris*, *id.*; *W. pris*, price, value; *Fr. prix*; *It. prezzo*; *Sp. precio*, price, value; *presa*, a prize; *W. prid*; *L. pretium*; *Sp. prez*, glory, *praise*; *Scot. prys*, praise and prize. See the Verb.]

1. Commendation bestowed on a person for his personal virtues or worthy actions, on meritorious actions themselves, or on any thing valuable: approbation expressed in words or song. *Praise* may be expressed by an individual, and in this circumstance differs from *fame*, *renewal*, and *celebrity*, which are the expression of the approbation of numbers, or public commendation. When *praise* is applied to the expression of public approbation, it may be synonymous with *renewal*, or nearly so. A man may deserve the *praise* of an individual, or of a nation.

There are men who always confound the *praise* of goodness with the practice. *Rambler.*

2. The expression of gratitude for personal favors conferred; a glorifying or extolling.

He hath put a new song into my mouth, even *praise* to our God. *Ps. xl.*

3. The object, ground or reason of praise.

He is thy *praise*, and he is thy God. *Deut. x.*

**PRAISE,** *v. t.* [*D. prysen*, to praise; *pry-zeeren*, to estimate or value; *G. preisen*, to praise; *Dan. priser*, to praise, extol or lift up; *Sw. prisa*; *W. prisiar*; *Arm. presa*; *Fr. priser*, to prize, to value; *It. prezzare*; *Sp. prezcar*; *Port. prezar*, to estimate;

*prezarse*, to boast or glory. It appears that *praise*, *price*, *prize*, are all from one root, the primary sense of which is to lift, to raise, or rather to strain. So from *L. tollo*, *extollo*, we have *extol*. Now in *Dan. roser*, *Sw. rosa*, signifies to praise, and it may be questioned whether this is *praise* without a prefix. The Latin *pretium*, *W. prid*, is probably from the same root, denoting that which is taken for a thing sold, or the rising or amount, as we use *high*; a *high* value or price; corn is *high*. In

*Pers.* افراز *afaraz*, is high, lofty;

افرازيدين *afrazidan*, to extol. *Qu.*

*Fr. prouer*, for *prosner*.]

1. To commend; to applaud; to express approbation of personal worth or actions.

We *praise* not Hector, though his name we know

Is great in arms; 'tis hard to *praise* a foe. *Dryden.*

2. To extol in words or song; to magnify; to glorify on account of perfections or excellent works.

*Praise* him, all his angels, *praise* ye him, all his hosts. *Ps. cxlviii.*

3. To express gratitude for personal favors. *Ps. cxxxviii.*

4. To do honor to; to display the excellence of.

All thy works shall *praise* thee, O Lord. *Ps. cxlv.*

**PRA'ISED,** *pp.* Commended; extolled.

**PRA'ISEFUL,** *a.* Laudable; commendable. [Not used.] *Sidney.*

**PRA'ISER,** *n.* One who praises, commands or extols; an applauder; a commender. *Sidney. Donne.*

**PRA'ISELESS,** *a.* Without praise or commendation. *Sidney.*

**PRAISEWORTHILY,** *adv.* In a manner deserving of commendation. *Spenser.*

**PRAISEWORTHINESS,** *n.* The quality of deserving commendation. *Smith.*

**PRAISEWORTHY,** *a.* Deserving of praise or applause; commendable; as a *praiseworthy* action. *Arbutnot.*

**PRA'ISING,** *ppr.* Commending; extolling in words or song.

**PRAM,** } *n.* [*D. praam*.] A flat-bottomed  
**PRAME,** } boat or lighter; used in Hol-

2. In *military affairs*, a kind of floating battery or flat-bottomed vessel, mounting several cannon; used in covering the disembarkation of troops. *Encyc.*

**PRANCE,** *v. i.* *prans*. [*W. prancien*, to frolic, to play a prank, from *rhanc*, a reaching or craving, the same as *rank*; *Ir. rinceim*, to dance; *Port. brincar*, to sport; *Sp. brincar*, to leap. It is allied to *prank*, which see.]

1. To spring or bound, as a horse in high mettle.

Now rule thy *prancing* steed. *Gay.*

2. To ride with bounding movements; to ride ostentatiously.

Th' insulting tyrant *prancing* o'er the field. *Addison.*

3. To walk or strut about in a showy manner or with warlike parade. *Swift.*

**PRANCING,** *ppr.* Springing; bounding; riding with gallant show.

**PRANCING,** *n.* A springing or bounding, as of a high spirited horse. *Judg. v.*

**PRANK,** *v. t.* [*If n* is not radical, this word coincides with *G. pracht*, *D. Dan. pragt*, *Sw. prackt*, pomp, magnificence; also with *G. prangen*, to shine, to make a show; *D. pronken*, to shine or make a show, to be adorned, to strut; *Dan. pranger*, to prance, to make a show, to sell by retail; the latter sense perhaps from *breaking*; *Sw. prunka*. So in *Port. brincar*, to sport; *Sp. id.* to leap. These are evident-

ly the *Ar.* برق to adorn, to lighten.

*Prink* is probably from the same root.]

To adorn in a showy manner; to dress or adjust to ostentation.

In sumptuous tire she joyed herself to *prank*. *Milton*

It is often followed by *up*.

—And me, poor lowly maid,

Most goddess-like *prankt up*. *Shak.*

**PRANK,** *n.* [*W. pranc*.] Properly, a sudden start or sally. [See *Prance*.] Hence, a wild flight; a capering; a gambol.

2. A capricious action; a ludicrous or merry trick, or a mischievous act, rather for sport than injury. Children often play their *pranks* on each other.

—In came the harpies and played their accustomed *pranks*. *Raleigh.*

**PRANK,** *a.* Frolicsome; full of gambols or tricks. *Brewer.*

**PRANK'ED,** } Adorned in a showy  
**PRANKT,** } *ppr.* manner.

**PRANK'ER,** *n.* One that dresses ostentatiously.

**PRANK'ING,** *ppr.* Setting off or adorning for display.

**PRANK'ING,** *n.* Ostentatious display of dress. *More.*

**PRASE,** *n. s* as *z.* A silicious mineral; a subspecies of quartz of a leek green color. *Cleveland.*

**PRASON,** *n.* *pra'sn.* [*Gr. πασων*.] A leek; also, a sea weed green as a leek. *Bailey.*

**PRATE,** *v. i.* [*D. praaten*, to prate; *Sw. prata*, to tattle; *Gr. φραδαω*. *Qu.* allied perhaps to *Sax. ræd*, speech.]

To talk much and without weight, or to little purpose; to be loquacious; as the vulgar express it, to *run on*.

To *prate* and talk for life and honor. *Shak.*

And made a fool presume to *prate* of love. *Dryden.*

**PRATE,** *v. t.* To utter foolishly.

What nonsense would the fool, thy master, *prate*,

When thou, his knave, canst talk at such a rate? *Dryden.*

**PRATE,** *n.* Continued talk to little purpose; trifling talk; unmeaning loquacity. *Shak. Denham.*

**PRA'TER,** *n.* One that talks much to little purpose, or on trifling subjects. *Southern.*

**PRATIC,** } [*It. pratica*; *Sp. practica*;  
**PRATIQUE,** } *n.* *Fr. pratique*. See *Practice*.]

In *commerce*, primarily, converse; intercourse; the communication between a ship and the port in which she arrives.