

HEEL, *v. i.* To dance.

HEEL, *v. t.* To arm a cock.

2. To add a heel to; as, to *heel* a shoe.

HEEL, *v. i.* [Sax. *hyldan*, to lean or incline:

*D. hellen*; Dan. *heller*; Sw. *hälla*, to tilt.]

To incline; to lean; as a ship; as, the ship

*heels* a-port, or a-starboard.

HEELER, *n.* A cock that strikes well with

his heels.

HEEL-PIECE, *n.* Armor for the heels.

2. A piece of leather on the heel of a shoe.

HEFT, *n.* [Sax. *hefe*, from *hefan*, to heave,

to lift.]

1. Heaving; effort.

He cracks his gorge, his sides,

With violent *hefts*. [Not used.]

2. Weight; ponderousness. [This use

is common in popular language in America.

And we sometimes hear it used as a verb,

as, to *heft*, to lift for the purpose of feeling

or judging of the weight.]

3. [D. *heft*.] A handle; a haft. [Not used.]

HEFTED, *a.* Heaved; expressing agitation.

HEGIRA, *n.* [Ar. from هجرة *hajara*, to

remove, to desert.]

In *chronology*, an epoch among the Moham-

medans, from which they compute time.

The event which gave rise to it was the

flight of Mohammed from Mecca; from

which the magistrates, fearing his impos-

tures might raise a sedition, expelled him,

July 10, A. D. 622, under the reign of the

emperor Heraclius.

HEIFER, *n.* *hefer*. [Sax. *heafre*, *heahfore*,

*heafore*. Qu. Heb. פרה.]

A young cow.

HEIGH-HO. *hi-ho*. An exclamation

expressing some degree of languor or uneas-

iness. Dryden has used it for the voice

of exaltation.

HEIGHT, *n.* [Sax. *heahth*.

HEIGHT, *n.* *hite*, or *hith*. *heatho*, *hekthe*,

*hight*, *hiththe*, contracted or changed from

*heagthe*, or *higeth*. *h* *higthe*; *G. hohe*, *ho-*

*heit*; *D. hoogte*; Sw. *höghet*, *högd*; Dan.

*højde*, *højhed*. This word is formed from

*heah*, *hoh*, *hog*, now *high*, and as the or-

thography is unsettled, I should prefer to

form it regularly from the present English

word *high*, and write it *highth*, or *high-*

*th*. The common popular pronunciation

*highth*, or *hith*, is most regular, but in the

plural *highths* is most easily pronounced.]

1. Elevation above the ground; any in-

definite distance above the earth. The

eagle flies at a great *highth*, or *highth*.

2. The altitude of an object; the distance

which any thing rises above its foot, basis

or foundation; as the *highth*, or *highth* of

a tower or steeple.

3. Elevation of a star or other celestial lum-

inary above the horizon.

4. Degree of latitude either north or south.

In this application, the distance from the

equator is considered as *elevation*. Lat-

itudes are higher as they approach the

pole.

Guinea lies to the north sea, in the same

*height* as Peru to the south.

5. Distance of one thing above another.

Shak. 6. An eminence; a summit; an elevated

part of any thing.

7. A hill or mountain; any elevated ground;

as the *highths* of Dorchester.

8. Elevation of rank; station of dignity or

office.

By him that raised me to this careful *height*.

Shak.

9. Elevation in excellence of any kind, as

in power, learning, arts.

10. Elevation in fame or reputation.

11. Utmost degree in extent or violence; as

the *highth* or *hight* of a fever, of passion,

of madness, of folly, of happiness, of good

breeding. So we say, the *highth* of a tem-

pest.

12. Utmost exertion.

I shall now put you to the *height* of your

breeding.

Shak.

13. Advance; degree; progress towards

perfection or elevation; *speaking compar-*

*atively*.

Social duties are carried to a greater *height*—

by the principles of our religion.

ADDISON.

HEIGHTEN, *v. t.* *hith*. To raise higher;

but not often used in this literal sense.

2. To advance in progress towards a better

state; to improve; to meliorate; to in-

crease in excellence or good qualities; as,

to *heighten* virtue; to *heighten* the beauties

of description, or of poetry.

3. To aggravate; to advance towards a

worse state; to augment in violence.

Foreign states have endeavored to *heighten*

our confusions.

ADDISON.

4. To increase; as, to *heighten* our relish for

intellectual pleasure.

HEIGHTENED, *pp. hithd*. Raised higher;

elevated; exalted; advanced; improved;

aggravated; increased.

HEIGHTENING, *pp. hithning*. Raising;

elevating; exalting; improving; increas-

ing; aggravating.

HEIGHTENING, *n. hithning*. The act of el-

evating; increase of excellence; improve-

ment.

Dryden.

2. Aggravation; augmentation.

HEINOUS, *a.* an incorrect orthography.

[See *HEINOUS*.]

HEIR, *n. are*. [Norm. *hier*, *here*; Arm. *hear*,

*haer*; Sp. *heredero*; Port. *herdeiro*; Fr.

*heritier*; It. *erede*; L. *hæres*, *heredis*, from

the verb, Eth. ወረሰ, Heb. ירש, Ar.

وارث *warata*, to become an heir, to in-

herit. The primary sense is to seize, or

rush on and take, or to expel and dispos-

sess others, and take their property, ac-

cording to the practice of rude nations.

We observe in the Hebrew and Ethiopic,

the last consonant is a sibilant, as in the

Latin nominative, but the oblique cases in

the Latin correspond with the Arabic

word whose final consonant is a dental.

See *Class. Rd.* No 51. 52. 68.]

1. The man who succeeds, or is to succeed

another in the possession of lands, tenements

and hereditaments, by descent; the

man on whom the law casts an estate of

inheritance by the death of the ancestor

or former possessor; or the man in whom

the title to an estate of inheritance is vested

by the operation of law, on the death of a

former owner.

We give the title to a person who is to

inherit after the death of an ancestor, and

during his life, as well as to the person

who has actually come into possession.

A man's children are his *heirs*. In most

monarchies, the king's eldest son is *heir*

to the throne; and a nobleman's eldest

son is *heir* to his title.

Lo, one born in my house is my *heir*. Gen.

xv.

2. One who inherits, or takes from an ancestor.

The son is often *heir* to the disease,

or to the miseries of the father.

3. One who succeeds to the estate of a former

possessor. Jer. xlix. Mic. i.

4. One who is entitled to possess. In *Scripture*,

saints are called *heirs* of the promise,

*heirs* of righteousness, *heirs* of salvation,

&c., by virtue of the death of Christ, or of

God's gracious promises.

*Heir-presumptive*, one who, if the ancestor

should die immediately, would be *heir*,

but whose right of inheritance may be de-

feated by any contingency, as by the birth

of a nearer relative.

ENCYC.

HEIR, *v. t.* *are*. To inherit; to take possession

of an estate of inheritance, after the

death of the ancestor.

Dryden.

HEIR-APPARENT, *n.* The man who,

during the life of his ancestor, is entitled

to succeed to his estate or crown.

HEIRLOOM, *n. aredom*. Succession by in-

heritance.

Burke.

HEIRLESS, *n. areda*. A female heir, a fe-

male that inherits, or is entitled to inherit

an estate; an inheritor.

HEIRLESS, *a. areless*. Destitute of an heir.

HEIR-LOOM, *n. are-loom*. [Heir and Sax.

*loma*, *gloma*, *andloman*, utensils, vessels.]

Any furniture, movable, or personal chattel,

which by law descends to the heir with

the house or freehold; as tables, cup-

boards, bedsteads, &c.

Eng. Law.

HEIRSHIP, *n. areship*. The state, character

or privileges of an heir; right of inher-

iting.

Johnson.

2. *Heirship movables*, in Scotland, the best of

certain kinds of movables which the heir

is entitled to take, besides the heritable es-

tate.

ENCYC.

HELD, *pret. and pp. of hold*. A court was

held in Westminster hall. At a council

held on the first of January.

HELE, *v. t.* [L. *colo*.] To hide. Obs.

Gower.

HELICAL, *a.* [L. *heliacus*; Fr. *héliacque*;

from Gr. *ἥλιος*, the sun, W. *haul*.]

Emerging from the light of the sun, or pass-

ing into it. The *helical* rising of a star,

is when, after being in conjunction with it

and invisible, it emerges from the light so

as to be visible in the morning before sun-

rising. On the contrary, the *helical* setting

of a star, is when the sun approaches

so near as to render it invisible by its

superior splendor.

ENCYC.

HELICALLY, *adv.* A star rises *helical-*

*ly*, when it emerges from the sun's light,

so as to be visible. [See the preceding

word.]

HELICAL, *a.* [Gr. *ἑλῆς*, a scroll, or spiral

body.]

Spiral; winding; moving round. *Wilkins*.

HELICITE, *n.* [See *Helix*.] Fossil remains

of the helix, a shell.

HELING, *n.* [from *helf*, obs.; L. *colo*.] The

covering of the roof of a building; written

also *hilling*. [Not used in the U. States.]