

particles, whether natural or artificial; more generally, a substance comminuted or triturated to fine particles. Thus dust is the *powder* of earth; flour is the *powder* of grain. But the word is particularly applied to substances reduced to fine particles for medicinal purposes.

2. A composition of saltpeter, sulphur and charcoal, mixed and granulated; gunpowder.

3. Hair powder; pulverized starch.

**POWDER**, *v. t.* To reduce to fine particles; to comminute; to pulverize; to triturate; to pound, grind or rub into fine particles.

2. To sprinkle with powder; as, to *powder* the hair.

3. To sprinkle with salt; to corn; as meat.

**POWDER**, *v. i.* To come violently. [*Not in use.*] *Bacon.* *L'Estrange.*

**POWDER-BOX**, *n.* A box in which hair-powder is kept. *Gay.*

**POWDER-CART**, *n.* A cart that carries powder and shot for artillery.

**POWDER-CHEST**, *n.* A small box or case charged with powder, old nails, &c. fastened to the side of a ship, to be discharged at an enemy attempting to board.

**POWDERED**, *pp.* Reduced to powder; sprinkled with powder; corned; salted. *Mar. Dict.*

**POWDER-FLASK**, *n.* A flask in which gunpowder is carried.

**POWDER-HORN**, *n.* A horn in which gunpowder is carried by sportsmen. *Swift.*

**POWDERING**, *ppr.* Pulverizing; sprinkling with powder; corning; salting.

**POWDERING-TUB**, *n.* A tub or vessel in which meat is corned or salted.

2. The place where an infected lecher is cured. *Shak.*

**POWDER-MILL**, *n.* A mill in which gunpowder is made. *Arbutnot.*

**POWDER-ROOM**, *n.* The apartment in a ship where gunpowder is kept. *Waller.*

**POWDERY**, *a.* Friable; easily crumbling to pieces.

2. Dusty; sprinkled with powder.

3. Resembling powder.

**POWDIKE**, *n.* A marsh or fen dike. [*Local.*]

**POWER**, *n.* [*Fr. pouvoir; Norm. povare; from the root of Sp. Port. poder, It. potere; or rather the same word varied in orthography. The Latin has posse, possum, potes, potentia. The primary sense of the verb is to strain, to exert force.*]

1. In a philosophical sense, the faculty of doing or performing any thing; the faculty of moving or of producing a change in something; ability or strength. A man raises his hand by his own *power*, or by *power* moves another body. The exertion of *power* proceeds from the will, and in strictness, no being destitute of will or intelligence, can exert *power*. Power in man is active or speculative. Active *power* is that which moves the body; speculative *power* is that by which we see, judge, remember, or in general, by which we think.

Power may exist without exertion. We have *power* to speak when we are silent.

*Locke. Reid.*

Power has been distinguished also into active and passive, the power of doing or moving, and the power of receiving impressions or of suffering. In strictness, passive power is an absurdity in terms. To say that gold has a *power* to be melted, is improper language, yet for want of a more appropriate word, *power* is often used in a passive sense, and is considered as two-fold; viz. as able to make or able to receive any change. *Cyc.*

2. Force; animal strength; as the *power* of the arm, exerted in lifting, throwing or holding.

3. Force; strength; energy; as the *power* of the mind, of the imagination, of the fancy. He has not *powers* of genius adequate to the work.

4. Faculty of the mind, as manifested by a particular mode of operation; as the *power* of thinking, comparing and judging; the reasoning *powers*.

5. Ability, natural or moral. We say, a man has the *power* of doing good; his property gives him the *power* of relieving the distressed; or he has the *power* to persuade others to do good; or it is not in his *power* to pay his debts. The moral *power* of man is also his *power* of judging or discerning in moral subjects.

6. In mechanics, that which produces motion or force, or which may be applied to produce it. Thus the inclined plane is called a mechanical *power*, as it produces motion, although this in reality depends on gravity. The wheel and axle, and the lever, are mechanical *powers*, as they may be applied to produce force. These *powers* are also called *forces*, and they are of two kinds, moving power, and sustaining power.

7. Force. The great *power* of the screw is of extensive use in compression. The *power* of steam is immense.

8. That quality in any natural body which produces a change or makes an impression on another body; as the *power* of medicine; the *power* of heat; the *power* of sound.

9. Force; strength; momentum; as the *power* of the wind, which propels a ship or overturns a building.

10. Influence; that which may move the mind; as the *power* of arguments or of persuasion.

11. Command; the right of governing, or actual government; dominion; rule; sway; authority. A large portion of Asia is under the *power* of the Russian emperor. The *power* of the British monarch is limited by law. The *powers* of government are legislative, executive, judicial, and ministerial.

*Power* is no blessing in itself, but when it is employed to protect the innocent. *Swift.*

Under this sense may be comprehended civil, political, ecclesiastical, and military *power*.

12. A sovereign, whether emperor, king or governing prince or the legislature of a state; as the *powers* of Europe; the great *powers*; the smaller *powers*. In this sense, the state or nation governed seems to be included in the word *power*. Great Britain is a great naval *power*.

13. One invested with authority; a ruler; a civil magistrate. Rom. xiii.

14. Divinity; a celestial or invisible being or agent supposed to have dominion over some part of creation; as celestial *powers*; the *powers* of darkness.

15. That which has physical power; an army; a navy; a host; a military force.

Never such a *power*—

Was levied in the body of a land. *Shak.*

16. Legal authority; warrant; as a *power* of attorney; an agent invested with ample *power*. The envoy has full *powers* to negotiate a treaty.

17. In arithmetic and algebra, the product arising from the multiplication of a number or quantity into itself; as, a cube is the third *power*; the biquadrate is the fourth *power*.

18. In Scripture, right; privilege. John i. 1 Cor. ix.

19. Angels, good or bad. Col. i. Eph. vi.

20. Violence; force; compulsion. Ezek. iv.

21. Christ is called the *power* of God, as through him and his gospel, God displays his power and authority in ransoming and saving sinners. 1 Cor. i.

22. The *powers* of heaven may denote the celestial luminaries. Matt. xxiv.

23. Satan is said to have the *power* of death, as he introduced sin, the cause of death, temporal and eternal, and torments men with the fear of death and future misery.

24. In vulgar language, a large quantity; a great number; as a *power* of good things. [This is, I believe, obsolete, even among our common people.]

*Power* of attorney, authority given to a person to act for another.

**POWERFUL**, *a.* Having great physical or mechanical power; strong; forcible; mighty; as a *powerful* army or navy; a *powerful* engine.

2. Having great moral power; forcible to persuade or convince the mind; as a *powerful* reason or argument.

3. Possessing great political and military power; strong in extent of dominion or national resources; potent; as a *powerful* monarch or prince; a *powerful* nation.

4. Efficacious; possessing or exerting great force or producing great effects; as a *powerful* medicine.

5. In general, able to produce great effects; exerting great force or energy; as *powerful* eloquence.

The word of God is quick and *powerful*. Heb. iv.

6. Strong; intense; as a *powerful* heat or light.

**POWERFULLY**, *adv.* With great force or energy; potently; mightily; with great effect; forcibly; either in a physical or moral sense. Certain medicines operate *powerfully* on the stomach; the practice of virtue is *powerfully* recommended by its utility.

**POWERFULNESS**, *n.* The quality of having or exerting great power; force; power; might. *Hakewill.*

**POWERLESS**, *a.* Destitute of power, force or energy; weak; impotent; not able to produce any effect. *Shak.*

**POWLDRON**, *n.* [*Qu. Fr. epaule, the shoulder.*]