

POLITI^{CIAN}, *a.* Cunning; using artifice. *Obs.*

POLITI^{CIAN}, *n.* [Fr. *politicien*.] One versed in the science of government and the art of governing; one skilled in politics. *Dryden. Pope.*

2. A man of artifice or deep contrivance. *South.*

POLITICS, *n.* [Fr. *politique*; Gr. *πολιτικη*. See *Policy*.]

The science of government; that part of ethics which consists in the regulation and government of a nation or state, for the preservation of its safety, peace and prosperity; comprehending the defense of its existence and rights against foreign control or conquest, the augmentation of its strength and resources, and the protection of its citizens in their rights, with the preservation and improvement of their morals. *Politics*, as a science or an art, is a subject of vast extent and importance.

POLITIZE, *v. i.* To play the politician. [Not in use.] *Milton.*

POLITURE, *n.* [See *Polish*.] Polish; the gloss given by polishing. [Not used.] *Donne.*

POLITY, *n.* [Gr. *πολιτεια*.] The form or constitution of civil government of a nation or state; and in free states, the frame or fundamental system by which the several branches of government are established, and the powers and duties of each designated and defined.

Every branch of our civil *polity* supports and is supported, regulates and is regulated by the rest. *Blackstone.*

With respect to their interior *polity*, our colonies are properly of three sorts; provincial establishments, proprietary governments, and charter governments. *Blackstone.*

The word seems also to embrace legislation and administration of government.

2. The constitution or general fundamental principles of government of any class of citizens, considered in an appropriate character, or as a subordinate state.

Were the whole christian world to revert back to the original model, how far more simple, uniform and beautiful would the church appear, and how far more agreeable to the ecclesiastical *polity* instituted by the holy apostles. *President Stiles.*

POLL, *n.* [D. *bol*, a ball, bowl, crown, poll, pate, bulb.]

1. The head of a person, or the back part of the head, and in composition, applied to the head of a beast, as in *poll-civil*.

2. A register of heads, that is, of persons. *Shak.*

3. The entry of the names of electors who vote for civil officers. Hence,

4. An election of civil officers, or the place of election.

Our citizens say, at the opening or close of the *poll*, that is, at the beginning of the register of voters and reception of votes, or the close of the same. They say also, we are going to the *poll*; many voters appeared at the *poll*. *New York.*

5. A fish called a chub or chevin. [See *Pollard*.]

POLL, *v. t.* To lop the tops of trees. *Bacon.*

2. To clip; to cut off the ends; to cut off hair or wool; to shear. The phrases, to

poll the hair, and to *poll the head*, have been used. The latter is used in 2 Sam. xiv. 26. To *poll a deed*, is a phrase still used in law language. *Z. Swift.*

3. To mow; to crop. [Not used.] *Shak.*

4. To peel; to strip; to plunder. *Obs. Bacon. Spenser.*

5. To take a list or register of persons; to enter names in a list.

6. To enter one's name in a list or register. *Dryden.*

7. To insert into a number as a voter. *Tickel.*

POLLARD, *n.* [from *poll*.] A tree lopped. *Bacon.*

2. A clipped coin. *Camden.*

3. The chub fish. *Ainsworth.*

4. A stag that has cast his horns.

5. A mixture of bran and meal. *Ainsworth.*

POLLARD, *v. t.* To lop the tops of trees; to poll. *Evelyn.*

POLLEN, *n.* [L. *pollen*, *pollis*, fine flour; Russ. *pil*, *piel*, dust, L. *pulvis*.]

1. The fecundating dust or fine substance like flour or meal, contained in the anther of flowers, which is dispersed on the pistil for impregnation; farin or farina. *Encyc. Milne. Martyn.*

2. Fine bran. *Bailey.*

POLLINGER, *n.* Brushwood. *Obs. Tusser.*

POLLENIN, *n.* [from *pollen*.] A substance prepared from the pollen of tulips, highly inflammable, and insoluble in agents which dissolve other vegetable products. Exposed to the air, it soon undergoes putrefaction. *Webster's Manual.*

POLLER, *n.* [from *poll*.] One that shaves persons; a barber. [Not used.]

2. One that lops or polls trees.

3. A pillager; a plunderer; one that fleeces by exaction. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

4. One that registers voters, or one that enters his name as a voter.

POLL-EVIL, *n.* [*poll* and *evil*.] A swelling or impostum on a horse's head, or on the nape of the neck between the ears. *Far. Dict.*

POLLICITATION, *n.* [L. *pollicitatio*.] A promise; a voluntary engagement, or a paper containing it. *Henry's Britain.*

POLLINGTOR, *n.* [L.] One that prepares materials for embalming the dead; a kind of undertaker. *Greenhill.*

POLLINIFEROUS, *a.* [L. *pollen* and *fero*, to produce.] Producing pollen.

POLL/LOCK, } *n.* A fish, a species of *Gadus*

POLL/LACK, } *n.* or cod.

POLLUTE, *v. t.* [L. *polluo*; Fr. *polluer*.] If this word is compound, as I suspect, it seems to be composed of the preposition *po*, which is in the Russian language and retained in the L. *polluceo* and *possideo*, and according to Ainsworth, of *lavo*. But this combination would not naturally give the signification. If the word is simple, the first syllable coincides with *foul*. But neither is this etymology satisfactory.]

1. To defile; to make foul or unclean; in a general sense. But appropriately, among the Jews, to make unclean or impure, in a legal or ceremonial sense, so as to disqualify a person for sacred services, or to render things unfit for sacred uses. Num. xviii. Ex. xx. 2 Kings xxiii. 2 Chron. xxxvi.

2. To taint with guilt.

Ye *pollute* yourselves with all your idols. Ezek. xx.

3. To profane; to use for carnal or idolatrous purposes.

My sabbaths they greatly *polluted*. Ezek. xx.

4. To corrupt or impair by mixture of ill, moral or physical.

Envy you my praise, and would destroy
With grief my pleasures, and *pollute* my joy?
Dryden.

5. To violate by illegal sexual commerce.

POLLUTE, *a.* Polluted; defiled. *Milton.*

POLLUTED, *pp.* Defiled; rendered unclean; tainted with guilt; impaired; profaned.

POLLUTEDNESS, *n.* The state of being polluted; defilement.

POLLUTER, *n.* A defiler; one that pollutes or profanes.

POLLUTING, *ppr.* Defiling; rendering unclean; corrupting; profaning.

POLLUTION, *n.* [L. *pollutio*; Fr. *pollution*; Sp. *polucion*; It. *polluzione*.]

1. The act of polluting.

2. Defilement; uncleanness; impurity; the state of being polluted.

3. In the Jewish economy, legal or ceremonial uncleanness, which disqualified a person for sacred services or for common intercourse with the people, or rendered any thing unfit for sacred use.

1. In *medicine*, the involuntary emission of semen in sleep.

5. In a religious sense, guilt, the effect of sin; idolatry, &c.

POLLUX, *n.* A fixed star of the second magnitude, in the constellation Gemini or the Twins. *Encyc.*

2. [See *Castor*.]

POLONAISE, } *n.* A robe or dress adopted from the Poles; sometimes worn by ladies.

POLONESE, *n.* The Polish language. *Encyc.*

POLONOISE, *n.* In music, a movement of three crotchets in a bar, with the rhythmic cesure on the last. *Busby.*

POLL, *n.* [Sw. *bullo*, to beat.] A blow, stroke or striking; a word in common popular use in N. England.

POLLT-FQOT, *n.* A distorted foot. [Not in use.] *Herbert.*

POLLT-FQOT, } *a.* Having distorted feet.

POLLT-FQOTED, } *a.* [Not in use.] *B. Jonson.*

POLTROON, *n.* [Fr. *poltron*; It. *poltrone*, an idle fellow, a coward; *poltrire*, to sleep, to be idle, to loiter; Sp. *poltron*, idle, lazy, easy, commodious; Port. *poltram*, an idler; *poltram*, *poltrona*, lazy, cowardly; Arm. *polltroun*; certainly not from *pollice truncato*. The primary sense is idle, at ease, whence lazy; perhaps from the root of *fail*, W. *palu*.]

An arrant coward; a dastard; a wretch without spirit or courage. *Dryden.*

POLTROONERY, *n.* Cowardice; baseness of mind; want of spirit.

POLVERIN, } *n.* [L. *pulvis*, dust; It. *pol-*

POIVERINE, } *n.* *verino*.] The calcined ashes of a plant, of the nature of pot and pearl ashes, brought from the Levant and Syria. In the manufacture of glass, it is preferred to other ashes, as the glass made with it is perfectly white. *Encyc.*