

4. To pollute; to debase. Lev. xxi.

5. To put to a wrong use. *Shak.*

PROFANE, *pp.* Violated; treated with irreverence or abuse; applied to common uses; polluted.

PROFANELY, *adv.* With irreverence to sacred things or names.

The character of God *profanely* impeached.

Dwight.

2. With abuse or contempt for any thing venerable.

That proud scholar—speaks of Homer too *profanely*.

Broome.

PROFANENESS, *n.* Irreverence of sacred things; particularly, the use of language which implies irreverence towards God; the taking of God's name in vain.

Dryden. Atterbury. Dwight.

Profaneness in men is vulgar and odious; in females, is shocking and detestable.

PROFANER, *n.* One who by words or actions, treats sacred things with irreverence; one who uses profane language.

2. A polluter; a defiler; as a *profaner* of the temple.

Hooker.

PROFANING, *ppr.* Violating; treating with irreverence; polluting.

PROFANITY, *n.* Profaneness, which see.

In a revel of debauchery, amid the brisk interchange of *profanity* and folly, religion might appear a dumb, unsocial intruder. *Buckminster.*

PROFECTION, *n.* [*L. profectio.*] A going forward; advance; progression. [*Not in use.*]

Brown.

PROFERT, *n.* [*L. 3d. person of profero.*] In law, the exhibition of a record or paper in open court.

PROFESS, *v. t.* [*It. professare; Sp. professar; Fr. professer; L. professus, profiteri; pro and fateor.*]

1. To make open declaration of; to avow or acknowledge.

Let no man who *professes* himself a christian, keep so heathenish a family as not to see God be daily worshipped in it. *Decay of Piety.*

They *profess* that they know God, but in works they deny him. *Tit. i.*

2. To declare in strong terms.

Then will I *profess* to them, I never knew you. *Matt. vii.*

3. To make a show of any sentiments by loud declaration.

To your *professing* bosoms I commit him.

Shak.

4. To declare publicly one's skill in any art or science, for inviting employment; as, to *profess* one's self a physician; he *professes* surgery.

PROFESS, *v. i.* To declare friendship.

[*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

PROFESS'ED, } *pp.* Openly declared,
PROFEST, } avowed or acknowledged; as a *professed* foe; a *professed* tyrant; a *professed* christian; a *professed* atheist.

PROFESS'EDLY, *adv.* By profession; by open declaration or avowal.

I could not grant too much to men—*professedly* my subjects. *K. Charles.*

England I traveled over, *professedly* searching all places as I passed along. *Woodward.*

PROFESSING, *ppr.* Openly declaring; avowing; acknowledging.

PROFESS'ION, *n.* [*Fr. from L. professio.*]

1. Open declaration; public avowal or acknowledgment of one's sentiments or belief; as *professions* of friendship or sincerity; a *profession* of faith or religion.

The *professions* of princes, when a crown is the bait, are a slender security. *Lestey.*

The Indians quickly perceive the coincidence or the contradiction between *professions* and conduct, and their confidence or distrust follows of course. *J. Morse.*

2. The business which one professes to understand and to follow for subsistence; calling; vocation; employment; as the learned *professions*. We speak of the *profession* of a clergyman, of a lawyer, and of a physician or surgeon; the *profession* of lecturer on chemistry or mineralogy. But the word is not applied to an occupation merely mechanical.

3. The collective body of persons engaged in a calling. We speak of practices honorable or disgraceful to a *profession*.

4. Among the Romanists, the entering into a religious order, by which a person offers himself to God by a vow of inviolable obedience, chastity and poverty. *Encyc.*

PROFES'SIONAL, *a.* Pertaining to a profession or to a calling; as *professional* studies, pursuits, duties, engagements; *professional* character or skill.

PROFES'SIONALLY, *adv.* By profession or declaration. He is *professionally* a friend to religion.

2. By calling; as one employed *professionally*.

PROFESS'OR, *n.* [*L.*] One who makes open declaration of his sentiments or opinions; particularly, one who makes a public avowal of his belief in the Scriptures and his faith in Christ, and thus unites himself to the visible church. *Bacon. Hammond.*

2. One that publicly teaches any science or branch of learning; particularly, an officer in a university, college or other seminary, whose business is to read lectures or instruct students in a particular branch of learning; as a *professor* of theology or mathematics.

PROFESSORIAL, *a.* [*L. professorius.*] Pertaining to a professor; as the *professorial* chair. *Enfield.*

PROFESSORSHIP, *n.* The office of a professor or public teacher of the sciences. *Walton.*

PROFESS'ORY, *a.* Pertaining to a professor.

PROF'FER, *v. t.* [*L. profero; pro and fero, to bear; It. profferere, profferire; Sp. proferir; Fr. proferer.*]

1. To offer for acceptance; as, to *proffer* a gift; to *proffer* services; to *proffer* friendship.

2. To essay or attempt of one's own accord.

None

So hardy as to *proffer* or accept

Alone the dreadful voyage. *Milton.*

PROF'FER, *n.* An offer made; something proposed for acceptance by another; as *proffers* of peace or friendship.

He made a *proffer* to lay down his commission of command in the army. *Clarendon.*

2. Essay; attempt. *Bacon.*

PROF'FERED, *pp.* Offered for acceptance.

PROF'FERER, *n.* One who offers any thing for acceptance.

PROF'FERING, *ppr.* Offering for acceptance.

PROF'ICIENCE, } *n.* [from *L. proficiens*.
PROF'ICIENCY, } from *proficio*, to advance forward; *pro and facio*, to make.]

Advance in the acquisition of any art, sci-

ence or knowledge; improvement; progression in knowledge. Students are examined that they may manifest their *proficiency* in their studies or in knowledge.

PROF'ICIENT, *n.* One who has made considerable advances in any business, art, science or branch of learning; as a *proficient* in a trade or occupation; a *proficient* in mathematics, in anatomy, in music, &c.

PROF'ICUOUS, *a.* [*L. proficiuus, proficio*, supra.]

Profitable; advantageous; useful. [*Little used.*] *Harvey.*

PROFILE, *n.* *prof'il.* [*Fr. profil; pro and fil; It. profilo; Sp. Port. perfil; per and fil, L. filum, a thread or line.*]

1. Primarily, an outline or contour; hence, in sculpture and painting, a head or portrait represented sidewise or in a side view; the side face or half face; as, to draw or appear in *profile*; the *profile* of Pope or Addison.

2. In *architecture*, the contour or outline of a figure, building or member; also, the draught of a building, representing it as if cut down perpendicularly from the roof to the foundation. *Encyc.*

PROFILE, *v. t.* [*Fr. profiler; It. profilare; Sp. perfilar.*]

To draw the outline of a head sidewise; to draw in *profile*; as a building.

PROFILED, *pp.* Drawn so as to present a side view.

PROFILING, *ppr.* Drawing a portrait so as to represent a side view; drawing an outline. *Encyc.*

PROFIT, *n.* [*Fr. profit; It. profitto; from L. profectus, proficio, to profit, literally to proceed forward, to advance; pro and facio.* The primary sense of *facio* is to urge or drive.]

1. In *commerce*, the advance in the price of goods sold beyond the cost of purchase. *Net profit* is the gain made by selling goods at an advanced price, or a price beyond what they had cost the seller, and beyond all costs and charges. The *profit* of the farmer and the manufacturer is the gain made by the sale of produce or manufactures, after deducting the value of the labor, materials, rents and all expenses, together with the interest of the capital employed, whether land, machinery, buildings, instruments or money.

Let no man anticipate uncertain *profits*.

Rambler.

2. Any gain or pecuniary advantage; as an office of *profit* or honor.

3. Any advantage; any accession of good from labor or exertion; an extensive signification, comprehending the acquisition of any thing valuable, corporeal or intellectual, temporal or spiritual. A person may derive *profit* from exercise, amusements, reading, study, meditation, social intercourse, religious instruction, &c. Every improvement or advance in knowledge is *profit* to a wise man.

PROFIT, *v. t.* [*It. profitare; Fr. profiter.*]

1. To benefit; to advantage; *applied to one's self*, to derive some pecuniary interest or some accession of good from any thing; as, to *profit one's self* by a commercial undertaking, or by reading or instruction. In this sense, the verb is generally used