

or of a building holds a *prominent* place in a picture.

**PROMINENTLY**, *adv.* In a prominent manner; so as to stand out beyond the other parts; eminently; in a striking manner; conspicuously.

**PROMISCUOUS**, *a.* [*L. promiscuus; pro and misceo, to mix.*]

1. Mingled; consisting of individuals united in a body or mass without order; confused; undistinguished; as a *promiscuous* crowd or mass.

A wild where weeds and flow'rs *promiscuous* shoot. *Pope.*

2. Common; indiscriminate; not restricted to an individual; as *promiscuous* love or intercourse.

**PROMISCUOUSLY**, *adv.* In a crowd or mass without order; with confused mixture; indiscriminately; as men of all classes *promiscuously* assembled; particles of different earths *promiscuously* united.

2. Without distinction of kinds.

Like beasts and birds *promiscuously* they join. *Pope.*

**PROMISCUOUSNESS**, *n.* A state of being mixed without order or distinction.

*Ash.*

**PROMISE**, *n.* [*L. promissum, from promitto, to send before or forward; pro and mitto, to send; Fr. promettre, promis, promesse; It. promettere, promessa; Sp. prometer, promesa.*]

1. In a general sense, a declaration, written or verbal, made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it, either in honor, conscience or law, to do or forbear a certain act specified; a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made, a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of the act. The promise of a visit to my neighbor, gives him a right to expect it, and I am bound in honor and civility to perform the *promise*. Of such a *promise* human laws have no cognizance; but the fulfillment of it is one of the minor moralities, which civility, kindness and strict integrity require to be observed.

2. In law, a declaration, verbal or written, made by one person to another for a good or valuable consideration, in the nature of a covenant, by which the promiser binds himself, and as the case may be, his *legal* representatives, to do or forbear some act; and gives to the promisee a legal right to demand and enforce a fulfillment.

3. A binding declaration of something to be done or given for another's benefit; as the *promise* of a grant of land. A *promise* may be *absolute* or *conditional*; *lawful* or *unlawful*; *express* or *implied*. An *absolute promise* must be fulfilled at all events. The obligation to fulfill a *conditional promise* depends on the performance of the condition. An *unlawful promise* is not binding, because it is void; for it is incompatible with a prior paramount obligation of obedience to the laws. An *express promise*, is one expressed in words or writing. An *implied promise*, is one which reason and justice dictate. If I hire a man to perform a day's labor, without any declaration that I will pay him, the law presumes a *promise* on my part that I will give him a reason-

able reward, and will enforce such *implied promise*.

4. Hopes; expectation, or that which affords expectation of future distinction; as a youth of great *promise*.

My native country was full of youthful *promise*. *Iving.*

5. That which is promised; fulfillment or grant of what is promised.

He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the *promise* of the Father. *Acts i.*

6. In Scripture, the *promise* of God is the declaration or assurance which God has given in his word of bestowing blessings on his people. Such assurance resting on the perfect justice, power, benevolence and immutable veracity of God, cannot fail of performance.

The Lord is not slack concerning his *promises*. 2 Pet. iii.

**PROMISE**, *v. t.* To make a declaration to another, which binds the promiser in honor, conscience or law, to do or forbear some act; as, to *promise* a visit to a friend; to *promise* a cessation of hostilities; to *promise* the payment of money.

2. To afford reason to expect; as, the year *promises* a good harvest.

3. To make declaration or give assurance of some benefit to be conferred; to pledge or engage to bestow.

The proprietors *promised* large tracts of land. *Charter of Dartmouth College.*

**PROMISE**, *v. i.* To assure one by a promise or binding declaration. The man *promises* fair; let us forgive him.

2. To afford hopes or expectations; to give ground to expect good. The youth *promises* to be an eminent man; the wheat *promises* to be a good crop; the weather *promises* to be pleasant.

3. In popular use, this verb sometimes threatens or assures of evil. The rogue shall be punished, I *promise* you.

Will not the ladies be afraid of the lion? —I fear it, I *promise* you. *Shak.*

In the latter example, *promise* is equivalent to *declare*; "I *declare* to you."

4. To *promise* one's self, to be assured or to have strong confidence.

I dare *promise* myself you will attest the truth of all I have advanced. *Rambler.*

**PROMISE-BREACH**, *n.* Violation of promise. *Shak.*

**PROMISE-BREAKER**, *n.* A violator of promises. *Shak.*

**PROMISED**, *pp.* Engaged by word or writing; stipulated.

**PROMISEE**, *n.* The person to whom a promise is made. *Encyc.*

**PROMISER**, *n.* One who promises; one who engages, assures, stipulates or covenants. Fear, says Dryden, is a great *promiser*. We may say that hope is a very liberal *promiser*.

The import of a promise, when disputed, is not to be determined by the sense of the *promiser*, nor by the expectations of the *promisee*. *Paley. Encyc.*

[Note. In law language, *promisor* is used, but without necessity or advantage.]

**PROMISING**, *ppr.* Engaging by words or writing; stipulating; assuring.

2. Affording just expectations of good or reasonable ground of hope; as a *promising* youth; a *promising* prospect. [In this

sense, the word may be a participle or an adjective.]

**PROMISSORILY**, *adv.* By way of promise.

**PROMISSORY**, *a.* Containing a promise or binding declaration of something to be done or forborne. *Arbuthnot.*

2. In law, a promissory note is a writing which contains a promise of the payment of money or the delivery of property to another, at or before a time specified, in consideration of value received by the promiser. In England, *promissory* notes and bills of exchange, being negotiable for the payment of a less sum than twenty shillings, are declared to be void by Stat. 15. Geo. III. *Blackstone.*

**PROMONTORY**, *n.* [*L. promontorium; pro, forward, and mons, a mountain; Fr. promontoire; It. Sp. promontorio.*]

In geography, a high point of land or rock, projecting into the sea beyond the line of the coast; a head land. It differs from a cape in denoting high land; a cape may be a similar projection of land high or low.

Like one that stands upon a *promontory*. *Shak.*

If you drink tea on a *promontory* that overhangs the sea, it is preferable to an assembly. *Pope.*

**PROMOTE**, *v. t.* [*L. promotus, promoveo, to move forward; pro and moveo, to move; It. promuovere; Sp. promover; Fr. promouvoir.*]

1. To forward; to advance; to contribute to the growth, enlargement or excellence of any thing valuable, or to the increase of any thing evil; as, to *promote* learning, knowledge, virtue or religion; to *promote* the interests of commerce or agriculture; to *promote* the arts; to *promote* civilization or refinement; to *promote* the propagation of the gospel; to *promote* vice and disorder.

2. To excite; as, to *promote* mutiny.

3. To exalt; to elevate; to raise; to prefer in rank or honor.

I will *promote* thee to very great honors. *Num. xvii.*

Exalt her, and she shall *promote* thee. *Prov. iv.*

**PROMOTED**, *pp.* Advanced; exalted.

**PROMOTER**, *n.* He or that which forwards, advances or promotes; an encourager; as a *promoter* of charity. *Mt. Burg.*

2. One that excites; as a *promoter* of sedition.

3. An informer; a make-bate. *Obs.*

**PROMOTING**, *ppr.* Forwarding; advancing; exciting; exalting.

**PROMOTION**, *n.* [*Fr.; from promote.*]

1. The act of promoting; advancement; encouragement; as the *promotion* of virtue or morals; the *promotion* of peace or of discord.

2. Exaltation in rank or honor; preferment.

My *promotion* will be thy destruction. *Milton.*

*Promotion* cometh neither from the east nor from the west, nor from the south. *Ps. lxxv.*

**PROMOTIVE**, *a.* Tending to advance or promote; tending to encourage. *Hume.*

**PROMOVE**, *v. t.* To advance. [Not used.] *Fell. Suckling.*