

their vices, sometimes degrade themselves to the *rank* of brutes.

7. Degree of dignity, eminence or excellence; as a writer of the first *rank*; a lawyer of high *rank*.

These are all virtues of a meaner *rank*.

Addison.

8. Dignity; high place or degree in the orders of men; as a man of *rank*.

Rank and file, the order of common soldiers. Ten officers and three hundred *rank and file* fell in the action.

To fill the *rank*s, to supply the whole number, or a competent number.

To take *rank*, to enjoy precedence, or to have the right of taking a higher place. In G. Britain, the king's sons take *rank* of all the other nobles.

RANK, *a.* [Sax. *ranc*, proud, haughty; Sp. It. *rancio*; L. *rancidus*, from *raneo*, to smell strong. The primary sense of the root is to advance, to shoot forward, to grow luxuriantly, whence the sense of strong, vigorous; W. *rhac*, *rhag*, before; *rhacu*, *rhaciaw*, to advance, to put forward. This word belongs probably to the same family as the preceding.]

1. Luxuriant in growth; being of vigorous growth; as *rank* grass; *rank* weeds.

Seven ears came up upon one stalk, *rank* and good. Gen. xli.

2. Causing vigorous growth; producing luxuriantly; very rich and fertile; as, land is *rank*.

Mortimer.

3. Strong scented; as *rank* smelling rue.

Spenser.

4. Rancid; musty; as oil of a *rank* smell.

5. Inflamed with venereal appetite. Shak.

6. Strong to the taste; high tasted.

Divers sea fowls taste *rank* of the fish on which they feed.

Boyle.

7. Rampant; high grown; raised to a high degree; excessive; as *rank* pride; *rank* idolatry.

I do forgive

Thy *rankest* faults.

Shak.

8. Gross; coarse. Shak.

9. Strong; clinehing. Take *rank* hold. Hence,

10. Excessive; exceeding the actual value; as a *rank* modus in law. Blackstone.

To set *rank*, as the iron of a plane, to set it so as to take off a thick shaving.

Moxon.

- RANK**, *v. t.* To place abreast or in a line.

Milton.

2. To place in a particular class, order or division.

Poets were *ranked* in the class of philosophers.

Broome.

Heresy is *ranked* with idolatry and witchcraft.

Decay of Piety.

3. To dispose methodically; to place in suitable order.

Who now shall rear you to the sun, or *rank* your tribes?

Milton.

Ranking all things under general and special heads.

Watts.

- RANK**, *v. i.* To be ranged; to be set or disposed; as in a particular degree, class, order or division.

Let that one article *rank* with the rest.

Shak.

2. To be placed in a rank or ranks.

Go, *rank* in tribes, and quit the savage wood.

Tate.

3. To have a certain grade or degree of elevation in the orders of civil or military life. He *rank*s with a major. He *rank*s with the first class of poets. He *rank*s high in public estimation.

RANK'ED, *pp.* Placed in a line; disposed in an order or class; arranged methodically.

RANK'ER, *n.* One that disposes in ranks; one that arranges.

RANK'ING, *ppr.* Placing in ranks or lines; arranging; disposing in orders or classes; having a certain rank or grade.

RANK'LE, *v. i.* [from *rank*.] To grow more rank or strong; to be inflamed; to fester; as a *rankling* wound.

A malady that burns and *rankles* inward.

Rowe.

2. To become more violent; to be inflamed; to rage; as *rankling* malice; *rankling* envy. Jealousy *rankles* in the breast.

RANK'LY, *adv.* With vigorous growth; as, grass or weeds grow *rankly*.

2. Coarsely; grossly. Shak.

RANK'NESS, *n.* Vigorous growth; luxuriance; exuberance; as the *rankness* of plants or herbage.

2. Exuberance; excess; extravagance; as the *rankness* of pride; the *rankness* of joy.

Shak.

3. Extraordinary strength.

The crane's pride is in the *rankness* of her wing.

L'Estrange.

4. Strong taste; as the *rankness* of flesh or fish.

5. Rancidness; rank smell; as the *rankness* of oil.

6. Excessiveness; as the *rankness* of a composition or modus. Blackstone.

RAN'NY, *n.* The shrew-mouse. Brown.

RAN'SACK, *v. t.* [Dan. *randsager*; Sw. *ransaka*; Gaelic, *ransuchadh*. *Rund*, in Danish, is edge, margin, Eng. *rand*, and *ran* is rapine. The last syllable coincides with the English verb to *sack*, to pillage, and in Spanish, this verb which is written *saguear*, signifies to ransack.]

1. To plunder; to pillage completely; to strip by plundering; as, to *ransack* a house or city.

Dryden.

Their vow is made to *ransack* Troy.

Shak.

2. To search thoroughly; to enter and search every place or part. It seems often to convey the sense of opening doors and parcels, and turning over things in search; as, to *ransack* files of papers.

I *ransack* the several caverns. Woodward.

3. To violate; to ravish; to deflower; as *ransacked* chastity. [Not in use.]

Spenser.

RAN'SACKED, *pp.* Pillaged; searched narrowly.

RAN'SACKING, *ppr.* Pillaging; searching narrowly.

RAN'SOM, *n.* [Dan. *ranzon*; Sw. *ranson*; G. *ranzion*; Norm. *raaneon*; Fr. *rancon*; Arm. *ranzon*. In French, the word implies not only redemption, but exaction; but I know not the component parts of the word. Qu. G. *sühne*, atonement.]

1. The money or price paid for the redemption of a prisoner or slave, or for goods captured by an enemy; that which procures the release of a prisoner or captive, or of captured property, and restores the

one to liberty and the other to the original owner.

By his captivity in Austria, and the heavy *ransom* he paid for his liberty, Richard was hindered from pursuing the conquest of Ireland.

Davies.

2. Release from captivity, bondage or the possession of an enemy. They were unable to procure the *ransom* of the prisoners.

3. In law, a sum paid for the pardon of some great offense and the discharge of the offender; or a fine paid in lieu of corporal punishment. Encyc. Blackstone.

4. In Scripture, the price paid for a forfeited life, or for delivery or release from capital punishment.

Then he shall give for the *ransom* of his life, whatever is laid upon him. Ex. xxi.

5. The price paid for procuring the pardon of sins and the redemption of the sinner from punishment.

Deliver him from going down to the pit; I have found a *ransom*. Job xxxiii.

The Son of man came—to give his life a *ransom* for many. Matt. xx. Mark x.

RAN'SOM, *v. t.* [Sw. *ransonera*; Dan. *ranzonerer*; Fr. *rançonner*; Arm. *rançouna*.]

1. To redeem from captivity or punishment by paying an equivalent; applied to persons; as, to *ransom* prisoners from an enemy.

2. To redeem from the possession of an enemy by paying a price deemed equivalent; applied to goods or property.

3. In Scripture, to redeem from the bondage of sin, and from the punishment to which sinners are subjected by the divine law.

The *ransomed* of the Lord shall return. Is. xxxv.

4. To rescue; to deliver. Hos. xiii.

RAN'SOMED, *pp.* Redeemed or rescued from captivity, bondage or punishment by the payment of an equivalent.

RAN'SOMER, *n.* One that redeems.

RAN'SOMING, *ppr.* Redeeming from captivity, bondage or punishment by giving satisfaction to the possessor; rescuing; liberating.

RAN'SOMLESS, *a.* Free from ransom.

Shak.

RANT, *v. i.* [Heb. Ch. רָנָה, Ar. رَنَّ ranna,

to cry out, to shout, to sound, groan, murmur; W. *rhonta*, to frisk, to gambol, a sense of the Hebrew also.]

To rave in violent, high sounding or extravagant language, without correspondent dignity of thought; to be noisy and boisterous in words or declamation; as a *ranting* preacher.

Look where my *ranting* host of the garter comes.

Shak.

RANT, *n.* High sounding language without dignity of thought; boisterous, empty declamation; as the *rant* of fanatics.

This is stoical *rant*, without any foundation in the nature of man, or reason of things.

Atterbury.

RANT'ER, *n.* A noisy talker; a boisterous preacher.

RANT'ING, *ppr.* Uttering high sounding words without solid sense; declaiming or preaching with boisterous empty words.