

LEVIATHAN, *n.* [Heb. לְוִיָּאִתָּן.] An aquatic animal, described in the book of Job, ch. xli, and mentioned in other passages of Scripture. In Isaiah, it is called the crooked serpent. It is not agreed what animal is intended by the writers, whether the crocodile, the whale, or a species of serpent.

2. The whale, or a great whale. *Milton.*

LEVIGATE, *v. t.* [L. *lavigo*, from *lavis*, smooth, Gr. *λειος*.]

1. In *pharmacy* and *chemistry*, to rub or grind to a fine impalpable powder; to make fine, soft and smooth.

2. To plane; to polish. *Barrow.*

LEVIGATE, *a.* Made smooth.

LEVIGATED, *pp.* Reduced to a fine impalpable powder.

LEVIGATING, *ppr.* Rendering very fine, soft and smooth, by grinding or rubbing.

LEVIGATION, *n.* The act or operation of grinding or rubbing a solid substance to a fine impalpable powder. *Encyc.*

LEVITATION, *n.* [L. *levis*, *levitas*.] Lightness; buoyancy; act of making light.

LEVITE, *n.* [from *Levi*, one of the sons of Jacob.]

One of the tribe or family of Levi; a descendant of Levi; more particularly, an officer in the Jewish church, who was employed in manual service, as in bringing wood and other necessities for the sacrifices. The Levites also sung and played on instruments of music. They were subordinate to the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who was also of the family of Levi. *Encyc.*

LEVITICAL, *a.* Belonging to the Levites, or descendants of Levi; as the *levitical* law, the law given by Moses, which prescribed the duties and rights of the priests and Levites, and regulated the civil and religious concerns of the Jews.

2. Priestly. *Milton.*

LEVITICALLY, *adv.* After the manner of the Levites.

LEVITICUS, *n.* [from *Levi*, *Levite*.] A canonical book of the Old Testament, containing the laws and regulations which relate to the priests and Levites among the Jews, or the body of the ceremonial law.

LEVITY, *n.* [L. *levitas*, from *levis*, light; connected perhaps with Eng. *lift*.]

1. Lightness; the want of weight in a body, compared with another that is heavier. The ascent of a balloon in the air is owing to its *levity*, as the gas that fills it is lighter than common air.

2. Lightness of temper or conduct; inconstancy; changeableness; unsteadiness; as the *levity* of youth. *Hooker.*

3. Want of due consideration; vanity; freak. He never employed his omnipotence out of *levity* or ostentation.

4. Gayety of mind; want of seriousness; disposition to trifle. The spirit of religion and seriousness was succeeded by *levity*.

LEVY, *v. t.* [Fr. *lever*; It. *levare*; Sp. *levar*; L. *levo*; Eng. to *lift*.]

1. To raise; to collect. To *levy* troops, is to enlist or to order men into public service. To *levy* an army, is to collect troops and

form an army by enrollment, conscription or other means.

2. To raise; to collect by assessment; as, to *levy* taxes, toll, tribute, or contributions. To *levy* war, is to raise or begin war; to take arms for attack; to attack. *Blackstone.*

To *levy* a fine, to commence and carry on a suit for assuring the title to lands or tenements. *Blackstone.*

LEVY, *n.* The act of collecting men for military, or other public service, as by enlistment, enrollment or other means. 1 Kings ix.

2. Troops collected; an army raised. 1 Kings v.

3. The act of collecting money for public use by tax or other imposition.

4. War raised. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

LEW, *a.* [D. *laauw*.] Tepid; lukewarm; pale; wan. *Obs.*

LEWD, *a.* [W. *llodig*, having a craving; *llodi*, to reach out, to crave; *llodineb*, lewdness; *llawd*, that shoots out or is growing, a *lud*; G. *luder*, lewdness; Heb. Ch. Syr. Sam. לָרַ to beget, to bring forth; Ar.

לָרַ, Eth. ሰለደ id.]

1. Given to the unlawful indulgence of lust; addicted to fornication or adultery; dissolute; lustful; libidinous. Ezek. xxiii.

2. Proceeding from unlawful lust; as *lewd* actions.

3. Wicked; vile; profligate; licentious. Acts xvii.

LEWD, *a.* [Sax. *lawed*, *lewd*. This seems to be a contracted word, and either from the root of *laical*, *lay*, or from the Sax. *leod*, G. *leute*, people, which seems to be from the same root as the foregoing word, like L. *gens*, from *geno*.] Lay; laical; not clerical. *Obs.* *Darvies.*

LEWDLY, *adv.* With the unlawful indulgence of lust; lustfully.

2. Wickedly; wantonly.

LEWDNESS, *n.* The unlawful indulgence of lust; fornication, or adultery.

2. In *Scripture*, it generally denotes idolatry.

3. Licentiousness; shamelessness. *Spenser.*

LEWDSTER, *n.* One given to the criminal indulgence of lust; a lecher. [Not used.] *Shak.*

LEXICOGRAPHER, *n.* [See *Lexicography*.] The author of a lexicon or dictionary.

LEXICOGRAPHIC, *a.* Pertaining to the writing or compilation of a dictionary. *Boswell.*

LEXICOGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *λεξικον*, a dictionary, and *γραφω*, to write.]

1. The act of writing a lexicon or dictionary, or the art of composing dictionaries.

2. The composition or compilation of a dictionary.

LEXICOLOGY, *n.* [Gr. *λεξικον*, a dictionary, and *λογος*, discourse.] The science of words; that branch of learning which treats of the proper signification and just application of words. *Med. Repos.*

LEXICON, *n.* [Gr. *λεξικον*, a dictionary, from *λεξας*, *λεγω*, to speak.]

A dictionary; a vocabulary or book containing an alphabetical arrangement of the

words in a language, with the definition of each, or an explanation of its meaning.

LEXICONIST, *n.* A writer of a lexicon. [Little used.] *Orient. Col.*

LEXIGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *λεξας*, a word, and *γραφω*, to write.] The art or practice of defining words. *Med. Repos.*

LEY, a different orthography of *lay* and *lea*, a meadow or field.

LHERZOLITE, *n.* [from *Lherz*, in the Pyrenees.]

A mineral, a variety of pyroxene. When crystalized, its crystals are brilliant, translucent, very small, and of an emerald green. *Dict.*

Liable, *a.* [Fr. *lier*, to bind, L. *ligo*; Norm. *lige*, a bond. See *Liege*.]

1. Bound; obliged in law or equity; responsible; answerable. The surety is *liable* for the debt of his principal. The parent is not *liable* for debts contracted by a son who is a minor, except for necessities.

This use of *liable* is now common among lawyers. The phrase is abridged. The surety is *liable*, that is, bound to pay the debt of his principal.

2. Subject; obnoxious; exposed. Proudly secure, yet *liable* to fall. *Milton.*

Liable, in this sense, is always applied to evils. We never say, a man is *liable* to happiness or prosperity, but he is *liable* to disease, calamities, censure; he is *liable* to err, to sin, to fall.

LIABLENESS, *n.* The state of being **LIABILITY**, *n.* bound or obliged in law or justice; responsibility. The officer wishes to discharge himself from his *liability*.

2. Exposedness; tendency; a state of being subject; as the *liableness* of a man to contract disease in an infected room; a *liability* to accidents.

LIA'R, *n.* [from *lie*.] A person who knowingly utters falsehood; one who declares to another as a fact what he knows to be not true, and with an intention to deceive him. The uttering of falsehood by mistake, and without an intention to deceive, does not constitute one a liar.

2. One who denies Christ. 1 John ii.

LIARD, *a.* Gray. *Obs.* *Chaucer.*

LIAS, *n.* A species of limestone, occurring in flat, horizontal strata, and supposed to be of recent formation. *Encyc.*

LIB, *v. t.* [D. *lubben*.] To castrate. [Not in use.] *Chapman.*

LIBATION, *n.* [L. *libatio*, from *libo*, to pour out, to taste.]

1. The act of pouring a liquor, usually wine, either on the ground, or on a victim in sacrifice, in honor of some deity. The Hebrews, Greeks and Romans practiced *libation*. This was a solemn act and accompanied with prayer. *Encyc.*

2. The wine or other liquor poured out in honor of a deity. *Stillingfleet. Dryden.*

LIBBARD, an obsolete spelling of *leopard*. *Spenser. Milton.*

LIBBARD'S-BANE, *n.* A poisonous plant. *B. Jonson.*

LIBEL, *n.* [L. *libellus*, a little book, from *liber*, a book, from the sense of bark, and this from stripping, separating. Hence *liber*, a book, and *liber*, free, are the same word. Class Lib. No. 24. 27. 30. 31.]