

stringo. See *Strain*. Blackstone writes [distrain.]

1. To seize for debt; to take a personal chattel from the possession of a wrong-doer into the possession of the injured party, to satisfy a demand, or compel the performance of a duty; as, to *distrain* goods for rent, or for an amercement.
 2. To rend; to tear. *Obs.* *Spenser*.
- DISTRAIN**, *v. t.* To make seizure of goods.

On whom I cannot *distrain* for debt.

Camden.
For neglecting to do suit to the lord's court, or other personal service, the lord may *distrain* of common right.

[In this phrase however some word seems to be understood; as, to *distrain* goods.]

DISTRAINABLE, *a.* That is liable to be taken for distress. *Blackstone*.

DISTRAINED, *pp.* Seized for debt or to compel the performance of duty.

DISTRAINING, *pp.* Seizing for debt, or for neglect of suit and service.

DISTRAINOR, *n.* He who seizes goods for debt or service. *Blackstone*.

DISTRAUGHT, *Obs.* [See *Distraught*.] To spread or flow over.

Yet o'er that virtuous blush *distraughts* a tear. *Shenstone*.

DISTRESS, *n.* [Fr. *distresse*; Norm. *idi.* from the Celtic, *W. trais*, violence, *treis-ian*, to strain or force. See *Stress*.]

1. The act of distressing; the taking of any personal chattel from a wrong-doer, to answer a demand, or procure satisfaction for a wrong committed. *Blackstone*.
2. The thing taken by distressing; that which is seized to procure satisfaction.

A *distress* of household goods shall be impounded under cover. If the lessor does not find sufficient *distress* on the premises, &c.

Blackstone.

3. Extreme pain; anguish of body or mind; as, to suffer great *distress* from the gout, or from the loss of near friends.

4. Affliction; calamity; misery.

On earth *distress* of nations. *Luke xxi.*

5. A state of danger; as a ship in *distress*, from leaking, loss of spars, or want of provisions or water, &c.

DISTRESS, *v. t.* To pain; to afflict with pain or anguish; applied to the body or the mind. [Literally, to press or strain.]

2. To afflict greatly; to harass; to oppress with calamity; to make miserable.

Distress not the Moabites. *Deut. ii.*
We are troubled on every side, but not distressed. *2 Cor. iv.*

3. To compel by pain or suffering.

There are men who can neither be distressed nor won into a sacrifice of duty. *Federalist. Hamilton.*

DISTRESSED, *pp.* Suffering great pain or torture; severely afflicted; harassed; oppressed with calamity or misfortune.

DISTRESSEDNESS, *n.* A state of being greatly pained. *Scott*.

DISTRESSFUL, *a.* Inflicting or bringing distress; as a *distressful* stroke. *Shak.*

2. Indicating distress; proceeding from pain or anguish; as *distressful* cries. *Pope*.
3. Calamitous; as a *distressful* event. *Watts*.

4. Attended with poverty; as *distressful* bread. *Shak.*

DISTRESSING, *pp.* Giving severe pain; oppressing with affliction.

2. *a.* Very afflicting; affecting with severe pain; as a *distressing* sickness.

DISTRIBUTABLE, *a.* [See *Distribute*.] That may be distributed; that may be assigned in portions. *Ramsay*.

DISTRIBUTE, *v. t.* [L. *distribuo*; *dis* and *tribuo*, to give or divide.]

1. To divide among two or more; to deal; to give or bestow in parts or portions. Moses *distributed* lands to the tribes of Israel. Christ *distributed* the loaves to his disciples.
2. To dispense; to administer; as, to *distribute* justice.
3. To divide or separate, as into classes, orders, kinds or species.
4. To give in charity.

Distributing to the necessities of the saints. *Rom. xii.*

5. In *printing*, to separate types, and place them in their proper cells in the cases.

DISTRIBUTED, *pp.* Divided among a number; dealt out; assigned in portions; separated; bestowed.

DISTRIBUTE, *n.* One who divides or deals out in parts; one who bestows in portions; a dispenser.

DISTRIBUTING, *pp.* Dividing among a number; dealing out; dispensing.

DISTRIBUTION, *n.* [L. *distributio*.] The act of dividing among a number; a dealing in parts or portions; as the *distribution* of an estate among heirs or children.

2. The act of giving in charity; a bestowing in parts. *Bacon. Almerbury.*

3. Dispensation; administration to numbers; a rendering to individuals; as the *distribution* of justice.

4. The act of separating into distinct parts or classes; as the *distribution* of plants into genera and species.

5. In *architecture*, the dividing and disposing of the several parts of the building, according to some plan, or to the rules of the art.

6. In *rhetoric*, a division and enumeration of the several qualities of a subject.

7. In *general*, the division and disposition of the parts of any thing.

8. In *printing*, the taking a form apart; the separating of the types, and placing each letter in its proper cell in the cases.

DISTRIBUTIVE, *a.* That distributes; that divides and assigns in portions; that deals to each his proper share; as *distributive* justice.

2. That assigns the various species of a general term.

3. That separates or divides; as a *distributive* adjective.

DISTRIBUTIVE, *n.* In *grammar*, a word that divides or distributes, as *each* and *every*, which represent the individuals of a collective number as separate.

DISTRIBUTIVELY, *adv.* By distribution; singly; not collectively.

Hooker. Watts.

DISTRIBUTIVENESS, *n.* Desire of distributing. [Little used.] *Felt*

DISTRICT, *n.* [L. *districtus*, from *distringo*, to press hard, to bind; It. *distretto*. See

Distrain.]

1. Properly, a limited extent of country; a circuit within which power, right or authority may be exercised, and to which it is restrained; a word applicable to any portion of land or country, or to any part of a city or town, which is defined by law or agreement. A governor, a prefect, or a judge may have his *district*. Some of the states are divided into *districts* for the choice of senators, representatives or electors. Cities and towns are divided into *districts* for various purposes, as for schools, &c. The United States are divided into *districts* for the collection of the revenue.

2. A region; a territory within given lines; as the *district* of the earth which lies between the tropics, or that which is north of a polar circle.

3. A region; a country; a portion of territory without very definite limits; as the *districts* of Russia covered by forest.

DISTRICT, *v. t.* To divide into districts or limited portions of territory. Legislatures *district* states for the choice of senators. In New England, towns are *districted* for the purpose of establishing and managing schools.

DISTRICT-COURT, *n.* A court which has cognizance of certain causes within a district defined by law. The district-courts of the United States are courts of subordinate jurisdiction.

DISTRICT-JUDGE, *n.* The judge of a district-court. *U. States.*

DISTRICT-SCHOOL, *n.* A school within a certain district of a town. *N. England.*

DISTRICED, *pp.* Divided into districts or definite portions.

DISTRICING, *pp.* Dividing into limited or definite portions.

DISTRICION, *n.* Sudden display. [Unusual.] *Collier.*

DISTRINGAS, *n.* In *law*, a writ commanding the sheriff to *distrain* a person for debt, or for his appearance at a certain day.

DISTRUST, *v. t.* [dis and *trust*.] The Danes have *mistrust*; the Swedes, *misströsta*. See *Mistrust*.]

1. To doubt or suspect the truth, fidelity, firmness or sincerity of; not to confide in or rely on. We *distrust* a man, when we question his veracity, &c. We may often *distrust* our own firmness.

2. To doubt; to suspect not to be real, true, sincere or firm. We *distrust* a man's courage, firmness, veracity, declarations, cautious or promises, when we question their reality or sincerity. We cannot *distrust* the declarations of God. We often have reason to *distrust* our own resolutions.

DISTRUST, *n.* Doubt or suspicion of reality or sincerity; want of confidence, faith or reliance. Sycophants should be heard with *distrust*. *Distrust* mars the pleasures of friendship and social intercourse.

2. Discredit; loss of confidence. *Milton.*

DISTRUSTED, *pp.* Doubted; suspected.

DISTRUSTFUL, *a.* Apt to distrust; suspicious. *Boyle.*

2. Not confident; diffident; as *distrustful* of ourselves.

3. Diffident; modest. *Pope.*