

STEER, *v. t.* [Sax. *steoran*, to steer, to correct or chide, to discipline; G. *steuern*, to hinder, restrain, repress, to curb, to steer, to pilot, to aid, help, support. The verb is connected with or derived from *steuer*, a rudder, a helm, aid, help, subsidy, impost, tax, contribution. D. *stieren*, to steer, to send, and *stuur*, a helm; *stuuren*, to steer, to send; Dan. *styrer*, to govern, direct, manage, steer, restrain, moderate, curb, stem, hinder; *styre*, a helm, rudder or tiller; *styr*, moderation, a tax or assessment; Sw. *styra*, to steer, to restrain; *styre*, a rudder or helm; Arm. *stur*, id.; Ir. *stáram*. We see the radical sense is to *strain*, variously applied, and this coincides with the root of *starch* and *stark*; stiffness being from stretching.]

1. To direct; to govern; particularly, to direct and govern the course of a ship by the movements of the helm. Hence,
2. To direct; to guide; to show the way or course to.

That with a staff his feeble steps did steer.

Spenser.

STEER, *v. i.* To direct and govern a ship or other vessel in its course. Formerly seamen *steered* by the stars; they now *steer* by the compass.

A ship—where the wind

Veers oft, as oft so *steers* and shifts her sail.

Milton.

2. To be directed and governed; as, a ship *steers* with ease.
3. To conduct one's self; to take or pursue a course or way.

STEER, *n.* A rudder or helm. [Not in use.]

STEERAGE, *n.* The act or practice of directing and governing in a course; as the *steerage* of a ship.

Addison.

[In this sense, I believe the word is now little used.]

2. In *seamen's language*, the effort of a helm, or its effect on the ship.

Mar. Dict.

3. In a ship, an apartment forward of the great cabin, from which it is separated by a bulk-head or partition, or an apartment in the fore part of a ship for passengers. In ships of war it serves as a hall or antichamber to the great cabin.

Mar. Dict.

4. The part of a ship where the tiller traverses.

Encyc.

5. Direction; regulation.

He that hath the *steerage* of my course.

[Little used.]

Shak.

6. Regulation or management.

You raise the honor of the peerage,

Proud to attend you at the *steerage*.

Swift.

7. That by which a course is directed.

Here he huog on high

The *steerage* of his wings—

Dryden.

[*Steerage*, in the general sense of direction or management, is in popular use, but by no means an elegant word. It is said, a young man when he sets out in life, makes bad *steerage*; but no good writer would introduce the word into elegant writing.]

STEERAGE-WAY, *n.* In *seamen's language*, that degree of progressive movement of a ship, which renders her governable by the helm.

STEERED, *pp.* Directed and governed in a course; guided; conducted.

STEERER, *n.* One that steers; a pilot.

[Little used.]

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STEERING, *ppr.* Directing and governing in a course, as a ship; guiding; conducting.

STEERING, *n.* The act or art of directing and governing a ship or other vessel in her course; the act of guiding or managing.

STEERING-WHEEL, *n.* The wheel by which the rudder of a ship is turned and the ship steered.

STEERLESS, *a.* Having no steer or rudder. [Not in use.]

Gower.

STEERSMAN, *n.* [steer and man.] One that steers; the helmsman of a ship.

Mar. Dict.

STEERSMATE, *n.* [steer and mate.] One who steers; a pilot. [Not in use.]

Milton.

STEERING, *n.* In *seamen's language*, the angle of elevation which a ship's bowsprit makes with the horizon.

Mar. Dict.

STEG, *n.* [Icc. *stegge*.] A gander. [Local.]

STEGANOGRAPHIST, *n.* [Gr. *στεγανος*, secret, and *γραφω*, to write.]

One who practices the art of writing in cipher.

Bailey.

STEGANOGRAPHY, *n.* [supra.] The art of writing in ciphers or characters which are not intelligible, except to the persons who correspond with each other.

Bailey.

STEGNOTIC, *a.* [Gr. *στεγνωτικός*.] Tending to bind or render ostive.

Bailey.

STEGNOTIC, *n.* A medicine proper to stop the orifices of the vessels or emunctories of the body, when relaxed or lacerated.

Cyc.

STEINHEILITE, *n.* A mineral, a variety of iolite.

Cleveland.

STELE, *n.* A stale or handle; a stalk. *Obs.*

STEL/ECHITE, *n.* A fine kind of storax, in larger pieces than the calamite.

Cyc.

STEL/LAR, } *a.* [H. *stellare*; L. *stellaris*, from *stella*, a star.]

1. Pertaining to stars; astral; as *stellar* virtue; *stellar* figure.

Milton. Glanville.

2. Starry; full of stars; set with stars; as *stellar* regions.

STEL/LATE, } *a.* [L. *stellatus*.] Resem-

STEL/LATED, } *a.* bling a star; radiated.

2. In *botany*, stellate or verticillate leaves are when more leaves than two surround the stem in a whorl, or when they radiate like the spokes of a wheel, or like a star. A *stellate* bristle is when a little star of smaller hairs is affixed to the end; applied also to the stigma. A *stellate* flower is a radiate flower.

Martyn.

STELLA/TION, *n.* [L. *stella*, a star.] Radiation of light. [Not in use.]

STEL/LID, *a.* Starry. [Not in use.]

Shak.

STELLIFEROUS, *a.* [L. *stella*, a star, and *féro*, to produce.]

Having or abounding with stars.

STEL/LIFORM, *a.* [L. *stella*, star, and *form*.] Like a star; radiated.

STEL/LIFY, *v. t.* To turn into a star. [Not in use.]

Chaucer.

STEL/LION, *n.* [L. *stellio*.] A newt.

Ainsworth.

STEL/LIONATE, *n.* [Fr. *stellionat*, a cheating; Low L. *stellionatus*.]

In *law*, the crime of selling a thing deceitfully for what it is not, as to sell that for for one's own which belongs to another.

[Not in use.]

Bacon.

STEL/LITE, *n.* [L. *stella*, a star.] A name given by some writers to a white stone found on Mount Libanus, containing the lineaments of the star-fish.

Cyc.

STEL/OCHITE, *n.* A name given to the osteocolla.

STEOGRAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *στεογραφία*: *στος*, a pillar, and *γραφω*, to write.]

The art of writing or inscribing characters on pillars.

Stackhouse.

STEM, *n.* [Sax. *stenn*; G. *stamm*, stock, stem, race; D. Sw. *stam*; Dan. *stamme*; Sans. *stamma*. The Latin has *stemma*, in the sense of the stock of a family or race. The primary sense is to set, to fix.]

1. The principal body of a tree, shrub or plant of any kind; the main stock; the firm part which supports the branches.

After they are shot up thirty feet in length, they spread a very large top, having no bough or twig on the stem.

Rotleigh.

The low ring spring with lavish rain,
Beats down the slender stem and bearded grain.

Dryden.

2. The peduncle of the fructification, or the pedicle of a flower; that which supports the flower or the fruit of a plant.

3. The stock of a family; a race or generation of progenitors; as a noble stem.

Milton.

Learn well their lineage and their ancient stem.

Tickel.

4. Progeny; branch of a family.

This is a stem

Of that victorious stock.

Shak.

5. In a ship, a circular piece of timber, to which the two sides of a ship are united at the fore end. The lower end of it is scarfed to the keel, and the bowsprit rests upon its upper end. [D. *sterven*.]

Mar. Dict.

From stem to stern, is from one end of the ship to the other, or through the whole length.

STEM, *v. t.* To oppose or resist, as a current; or to make progress against a current. We say, the ship was not able with all her sails to *stem* the tide.

They *stem* the flood with their erected breasts.

Denham.

2. To stop; to check; as a stream or moving force.

At length Erasmus, that great injur'd name,
Stemm'd the wild torrent of a barb'rous age,
And drove those holy Vandals off the stage.

Pope.

STEM/CLASPING, *a.* Embracing the stem with its base; amplexicaul: as a leaf or petiole.

Martyn.

STEM/LEAF, *n.* A leaf inserted into the stem.

Martyn.

STEM/LESS, *a.* Having no stem.

STEM MED, *pp.* Opposed, as a current; stopped.

STEMMING, *ppr.* Opposing, as a stream; stopping.

STEM/PLE, *n.* In *mining*, a cross bar of wood in a shaft.

Encyc.

STENCH, *n.* [Sax. *stenc*, *stencg*. See *Stink*.] An ill smell: offensive odor.

Bacon.

STENCH, *v. t.* To cause to emit a hateful smell. [Not in use.]

Mortimer.

2. To stanch; to stop. [Not in use.]

Harvey.

STENCH/Y, *a.* Having an offensive smell. [Not in use.]

Dyer.