

**SILICIUM**, *n.* The undecomposed and perhaps undecomposable base of silic or silica.

**SILICULOUS**, *a.* Having silicles or little pods, or pertaining to them.

**SILING-DISH**, *n.* [Dan. *siler*, to strain.] A colander. [Not in use.] *Barrel.*

**SIL/IQUA**, *n.* [L.] With gold finers, a carat, six of which make a scruple. *Johnson.*

**SIL/IQUA**, } [L. *siliqua*.] A pod; an ob-  
**SIL/IQUE**, } *n.* long, membranaceous, bi-  
valvular pericarp, having the seeds fixed to both sutures. *Martyn.*

**SIL/IQUOSE**, } [L. *siliquosus*.] Having  
**SIL/IQUOUS**, } *n.* that species of pericarp called *siliqua*; as *siliquous* plants. *Martyn.*

**SILK**, *n.* [Sax. *seole*; Sw. *silke*; Dan.

*id.*; Russ. *schilk*; Ar. Pers. *سلك* silk;

properly any thread, from Ar. *سلك* salaka, to send or thrust in, to insert, to pass or go.]

1. The fine soft thread produced by the insect called *silk-worm* or *bombyx*. That which we ordinarily call *silk*, is a thread composed of several finer threads which the worm draws from its bowels, like the web of a spider, and with which the silk-worm envelops itself; forming what is called a *cocoon*. *Encyc.*

2. Cloth made of silk. In this sense, the word has a plural, *silks*, denoting different sorts and varieties, as black *silk*, white *silk*, colored *silks*.

3. The filiform style of the female flower of maize, which resembles real silk in fineness and softness.

*Virginia silk*, a plant of the genus *Periptoca*, which climbs and winds about other plants, trees, &c.

**SILK**, *a.* Pertaining to silk; consisting of silk.

**SILK COTTON-TREE**, *n.* A tree of the genus *Bombax*, growing to an immense size; a native of both the Indies. *Encyc.*

**SILKEN**, *a.* *silk'n*. [Sax. *seolcen*.] Made of silk; as *silken* cloth; a *silken* veil.

2. Like silk; soft to the touch. *Dryden.*

3. Soft; delicate; tender; smooth; as mild and *silken* language.

4. Dressed in silk; as a *silken* wanton. *Shak.*

**SILKEN**, *v. t.* *silk'n*. To render soft or smooth. *Dyer.*

**SILKINESS**, *n.* [from *silky*.] The qualities of silk; softness and smoothness to the feel.

2. Softness; effeminacy; pusillanimity. [Little used.] *B. Jonson.*

**SILK/MAN**, *n.* [silk and man.] A dealer in silks. *Shak.*

**SILK/MERCER**, *n.* [silk and mercer.] A dealer in silks.

**SILK/WEAVER**, *n.* [silk and weaver.] One whose occupation is to weave silk stuffs. *Watts.*

**SILK/WORM**, *n.* [silk and worm.] The worm which produces silk, of the genus *Phalena*. Silk-worms are said to have been first introduced into the Roman empire from China, in the reign of Justinian.

**SILK/Y**, *a.* Made of silk; consisting of silk.

2. Like silk; soft and smooth to the touch. *Shak.*

**SILL**, *n.* [Sax. *syl*, *syle*, *syll*; Fr. *seuil*; G. *schwelle*; W. *sail*, *syl* or *seiler*, foundation; *seiliaw*, to found; L. *solum*; allied to *solid*. The primary sense is probably to lay, set or throw down.]

1. Properly, the basis or foundation of a thing; appropriately, a piece of timber on which a building rests; the lowest timber of any structure; as the *sills* of a house, of a bridge, of a loom and the like.

2. The timber or stone at the foot of a door; the threshold.

3. The timber or stone on which a window frame stands; or the lowest piece in a window frame.

4. The shaft or thill of a carriage. [Local.] *Grose.*

**SIL/LABUB**, *n.* A liquor made by mixing wine or cider with milk, and thus forming a soft curd. *King.*

**SIL/LILY**, *adv.* [from *silly*.] In a silly manner; foolishly; without the exercise of good sense or judgment. *Dryden.*

**SIL/LIMANITE**, *n.* A mineral found at Saybrook in Connecticut, so named in honor of Prof. Silliman of Yale College. It occurs in long, slender, rhombic prisms, engaged in gneiss. Its color is dark gray and hair brown; luster shining upon the external planes, but brilliant and pseudo-metallic upon those produced by cleavage in a direction parallel with the longer diagonal of the prism. Hardness about the same with quartz. Specific gravity, 3.410.

**SIL/LINESS**, *n.* Weakness of understanding; want of sound sense or judgment; simplicity; harmless folly. *L'Estrange.*

**SIL/LY**, *a.* [I have not found this word in any other language; but the Sax. *ascalcan* signifies to be dull, inert, lazy. This

corresponds with the Ar. *كاسل* kasela,

to be stupid, Heb. ככל. This may be radically the same word, with a prefix. Class Sl. No. 26.]

1. Weak in intellect; foolish; witless; destitute of ordinary strength of mind; simple; as a *silly* man; a *silly* child

2. Proceeding from want of understanding or common judgment; characterized by weakness or folly; unwise; as *silly* thoughts; *silly* actions; a *silly* scheme; writings stupid or *silly*. *Watts.*

3. Weak; helpless.

After long storms—  
With which my *silly* bark was toss'd. *Obs.*

**SIL/LYHOW**, *n.* The membrane that covers the head of the fetus. [I believe not used.] *Brown.*

**SILT**, *n.* [Sw. *sylla*, to pickle.] Saltiness, or salt marsh or mud. [Not in use in America.] *Hale.*

**SIL/URE**, } *n.* The sheat-fish; also, a  
**SIL/URUS**, } name of the sturgeon. *Dict. Nat. Hist.*

**SIL/VAN**, *a.* [L. *silva*, a wood or grove. It is also written *sylvan*.]

1. Pertaining to a wood or grove; inhabiting woods.

2. Woody; abounding with woods.

Belwixt two rows of rocks, a *silvan* scene.

**SIL/VAN**, *n.* Another name of *tellurium*. *Dryden.*

*Werner.*

**SIL/VER**, *n.* [Sax. *seolfer*, *siluer*; Goth. *silubr*; G. *silber*; D. *zilver*; Sw. *silver*; Dan. *solv*; Lapponic, *sellowpe*. Qn. Russ. *serebro*; r for l.]

1. A metal of a white color and lively brilliancy. It has neither taste nor smell; its specific gravity is 10.552, according to Bergman, but according to Kirwan it is less. A cubic foot weighs about 660 lbs. Its ductility is little inferior to that of gold. It is harder and more elastic than tin or gold, but less so than copper, platina or iron. It is found native in thin plates or leaves, or in fine threads, or it is found mineralized by various substances. Great quantities of this metal are furnished by the mines of South America, and it is found in small quantities in Norway, Germany, Spain, the United States, &c. *Kirwan. Encyc.*

2. Money; coin made of silver.

3. Any thing of soft splendor. *Pallas*—piteous of her plaintive cries, In slumber clos'd her *silver*-streaming eyes. *Pope.*

**SIL/VER**, *a.* Made of silver; as a *silver* cup.

2. White like silver; as *silver* hair. *Shak.* Others on *silver* lakes and rivers bath'd Their downy breast. *Milton.*

3. White, or pale; of a pale luster; as the *silver* moon.

4. Soft; as a *silver* voice or sound. [Italian, *suono argentino*.] *Spenser. Shak.*

**SIL/VER**, *v. t.* To cover superficially with a coat of silver; as, to *silver* a pin or a dial-plate.

2. To foliate; to cover with tinfoil amalgamated with quicksilver; as, to *silver* glass.

3. To adorn with mild luster; to make smooth and bright.

And smiling calmness *silver'd* o'er the deep. *Pope.*

4. To make hoary. His head was *silver'd* o'er with age. *Gay.*

**SIL/VER-BEATER**, *n.* [*silver* and *beater*.] One that foliates silver, or forms it into a leaf.

**SIL/VER-BUSH**, *n.* A plant, a species of *Anthyllis*.

**SIL/VERED**, *pp.* Covered with a thin coat of silver; rendered smooth and lustrous; made white or hoary.

**SIL/VER-FIR**, *n.* A species of fir. *Berkeley.*

**SIL/VER-FISH**, *n.* A fish of the size of a small carp, having a white color, striped with silvery lines.

**SIL/VERING**, *ppr.* Covering the surface with a thin coat of silver; foliating; rendering mildly lustrous; rendering white.

**SIL/VERING**, *n.* The art, operation or practice of covering the surface of any thing with silver; as the *silvering* of copper or brass. *Encyc.*

**SIL/VERLING**, *n.* A silver coin. *Is. vii.*

**SIL/VERLY**, *adv.* With the appearance of silver. *Shak.*

**SIL/VERSMITH**, *n.* [*silver* and *smith*.] One whose occupation is to work in silver, or in manufactures of which the precious metals form a part.

**SIL/VER-THISTLE**, *n.* [*silver* and *thistle*.] A plant.