

3. A vein of basalt, greenstone or other stony substance. *Cleveland.*

DIKE, *v. t.* To surround with a dike; to secure by a dike.

DIKE, *v. i.* To dig. [*Not in use.*]

DILACERATE, *v. t.* [*L. dilacero; di and lacero, to tear.*]

To tear; to rend asunder; to separate by force. *Brown.*

DILACERATED, *pp.* Torn; rent asunder.

DILACERATING, *ppr.* Tearing; rending in two.

DILACERATION, *n.* The act of rending asunder; a tearing, or rending. [In lieu of these words, *lacerate, laceration*, are generally used.]

DILANIATE, *v. t.* [*L. dilanio; di and lano, to rend in pieces.*]

To tear; to rend in pieces; to mangle. [*Little used.*] *Howell.*

DILANIATION, *n.* A tearing in pieces.

DILAPIDATE, *v. i.* [*L. dilapido; di and lapido, to stone, from lapis, a stone.* It seems originally to have signified to pull down stone-work, or to suffer such work to fall to pieces.]

To go to ruin; to fall by decay.

DILAPIDATE, *v. t.* To pull down; to waste or destroy; to suffer to go to ruin.

If the bishop, parson, or vicar, &c., dilapidates the buildings, or cuts down the timber of the patrimony of the church— *Blackstone.*

2. To waste; to squander.

DILAPIDATED, *pp.* Wasted; ruined; pulled down; suffered to go to ruin.

DILAPIDATING, *ppr.* Wasting; pulling down; suffering to go to ruin.

DILAPIDATION, *n.* Ecclesiastical waste; a voluntary wasting or suffering to go to decay any building in possession of an incumbent. Dilapidation is *voluntary* or *active*, when an incumbent pulls down a building; *permissive* or *passive*, when he suffers it to decay and neglects to repair it. Dilapidation extends to the waste or destruction of wood, and other property of the church. *Blackstone.*

2. Destruction; demolition; decay; ruin.

3. Peculation. *Bragat.*

DILAPIDATOR, *n.* One who causes dilapidation. *Stephens.*

DILATABILITY, *n.* [See *Dilate*.] The quality of admitting expansion by the elastic force of the body itself, or of another elastic substance acting upon it; opposed to *contractibility*.

DILATABLE, *a.* Capable of expansion; possessing elasticity; elastic. A bladder is *dilatatable* by the force of air; air is *dilatatable* by heat. It is opposed to *contractible*.

DILATATION, *n.* The act of expanding; expansion; a spreading or extending in all directions; the state of being expanded; opposed to *contraction*. *Dilatation* differs from *extension*, as the latter is applied to lines and surfaces; the former to bodies that spread, open or enlarge in all directions. A line or a plain is *extended*; a bladder, an artery, a balloon is *dilated*.

DILATE, *v. t.* [*L. dilato; di and latus, wide; Fr. dilater; It. dilatare; Sp. dilatar. See Delay.*]

1. To expand; to distend; to enlarge or ex-

tend in all directions; opposed to *contract*. The air *dilates* the lungs; air is *dilated* by rarefaction.

2. To enlarge; to relate at large; to tell copiously or diffusely; as, to *dilate* upon the policy of a measure. In this sense, it is generally used intransitively. Spenser and Shakespeare have used it in a transitive sense; as, to *dilate* a theme.

DILATE, *v. i.* To widen; to expand; to swell or extend in all directions.

His heart dilates and glories in his strength. *Addison.*

2. To speak largely and copiously; to dwell on in narration.

An advocate may weaken his argument by *dilating* on trivial circumstances.

DILATE, *a.* Expanded; expansive.

DILATED, *pp.* Expanded; distended; enlarged so as to occupy a greater space.

DILATER, *n.* One who enlarges; that which expands.

DILATING, *ppr.* Expanding; enlarging; speaking largely.

DILATOR, *n.* That which widens or expands; a muscle that dilates.

DILATORILY, *adv.* With delay; tardily.

DILATORINESS, *n.* [from *dilatory*.] The quality of being dilatory or late; lateness; slowness in motion; delay in proceeding; tardiness.

DILATORY, *a.* [Fr. *dilatatoire*; It. *dilatatorio*; Low *L. dilatorius*, from *differo, dilatus*. See *Delay* and *Dilate*.]

1. Literally, drawing out or extending in time; hence, slow; late; tardy; *applied to things*; as dilatory councils or measures.

2. Given to procrastination; not proceeding with diligence; making delay; slow; late; *applied to persons*; as a dilatory messenger. A man is *dilatory*, when he delays attendance, or performance of business, beyond the proper time.

3. In *law*, intended to make delay; tending to delay; as a dilatory plea, which is designed or which tends to delay the trial of a cause. *Blackstone.*

DILECTION, *n.* [*L. dilectio*.] A loving. *Martin.*

DILEMMA, *n.* [Gr. *δῆλον*, a syllogism which strikes on each side; *δῆς* and *λογμα*, an assumption, from *λαμβάνω*, to take.]

1. In *logic*, an argument equally conclusive by contrary suppositions. A young rhetorician said to an old sophist: "Instruct me in pleading, and I will pay you, when I gain a cause." The master sued for the reward, and the scholar endeavored to elude the claim by a dilemma. "If I gain my cause, I shall withhold your pay, because the award of the judge will be against you. If I lose it, I may withhold it, because I shall not yet have gained a cause." The master replied: "If you gain your cause, you must pay me, because you are to pay me, when you gain a cause; if you lose it, you must pay me, because the judge will award it." *Johnson.*

2. A difficult or doubtful choice; a state of things in which evils or obstacles present themselves on every side, and it is difficult to determine what course to pursue.

A strong dilemma in a desperate case! To act with infamy, or quit the place. *Swift.*

DILETTANTE, *n.* [It.] One who de-

lights in promoting science or the fine arts. *Burke.*

DILIGENCE, *n.* [*L. diligentia*, from *diligere*, to love earnestly; *di* and *lego*, to choose.]

1. Steady application in business of any kind; constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken; exertion of body or mind without unnecessary delay or sloth; due attention; industry; assiduity.

*Diligence* is the philosopher's stone that turns everything thing to gold.

Brothers, give *diligence* to make your calling and election sure. 2 Pet. i.

2. Care; heed; heedfulness.

Keep thy heart with all *diligence*. Prov. iv.

3. The name of a stage-coach, used in France.

DILIGENT, *a.* [*L. diligens*.] Steady in application to business; constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; assiduous; attentive; industrious; not idle or negligent; *applied to persons*.

Seest thou a man *diligent* in his business? he shall stand before kings. Prov. xvii.

2. Steadily applied; prosecuted with care and constant effort; careful; assiduous; as, make *diligent* search.

The judges shall make *diligent* inquisition. Judges xix.

DILIGENTLY, *adv.* With steady application and care; with industry or assiduity; not carelessly; not negligently.

Ye shall *diligently* keep the commandments of the Lord your God. Deut. vi.

DILI, *n.* [Sax. *dil, dile*; Sw. *dil*; Dan. *dild*; D. *dille*; G. *dill*.]

An annual plant of the genus *Anethum*, the seeds of which are moderately warming, pungent and aromatic.

DILUCID, *a.* [*L. dilucidus*.] Clear. [*Not in use.*]

DILUCIDATE, *v. t.* To make clear. [*Not in use.* See *Elucidate*.]

DILUENT, *a.* [*L. diluens*. See *Dilute*.] Making liquid or more fluid; making thin; attenuating.

2. Weakening the strength of, by mixture with water.

DILUENT, *n.* That which thins or attenuates; that which makes more liquid.

2. That which weakens the strength of; as water, which, mixed with wine or spirit, reduces the strength of it.

DILUTE, *v. t.* [*L. diluo, dilutus; di, dis, and lavo, luo, to wash, contracted from lavo or lugo. See Diluge.*]

1. Literally, to wash; but, appropriately, to render liquid, or more liquid; to make thin, or more fluid. Thus sirup or melasses is made thin or more liquid by an admixture with water; and the water is said to *dilute* it. Hence,

2. To weaken, as spirit or an acid, by an admixture of water, which renders the spirit or acid less concentrated. Thus, we *dilute* spirit, wine or a decoction by adding to it water.

3. To make weak or weaker, as color, by mixture. *Newton.*

4. To weaken; to reduce the strength or standard of; as, to *dilute* virtue. *Milner.*

DILUTE, *a.* Thin; attenuated; reduced in strength, as spirit or color. *Newton.*

DILUTED, *pp.* Made liquid; rendered more fluid; weakened, made thin, as liquids.