

shake off the sternness of winter, and *robe* it in the brightest smiles of spring. *Wirt.*

ROBED, *pp.* Dressed with a robe; arrayed with elegance.

ROBERSMAN, { *n.* In the old statutes
ROBERTSMAN, { *n.* of England, a bold
stout robber or night thief, said to be so
called from *Robinhood*, a famous robber.
Johnson.

ROBERT, { *n.* A plant of the genus
HERB-ROBERT, { *n.* Geranium; stork's
bill. *Fam. of Plants. Ainsworth.*

ROBERTINE, *n.* One of an order of
monks, so called from Robert Flower, the
founder, A. D. 1187.

ROBIN, *n.* [*L. rubecula*, from *rubeo*, to be
red.]

1. A bird of the genus *Motacilla*, called also
redbreast. This is the English application
of the word.

2. In the *United States*, a bird with a red
breast, a species of *Turdus*.

ROBIN-GOODFELLOW, *n.* An old do-
mestic goblin. *Dering.*

ROBORANT, *a.* [*L. roborans*, *roboro*.]
Strengthening.

ROBORANT, *n.* A medicine that strength-
ens; but *corroborant* is generally used.

ROBORATION, *n.* [from *L. roboro*, from
robur, strength.]

A strengthening. [*Little used.*] *Coles.*

ROBOREOUS, *a.* [*L. roborcus*, from *robur*,
strength, and an oak.]

Made of oak. *Dict.*

ROBUST, *a.* [*L. robustus*, from *robur*,
strength.]

1. Strong; lusty; sinewy; muscular; vig-
orous; forceful; as a *robust* body; *robust*
youth. It implies full flesh and sound
health.

2. Sound; vigorous; as *robust* health.

3. Violent; rough; rude.

Romp loving mis-
Is haul'd about in gallantry *robust*.

4. Requiring strength; as *robust* employ-
ment. *Thomson.*

[*NOTE.* This is one of the words in which we
observe a strong tendency in practice to ac-
centuate the first syllable, as in *access*; and
there are many situations of the word in which
this is the preferable pronunciation. *Robus-
tious* is extremely vulgar, and in the U. States
nearly obsolete.] *Locke.*

ROBUSTNESS, *n.* Strength; vigor, or
the condition of the body when it has full
firm flesh and sound health. *Arbutnot.*

ROC'AMBOLE, { [from the French.]
ROK'AMBOLE, { *n.* A sort of wild garlic,
the *Allium scorodoprasum*, growing natu-
rally in Denmark and Sweden. It has a
heart-shaped root at the side of the stalk.
Encyc.

ROCHE-ALUM, *n.* [*Fr. roche*, a rock. It
ought to be written and called *rock-alum*.]
Rock-alum, a purer kind of alum. *Mortimer.*

ROCHELLE SALT, tartrate of potash and soda.
ROCH'ET, *n.* [*Fr. rochet*; *It. roccetto*, *roc-
chetto*; *Sax. rocc*; *G. rock*; *D. rok*. This
coincides in origin with *frack*.]

A surplice; the white upper garment of a
priest worn while officiating. *Cleaveland.*
ROCH'ET, *n.* A fish, the *roach*, which
see.

ROCK, *n.* [*Fr. roc* or *roche*; *It. rocca*, a
rock, and a distaff; *Sp. roca*; *Port. roca*,
rocha; *Arm. rock*; *Basque, arroca*. Drop-
ping the first letter of *crag*, *rock* would
seem to be the same word, and so named
from breaking and the consequent rough-
ness, corresponding with *Gr. ραξια*, as
crag does with *crack*; *Ar. خرق* *garaka*,
to burst, crack, tear, *rake*. So *L. rupes*,
from the root of *rumpo*, to break or burst.
If this is not the origin of *rock*, I know not
to what root to assign it. See *Class Rg.*
No. 34.

1. A large mass of stony matter, usually
compounded of two or more simple min-
erals, either bedded in the earth or resting
on its surface. Sometimes *rocks* compose
the principal part of huge mountains;
sometimes huge *rocks* lie on the surface of
the earth, in detached blocks or masses.
Under this term, mineralogists class all
mineral substances, coal, gypsum, salt,
&c.

2. In *Scripture*, figuratively, defense; means
of safety; protection; strength; asylum.
The Lord is my *rock*. 2 Sam. xxii.

3. Firmness; a firm or immovable founda-
tion. Ps. xxvii. Matt. vii. and xvi.

4. A species of vulture or condor. *Encyc.*

5. A fabulous bird in the Eastern tales.

ROCK, *n.* [*Dan. rok*; *Sw. rock*; *D. rokken*;
G. rocken; *It. rocca*; *Sp. ruca*. The lat-
ter is rendered a distaff, a winding or
twisting, and the fish of a mast or yard.
The sense is probably a *rack* or frame.]

A distaff used in spinning; the staff or frame
about which flax is arranged, from which
the thread is drawn in spinning.

ROCK, *v. t.* [*Dan. rokke*, to move, stir,
wag, rack, advance; *G. rücken*; *Old Fr. ro-
cquer* or *roquer*; *Sw. ragla*, to reel; *W. rhocian*, to rock; *rhoc*, a shooting or mov-
ing different ways; *Ar. رَج* to shake,
to tremble, to agitate. This latter verb in
Ch. Syr. signifies to desire, to long for,
that is, to *reach* or *stretch*, *Gr. ὀρεω*; and
it may be a different word.]

1. To move backward and forward, as a
body resting on a foundation; as, to *rock*
a cradle; to *rock* a chair; to *rock* a moun-
tain. It differs from *shake*, as denoting a
slower and more uniform motion, or larg-
er movements. It differs from *swing*,
which expresses a vibratory motion of
something suspended.
A rising earthquake *rock'd* the ground.
Dryden

2. To move backwards and forwards in a
cradle, chair, &c.; as, to *rock* a child to
sleep. *Dryden.*

3. To lull to quiet.
Sleep *rock* thy brain. [*Unusual.*] *Shak.*

ROCK, *v. i.* To be moved backwards and
forwards; to reel.
The *rocking* town
Supplants their footsteps. *Philips.*

ROCK'-ALUM, *n.* The purest kind of alum.
[See *Roche-alum*.]

ROCK'-BASON, *n.* A cavity or artificial
basin cut in a rock for the purpose, as is
supposed, of collecting the dew or rain for
ablutions and purifications prescribed by
the druidical religion. *Grosier. Encyc.*

ROCK BUTTER, *n.* A subsulphite of alu-
min, oozing from aluminous rocks. *Cyc.*

ROCK-CRYSTAL, *n.* The most perfect
variety of silicious earth or quartz; limpid
quartz. When purest it is white or color-
less, but it is found of a grayish or yellow-
ish white, pale yellow or citrine. Its most
usual form is that of hexagonal prisms,
surmounted by hexagonal pyramids.
Kirwan. Cleaveland.

ROCK'-DÔE, *n.* A species of deer. *Grew.*

ROCK'ED, *pp.* [from *rock*, the verb.] Mov-
ed one way and the other.

ROCK'ER, *n.* One who rocks the cradle;
also, the curving piece of wood on which
a cradle or chair rocks.

ROCK'ET, *n.* [*Dan. rakel, rakette*, a rocket,
cracker or squib; *G. rackete*; probably
from the root of *crack* and *racket*, *Fr. cra-
quer, craqueter*.]

An artificial fire-work, consisting of a cylin-
drical case of paper, filled with a composi-
tion of combustible ingredients, as niter,
charcoal and sulphur. This being tied to
a stick and fired, ascends into the air and
bursts. *Encyc.*

ROCK'ET, *n.* [*L. crucea*.] A plant of the
genus *Brassica*. There is also the *bas-
tard rocket*, of the genus *Reseda*; the *corn
rocket* and the *sea rocket*, of the genus *Bu-
nias*; the *marsh rocket*, the *water rocket*,
and the *winter rocket*, of the genus *Sisym-
brium*; and the *dame's violet rocket*, of the
genus *Hesperis*. *Fam. of Plants.*

ROCK'-FISH, *n.* A species of Gobius.

ROCK'INESS, *n.* [from *rocky*.] State of
abounding with rocks.

ROCK'ING, *ppr.* Moving backwards and
forwards.

ROCK'LESS, *a.* Being without rocks.
Dryden.

ROCK'-OIL, *n.* Another name for petrol
or petroleum.

ROCK'-PIGEON, *n.* A pigeon that builds
her nest on a rock. *Mortimer.*

ROCK'-ROSE, *n.* A plant of the genus
Cistus.

ROCK'-RUBY, *n.* A name sometimes given
to the garnet, when it is of a strong, but
not a deep red, and has a cast of blue.
Hill.

ROCK'-SALT, *n.* Fossil or mineral salt;
salt dug from the earth; muriate of soda.
But in America, this name is sometimes
given to salt that comes in large crystals
from the West Indies, which salt is form-
ed by evaporation from sea water, in
large basins or cavities, on the isles. Hex-
ahedral rock-salt occurs foliated and fi-
brous. *Ure.*

ROCK'-WOOD, *n.* Ligniform asbestos.
Cyc.

ROCK'-WORK, *n.* Stones fixed in mortar
in imitation of the asperities of rocks,
forming a wall.

2. A natural wall of rock. *Addison.*

ROCK'Y, *a.* [from *rock*.] Full of rocks; as
a *rocky* mountain; a *rocky* shore.

2. Resembling a rock; as the *rocky* orb of a
shield. *Milton.*

3. Very hard; stony; obdurate; insus-
ceptible of impression; as a *rocky* bosom.
Shak.

ROD, *n.* [*Sax. rod*; *Dan. rode*; *D. roede*,
roe; *G. ruthe* and *reis*. In Danish, *rod* is a
root; and I suppose *rod*, *root*, *L. radius*,
ray, *radix*, root, and *Dan. Sw. rad*, to be
of one family. The sense is a shoot, from