

and containing no organic remains; as granite, gneiss, &c.

PRIMITIVE, *n.* An original word; a word not derived from another.

PRIMITIVELY, *adv.* Originally; at first. *Brown.*

2. Primarily; not derivatively.

3. According to the original rule or ancient practice. *South.*

PRIMITIVENESS, *n.* State of being original; antiquity; conformity to antiquity. *Johnson.*

PRIMITY, *n.* The state of being original. [Not used.] *Pearson.*

PRIMNESS, *n.* [from *prim*.] Affected formality or niceness; stiffness; preciseness.

PRIMOGENIAL, *a.* [L. *primigenius*. See *Primigenial*.]

First born, made or generated; original; primary; constituent; elemental; as *primogenial* light; *primogenial* bodies. *Boyle.*

PRIMOGENITOR, *n.* [L. *primus*, first, and *genitor*, father.] The first father or forefather. *Gayton.*

PRIMOGENITURE, *n.* [L. *primus*, first, and *genitus*, begotten.]

1. The state of being born first of the same parents; seniority by birth among children.

2. In law, the right which belongs to the eldest son or daughter. Thus in Great Britain, the right of inheriting the estate of the father belongs to the eldest son, and in the royal family, the eldest son of the king is entitled to the throne by *primogeniture*. Among the females, the crown descends by right of *primogeniture* to the eldest daughter only and her issue. *Blackstone.*

Before the revolution, *primogeniture*, in some of the American colonies, entitled the eldest son to a double portion of his father's estate, but this right has been abolished.

PRIMOGENITURESHIP, *n.* The right of eldership.

PRIMORDIAL, *a.* [Fr. from L. *primordialis*, *primordium*; *primus*, first, and *ordo*, order.]

First in order; original; existing from the beginning. *Boyle.*

PRIMORDIAL, *n.* Origin; first principle or element. *More.*

PRIMORDIAN, *n.* A kind of plum.

PRIMORDIAL, *a.* [See *Primordial*.] Original; existing from the first. *Boyle.*

PRIMP, *v. i.* To be formal or affected. [Not English, or local.]

PRIMROSE, *n. s* as *z*. [L. *primula veris*; *primus*, first, and *rose*; literally, the first or an early rose in spring.]

A plant of the genus *Primula*, of several varieties, as the white, the red, the yellow flowered, the cowslip, &c. Shakspeare uses the word for gay or flowery; as the *primrose* way.

PRIMY, *a.* Blooming. [Not used.] *Shak.*

PRINCE, *n. prins*. [Fr. *id.*; It. *Sp. prince*; L. *princeps*; D. *prins*; G. *prinz*; Arm. *prinç*. This word is probably compounded of *primus*, corrupted, as the Gr. *πρῶτος*, and *ceps*, head, Fr. *chef*; or perhaps of the Celtic *breen*, summit, whence W.

brenin, king, an exalted one, and *ceps*. Hence *Brennus*, the name of a celebrated

Gaulish commander. In Pers. *پرنس*

barin signifies lofty, or one elevated in place or office.]

1. In a general sense, a sovereign; the chief and independent ruler of a nation or state. Thus when we speak of the *princes* of Europe, we include emperors and kings. Hence, a chief in general; as a *prince* of the celestial host. *Milton.*

2. A sovereign in a certain territory; one who has the government of a particular state or territory, but holds of a superior to whom he owes certain services; as the *princes* of the German states.

3. The son of a king or emperor, or the issue of a royal family; as *princes* of the blood. In England, the eldest son of the king is created *prince* of Wales. *Encyc.*

4. The chief of any body of men. *Peacham.*

5. A chief or ruler of either sex. Queen Elizabeth is called by Camden *prince*, but this application is unusual and harsh.

Prince of the senate, in ancient Rome, was the person first called in the roll of senators. He was always of consular and censorian dignity. *Encyc.*

In *Scripture*, this name *prince* is given to God, Dan. viii: to Christ, who is called the *prince* of peace, Is. ix. and the *prince* of life, Acts iii.; to the chief of the priests, the *prince* of the sanctuary, Is. xliii.; to the Roman emperor, Dan. ix.; to men of superior worth and excellence, Eccles. x.; to nobles, counselors and officers of a kingdom, Is. x.; to the chief men of families or tribes, Num. xvii.; to Satan, who is called the *prince* of this world, John xii. and *prince* of the power of the air, Eph. ii.

PRINCE, *v. i.* To play the prince; to take state. *Shak.*

PRINCEDOM, *n. prins'dom*. The jurisdiction, sovereignty, rank or estate of a prince.

Under thee, as head supreme, Thrones, *princedom*s, powers, dominions, I reduce. *Milton.*

PRINCELIKE, *a. prins'like*. Becoming a prince. *Shak.*

PRINCELINESS, *n. prins'liness*. [from *princely*.]

The state, manner or dignity of a prince. *Sherwood.*

PRINCELY, *a. prins'ly*. Resembling a prince; having the appearance of one high born; stately; dignified; as a *prince*-ly gentleman; a *prince*-ly youth. *Shak.*

2. Having the rank of princes; as a man of *prince*-ly birth; a *prince*-ly dame. *Sidney. Waller.*

3. Becoming a prince; royal; grand; august; as a *prince*-ly gift; *prince*-ly virtues. *Shak. Waller.*

4. Very large; as a *prince*-ly fortune.

5. Magnificent; rich; as a *prince*-ly entertainment.

PRINCELY, *adv. prins'ly*. In a princelike manner. *Johnson.*

PRINCES'-FETHER, *n.* A plant of the genus *Amaranthus*. *Fam. of Plants.*

Prince's metal, a mixture of copper and zinc, in imitation of gold. *Encyc.*

PRINCESS, *n.* A female sovereign, as an empress or queen. *Dryden.*

2. A sovereign lady of rank next to that of a queen. *Johnson.*

3. The daughter of a king. *Shak.*

4. The consort of a prince; as the *princess* of Wales.

PRINCIPAL, *a.* [Fr. from L. *principalis*, from *princeps*.]

1. Chief; highest in rank, character or respectability; as the *principal* officers of a government; the *principal* men of a city, town or state. Acts xxv. 1 Chron. xxiv.

2. Chief; most important or considerable; as the *principal* topics of debate; the *principal* arguments in a case; the *principal* points of law; the *principal* beams of a building; the *principal* productions of a country.

Wisdom is the *principal* thing. Prov. iv.

3. In law, a *principal* challenge, is where the cause assigned carries with it *prima facie* evidence of partiality, favor or malice. *Blackstone.*

4. In music, fundamental.

PRINCIPAL, *n.* A chief or head; one who takes the lead; as the *principal* of a faction, an insurrection or mutiny.

2. The president, governor, or chief in authority. We apply the word to the chief instructor of an academy or seminary of learning.

3. In law, the actor or absolute perpetrator of a crime, or an abettor. A *principal* in the first degree, is the absolute perpetrator of the crime; a *principal* in the second degree, is one who is present, aiding and abetting the fact to be done; distinguished from an *accessory*. In treason, all persons concerned are *principals*. *Blackstone.*

4. In commerce, a capital sum lent on interest, due as a debt or used as a fund; so called in distinction from *interest* or *profits*.

Taxes must be continued, because we have no other means for paying off the *principal*. *Swift.*

5. One primarily engaged; a chief party; in distinction from an *auxiliary*.

We were not *principals*, but auxiliaries in the war. *Swift.*

PRINCIPALITY, *n.* [Fr. *principalité*.]

1. Sovereignty; supreme power. *Sidney. Spenser.*

2. A prince; one invested with sovereignty. Tit. iii. *Milton.*

3. The territory of a prince; or the country which gives title to a prince; as the *principality* of Wales.

4. Superiority; predominance. [Little used.] *Taylor.*

5. In *Scripture*, royal state or attire. Jer. xiii.

PRINCIPALLY, *adv.* Chiefly; above all.

They mistake the nature of criticism, who think its business is *principally* to find fault. *Dryden.*

PRINCIPALNESS, *n.* The state of being principal or chief.

PRINCIPATE, *n.* Principality; supreme rule. *Barrow.*

PRINCIPAL, *n. plu.* [L. *principium*.] First principles. *Ash.*

PRINCIPIATION, *n.* [from L. *principium*.] Analysis into constituent or elemental parts. [Not used.] *Bacon.*