

commission to inquire, hear and determine all treasons, felonies and misdemeanors.

Blackstone.

2. The hearing, as of a writ, bond, note or other specialty; as when a defendant in court prays *oyer* of a writing.

Blackstone.

OYES, [Fr. *oyez*, hear ye.] This word is used by the sheriff or his substitute in making proclamation in court, requiring

silence and attention. It is thrice repeated, and most absurdly pronounced, *O yes*.

OYLET-HOLE. [See *Eyelet-hole*.]

OYSTER, *n.* [G. *auster*; D. *oester*; Sw. *ostra*; Dan. *øster*; Fr. *huître*; Arm. *histrenn* or *eistren*; Russ. *ystritz*; Corn. *cs-tren*; L. *ostrea*; Gr. *οστρεον*; probably connected in origin with *οστρον*, bone, and named from its hardness.]

A bivalvular testaceous animal, found adher-

ing to rocks or other fixed substances in salt water which is shallow, or in the mouths of rivers. *Oysters* are deemed nourishing and delicious food.

OYSTER-SHELL, *n.* The hard covering or shell of the oyster.

OYSTER-WENCH, } A woman whose
OYSTER-WIFE, } occupation is to
OYSTER-WOMAN, } sell oysters; a low
woman. *Shak.*

P.

P is the sixteenth letter of the English Alphabet, and a labial articulation formed by a close compression of the anterior part of the lips, as in *ep*. It is convertible into *b* and *f*, sometimes into *v*, and in Greek, into *φ*. This letter is found in the oriental languages, from which it was received into the Greek and Latin; except however the Arabic, which has not this letter, and the Arabians cannot easily pronounce it. In some words which we have borrowed from the Greek, *p* is mute, as in *psalm*, *ptisan*; but is not silent in English words, unless it may be in *receipt*, and a few irregular words. *P* aspirated or followed by *h*, represents the Greek *φ*, which answers to the English *f*, as in *philosophy*.

As an abbreviation, *P.* stands for *Publius*, *pomdo*, &c.; *P. A. DIG.* for *patricia dignitas*; *P. C.* for *Patres Conscripti*; *P. F.* for *Publius Fabius*; *P. P.* for *propositum publice*; *P. R.* for *populus Romanus*; *P. R. S.* for *prætoris sententia*; *P. R. S. P.* for *præses provincie*.

P. M. stands for *post meridiem*, afternoon.

As a numeral, *P.* like *G.* stands for one hundred, and with a dash over it, *P̄*, for four hundred thousand.

Among physicians, *P.* stands for *pugil*, or the eighth part of a handful; *P. Æ.* for *partes æquales*, equal parts of the ingredients; *P. P.* for *pulvis patrum*, or the Jesuits' bark in powder; and *ppt.* for *preparatus*, prepared. *Encyc.*

PAGE, *n.* [Norm. *paage*, payment. See *Pay*.]

A toll for passage over another person's grounds. [Not used.] *Burke.*

PAB'ULAR, *a.* [L. *pabulum*, food.] Pertaining to food; affording food or aliment.

PABULA'TION, *n.* [L. *pabulatio*, from *pabulo*, to feed.]

The act of feeding or procuring provender. *Cockeram.*

PABULOUS, *a.* [L. *pabulum*, food.] Affording aliment or food; alimental. *Brown.*

PAB'ULUM, *n.* [L.] Food; aliment; that which feeds.

2. Fuel; that which supplies the means of combustion. *Encyc.*

PA'CA, *n.* A small animal of America, bearing some resemblance to a hare and a pig. It is a species of cavy; called also the spotted cavy. *Dict. Nat. Hist. Ed. Encyc.*

PA'RATE, *a.* [L. *pacatus*.] Peaceful; tranquil. [Not used.]

PA'LATED, *a.* Appeased. [Little used.] *Bailey.*

PACA'TION, *n.* [L. *paco*, to calm or appease.] The act of appeasing.

PACCAN', *n.* An American tree and its nut.

PACE, *n.* [Fr. *pas*; It. *passo*; Sp. *passo*; L. *passus*, from *pando*, to open, or Gr. *πατω*, to tread. See *Pass*.]

1. A step.

2. The space between the two feet in walking, estimated at two feet and a half. But the geometrical pace is five feet, or the whole space passed over by the same foot from one step to another. Sixty thousand such paces make one degree on the equator. *Encyc.*

3. Manner of walking; gait; as a languishing pace; a heavy pace; a quick or slow pace. *Addison.*

4. Step; gradation in business. [Little used.] *Temple.*

5. A mode of stepping among horses, in which the legs on the same side are lifted together. In a general sense, the word may be applied to any other mode of stepping.

6. Degree of celerity. Let him mend his pace.

To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow,
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day—
Shak.

To keep or hold pace, to keep up; to go or move as fast as something else.

PACE, *v. i.* To go; to walk; to move. *Spenser. Shak.*

2. To go, move or walk slowly.

3. To move by lifting the legs on the same side together, as a horse.

PACE, *v. t.* To measure by steps; as, to pace a piece of ground.

2. To regulate in motion.

If you can, pace your wisdom

In that good path that I would wish it go—
Shak.

PA'CED, *a.* Having a particular gait; used chiefly in composition; as slow-paced.

2. In composition, going all lengths; as a thorough-paced intriguer.

PA'CER, *n.* One that paces; a horse that paces.

PACHYDERM'ATOUS, *a.* [Gr. *παχυς*, thick, and *δερμα*, skin.]

Having a thick skin; an epithet applied to an order of animals, called *Pachydermata*, embracing all the hoofed quadrupeds

which do not ruminate, as the elephant, mastodon or N. American mammoth, hippopotamus, sus or hog, rhinoceros, tapir, and horse. *Cuvier.*

The horse constitutes a separate order, (*Solipeda*.) *Ed. Encyc.*

PACIF'IC, *a.* [L. *pacificus*, from *pacifico*, to make peace. See *Peace*.]

1. Peace-making; conciliatory; suited to make or restore peace; adapted to reconcile differences; mild; appeasing; as, to offer *pacific* propositions to a belligerent power. The measures proposed are in their nature *pacific*.

2. Calm; tranquil; as a *pacific* state of things.

PACIF'IC, *n.* The appellation given to the ocean situated between America on the west, and Asia; so called on account of its exemption from violent tempests.

PACIFICA'TION, *n.* [L. *pacificatio*. See *Pacify*.]

1. The act of making peace between nations or parties at variance. *Bacon. South.*

2. The act of appeasing or pacifying wrath. *Hooker.*

PACIFICA'TOR, *n.* [L.] A peace-maker; one that restores amity between contending parties or nations. *Bacon.*

PACIFICATORY, *a.* Tending to make peace; conciliatory. *Barrow.*

PAC'IFIED, *pp.* Appeased; tranquilized.

PAC'IFIER, *n.* One who pacifies.

PAC'IFY, *v. t.* [Fr. *pacifier*; Sp. *pacificar*; It. *pacificare*; L. *pacifico*; *pax*, *pacis*, peace, and *facio*, to make.]

1. To appease, as wrath or other violent passion or appetite; to calm; to still; to quiet; to allay agitation or excitement; as, to *pacify* a man when angry, or to *pacify* his wrath or rage; the word being applied both to the person and to the passion. So we say, to *pacify* hunger, to *pacify* importunate demands.

2. To restore peace to; to tranquilize; as, to *pacify* countries in contention. *Bacon.*

PAC'IFYING, *ppr.* Appeasing; tranquilizing.

PACK, *n.* [D. *pak*; G. Sw. *pack*. See the Verb.]

1. A bundle of any thing inclosed in a cover or bound fast with cords; a bale; as a *pack* of goods or cloth. The soldier bears a *pack* on his back.†