

ing able to pronounce the letter *w* *sh*, pronounced the word *sibboleth*. See Judges xii. Hence,

2. The criterion of a party; or that which distinguishes one party from another; and usually, some peculiarity in things of little importance. *South.*

SHIDE, *n.* [Sax. *scedan*, to divide.] A piece split off; a cleft; a piece; a billet of wood; a splinter.

[Not used in New England, and local in England.]

SHIELD, *n.* [Sax. *scyld*; Sw. *sköld*; Dan. *skjold*, *skjöld*; D. G. *schilt*.] This word is from covering, defending, Sw. *skyta*, to cover; or from separating, Sax. *scylan*, Dan. *skiller*, to separate. Protection is deduced from either, and indeed both may be radically one. See *Shelter*. The L. *scutum* coincides in elements with the Sax. *scedan*, to separate, and *clypeus* with the Gr. *καλυπτω*, to cover.]

1. A broad piece of defensive armor; a buckler; used in war for the protection of the body. The shields of the ancients were of different shapes and sizes, triangular, square, oval, &c. made of leather or wood covered with leather, and borne on the left arm. This species of armor was a good defense against arrows, darts, spears, &c. but would be no protection against bullets.

2. Defense; shelter; protection; or the person that defends or protects; as a chief, the ornament and *shield* of the nation. Fear not, Abram; I am thy *shield*, and thy exceeding great reward. Gen. xv.

3. In *heraldry*, the escutcheon or field on which are placed the bearings in coats of arms.

SHIELD, *v. t.* To cover, as with a shield; to cover from danger; to defend; to protect; to secure from assault or injury.

To see the son the vanquish'd father *shield*. *Dryden.*

Hear one that comes to *shield* his injur'd honor. *Smith.*

2. To ward off; to defend against; as clothes to *shield* one from cold.

SHIELD, *pp.* Covered, as with a shield; defended; protected.

SHIELDING, *ppr.* Covering, as with a shield; defending from attack or injury; protected.

SHIFT, *v. i.* [Sax. *scyftan*, to order or appoint, to divide or distribute, also to verge or decline, also to drive; D. *schiften*, to divide, distinguish, part, turn, discuss; Dan. *skifte*, a parting, sharing, division, lot, share; *skifter*, to part, share, divide; Sw. *skifta*, to shift, to distribute. This verb is apparently from the same root as *shiver*; Dan. *skifer sig*, to shiver; Sw. *skifta om*, to change. The primary sense is to move, to depart; hence to separate. We observe by the Swedish, that *skifta om*, [om, about or round,] was originally the true phrase, to move about or round; and we still say, to *shift about*.]

1. To move; to change place or position. Vegetables are not able to *shift* and seek nutriment. *Woodward.*
2. To change its direction; to vary; as, the wind *shifted* from south to west.

3. To change; to give place to other things. *Locke.*

4. To change clothes, particularly the under garment or chemise. *Young.*

5. To resort to expedients for a livelihood, or for accomplishing a purpose; to move from one thing to another, and seize one expedient when another fails.

Men in distress will look to themselves, and leave their companions to *shift* as well as they can. *L'Estrange.*

6. To practice indirect methods. *Raleigh.*

7. To seek methods of safety.

Nature teaches every creature how to *shift* for itself in cases of danger. *L'Estrange.*

8. To change place; as, a cargo *shifts* from one side to the other.

SHIFT, *v. t.* To change; to alter; as, to *shift* the scenes.

2. To transfer from one place or position to another; as, *shift* the helm; *shift* the sails.

3. To put out of the way by some expedient.

I *shifted* him away. *Shak.*

1. To change, as clothes; as, to *shift* a coat.

5. To dress in fresh clothes. Let him have time to *shift* himself.

To *shift about*, to turn quite round, to a contrary side or opposite point.

To *shift off*, to delay; to defer; as, to *shift off* the duties of religion. *Rogers.*

2. To put away; to disengage or disengage one's self, as of a burden or inconvenience.

SHIFT, *n.* A change; a turning from one thing to another; hence, an expedient tried in difficulty; one thing tried when another fails.

I'll find a thousand *shifts* to get away. *Shak.*

2. In a bad sense, mean refuge; last resource.

For little souls on little *shifts* rely. *Dryden.*

3. Fraud; artifice; expedient to effect a bad purpose; or an evasion; a trick to escape detection or evil. *Hooker. South.*

4. A woman's under garment; a chemise.

SHIFTED, *pp.* Changed from one place or position to another.

SHIFTER, *n.* One that shifts; the person that plays tricks or practices artifice.

2. In ships, a person employed to assist the ship's cook in washing, steeping and shifting the salt provisions.

SHIFTING, *ppr.* Changing place or position; resorting from one expedient to another.

SHIFTINGLY, *adv.* By shifts and changes; deceitfully.

SHIFTLESS, *a.* Destitute of expedients, or not resorting to successful expedients; wanting means to act or live; as a *shiftless* fellow.

SHILF, *n.* [G. *schilf*, sedge.] *Straw.*

Tooke.

SHILL, to shell, not in use.

SHILL, *v. t.* To put under cover; to steal. [Not in use or local.]

SHILLING, *n.* [Sax. *scill*, *scilling*; G. *schilling*; D. *schelling*; Sw. Dan. *skilling*; Fr. *escalin*; It. *scellino*; Sp. *chelin*; Port. *zelin*; from the oriental שקל *shakal*, to weigh. See *Shekel*.]

An English silver coin equal to twelve pence, or the twentieth part of a pound. The English shilling, or shilling sterling, is equivalent nearly to 22 cents, 22 hundredths, money of the United States. Our

ancestors introduced the name with the coin into this country, but by depreciation the value of the shilling sunk in New England and Virginia one fourth, or to a fraction less than 17 cents, in New York to 12½ cents, in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland to about 11 cents.

This denomination of money still subsists in the United States, although there is no coin of that value current, except the Spanish coin of 12½ cents, which is a shilling in the money of the state of New York. Since the adoption of the present coins of the United States, eagles, dollars, cents, &c. the use of *shilling* is continued only by habit.

SHILLY-SHALLY, *n.* [Russ. *shalyu*, to be foolish, to play the fool, to play wanton tricks.] Foolish trifling; irresolution. [Vulgar.]

[This word has probably been written *shill-I-shall-I*, from an ignorance of its origin.]

SHILLY. [See *Shyly*.]

SHIMMER, *v. i.* [Sax. *scymrian*; G. *schimmern*; D. *schemeren*; Dan. *skimter*.] To gleam; to glisten. [Not in use.] *Chaucer.*

SHIN, *n.* [Sax. *scina*, *scyne*, shin, and *scinban*, shin-bone; G. *schiene*, *schiene-bien*; D. *scheen*, *scheen-been*; Sw. *sken-ben*.]

The fore part of the leg, particularly of the human leg; the fore part of the crural bone, called *tibia*. This bone being covered only with skin, may be named from that circumstance; *skin-bone*; or it may be formed from the root of *chine*, edge.

SHINE, *v. i.* pret. *shined* or *shone*; pp. *shined* or *shone*. [Sax. *scinan*; D. *schynen*; G. *scheinen*; Sw. *skina*. If *s* is a prefix, this word accords with the root of L. *canus*, *canes*; W. *cân*, white, bright. See *Cant*.]

1. To emit rays of light; to give light; to beam with steady radiance; to exhibit brightness or splendor; as, the sun *shines* by day; the moon *shines* by night. *Shining* differs from *sparkling*, *glistening*, *glittering*, as it usually implies a steady radiation or emission of light, whereas the latter words usually imply irregular or interrupted radiation. This distinction is not always observed, and we may say, the fixed stars *shine*, as well as that they *sparkle*. But we never say, the sun or the moon *sparkles*.

2. To be bright; to be lively and animated; to be brilliant.

Let thine eyes *shine* forth in their full luster. *Denham.*

3. To be unclouded; as, the moon *shines*. *Bacon.*

4. To be glossy or bright, as silk. Fish with their fins and *shining* scales. *Milton.*

5. To be gay or splendid. So proud she *shined* in her princely state. *Spenser.*

6. To be beautiful. Once brightest *shin'd* this child of heat and air. *Pope.*

7. To be eminent, conspicuous or distinguished; as, to *shine* in courts. Phil. ii. Few are qualified to *shine* in company. *Swift.*

8. To give light, real or figurative. The light of righteousness hath not *shined* to us. *Wisdom.*