

- studious man to have his thoughts disordered by a tedious visit. *L'Estrange.*
 We had the mortification to lose sight of Munich, Augsburg and Ratisbon. *Addison.*
4. Destruction of active qualities; applied to metals. [See *Mortify*; but I believe not used.] *Bacon.*
- MOR'TIFIED, *pp.* Affected by sphacelus or gangrene.
2. Humbled; subdued; abased.
- MOR'TIFIEDNESS, *n.* Humiliation; subjection of the passions. *Taylor.*
- MOR'TIFIER, *n.* He or that which mortifies.
- MOR'TIFY, *v. t.* [Fr. *mortifier*; It. *mortificare*; Sp. *mortificar*; L. *mors*, death, and *facio*, to make.]
1. To destroy the organic texture and vital functions of some part of a living animal; to change to sphacelus or gangrene. Extreme inflammation speedily *mortifies* flesh.
2. To subdue or bring into subjection, as the bodily appetites by abstinence or rigorous severities.
- We *mortify* ourselves with fish. *Brown.*
 With fasting *mortified*, worn out with tears. *Harte.*
3. To subdue; to abase; to humble; to reduce; to restrain; as inordinate passions. *Mortify* thy learned lust. *Prior.*
Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth. Col. iii.
4. To humble; to depress; to affect with slight vexation.
- How often is the ambitious man *mortified* with the very praises he receives, if they do not rise so high as he thinks they ought. *Addison.*
- He is controlled by a nod, *mortified* by a frown, and transported with a smile. *Addison.*
5. To destroy active powers or essential qualities.
- He *mortified* pearls in vinegar—*Hakewill.*
 Quicksilver—*mortified* with turpentine. *Bacon.*
- [I believe this application is not now in use.]
- MOR'TIFY, *v. i.* To lose vital heat and action and suffer the dissolution of organic texture, as flesh; to corrupt or gangrene.
2. To be subdued. *Johnson.*
3. To practice severities and penance from religious motives.
- This makes him give alms of all that he hath, watch, fast and *mortify*. *Law.*
- MOR'TIFYING, *ppr.* Changing from soundness to gangrene or sphacelus.
2. Subduing; humbling; restraining.
3. *a.* Humiliating; tending to humble or abase. He met with a *mortifying* repulse.
- MORTISE, *n.* *mortis*. [Fr. *mortaise*; Arm. *mortez*; Sp. *mortajo*; Ir. *mortis*. The Armoric *mortez* signifies both a *mortar* and a *mortise*, and the Spanish *mortaja* signifies a mortise and a winding sheet or shroud. In the latter sense, the Portuguese use *mortalha*, from *mortal*. These alliances indicate that these words are all from the root of *mors*, death, which may be from beating or throwing down.]
- A cut or hollow place made in timber by the augur and chisel, to receive the tenon of another piece of timber.
- MOR'TISE, *v. t.* To cut or make a mortise in.
2. To join timbers by a tenon and mortise;

- as, to *mortise* a beam into a post, or a joist into a girder.
- MOR'TISED, *pp.* Having a mortise; joined by a mortise and tenon.
- MOR'TISING, *ppr.* Making a mortise; uniting by a mortise and tenon.
- MORTMAIN, *n.* [Fr. *mort*, dead, and *main*, hand.]
- In *law*, possession of lands or tenements in dead hands, or hands that cannot alienate. Alienation in *mortmain* is an alienation of lands or tenements to any corporation, sole or aggregate, ecclesiastical or temporal, particularly to religious houses, by which the estate becomes perpetually inherent in the corporation and unalienable. *Blackstone.*
- MORTPAY, *n.* [Fr. *mort*, dead, and *pay*.] Dead pay; payment not made. [Not used.] *Bacon.*
- MORTRESS, *n.* [from *mortar*.] A dish of meat of various kinds beaten together. [Not used.] *Bacon.*
- MORTUARY, *n.* [Fr. *mortuaire*, pertaining to the dead.]
1. A sort of ecclesiastical heriot, a customary gift claimed by and due to the minister of a parish on the death of a parishioner. It seems to have been originally a voluntary bequest or donation, intended to make amends for any failure in the payment of tithes of which the deceased had been guilty. *Blackstone.*
2. A burial place. *Whitlock.*
- MORTUARY, *a.* Belonging to the burial of the dead.
- MOSAIC, *a. s* as *z*. [Fr. *mosaïque*; It. *mosaico*; Sp. *mosayco*; L. *musivum*.]
1. Mosaic work is an assemblage of little pieces of glass, marble, precious stones, &c. of various colors, cut square and cemented on a ground of stucco, in such a manner as to imitate the colors and gradations of painting. *Encyc.*
2. [from *Moses*.] Pertaining to Moses, the leader of the Israelites; as the *Mosaic* law, rites or institutions.
- MOSCHATEL, *n.* [from Gr. *μοσχος*, L. *muscus*, musk.]
- A plant of the genus *Adoxa*, hollow root or inglorious. There is one species only, whose leaves and flowers smell like musk; and hence it is sometimes called *musk-crowfoot*. *Encyc.*
- MOSK, *n.* [Fr. *mosquée*; It. *moschea*; Sp. *mezquita*; Ar. *مسجد* *masjidon*, from *سجد* *sajada*, to bend, bow, adore.]
- A Mohammedan temple or place of religious worship. Mosks are square buildings, generally constructed of stone. Before the chief gate is a square court paved with white marble, and surrounded with a low gallery whose roof is supported by pillars of marble. In this gallery the worshippers wash themselves before they enter the mosk. *Encyc.*
- MOSS, *n.* [Sax. *meos*; G. *moos*; D. *mos*; Sw. *mossa*; W. *musweg*, from *mws*, that shoots up, and of a strong scent; L. *muscus*; Gr. *μοσχος*. The two latter signify *moss* and *musk*, both from shooting out; hence It. *musco*, *muschio*; Sp. *musco*; Port.

musgo; Fr. *mousse*. The Greek word signifies also a young animal, and a shoot or twig. From the French *mousse*, comes *mousseline*, muslin, from its softness or resemblance to moss. Lunier says it is from *Mossoul*, a city of Mesopotamia.]

The mosses are one of the seven families or classes into which all vegetables are divided by Linne in the *Philosophia Botanica*. In Ray's method, the mosses form the third class, and in Tournefort's, they constitute a single genus. In the sexual system, they are the second order of the class cryptogamia, which contains all the plants in which the parts of the flower and fruit are wanting or not conspicuous.

Milne.
 The mosses, *musci*, form a natural order of small plants, with leafy stems and narrow simple leaves. Their flowers are generally monecian or diecian, and their seeds are contained in a capsule covered with a calyptra or hood. *Ed. Encyc.*

The term *moss* is also applied to many other small plants, particularly *lichens*, species of which are called *tree-moss*, *rock-moss*, *coral-moss*, &c. The *fir-moss* and *club-moss* are of the genus *Lycopodium*.

2. [Sw. *måse*.] A bog; a place where peat is found.

MOSS, *v. t.* To cover with moss by natural growth.

An oak whose boughs were *mossed* with age. *Shak.*

MOSS'-ELAD, *a.* Clad or covered with moss. *Littleton.*

MOSS'ED, *pp.* Overgrown with moss.

MOSS-GROWN, *a.* Overgrown with moss; as *moss-grown* towers.

MOSS'INESS, *n.* [from *mossy*.] The state of being overgrown with moss. *Bacon.*

MOSS'-TROOPER, *n.* [*moss* and *trooper*.] A robber; a bandit. *Bp. of Dromore.*

MOSS'Y, *a.* Overgrown with moss; abounding with moss.

Old trees are more *mossy* than young.

Bacon.
 2. Shaded or covered with moss, or bordered with moss; as *mossy* brooks; *mossy* fountains. *Pope. Cowley.*

MOST, *a. superl. of more.* [Sax. *mæst*, that is, *ma* and *est*; Goth. *maists*; D. Dan. *meest*; G. *meist*; Sw. *mest*, *mäst*.]

1. Consisting of the greatest number. That scheme of life is to be preferred, which presents a prospect of the *most* advantages with the fewest inconveniences.

Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness. Prov. xx.

2. Consisting of the greatest quantity; greatest; as the *most* part of the land or the mountain.

MOST, *adv.* In the greatest or highest degree. Pursue that course of life which will *most* tend to produce private happiness and public usefulness. Contemplations on the works of God expand the mind and tend to produce *most* sublime views of his power and wisdom.

As *most* is used to express the superlative degree, it is used before any adjective; as *most* vile, *most* wicked, *most* illustrious.

MOST, *n.* [used as a substitute for a noun, when the noun is omitted or understood.]

1. The greatest number or part.