

Office, rank and great talents give *eminence* to men in society.

Where men cannot arrive at *eminence*, religion may make compensation, by teaching content. *Tillotson.*

6. Supreme degree. *Milton.*

7. Notice; distinction. *Shak.*

8. A title of honor given to cardinals and others. *Encyc.*

EMINENT, *a.* [*L. eminens, from emineo.*]

1. High; lofty; as an *eminent* place. *Ezek. xvi.*

2. Exalted in rank; high in office; dignified; distinguished. Princes hold *eminent* stations in society, as do ministers, judges and legislators.

3. High in public estimation; conspicuous; distinguished above others; remarkable; as an *eminent* historian or poet; an *eminent* scholar. Burke was an *eminent* orator; Watts and Cowper were *eminent* for their piety.

EMINENTLY, *adv.* In a high degree; in a degree to attract observation; in a degree to be conspicuous and distinguished from others; as, to be *eminently* learned or useful.

EMIR, *n.* [*Ar. أمير*] Emir, a commander, from *أمر* to command, Heb. *אמר* to speak, Ch. Syr. Sam. id.]

A title of dignity among the Turks, denoting a prince; a title at first given to the Caliphs, but when they assumed the title of Sultan, that of Emir remained to their children. At length it was attributed to all who were judged to descend from Mohammed, by his daughter Fatimah. *Encyc.*

EMISSARY, *n.* [*L. emissarius, from emitto; e and mitto, to send; Fr. emissaire; Sp. emissario; It. emissario.*]

A person sent on a mission; a missionary employed to preach and propagate the gospel.

If one of the four gospels be genuine, we have, in that one, strong reason to believe, that we possess the accounts which the original emissaries of the religion delivered. *Paley, Evid. Christ.*

[*This sense is now unused.*]

2. A person sent on a private message or business; a secret agent, employed to sound or ascertain the opinions of others, and to spread reports or propagate opinions favorable to his employer, or designed to defeat the measures or schemes of his opposers or foes; a spy; but an *emissary* may differ from a spy. A spy in war is one who enters an enemy's camp or territories to learn the condition of the enemy; an *emissary* may be a secret agent employed not only to detect the schemes of an opposing party, but to influence their councils. A spy in war must be concealed, or he suffers death; an *emissary* may in some cases be known as the agent of an adversary, without incurring similar hazard. *Bacon, Swift.*

3. That which sends out or emits. [*Not used.*]

Emissary vessels, in anatomy, the same as *excretory*.

EMISSARY, *a.* Exploring; spying. *B. Jonson.*

EMISSION, *n.* [*L. emissio, from emitto, to send out.*] The act of sending or throwing out; as the *emission* of light from the sun or other luminous body; the *emission* of odors from plants; the *emission* of heat from a fire.

2. The act of sending abroad or into circulation notes of a state or of a private corporation; as the *emission* of state notes, or bills of credit, or treasury notes.

3. That which is sent out or issued at one time; an impression or a number of notes issued by one act of government. We say, notes or bills of various *emissions* were in circulation.

EMIT, *v. t.* [*L. emitto; e and mitto, to send.*]

1. To send forth; to throw or give out; as, fire *emits* heat and smoke; boiling water *emits* steam; the sun and moon *emit* light; animal bodies *emit* perspirable matter; putrescent substances *emit* offensive or noxious exhalations.

2. To let fly; to discharge; to dart or shoot; as, to *emit* an arrow. [*Unusual.*]

3. To issue forth, as an order or decree. [*Unusual.*]

4. To issue, as notes or bills of credit; to print, and send into circulation. The United States have once *emitted* treasury notes.

No state shall *emit* bills of credit.

EMMENAGOGUE, *n.* [*Gr. εμμενος, menstuous, or in, in, and γειν, month, and αγω, to lead.*]

A medicine that promotes the menstrual discharge. *Encyc.*

EMMET, *n.* [*Sax. amet, amette; G. amette.*]

An ant or pismire.

EMMEW, *v. t.* [*See Mew.*] To mew; to coop up; to confine in a coop or cage. *Shak.*

EMMOVE, *v. t.* To move; to rouse; to excite. [*Not used.*]

EMMOLLESCENCE, *n.* [*L. emollescens, softening. See Emollite.*]

In *metallurgy*, that degree of softness in a fusible body which alters its shape; the first or lowest degree of fusibility.

EMOLLATE, *v. t.* [*L. emollio, molla, to soften; mollia, soft; Eng. mellow, mild; Russ. mihnyu, to pity; unidiynus, to repent. See Mellow.*]

To soften; to render effeminate.

Emollated by four centuries of Roman domination, the Belgic colonies had forgotten their pristine valor. *Pinkerton, Geog.*

[This is a new word, though well formed and applied; but what connection is there between *softening* and *forgetting*? *Lost* is here the proper word for *forgotten*.]

EMOLLATED, *pp.* Softened; rendered effeminate.

EMOLLATING, *ppr.* Softening; rendering effeminate.

EMOLLIENT, *a.* Softening; making supple; relaxing the solids. *Arbuthnot.*

EMOLLIENT, *a.* A medicine which softens and relaxes, or sheaths the solids; that which softens or removes the asperities of the humors. *Quincy, Corr.*

EMOLLITION, *n.* The act of softening or relaxing. *Bacon.*

EMOLUMENT, *n.* [*L. emolumentum, from emolo, molo, to grind. Originally, toll taken for grinding. See Mill.*]

1. The profit arising from office or employment; that which is received as a compensation for services, or which is annexed to the possession of office, as salary, fees and perquisites.

2. Profit; advantage; gains in general.

EMOLUMENTAL, *a.* Producing profit; useful; profitable; advantageous. *Evelyn.*

Emongst, for among, in Spenser, is a mistake.

EMOTION, *n.* [*Fr. from L. emotio; emoveo, to move from; It. emozione.*]

1. Literally, a moving of the mind or soul; hence, any agitation of mind or excitement of sensibility.

2. In a philosophical sense, an internal motion or agitation of the mind which passes away without desire; when desire follows, the motion or agitation is called a *passion*.

Kames' El. of Criticism.

3. *Passion* is the sensible effect, the feeling to which the mind is subjected, when an object of importance suddenly and imperiously demands its attention. The state of absolute passiveness, in consequence of any sudden percussion of mind, is of short duration. The strong impression, or vivid sensation, immediately produces a reaction correspondent to its nature, either to appropriate and enjoy, or avoid and repel the exciting cause. This reaction is very properly distinguished by the term *emotion*.

Emotions therefore, according to the genuine signification of the word, are principally and primarily applicable to the sensible changes and visible effects, which particular *passions* produce on the frame, in consequence of this reaction, or particular agitation of mind.

EMPAIR, *v. t.* To impair. *Obs.* [*See Impair.*]

EMPALE, *v. t.* [*Port. empalar; Sp. id.; It. impalare; Fr. empaler; en, in, and L. palus, It. Sp. palo, a stake, a pale.*]

1. To fence or fortify with stakes; to set a line of stakes or posts for defense.

All that dwell near enemies *empale* villages, to save themselves from surprise. *Raleigh.*

[We now use *stockade*, in a like sense.]

2. To inclose; to surround.

Round about her work she *dut empale*, With a fair border wrought of sundry flowers. *Spenser.*

3. To inclose; to shut in.

Impenetrable, *empal'd* with circling fire. *Milton.*

4. To thrust a stake up the fundament, and thus put to death; to put to death by fixing on a stake; a punishment formerly practiced in Rome, and still used in Turkey. *Addison.*

EMPALED, *pp.* Fenced or fortified with stakes; inclosed; shut in; fixed on a stake.

EMPALEMENT, *a.* A fencing, fortifying or inclosing with stakes; a putting to death by thrusting a stake into the body.

2. In *botany*, the calyx or flower-cup of a