

lifting the fist or a cane, in a threatening manner. If the blow aimed takes effect, it is a *battery*. *Blackstone. Finch.*

ASSAULT', v. t. To attack or fall upon by violence, or with a hostile intention; as, to *assault* a man, a house or town.

2. To invade or fall on with force; as, the cry of war *assaults* our ears.

3. To attack by words, arguments or unfriendly measures, with a view to shake, impair or overthrow; as, to *assault* a character, the laws or the administration.

ASSAULTABLE, a. That may be assaulted. *Williams.*

ASSAULT'ED, pp. Attacked with force, arms, violence, or hostile views.

ASSAULT'ER, n. One who assaults, or violently attacks.

ASSAULTING, ppr. Attacking with force, or with hostile measures.

ASSAY, n. [*Fr. essai*; *Sp. ensayo*; *Port. ensaio*; *It. saggio*, an assay; *Fr. essayer*, to try; *old Fr. essayer*, to endeavor. *Kilham's Norm. Dict.* *It. assaggiare*, to try; *saggiare*, to try, essay; *Sp. ensayar*, to try; *Sw. försöka*, to try; *Dan. forsøge*, to try, examine, endeavor. These words are all from the same root as *sick*, the radical sense of which is, to follow, to urge, press or strain; *Sax. secan*, to seek; *L. sequor*; *assecur*, to follow, to examine; *D. zoeken*; *G. suchen*; *Dan. søger*; *Fr. seichin*; *It. seguire*; *Sp. seguir*, to follow. *Jassy* and *ensay* are radically one word; but modern usage has appropriated *assay* to experiments in metallurgy, and *essay* to intellectual and bodily efforts. *Class. Sg. See Essay.*]

1. The trial of the goodness, purity, weight, value, &c. of metals or metallic substances. Any operation or experiment for ascertaining the quantity of a precious metal in an ore or mineral. *Analysis* is a term of more comprehensive import, extending to an examination of the nature and quantities of all parts of the compound.

Assaying is called the *doctrinal art*.

2. In *law*, an examination of weights and measures by the standard. *Cowel.*

3. Examination; trial; effort; first entrance upon any business; attempt. In these senses, which are found in old authors, now rarely used. [*See Essay.*]

4. Value; great purity. *Obs. Spenser.*

ASSAY, v. t. To try or prove, by examination or experiment, the quantity and purity of metallic substances.

2. To apply to the touchstone. *Milton.*

He assayed to go. 1 Sam. xvi.

[In this sense *essay* is now used.]

ASSAY-BALANCE, n. A balance for the trial of the weight and purity of metals.

ASSAYED, pp. Examined; tested; proved by experiment.

ASSAYER, n. One who examines metals to find their quantity and purity. An officer of the mint, whose business is to try the weight and purity of metals.

ASSAYING, ppr. Trying by some standard; examining by experiment, as metals; proving; attempting.

ASSAY-MASTER, n. An assayer: an officer appointed to try the weight and fineness of the precious metals.

ASSURANCE, n. Assurance. [*Not used.*] *Sheldon.*

ASSURATION, n. Assurance; a making secure. [*Not used.*] *Bp. Hall.*

ASSURE, v. t. To secure. [*Not used.*] *Bullock.*

ASSECUTION, n. [*L. assequor.*] An obtaining or acquiring. *Ayliffe.*

ASSEMBLAGE, n. [*Fr. See Assemble.*] A collection of individuals, or of particular things; the state of being assembled.

Locke. Thomson.

2. Rarely, the act of assembling.

ASSEMBLANCE, n. Representation; an assembling. [*Not in use.*] *Shak. Spenser.*

ASSEMBLE, v. t. [*Fr. assembler*; *Sw. samla*; *Dan. samle*; *D. sammeln*; *Ger. sammeln*, to assemble. *L. simul*; *Dan. sammen*; *D. zamen*, together.]

To collect a number of individuals or particulars into one place, or body; to bring or call together; to convene; to congregate.

ASSEMBLE, v. i. To meet or come together; to convene, as a number of individuals. *Locke.*

ASSEMBLED, pp. Collected into a body; congregated.

ASSEMBLER, n. One who assembles.

ASSEMBLING, ppr. Coming together; collecting into one place.

ASSEMBLING, n. A collection or meeting together. *Heb. x.*

ASSEMBLY, n. [*Sp. asamblea*; *It. assemblea*; *Fr. assemblee.*]

1. A company or collection of individuals, in the same place; usually for the same purpose.

2. A congregation or religious society convened.

3. In some of the *United States*, the legislature, consisting of different houses or branches, whether in session or not. In some states, the popular branch or House of Representatives is denominated an *assembly*. [*See the constitutions of the several states.*]

4. A collection of persons for amusement; as a dancing assembly.

5. A convocation, convention or council of ministers and ruling elders delegated from each presbytery; as the General Assembly of Scotland or of the *United States*. *Encyc.*

6. In *armies*, the second beating of the drum before a march, when the soldiers strike their tents. *Encyc.*

7. An assemblage. [*Not in use.*]

ASSEMBLY-ROOM, n. A room in which persons assemble.

ASSENT, n. [*L. assensus*, from *assentior*, to assent, of *ad* and *sentio*, to think; *Eth.*

ἵνα *senā* or *sana*, concord, and its derivative, to agree, to harmonize; *Sw. sinne*, mind, sense; *D. zin*, mind; *zinnen*, to feel or mind; *G. sinn*, sense; *sinnen*, to think or consider. The Danes preserve the final consonant, *sind*, mind, sense, inclination; *W. syn*, sense; *syniac*, to perceive.]

1. The act of the mind in admitting, or agreeing to, the truth of a proposition.

Faith is the *assent* to any proposition, on the credit of the proposer. *Locke.*

2. Consent; agreement to a proposal, respecting some right or interest; as, the bill before the house has the *assent* of a great majority of the members.

The distinction between *assent* and *consent*

seems to be this: *assent* is the agreement to an abstract proposition. We *assent* to a statement, but we do not *consent* to it. *Consent* is an agreement to some proposal or measure which affects the rights or interest of the consenter. We *consent* to a proposal of marriage. This distinction however is not always observed. [*See Consent.*]

3. Accord; agreement. 2 Chron. xviii.

ASSENT, v. t. To admit as true; to agree, yield or concede, or rather to express an agreement of the mind to what is alleged, or proposed.

The Jews also *assented*, saying these things are so. *Acts xviii.*

It is sometimes used for *consent*, or an agreement to something affecting the rights or interest of the person assenting. But to *assent* to the marriage of a daughter is less correct than to *consent*.

ASSENTATION, n. [*L. assentatio*, from *assentor*, to comply.]

Compliance with the opinion of another, from flattery or dissimulation. *Chesterfield.*

ASSENTATOR, n. A flatterer.

ASSENTATORILY, adv. With adulation. [*Not in use.*] *Bacon.*

ASSENTER, n. One who assents, agrees to, or admits.

ASSENTING, ppr. Agreeing to, or admitting as true; yielding to.

ASSENTINGLY, adv. In a manner to express assent; by agreement.

ASSENTMENT, n. Assent; agreement. [*Rarely used.*] *Brown.*

ASSERT, v. t. [*L. assero, assertum*, to claim or challenge, to maintain or assert; of *ad* and *sero*. The sense of *sero* is to sow, properly to throw or set. To *assert* is to throw or set firmly.]

1. To affirm positively; to declare with assurance; to aver. *Milton.*

2. To maintain or defend by words or measures; to vindicate a claim or title to; as, to *assert* our rights and liberties. *Dryden.*

ASSERTED, pp. Affirmed positively; maintained; vindicated.

ASSERTING, ppr. Declaring with confidence; maintaining; defending.

ASSERTION, n. The act of asserting; the maintaining of a claim.

2. Positive declaration or avowment; affirmation; position advanced. *Brown.*

ASSERTIVE, a. Positive; affirming confidently; peremptory. *Glennville.*

ASSERTIVELY, adv. Affirmatively. *Bedell.*

ASSERTOR, n. One who affirms positively; one who maintains or vindicates a claim; an affirmer, supporter, or vindicator. *Dryden.*

ASSERTORY, a. Affirming; maintaining. *Bp. Hall.*

ASSESS, v. t. [*Fr. asséoir*; *Norm. asser, asséoir*, to settle, fix, ascertain, assess; *It. assestare, assettare*; *L. assideo, ad* and *sedeo*; *Eng. to sit, or set. See Set and Sit.*]

1. To set, fix or charge a certain sum upon one, as a tax; as, to *assess* each citizen in due proportion.

2. To value; to fix the value of property, for the purpose of being taxed; as by the law of the *United States*. Also, to value or fix the profits of business, for the purpose of taxation.