

er, according to the popular phrase, "you dare not fight me.")

1. To dare; to provoke to combat or strife, by appealing to the courage of another; to invite one to contest; to challenge; as, *Goliath defied the armies of Israel.*
2. To dare; to brave; to offer to hazard a conflict by manifesting a contempt of power, attack or hostile force; as, to *defy* the arguments of an opponent; to *defy* the power of the magistrate.

Were we to abolish the common law, it would rise triumphant above its own ruins, deading and defying its impotent enemies.

*Duponceau.*

3. To challenge to say or do any thing.

DEFY', *n.* A challenge. [*Not used.*]  
*Dryden.*

DEFYER. [*See Defier.*]

DEGARNISH, *v. t.* [*Fr. degarnir; de and garnir, to furnish.* See *Garnish.*]

1. To unfurnish; to strip of furniture, ornaments or apparatus.
2. To deprive of a garrison, or troops necessary for defense; as, to *degarnish* a city or fort. *Washington's Letter. Nov. 11. 1778.*

DEGARNISHED, *pp.* Stripped of furniture or apparatus; deprived of troops for defense.

DEGARNISHING, *ppr.* Stripping of furniture, dress, apparatus or a garrison.

DEGARNISHMENT, *n.* The act of depriving of furniture, apparatus or a garrison.

DEGENER, *v. i.* To degenerate. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

DEGENERACY, *n.* [*See Degenerate, the Verb.*]

1. A growing worse or inferior; a decline in good qualities; or a state of being less valuable; as the *degeneracy* of a plant.
2. In *morals*, decay of virtue; a growing worse; departure from the virtues of ancestors; desertion of that which is good. We speak of the *degeneracy* of men in modern times, or of the *degeneracy* of manners, of the age, of virtue, &c., sometimes without reason.
3. Pocrness; meanness; as a *degeneracy* of spirit.

DEGENERATE, *v. i.* [*L. degenero, from degener, grown worse, ignoble, base; de and gener, genus; Fr. degenerer; Sp. degenerar.*]

1. To become worse; to decay in good qualities; to pass from a good to a bad or worse state; to lose or suffer a diminution of valuable qualities, either in the natural or moral world. In the natural world, plants and animals *degenerate* when they grow to a less size than usual, or lose a part of the valuable qualities which belong to the species. In the moral world, men *degenerate* when they decline in virtue, or other good qualities. Manners *degenerate* when they become corrupt. Wit may *degenerate* into ineffectuality or impuity.

DEGENERATE, *a.* Having fallen from a perfect or good state into a less excellent or worse state; having lost something of the good qualities possessed; having declined in natural or moral worth.

The *degenerate* plant of a strange vine. *Jer. 6.*

2. Low; base; mean; corrupt; fallen from primitive or natural excellence; having lost the good qualities of the species. Man

is considered a *degenerate* being. A coward is a man of *degenerate* spirit.

DEGENERATELY, *adv.* In a degenerate or base manner. *Milton.*

DEGENERATENESS, *n.* A degenerate state; a state in which the natural good qualities of the species are decayed or lost.

DEGENERATION, *n.* A growing worse, or losing of good qualities; a decline from the virtue and worth of ancestors; a decay of the natural good qualities of the species; a falling from a more excellent state to one of less worth, either in the natural or moral world.

The thing degenerated. *Brown.*

DEGENEROUS, *a.* Degenerated; fallen from a state of excellence, or from the virtue and merit of ancestors. Hence,

2. Low; base; mean; unworthy; as a *degenerous* passion. *Dryden.*

DEGENEROUSLY, *adv.* In a degenerate manner; basely; meanly.

DEGLUTINATE, *v. t.* [*L. deglutino; de and glutino, to glue.* See *Glue.*]

To unglue; to loosen or separate substances glued together. *Scott.*

DEGLUTITION, *n.* [*L. deglutio, to swallow; de and glutio.* See *Glutino.*]

1. The act of swallowing; as, *deglutition* is difficult.

2. The power of swallowing; as, *deglutition* is lost.

DEGRADATION, *n.* [*Fr. See Degradé.*]

1. A reducing in rank; the act of depriving one of a degree of honor, of dignity, or of rank; also, deposition; removal or dismissal from office; as the *degradation* of a peer, of a knight, or of a bishop, in England.
2. The state of being reduced from an elevated or more honorable station, to one that is low in fact or in estimation; baseness; degeneracy.

Deplorable is the *degradation* of our nature. *South.*

3. Diminution or reduction of strength, efficacy or value.

4. In *painting*, a lessening and obscuring of the appearance of distant objects in a landscape, that they may appear as they would do to an eye placed at a distance. *Johnson. Encycr.*

5. Diminution; reduction of altitude or magnitude. *Journal of Science.*

DEGRADÉ, *v. t.* [*Fr. degradar; Sp. Port. degradar. It. degradare; L. de and gradus, a step, a degree.* See *Grade.*]

1. To reduce from a higher to a lower rank or degree; to deprive one of any office or dignity, by which he loses rank in society; to strip of honors; as, to *degrade* a nobleman, an archbishop or a general officer.
2. To reduce in estimation; to lessen the value of; to lower; to sink. *Vice degrades* a man in the view of others; often in his own view. Drunkenness *degrades* a man to the level of a beast.
3. To reduce in altitude or magnitude.

Although the ridge is still there, the ridge itself has been *degraded*. *Journal of Science.*

DEGRADE, *pp.* Reduced in rank; deprived of an office or dignity; lowered; sunk; reduced in estimation or value.

DEGRADEMENT, *n.* Deprivation of rank or office. *Milton.*

DEGRADING, *ppr.* Reducing in rank; de-

priving of honors or offices; reducing in value or estimation; lowering.

2. *a.* Dishonoring; disgracing the character; as *degrading* obsequiousness.

The inordinate love of money and of fame are base and *degrading* passions. *Wart.*

DEGRADINGLY, *adv.* In a *degrading* manner, or in a way to depreciate.

DEGREE, *n.* [*Fr. degré; Norm. degret; from L. gradus, Sp. and It. grado, W. rhaz, Syr. j; radah, to go.* See *Grade* and *Degrade.*]

1. A step; a distinct portion of space of indefinite extent; a space in progression; as, the army gained the hill by *degrees*; a balloon rises or descends by slow *degrees*; and figuratively, we advance in knowledge by slow *degrees*. Men are yet in the first *degree* of improvement. It should be their aim to attain to the furthest *degree*, or the highest *degree*. There are *degrees* of vice and virtue.

2. A step or portion of progression, in elevation, quality, dignity or rank; as a man of great *degree*. *Spenser.*

We speak of men of high *degree*, or of low *degree*; of superior or inferior *degree*. It is supposed there are different *degrees* or orders of angels.

They purchase to themselves a good *degree* 1 Tim. iii.

3. In *genealogy*, a certain distance or remove in the line of descent, determining the proximity of blood; as a relation in the third or fourth *degree*.

4. Measure; extent. The light is intense to a *degree* that is intolerable. We suffer an extreme *degree* of heat or cold.

5. In *geometry*, a division of a circle, including a three hundred and sixtieth part of its circumference. Hence a *degree* of latitude is the 360th part of the earth's surface north or south of the equator, and a *degree* of longitude, the same part of the surface east or west of any given meridian.

6. In *music*, an interval of sound, marked by a line on the scale. *Rousseau. Bushy.*

7. In *arithmetic*, a degree consists of three figures; thus, 270, 360, compose two *degrees*.

8. A division, space or interval, marked on a mathematical or other instrument; as on a thermometer, or barometer.

9. In *colleges and universities*, a mark of distinction conferred on students, as a testimony of their proficiency in arts and sciences; giving them a kind of rank, and entitling them to certain privileges. This is usually evidenced by a diploma. *Degrees* are conferred *pro meritis* on the alumni of a college; or they are honorary tokens of respect, conferred on strangers of distinguished reputation. The first *degree* is that of *Bachelor of Arts*; the second, that of *Master of Arts*. Honorary *degrees* are those of *Doctor of Divinity*, *Doctor of Laws*, &c. Physicians also receive the *degree* of *Doctor of Medicine*.

By *degrees*, step by step; gradually; by little and little; by moderate advances. Frequent drinking forms by *degrees* a confirmed habit of intemperance.

DEGUSTATION, *n.* [*L. degusto.*] A tasting. *Bp. Hall.*