

WIDENED, *pp.* Made wide or wider; extended in breadth.

WIDENESS, *n.* Breadth; width; great extent between the sides; as the *wideness* of a room.

2. Large extent in all directions; as the *wideness* of the sea or ocean.

WIDENING, *ppr.* Extending the distance between the sides; enlarging in all directions.

WID'GEON, *n.* A fowl of the duck kind, or genus *Anas*, having a black bill, the head and upper part of the neck of a bright bay, the back and sides waved with black and white, and the belly white.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

WID'OW, *n.* [Sax. *widew*; G. *wittwe*; D. *weduwe*; Dan. *vidue*; L. *vidua*; Fr. *veuve*; It. *vedova*; Sp. *viuda*; Sans. *widhava*; Russ. *vidova*; from the root of *wide*, *void*. See *Wide*.]

A woman who has lost her husband by death. Luke ii.

Widow's chamber, in London, the apparel and furniture of the bed-chamber of the widow of a freeman, to which she is entitled.

Cyc.

WID'OW, *v. t.* To bereave of a husband; but rarely used except in the participle.

Dryden.

2. To endow with a widow's right. [*Unusual*.]

3. To strip of any thing good. *Shak.*

The *widow'd* isle in mourning— *Dryden.*

WID'OW-BENCH, *n.* [*widow* and *bench*.] In *Sussex*, that share which a widow is allowed of her husband's estate, besides her jointure.

Cyc.

WID'OWED, *pp.* Bereaved of a husband by death.

2. Deprived of some good; stripped.

Trees of their shrivel'd fruits

Are *widow'd*. *Philips.*

WID'OWER, *n.* A man who has lost his wife by death.

WID'OWHOOD, *n.* The state of being a widow.

2. Estate settled on a widow. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

WID'OW-HUNTER, *n.* [*widow* and *hunter*.] One who seeks or courts widows for a jointure or fortune. *Addison.*

WID'OWING, *ppr.* Bereaving of a husband; depriving; stripping.

WID'OW-MAKER, *n.* [*widow* and *maker*.] One who makes widows by destroying lives. *Shak.*

WID'OW-WAIL, *n.* In *botany*, a plant of the genus *Cneorum*. *Lee.*

WIDTH, *n.* [from *wide*; G. *weite*; D. *wyde*.]

Breadth; wideness; the extent of a thing from side to side; as the *width* of cloth; the *width* of a door. *Dryden.*

WIELD, *v. t.* [Sax. *wealdan*, *waldan*; Goth. *ga-waldan*, to govern; *wald*, power, dominion; Dan. *valde*, power; *gevalt*, force, authority; Sw. *valde*, power; allied to L. *valde*, Eng. *well*. The primary sense of power and strength is to stretch or strain. This seems to be the Russ. *vladyu*, to rule, and *wald* or *vlad*, in names, as *Waldemir*, *Vlademir*.]

1. To use with full command or power, as a thing not too heavy for the holder; to

manage; as, to *wield* a sword; to *wield* the scepter.

Part *wield* their arms, part curb the foaming steed. *Milton.*

2. To use or employ with the hand.

Nothing but the influence of a civilized power could induce a savage to *wield* a spade. *S. S. Smith.*

3. To handle; in an ironical sense.

Base Hungarian wight, wilt thou the spigot *wield*? *Shak.*

To *wield* the scepter, to govern with supreme command.

WIE/LDED, *pp.* Used with command; managed.

WIE/LDING, *ppr.* Using with power; managing.

WIE/LDLESS, *a.* Unmanageable. *Spenser.*

WIE/LDY, *a.* That may be wielded; manageable.

WIERY, *a.* [from *wire*.] Made of wire; having the properties of wire. It would be better written *wiry*.

2. [Sax. *wær*, a pool.] Wet; marshy. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

WIFE, *n.* plu. *wives*. [Sax. *wif*; D. *wyf*; G. *weib*, a woman.]

1. The lawful consort of a man; a woman who is united to a man in the lawful bonds of wedlock; the correlative of *husband*.

The husband of one *wife*. 1 Tim. iii.

Let every one of you in particular, so love his *wife* even as himself, and let the *wife* see that she reverence her husband. Eph. v.

2. A woman of low employment; as *strawberry wives*. [*Not in use*.] *Shak.*

WIG, in Saxon, signifies war. It is found in some names.

WIG, *n.* [G. *weck*, wig, and *weck-butter*, roll butter. It would seem that the sense is a roll or twist interwoven.]

1. A covering for the head, consisting of hair interwoven or united by a kind of network; formerly much worn by men.

2. A sort of cake. *Obs.* *Ainsworth.*

WIGEON. [See *Widgeon*.]

WIGHT, *n.* [Sax. *wiht*, G. *wicht*, a living being, Goth. *waht*; L. *victum*, from *vico*, to live, originally *vigo* or *vico*, and probably allied to *vigeo*. This, in the Celtic form, would be *quic* or *quig*, Eng. *quick*, alive; and hence L. *qui*, *quæ*, *quid*, *quod*, contracted from *quic*, *quiced*, *quoced*; Scot. *quhat*. The letter *h*, in the Gothic and Scottish, representing the *c* of the Latin, proves the word to be thus contracted.]

A being; a person. It is obsolete, except in irony or burlesque. [See *Aught*.]

The *wight* of all the world who lov'd thee best. *Dryden.*

WIGHT, *a.* [Sax. *hwæt*.] Swift; nimble. *Obs.* *Spenser.*

[This seems to be a dialectical form of *quick*.]

WIGHTLY, *adv.* Swiftly; nimbly. *Obs.* *Spenser.*

WIG'WAM, *n.* An Indian cabin or hut, so called in America. It is sometimes written *weekwam*.

WILD, *a.* [Sax. D. G. *wild*; Sw. Dan. *vild*; W. *gwyllt*; connected with Sax. *wealth*, a traveler, foreigner or pilgrim; G. *wälsch*, Celtic, Welsh; *wallen*, to rove, Sw. *villa*, *förvilla*. The sense is obvious.]

1. Roving; wandering; inhabiting the forest or open field; hence, not tamed or domes-

ticated; as a *wild* boar; a *wild* ox; a *wild* cat; a *wild* bee.

2. Growing without culture; as *wild* parsnep; *wild* cherry; *wild* tansy. *Wild* rice, a palatable and nutritious food, grows spontaneously in the lakes and ponds of the North West territory. *J. Morse.*

3. Desert; not inhabited; as a *wild* forest. *Milton.*

4. Savage; uncivilized; not refined by culture; as the *wild* natives of Africa or America.

5. Turbulent; tempestuous; irregular; as a *wild* tumult.

The *wild* winds howl. *Addison.*

6. Licentious; ungoverned; as *wild* passions.

Valor grown *wild* by pride— *Prior.*

7. Inconstant; mutable; fickle.

In the ruling passion, there alone
The *wild* are constant, and the cunning known. *Pope.*

8. Inordinate; loose.

A fop well dress'd, extravagant and *wild*. *Dryden.*

9. Uncouth; loose.

—What are these,

So wither'd, and so *wild* in their attire? *Shak.*

10. Irregular; disorderly; done without plan or order; as, to make *wild* work.

Milton.

11. Not well digested; not framed according to the ordinary rules of reason; not being within the limits of probable practicability; imaginary; fanciful; as a *wild* project or scheme; *wild* speculations.

12. Exposed to the wind and sea; as a *wild* roadstead. *Mar. Dict.*

13. Made or found in the forest; as *wild* honey.

Wild is prefixed to the names of many plants, to distinguish them from such of the name as are cultivated in gardens, as *wild* basil, *wild* parsnep, *wild* carrot, *wild* olive, &c.

WILD, *n.* A desert; an uninhabited and uncultivated tract or region; a forest or sandy desert; as the *wilds* of America; the *wilds* of Africa; the sandy *wilds* of Arabia.

Then Libya first, of all her moisture drain'd,
Became a barren waste, a *wild* of sand. *Addison.*

WILDFIRE, *n.* [*wild* and *fire*.] A composition of inflammable materials.

Brimstone, pitch, *wildfire*, burn easily, and are hard to quench. *Bacon.*

2. A disease of sheep, attended with inflammation of the skin; a kind of erysipelas. *Cyc.*

WILD-FOWL, *n.* [*wild* and *fowl*.] Fowls of the forest, or untamed.

WILD-GOOSE, *n.* [*wild* and *goose*.] An aquatic fowl of the genus *Anas*, the *Anas anser*, a fowl of passage. These geese fly to the south in autumn, and return to the north in the spring. This species is the stock of the common domestic goose. The wild goose of N. America, also migratory, is a distinct species, the *Anas Canadensis*. *Wild-geese chase*, the pursuit of something as unlikely to be caught as the wild goose. *Shak.*

WILD-HONEY, *n.* [*wild* and *honey*.] Honey that is found in the forest, in hollow trees or among rocks.