

on the Egyptians. The bread and wine in the sacrament are *significant* of the body and blood of Christ.

5. Important; momentous. [*Nol in use.*]

SIGNIFICANTLY, *adv.* With meaning.

2. With force of expression.

SIGNIFICATION, *n.* [Fr. from *L. signification*. See *Signify*.]

1. The act of making known, or of communicating ideas to another by signs or by words, by any thing that is understood, particularly by words.

All speaking, or *signification* of one's mind, implies an act or address of one man to another.

2. Meaning; that which is understood to be intended by a sign, character, mark or word; that idea or sense of a sign, mark, word or expression which the person using it intends to convey, or that which men in general who use it, understand it to convey. The *signification* of words was originally arbitrary, and is dependent on usage. But when custom has annexed a certain sense to a letter or sound, or to a combination of letters or sounds, this sense is always to be considered the *signification* which the person using the word intends to communicate.

So by custom, certain signs or gestures have a determinate *signification*. Such is the fact also with figures, algebraic characters, &c.

SIGNIFICATIVE, *a.* [Fr. *significatif*.]

1. Betokening or representing by an external sign; as the *significative* symbols of the eucharist.

2. Having signification or meaning; expressive of a certain idea or thing.

Neither in the degrees of kindred were they destitute of *significative* words.

SIGNIFICATIVELY, *adv.* So as to represent or express by an external sign.

SIGNIFICATOR, *n.* That which signifies.

SIGNIFICATORY, *n.* That which betokens, signifies or represents.

SIGNIFY, *v. t.* [Fr. *signifier*; *L. significo*; *signum*, a sign, and *facio*, to make.]

1. To make known something, either by signs or words; to express or communicate to another any idea, thought, wish, purpose or command, either by words, by a nod, wink, gesture, signal or other sign. A man *signifies* his mind by his voice or by written characters; he may *signify* his mind by a nod or other motion, provided the person to whom he directs it, understands what is intended by it. A general or an admiral *signifies* his commands by signals to officers at a distance.

2. To mean; to have or contain a certain sense. The word sabbath *signifies* rest. Less, in composition, as in *faithless*, *signifies* destitution or want. The prefix *re*, in *recommend*, seldom *signifies* any thing.

3. To import; to weigh; to have consequence; *used in particular phrases*; as, it *signifies* much or little; it *signifies* nothing. What does it *signify*? What *signify* the splendors of a court? Confession of sin without reformation of life, can *signify* nothing in the view of God.

4. To make known; to declare.

The government should *signify* to the protestants of Ireland, that want of silver is not to be remedied.

SIGNIFY, *v. i.* To express meaning with force. [*Little used.*]

SIGNIOR, *n.* *see nyur*. A title of respect among the Italians. [See *Seignor*.]

SIGNIORIZE, *v. i.* *see nyurize*. To exercise dominion; or to have dominion. [*Little used.*]

SIGNIORY, *n.* *see nyury*. A different, but less common spelling of *seignior*, which *see*. It signifies lordship, dominion, and in Shakspeare, *seniority*.

SIGN-POST, *n.* [*sign* and *post*.] A post on which a sign hangs, or on which papers are placed to give public notice of any thing. By the laws of some of the New England states, a *sign-post* is to be erected near the center of each town.

SIK, } *a.* Such. *Obs.*

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SIKER, *a.* or *adv.* Sure; surely. *Obs.* [See *Sicker*.]

SIK'ERNESS, *n.* Sureness; safety.

SILENCE, *n.* [Fr. from *L. silentium*, from *sileo*, to be still; *It. silenzio*; *Sp. silencio*. The sense is to stop or hold; but this may proceed from setting, throwing down.

See *Sill*.]

1. In a general sense, stillness, or entire absence of sound or noise; as the *silence* of midnight.

2. In animals, the state of holding the peace; forbearance of speech in man, or of noise in other animals.

I was dumb with *silence*; I held my peace, even from good. Ps. xxxix.

3. Habitual taciturnity; opposed to *loquacity*.

4. Secrecy. These things were transacted in *silence*.

5. Stillness; calmness; quiet; cessation of rage, agitation or tumult; as the elements reduced to *silence*.

6. Absence of mention; oblivion.

Eternal *silence* be their doom.

And what most merits fame, in *silence* hid.

7. *Silence*, is used elliptically for *let there be silence*, an injunction to keep silence.

SILENCE, *v. t.* To oblige to hold the peace; to restrain from noise or speaking.

2. To still; to quiet; to restrain; to appease.

This would *silence* all further opposition.

These would have *silenced* their scruples.

3. To stop; as, to *silence* complaints or clamor.

4. To still; to cause to cease firing; as, to *silence* guns or a battery.

5. To restrain from preaching by revoking a license to preach; as, to *silence* a minister of the gospel.

The Rev. Thomas Hooker, of Chelmsford in Essex, was *silenced* for non-conformity.

6. To put an end to; to cause to cease.

The question between agriculture and commerce has received a decision which has *silenced* the rivalships between them.

SILENT, *a.* Not speaking; mute.

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2. Habitually taciturn; speaking little; not inclined to much talking; not loquacious.

Ulysses, he adds, was the most eloquent and the most *silent* of men.

3. Still; having no noise; as the *silent* watches of the night; the *silent* groves; all was *silent*.

4. Not operative; wanting efficacy.

5. Not mentioning; not proclaiming.

This new created world, of which is hell Fame is not *silent*.

6. Calm; as, the winds were *silent*.

7. Not acting; not transacting business in person; as a *silent* partner in a commercial house.

8. Not pronounced; having no sound; as, *c* is *silent* in *fable*.

SILENTIARY, *n.* One appointed to keep silence and order in court; one sworn not to divulge secrets of state.

SILENTLY, *adv.* Without speech or words.

Each *silently* Demands thy grace, and seems to watch thy eye.

2. Without noise; as, to march *silently*.

3. Without mention. He mentioned other difficulties, but this he *silently* passed over.

SILENTNESS, *n.* State of being silent; stillness; silence.

SILESIA, *n.* *sile'zha*. A duchy or country now chiefly belonging to Prussia; hence, a species of linen cloth so called; thin coarse linen.

SILESIAN, *a.* *sile'zhan*. Pertaining to Silesia; made in Silesia; as *Silesian* linen.

SILEX, } *n.* One of the supposed primitive earths, usually found in the state of stone. When pure, it is perfectly white or colorless. The purer sorts are mountain crystal and quartz. Recent experiments prove this to be a compound substance, the base of which is a metal called silicium. Silica then is an oxyd of silicium.

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SILICEOUS, } *a.* [Fr. *siliceux*, from *L. siliceus*, from *siliceus*, a little husk.]

SILICULE, } *n.* In botany, a little pod or bivalvular pericarp, with seeds attached to both sutures.

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