

STABLE, *a.* [L. *stabilis*; Fr. *stable*; It. *stabile*. The primary sense is set, fixed. See *Stab*.]

1. Fixed; firmly established; not to be easily moved, shaken or overthrown; as a *stable* government.
2. Steady in purpose; constant; firm in resolution; not easily diverted from a purpose; not fickle or wavering; as a *stable* man; a *stable* character.
3. Fixed; steady; firm; not easily surrendered or abandoned; as a man of *stable* principles.
4. Durable; not subject to be overthrown or changed.

In this region of chance and vanity, where nothing is *stable*—*Rogers.*

STABLE, *v. t.* To fix; to establish. [Not used.]

STABLE, *n.* [L. *stabulum*, that is, a stand, a fixed place, like *stall*. See the latter. These words do not primarily imply a covering for horses or cattle.]

A house or shed for beasts to lodge and feed in. In large towns, a *stable* is usually a building for horses only, or horses and cows, and often connected with a coach house. In the country towns in the northern states of America, a *stable* is usually an apartment in a barn in which hay and grain are deposited.

STABLE, *v. t.* To put or keep in a *stable*. Our farmers generally *stable* not only horses, but oxen and cows in winter, and sometimes young cattle.

STABLE, *v. i.* To dwell or lodge in a *stable*; to dwell in an inclosed place; to kennel. *Milton.*

STABLE-BOY, } *n.* A boy or a man who
STABLE-MAN, } attends at a *stable*. *Swift.*

STABLED, *pp.* Put or kept in a *stable*.

STABLENESS, *n.* Fixedness; firmness of position or establishment; strength to stand; stability; as the *stability* of a throne or of a system of laws.

2. Steadiness; constancy; firmness of purpose; stability; as *stability* of character, of mind, of principles or opinions.

STABLESTAND, *n.* [*stable* and *stand*.] In *law*, when man is found at his standing in the forest with a cross bow bent, ready to shoot at a deer, or with a long bow; or standing close by a tree with grayhounds in a leash ready to slip. This is one of the four presumptions that a man intends stealing the king's deer.

English Law.

STABLING, *ppr.* Putting or keeping in a *stable*.

STABLING, *n.* The act or practice of keeping cattle in a *stable*.

2. A house, shed or room for keeping horses and cattle.

STABILISH, *v. t.* [L. *stabilio*; Fr. *tablir*; It. *stabilire*; Sp. *establecer*. See *Stab*.]

To fix; to settle in a state for permanence; to make firm. [In lieu of this, *establish* is now always used.]

STABLY, *adv.* Firmly; fixedly; steadily; as a government *stably* settled.

STACK, *n.* [W. *ystac*, a stack; *ystaca*, a standard, from *tig*, a state of being stuffed; Dan. *stak*, a pile of hay; Sw. *stack*; Ir. *sticadh*. It signifies that which is set, and coincides with Sax. *stac*, D. *staak*, a

stake. *Stock*, *stag*, *stage*, are of the same family, or at least have the same radical sense.]

1. A large conical pile of hay, grain or straw, sometimes covered with thatch. In *America*, the *stack* differs from the *cock* only in size, both being conical. A long pile of hay or grain is called a *rick*. In *England*, this distinction is not always observed. This word in Great Britain is sometimes applied to a pile of wood containing 108 cubic feet, and also to a pile of poles; but I believe never in *America*.

Against every pillar was a *stack* of billets above a man's highth. *Bacon.*

2. A number of funnels or chimneys standing together. We say, a *stack* of chimneys; which is correct, as a *chimney* is a passage. But we also call the whole *stack* a *chimney*. Thus we say, the *chimney* rises ten feet above the roof.

STACK, *v. t.* To lay in a conical or other pile; to make into a large pile; as, to *stack* hay or grain.

2. In *England*, to pile wood, poles, &c.

STACKED, *pp.* Piled in a large conical heap.

STACKING, *ppr.* Laying in a large conical heap.

STACKING-BAND, } *n.* A band or rope
STACKING-BELT, } used in binding

thatch or straw upon a *stack*.

STACKING-STAGE, *n.* A stage used in building *stacks*.

STACK-YARD, *n.* A yard or inclosure for *stacks* of hay or grain.

STACITE, *n.* [L. *stacte*; Gr. *σακκη*.] A fatty resinous liquid matter, of the nature of liquid myrrh, very odoriferous and highly valued. But it is said we have none but what is adulterated, and what is so called is liquid storax. *Cyc.*

STAD'DLE, *n.* [D. *stutzel*, from *stut*, a prop; *stutten*, to prop; Eng. *stud*; G. *stütze*. It belongs to the root of *stead*, *steady*.]

1. Any thing which serves for support; a staff; a crutch; the frame or support of a *stack* of hay or grain. *England.*

[In this sense not used in *New England*.]

2. In *New England*, a small tree of any kind, particularly a forest tree. In *America*, trees are called *staddles* from three or four years old till they are six or eight inches in diameter or more, but in this respect the word is indefinite. This is also the sense in which it is used by *Bacon* and *Tusser*.

STAD'DLE, *v. t.* To leave *staddles* when a wood is cut. *Tusser.*

STAD'DLE-ROOF, *n.* The roof or covering of a *stack*.

STADIUM, *n.* [L.; Gr. *stadion*.] A Greek measure of 125 geometrical paces; a furlong.

2. The course or career of a race.

STADT'HOLDER, *n.* [D. *stadt*, a city, and *houder*, holder.]

Formerly, the chief magistrate of the United Provinces of Holland; or the governor or lieutenant governor of a province.

STADT'HOLDERATE, *n.* The office of a *stadtholder*.

STAFF, *n.* plu. *staves*. [Sax. *staf*, a stick or club, a pole, a crook, a prop or support, a letter, an epistle; *stefn*, *stefn*, the voice;

D. *staf*, a staff, scepter or crook; *staaf*, a bar; G. *stab*, a staff, a bar, a rod; Dan. *stab*, *staf*, id.; *stavn*, *stavn*, the prow of a ship, that is, a projection, that which shoots out; Fr. *douve*. The primary sense is to thrust, to shoot. See *Stab*.]

1. A stick carried in the hand for support or defense by a person walking; hence, a support; that which props or upholds. Bread is proverbially called the *staff* of life.

The boy was the very *staff* of my age. *Shak.*

Thy rod and thy *staff*, they comfort me. *Ps.* xxiii.

2. A stick or club used as a weapon.

With forks and *staves* the felon they pursue. *Dryden.*

3. A long piece of wood; a stick; the long handle of an instrument; a pole or stick, used for many purposes.

4. The five lines and the spaces on which music is written.

5. An ensign of authority; a badge of office; as a constable's *staff*. *Shak.* *Hayward.*

6. The round of a ladder. *Brown.*

7. A pole erected in a ship to hoist and display a flag; called a *flag-staff*. There is also a *jack-staff*, and an *ensign-staff*.

8. [Fr. *estafette*, a courier or express; Dan. *staffelle*; It. *staffetta*, an express; *staffiere*, a groom or servant; *staffia*, a stirrup; Sp. *estafeta*, a courier, a general post-office; *estafiero*, a foot-boy, a stable-boy, an errand-boy; Port. *estafeta*, an express. This word seems to be formed from It. *staffa*, a stirrup, whence *staffiere*, a stirrup-holder or groom, whence a servant or horseman sent express.] In *military affairs*, an establishment of officers in various departments, attached to an army, or to the commander of an army. The *staff* includes officers not of the line, as adjutants, quarter-masters, chaplain, surgeon, &c. The *staff* is the medium of communication from the commander in chief to every department of an army.

9. [Ice. *stef*.] A stanza; a series of verses so disposed that when it is concluded, the same order begins again.

Cowley found out that no kind of *staff* is proper for a heroic poem, as being all too lyrical. *Dryden.*

10. *Stave* and *staves*, plu. of *staff*. [See *Stave*.]

STAFFISH, *a.* Stiff; harsh. [Not in use.] *Ascham.*

STAFF-TREE, *n.* A sort of evergreen privet. *Johnson.*

It is of the genus *Celastrus*. *Cyc.*

STAG, *n.* [This word belongs to the root of *stick*, *stage*, *stock*. The primary sense is to thrust, hence to fix, to stay, &c.]

1. The male red deer; the male of the hind. *Shak.*

2. A colt or filly; also, a romping girl. [Local.] *Grose.*

3. In *New England*, the male of the common ox castrated.

STAG-BEETLE, *n.* The *Lucanus cervus*, a species of insect. *Encyc.*

STAGE, *n.* [Fr. *etage*, a story, a degree; Arm. *estrich*; Sax. *stigan*, to go, to ascend; Dan. *stiger*, to step up, to ascend; Sw. *stign*, to step; *steg*, a step; *stegen*, a ladder; D. *stijgen*, to mount, G. *steigen*.] Properly, one step or degree of elevation,