

upon. We are liable to be *imposed* on by others, and sometimes we *impose* on ourselves.

IMPOSE, *n.* *s* as *z*. Command; injunction. [Not used.] *Shak.*

IMPOSED, *pp.* Laid on, as a tax, burden, duty or penalty; enjoined.

Imposed on, deceived.

IMPOSER, *n.* One who lays on; one who enjoins.

—The *imposers* of these oaths might repent. *Watson.*

IMPOSING, *ppr.* Laying on; enjoining; deceiving.

2. *a.* Commanding; adapted to impress forcibly; as an *imposing* air or manner.

—Large and *imposing* edifices, embosomed in the groves of some rich valley. *Bishop Hobart.*

IMPOSING-STONE, *n.* Among *printers*, the stone on which the pages or columns of types are imposed or made into forms.

IMPOSITION, *n.* *s* as *z*. [Fr. from *L. impositio.* See *Impose.*]

1. In a general sense, the act of laying on.

2. The act of laying on hands in the ceremony of ordination, when the bishop in the episcopal church, and the ministers in congregational churches, place their hands on the head of the person whom they are ordaining, while one prays for a blessing on his labors. The same ceremony is used in other cases.

3. The act of setting on or affixing to, as the *imposition* of names. *Boyle.*

3. That which is imposed; a tax, toll, duty or excise laid by authority. Tyrants oppress their subjects with grievous *impositions*.

4. Injunction, as of a law or duty. *Milton.*

5. Constraint; oppression; burden.

Let it not be made, contrary to its own nature, the occasion of strife, a narrow spirit, and unreasonable *impositions* on the mind and practice. *Watts.*

6. Deception; imposture.

Being acquainted with his hand, I had no reason to suspect an *imposition*. *Smollet.*

7. A supernumerary exercise enjoined on students as a punishment. *Watson.*

IMPOSSIBILITY, *n.* [from *impossible.*]

1. That which cannot be; the state of being not possible to exist. That a thing should be and not be at the same time, is an *impossibility*.

2. Inpracticability; the state or quality of being not feasible or possible to be done. That a man by his own strength should lift a ship of the line, is to him an *impossibility*, as the means are inadequate to the end. [See *Impossible.*]

IMPOSSIBLE, *a.* [Fr. from *L. impossibilis*; *in* and *possibilis*, from *possum*, to be able.]

1. That cannot be. It is *impossible* that two and two should make five, or that a circle and a square should be the same thing, or that a thing should be, and not be at the same time.

2. Inpracticable; not feasible; that cannot be done.

With men this is *impossible*; but with God all things are possible. *Matt. xix.*

Without faith it is *impossible* to please God. *Heb. xi.*

There are two kinds of impossibilities; *physical* and *moral*. That is a *physical impos-*

sibility, which is contrary to the law of nature. A thing is said to be *morally impossible*, when in itself it is possible, but attended with difficulties or circumstances which give it the appearance of being impossible. [See *Possible*, *Practicable* and *Impracticable.*] *Encyc.*

IMPOST, *n.* [Sp. It. *imposta*; Fr. *impôt*, for *impost*; *L. impositum*, *impono.*]

1. Any tax or tribute imposed by authority; particularly, a duty or tax laid by government on goods imported, and paid or secured by the importer at the time of importation. *Imposts* are also called *customs*.

2. In *architecture*, that part of a pillar in vaults and arches, on which the weight of the building rests; or the capital of a pillar, or cornice which crowns the pier and supports the first stone or part of an arch. *Alinsworth. Ash.*

IMPOSTHUMATE, *v. i.* *imposthumate.* [See *Imposthume.*]

To form an abscess; to gather; to collect pus or purulent matter in any part of an animal body. *Arbuthnot.*

IMPOSTHUMATE, *v. t.* To affect with an imposthume or abscess.

IMPOSTHUMATED, *pp.* Affected with an imposthume.

IMPOSTHUMATION, *n.* The act of forming an abscess; also, an abscess; an imposthume. *Core. Bacon.*

IMPOSTHUME, *n.* *imposthume.* [This word is a corruption of *apostema*, *L. apostema*, *Gr. ἀποστήμα*, from ἀπέρχαι, to separate, to withdraw, or to stand off; ἀπο and ἵσται, to stand.]

An abscess; a collection of pus or purulent matter in any part of an animal body. *Encyc.*

[This word and its derivatives, being mere corruptions, might well be suffered to pass into oblivion.]

IMPOSTHUME, *v. i.* The same as *imposthumate*.

IMPOSTOR, *n.* [Fr. *imposteur*; Sp. Port. *impostor*; It. *impostore*; from Low *L. impostor*, from *impono.* See *Impose.*]

One who imposes on others; a person who assumes a character for the purpose of deception; a deceiver under a false character. It seems to be yet unsettled, whether Perkins Warbeck was an *impostor*. A religious impostor may be one who assumes the character of a preacher, without authority; or one who falsely pretends to an extraordinary commission from heaven, and terrifies people with denunciations of judgments. *Encyc.*

IMPOSTURAGE, *n.* Imposition. [Not in use.] *Bp. Taylor.*

IMPOSTURE, *n.* [Fr. from *L. impostura.* See *Impose.*]

Deception practised under a false or assumed character; fraud or imposition practised by a false pretender.

—Form new legends,

And fill the world with follies and *impostures*. *Greene.*

IMPOSTURED, *a.* Having the nature of imposture. *Benam.*

IMPOSTUROUS, *a.* Deceitful. [Not used.] *Benam.*

IMPOTENCE, *n.* [*L. impotentia*; *in* and *POTENCY*, *n.* *potens*, from *possum*, the root of *it. potere*, Sp. *poder*. See *Power.*]

1. Want of strength or power, animal or intellectual; weakness; feebleness; inability; imbecility; defect of power, natural or adventitious, to perform any thing.

Some were poor by the *impotency* of nature: as young fatherless children, old decrepit persons, idiots and cripples. *Hayward.*

The *impotence* of exercising animal motion attends fevers. *Arbuthnot.*

2. Moral inability; the want of power or inclination to resist or overcome habits and natural propensities.

3. Inability to beget.

4. Ungovernable passion; a *Latin* signification. [*Little used.*] *Milton.*

IMPOTENT, *a.* [Fr. from *L. impotens.*]

1. Weak; feeble; wanting strength or power; unable by nature, or disabled by disease or accident to perform any act.

I know thou wast not slow to hear, Nor *impotent* to save. *Addison.*

2. Wanting the power of propagation, as males.

3. Wanting the power of restraint; not having the command over; as *impotent* of tongue. *Dryden.*

IMPOTENT, *n.* One who is feeble, infirm, or languishing under disease. *Shak.*

IMPOTENTLY, *adv.* Weakly; without power over the passions.

IMPOUND, *v. t.* [in and *pound*. See *Pound.*]

1. To put, shut or confine in a pound or close pen; as, to *impound* unruly or stray horses, cattle, &c.

2. To confine; to restrain within limits. *Bacon.*

IMPOUNDED, *pp.* Confined in a pound.

IMPOUNDER, *n.* One who impounds the beasts of another.

IMPOUNDING, *ppr.* Confining in a pound; restraining.

IMPOVERISH, *v. t.* [Fr. *appauvrir*, *appauvrir*, from *pauvre*, poor; It. *impoverire*. See *Poor.*]

1. To make poor; to reduce to poverty or indigence. Idleness and vice are sure to *impoverish* individuals and families.

2. To exhaust strength, richness or fertility; as, to *impoverish* land by frequent cropping.

IMPOVERISHED, *pp.* Reduced to poverty; exhausted.

IMPOVERISHER, *n.* One who makes others poor.

2. That which impairs fertility.

IMPOVERISHING, *ppr.* Making poor; exhausting.

IMPOVERISHMENT, *n.* Depauperation; a reducing to indigence; exhaustion; drain of wealth, richness or fertility.

IMPOWER. [See *Empower.*]

IMPRACTICABILITY, *n.* [See *Impracticable.*]

IMPRATICABLENESS, *n.* [*practicable.*]

1. The state or quality of being beyond human power, or the means proposed; infeasibility.

2. Untractableness; stubbornness. *Burnet.*

IMPRACICABLE, *a.* [in and *practicable*; Fr. *impracticable*. See *Practice.*]

1. That cannot be done or performed; infeasible; not to be effected by human means, or by the means proposed. It is