

TOP, *v. i.* To rise aloft; to be eminent; as lofty ridges and *topping* mountains.

Derham.

2. To predominate; as *topping* passions; *topping* uneasiness.

3. To excel; to rise above others.

But write thy best and *top*—

Dryden.

TOP, *v. t.* To cover on the top; to tip; to cap.

—A mount

Of alabaster, *topp'd* with golden spires.

Milton.

Mountains *topp'd* with snow.

Waller.

2. To rise above.

A gourd—climbing by the boughs twined about them, till it *topped* and covered the tree.

L'Estrange.

Topping all others in boasting.

Shak.

3. To outgo; to surpass.

4. To crop; to take off the top or upper part. *Top* your rose trees a little with your knife near a leaf-bud.

Evelyn.

So in America we say, to *top* corn, that is maize, by cutting off the stalk just above the ear.

5. To rise to the top of; as, he *topped* the hill.

Denham.

6. To perform eminently. [*Not in use.*]

TOP'AN, *n.* A name of the horned Indian raven, or rhinoceros bird.

Cyc.

TOP'ARCH, *n.* [Gr. *τοπος*, place, and *αρχος*, a chief.] The principal man in a place or country.

TOP'ARCHY, *n.* A little state, consisting of a few cities or towns; a petty country governed by a toparch. Judea was formerly divided into ten *toparchies*.

TOP'PAZ, *n.* [Gr. *τοπαζιον*.] A mineral, said to be so called from Topazos, a small isle in the Arabic gulf, where the Romans obtained a stone which they called by this name, but which is the chrysolite of the moderns. The topaz is of a yellowish color. It sometimes occurs in masses, but more generally crystallized in rectangular octahedrons. Topaz is valued as a gem or precious stone, and is used in jewelry. It consists of siliceous, fluorine acid and alumina in the following proportions; alumina 57 parts, silica 34, and fluorine acid 7 or 8.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

Of topaz there are three subspecies, common topaz, shorlite and physalite.

Jameson.

TOPAZ'OLITE, *n.* A variety of precious garnet, of a topaz yellow color, or an olive green.

Ure. Cleveland.

TOPE, *n.* A fish of the shark kind, the *squalus galeus* of Linne.

Cyc.

TOPE, *v. i.* [Fr. *tope*. Qu. *dip.*] To drink hard; to drink strong or spiritous liquors to excess.

If you *tope* in form, and treat—

Dryden.

TOP'FER, *n.* One who drinks to excess; a drunkard; a sot.

TOP'ET, *n.* A small bird, the crested titmouse.

N. B. The crested titmouse of Latham, *Parus bicolor*, is the toupet titmouse of Pennant.

Ed. Encyc.

TOPI, } [from the Latin.] A kind of

TOPI'IN, } *n.* sandstone.

TOPIA'CEOUS, *a.* Gritty; sandy; rough; stony.

Arbutnot.

TOP'HET, *n.* [Heb. *תופת* tophet, a drum.]

Hell; so called from a place east of Jerusalem where children were burnt to Moloch,

and where drums were used to drown their cries.

TO'PHI, *n.* Ducksten; a stone formed by earthy depositions; called also *tufa* or *trass*.

TOP'IARY, *a.* [L. *topiarius*, ornamented.] Shaped by clipping or cutting.

Buller.

TOP'IC, *n.* [Gr. *τοπος*, place; L. *topicus*, *topica*; Sans. *topu*.]

1. Any subject of discourse or argument. The Scriptures furnish an unlimited number of *topics* for the preacher, and *topics* infinitely interesting.

2. In *rhetoric*, a probable argument drawn from the several circumstances and places of a fact. Aristotle wrote a book of *topics*. Cicero defines *topics* to be the art of finding arguments.

Cyc.

3. Principle of persuasion.

Contumacious persons whom no *topics* can work upon.

Wilkins.

4. In *medicine*, an external remedy; a remedy to be applied outwardly to a particular part of the body, as a plaster, a ponce, a blister and the like.

Cyc.

TOP'IC, } [*supra.*] Pertaining to a

TOP'ICAL, } *a.* place; limited; local; as a topical remedy.

2. Pertaining to a topic or subject of discourse, or to a general head.

TOP'ICALLY, *adv.* Locally; with limitation to a part.

2. With application to a particular part; as a remedy *topically* applied.

TOPOG'RAPHER, *n.* [See *Topography*.] One who describes a particular place, town, city or tract of land.

TOPOGRAPH'IC, } Pertaining to to-

TOPOGRAPH'ICAL, } *a.* pography; descriptive of a place.

TOPOGRAPH'ICALLY, *adv.* In the manner of topography.

TOPOG'RAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *τοπος*, place, and *γραφη*, description.] The description of a particular place, city, town, manor, parish or tract of land. It is of more limited application than *chorography*.

TOP'PED, } Covered on the top;

TOPT, } *pp.* or *a.* capped; surpassed; cropped; having the top cut off.

TOP'PING, *ppr.* Covering the top; capping; surpassing; cropping; lopping.

2. *a.* Fine; gallant.

Johnson.

[But *Johnson's* definition is probably incorrect.]

3. Proud; assuming superiority. [*This is the sense in which the common people of N. England use the word, and I believe the true sense, but it is not elegant.*]

TOP'PING, *n.* In *seamen's language*, the act of pulling one extremity of a yard higher than the other.

Mar. Dict.

TOP'PING-LIFT, *n.* A large strong tackle employed to suspend or top the outer end of a gaff, or of the boom of a main-sail, in a brig or schooner.

Mar. Dict.

TOP'PINGLY, *adv.* Proudly; with airs of disdain. [*Not an elegant word, nor much used.*]

TOP'PLE, *v. i.* [from *top*.] To fall forward; to pitch or tumble down.

Though castles *topple* on their warders' heads.

Shak.

[*This word is used chiefly of children when beginning to walk.*]

TOP'PLING, *ppr.* Falling forward.

TOPSY-TUR'VY, *adv.* In an inverted posture; with the top or head downwards; as, to turn a carriage *topsy-turvy*.

South.

TOQUET, *n.* *toka*. [Fr. *a cap.*] A kind of bonnet or head dress for women.

TOR, *n.* [Sax. *tor*; L. *turris*.] A tower; a turret; also, a high pointed hill; used in names.

TORCH, *n.* [It. *torcia*; Sp. *antorcha*; Fr. *torche*; D. *toorts*; probably a twist; It. *torciare*, to twist, Sp. *torcer*, W. *torci*, L. *torqueo*, *torlus*.]

A light or luminary formed of some combustible substance, as of resinous wood or of candles.

They light the nuptial *torch*.

Milton.

TORCH-BEARER, *n.* [*torch* and *bear*.] One whose office is to carry a torch.

Sidney.

TORCH'ER, *n.* One that gives light. [*Not used.*]

Shak.

TORCH'-LIGHT, *n.* [*torch* and *light*.] The light of a torch or of torches.

2. A light kindled to supply the want of the sun.

Bacon.

TORCH'-THISTLE, *n.* A plant of the genus *Cactus*.

Lee.

The common name of a subdivision of the genus *Cactus*, called also *cereus*, from *cera*, wax, from the resemblance of the stems to a wax candle. *Torch-thistle* is from the prickly stems, used by the Indians for torches.

Cyc.

TORCH'-WÖRT, *n.* A plant.

More.

TÖRE, *pret.* of *tear*. He *tore* his robe.

TÖRE, *n.* [perhaps from *tear*; W. *tori*, to break.]

The dead grass that remains on mowing land in winter and spring. [*Used in New England.*]

Mortimer.

TÖRE, *n.* [L. *torus*.] In *architecture*, a large round molding on the base of a column. It is distinguished from the astragal by its size. The bases of the Tuscan and Doric columns have only one *tore*, which is between the plinth and listel. In the Attic base there are two.

Cyc.

TÖREUMATOG'RAPHY, *n.* [Gr. *τορευμα*, sculpture, and *γραφη*, description.]

A description of ancient sculptures and baso-relievs.

Cyc.

TÖRM'ENT, *n.* [Fr. *tourment*; L. *tormentum*; It. Sp. *tormento*; probably from the root of L. *torqueo*, *torno*, Eng. *tour*; that is, from twisting, straining.]

1. Extreme pain; anguish; the utmost degree of misery, either of body or mind.

The more I see

Pleasure about me, so much I feel

Torment within me.

Milton.

Lest they also come into this place of torment.

Luke xvi. Rev. ix. xiv.

2. That which gives pain, vexation or misery.

They brought to him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and *torments*.

Matt.

iv.

3. An engine for casting stones.

Elyot.

TÖRM'ENT, *v. t.* To put to extreme pain or anguish; to inflict excruciating pain and misery, either of body or mind.

Art thou come hither to *torment* us before the time? *Matt.* viii.

He shall be *tormented* with fire and brimstone. *Rev.* xiv.

2. To pain; to distress.