

WELK, *v. t.* To contract; to shorten.

Now sad winter *welked* hath the day—

Spenser.

[*This word is obsolete. But its significance has heretofore been misunderstood.*]

WELK'ED, *pp.* or *a.* Contracted into wrinkles or ridges.

—Horus *welk'd* and wav'd like the enridged sea. *Obs.* *Shak.*

WELK'IN, *n.* [*Sax. walc, wolcen*, a cloud, the air, ether, the vault of heaven; *G. wolke*, a cloud. *Qu. Sax. wealcen*, to roll, to full.]

The visible regions of the air; the vault of heaven. *Chaucer. Milton.*

[*This is obsolete, unless in poetry.*]

Welkin eye, in Shakespeare, is interpreted by Johnson, a blue eye, from *welkin*, the sky; by Todd, a rolling eye, from *Sax. wealcen*, to roll; and by Entick, a languishing eye. See *Welk*. It is obsolete, at least in New England.

WELK'ING, *ppr.* Fading; declining; contracting.

WELL, *n.* [*Sax. well*, a spring or fountain; *wellan*, to well, to boil or bubble, to spring, to rise; *D. wel, wellen*, id.; *G. quelle*, a spring; *quellen*, to spring, to issue forth, to gush, to well, to swell; *wallen*, to swell. In *G. welle* is a wave. On this word I suppose *swell* to be formed.]

1. A spring; a fountain; the issuing of water from the earth.

Begin then, sisters of the sacred *well*.

Milton.

[*In this sense, obsolete.*]

2. A pit or cylindrical hole, sunk perpendicularly into the earth to such a depth as to reach a supply of water, and walled with stone to prevent the earth from caving in.

3. In *ships*, an apartment in the middle of a ship's hold, to inclose the pumps, from the bottom to the lower deck. *Mar. Dict.*

4. In a *fishing vessel*, an apartment in the middle of the hold, made tight at the sides, but having holes perforated in the bottom to let in fresh water for the preservation of fish, while they are transported to market. *Mar. Dict.*

5. In the *military art*, a hole or excavation in the earth, in mining, from which run branches or galleries. *Cyc.*

WELL'-DRAIN, *n.* [*well* and *drain*.] A drain or vent for water, somewhat like a well or pit, serving to discharge the water of wet land. *Cyc.*

WELL'-DRAIN, *v. t.* To drain land by means of wells or pits, which receive the water, and from which it is discharged by machinery. *Cyc.*

WELL'-HOLE, } *n.* In *architecture*, the hole
WELL, } or space left in a floor
for the stairs. *Moxon.*

WELL'-ROOM, *n.* [*well* and *room*.] In a boat, a place in the bottom where the water is collected, and whence it is thrown out with a sloop.

WELL'-SPRING, *n.* [*well* and *spring*.] A source of continual supply. *Prov. xvi.*

WELL'-WATER, *n.* [*well* and *water*.] The water that flows into a well from subterraneous springs; water drawn from a well.

WELL, *v. i.* [*Sax. wellan*.] To spring; to issue forth, as water from the earth. [*Lit. the used.*] *Spenser. Dryden.*

WELL, *v. t.* To pour forth. *Obs.*

Spenser.

WELL, *a.* [*Sax. wel* or *well*; *G. wohl*; *D. wel*; *Sw. väl*; *Dan. vel*; *W. gwel*, better; *gwella*, to make better, to mend, to improve; *Arm. guellaat*; *L. valeo*, to be strong; *Sans. bala, bali*, strength. The primary sense of *valeo* is to strain, stretch, whence to advance, to prevail, to gain, according to our vulgar phrase, to get ahead, which coincides with *prosper*, *Gr. ἀρροσπερω*. I do not find *well* used in other languages as an adjective, but it is so used in English. See *Weal*.]

1. Being in health; having a sound body, with a regular performance of the natural and proper functions of all the organs: applied to animals: as a *well man*; the patient has recovered, and is perfectly *well*.

While you are *well*, you may do much good.

Taylor.

Is your father *well*? *Gen. xliii.*

2. Fortunate; convenient; advantageous; happy. It is *well* for us that we are sequestered so far from the rest of the world.

It was *well* with us in Egypt. *Num. xi.*

3. Being in favor.

He was *well* with Henry the fourth.

Dryden.

WELL, *adv.* In a proper manner; justly; rightly; not ill or wickedly. *James ii.*

If thou doest not *well*, sin lieth at the door.

Gen. iv.

2. Skillfully; with due art; as, the work is *well* done; he writes *well*; he rides *well*; the plot is *well* laid, and *well* executed.

3. Sufficiently; abundantly.

Lot—beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was *well* watered every where. *Gen. xiii.*

4. Very much; to a degree that gives pleasure. I liked the entertainment *well*.

5. Favorably; with praise.

All the world speaks *well* of you. *Pope.*

6. Conveniently; suitably; advantageously. This is all the mind can *well* contain. I cannot *well* attend the meeting.

7. To a sufficient degree; perfectly. I know not *well* how to execute this task.

8. Thoroughly; fully. Let the cloth be *well* cleansed. Let the steel be *well* polished.

She looketh *well* to the ways of her household. *Prov. xxxi.*

9. Fully; adequately.

We are *well* able to overcome it. *Num. xiii.*

10. Far; as, to be *well* advanced in life.

As *well* as, together with; not less than; one as much as the other; as a sickness long as *well* as severe. London is the largest city in Europe, as *well* as the principal banking city.

Well enough, in a moderate degree; so as to give satisfaction, or so as to require no alteration.

Well is him, seems to be elliptical for *well is to him*.

Well is prefixed to many words, expressing what is right, fit, laudable, or not defective; as *well-affected*; *well-designed*; *well-directed*; *well-ordered*; *well-formed*; *well-meant*; *well-minded*; *well-seasoned*; *well-tasted*.

Well is sometimes used elliptically for *it is well*, and as an expression of satisfaction with what has been said or done; and sometimes it is merely expletive. *Well*,

the work is done. *Well*, let us go. *Well*, *well*, he it so.

WELL'ADAY, alas, Johnson supposes to be a corruption of *welaway*, which see.

Shak. Gay.

WELLBE'ING, *n.* [*well* and *being*.] Wellfare; happiness; prosperity; as, virtue is essential to the *wellbeing* of men or of society.

WELL-BELOVED, *a.* Greatly beloved. *Mark xii.*

WELL'-BORN, *a.* [*well* and *born*.] Born of a noble or respectable family; not of mean birth. *Waller. Dryden.*

WELL'-BRED, *a.* [*well* and *bred*.] Educated to polished manners; polite.

Roscommon.

WELL-DONE, *exclam.* [*well* and *done*.] A word of praise; bravely; nobly; in a right manner.

WELLFAR', is now written *welfare*.

WELL-FA'VORED, *a.* Handsome; well formed; beautiful; pleasing to the eye. *Gen. xxix.*

WELL-GROUND'ED, *a.* [*well* and *ground*.] Well founded; having a solid foundation.

WELL'-HEAD, *n.* [*well* and *head*.] A source, spring or fountain. *Obs.* *Spenser.*

WELL-INTEN'TIONED, *a.* Having upright intentions or purpose. *Milner.*

WELL MAN'NERED, *a.* [*well* and *manner*.] Polite; well-bred; complaisant.

Dryden.

WELL'-MEANER, *n.* [*well* and *mean*.] One whose intention is good. *Dryden.*

WELL'-MEANING, *a.* Having a good intention. *Killingbeck.*

WELL-MET', *exclam.* A term of salutation denoting joy at meeting.

WELL-MINDED, *a.* [*well* and *mind*.] Well disposed; having a good mind.

WELL MORALIZED, *a.* Regulated by good morals. *Milner.*

WELL-NATURED, *a.* [*well* and *natured*.] Good natured; kind. *Dryden.*

WELL-NIGH, *adv.* [*well* and *nigh*.] Almost; nearly.

WELL-SPENT, *a.* [*well* and *spent*.] Spent or passed in virtue; as a *well-spent* life; *well-spent* days. *Pope.*

WELL-SPOKEN, *a.* [*well* and *speak*.]

1. Speaking well; speaking with fitness or grace; or speaking kindly.

2. Spoken with propriety; as *well-spoken* words.

WELL-WILLER, *n.* [*well* and *will*.] One who means kindly. *Sidney. Hooker.*

WELL-WISH', *n.* [*well* and *wish*.] A wish of happiness. *Addison.*

WELL-WISHER, *n.* [*supra*.] One who wishes the good of another. *Addison.*

WELSH, *a.* [*Sax. weallisc*, from *wealth*, a foreigner; *weallian*, to wander; *G. wälsch*, foreign, strange, Celtic, *Welsh*; *Wälsche sprache*, the Italian language, that is, foreign, or Celtic.] Pertaining to the Welsh nation.

WELSH, *n.* The language of Wales or of the Welsh.

2. The general name of the inhabitants of Wales. The word signifies foreigners or wanderers, and was given to this people by other nations, probably because they came from some distant country. The Welsh call themselves *Cymry*, in the plu-