

2. The edge of any part of dress.

Addison.

3. Border ; edge ; margin ; extreme part ; as the *skirt* of a forest ; the *skirt* of a town.

Dryden.

4. A woman's garment like a petticoat.

5. The diaphragm or midriff in animals. To spread the *skirt* over, in Scripture, to take under one's care and protection. Ruth iii.

SKIRT, *v. t.* To border ; to form the border or edge ; or to run along the edge ; as a plain *skirted* by rows of trees ; a circuit *skirted* round with wood. *Addison.*

SKIRT, *v. i.* To be on the border ; to live near the extremity.

Savages—who *skirt* along our western frontiers. *S. S. Smith.*

SKIRT'ED, *pp.* Bordered.

SKIRT'ING, *ppr.* Bordering ; forming a border.

SKIT, *n.* A wanton girl ; a reflection ; a jeer or jibe ; a whim. *Obs.*

SKIT, *v. t.* [*Sax. scitan* ; primarily to throw, to shoot.] To cast reflections. [*Local.*] *Grose.*

SKIT'TISH, *a.* [*Qu. Fr. ecouteur.* See *Scud.*]

1. Shy ; easily frightened ; shunning familiarity ; timorous ; as a restif *skittish* jade. *L'Estrange.*

Shak.

2. Wanton ; volatile ; hasty.

3. Changeable ; fickle ; as *skittish* fortune. *Shak.*

SKIT'TISHLY, *adv.* Shyly ; wantonly ; changeably.

SKIT'TISHNESS, *n.* Shyness ; aptness to fear approach ; timidity.

2. Fickleness ; wantonness.

SKIT'TLES, *n.* Nine pins. *Warton.*

SKOL'EZITE, *n.* A mineral allied to Thomsonite, occurring crystallized and massive, colorless and nearly transparent. When a small portion of it is placed in the exterior flame of the blowpipe, it twists like a worm, [*σκοληξ*] becomes opaque, and is converted into a blebby colorless glass. *Phillips.*

SKONCE. [See *Sconce*.]

SKOR'ADITE, *n.* [*Gr. σκοροδων*, garlic ; from its smell under the blowpipe.]

A mineral of a greenish color of different shades, or brown and nearly black, resembling the martial arseniate of copper. It occurs massive, but generally crystallized in rectangular prisms. *Üre. Phillips.*

SKREEN. [See *Screen*.]

SKRINGE, properly *seringe* ; a vulgar corruption of *cringe*.

SKUE. [See *Skew*.]

SKUG, *v. t.* To hide. [*Local.*]

SKULK, *v. i.* To lurk ; to withdraw into a corner or into a close place for concealment. [See *Sculk*.]

SKULL, *n.* [*Sw. skalle*, skull ; *skal*, a shell ; *Dan. skal*, a shell, the skull, and *skoll*, the skull ; *D. sched* ; *G. hirn-schale*, brain-shell ; *Sp. cholla*. See *Shell*.]

1. The bone that forms the exterior of the head, and incloses the brain ; the brainpan. It is composed of several parts united at the sutures.

2. A person.

Skulls that cannot teach and will not learn. *Couper.*

3. Skull, for *shoal* or *school*, of fish. [*Not used.*]

SKULL'-CAP, *n.* A head piece.

2. A plant of the genus *Scutellaria*. *Encyc.*

SKUNK, *n.* In America, the popular name of a fetid animal of the weasel kind ; the *Viverra Mephitis* of Linne.

SKUNK'CABBAGE, } *n.* A plant vulgarly
SKUNK'WEED, } so called, the
Tetodes fatidus, so named from its smell. *Bigelow.*

SKUTE, *n.* A boat. [See *Scow*.]

SKÿ, *n.* [*Sw. sky*, *Dan. skye*, a cloud ; *Dan. sky-himmel*, the vault of heaven.]

1. The aerial region which surrounds the earth ; the apparent arch or vault of heaven, which in a clear day is of a blue color. *Milton.*

2. The heavens. *Dryden.*

3. The weather ; the climate. *Johnson.*

4. A cloud ; a shadow. *Obs. Gower.*

SKÿ'-COLOR, *n.* The color of the sky ; a particular species of blue color ; azure. *Boyle.*

SKÿ'-COLORED, *a.* Like the sky in color ; blue ; azure. *Addison.*

SKÿ'-DYED, *a.* Colored like the sky. *Popc.*

SKÿ'EY, *a.* Like the sky ; ethereal. *Shak.*

SKÿ'ISH, *a.* Like the sky, or approaching the sky.

The *skyish* head

Of blue Olympus. [*A bad word.*] *Shak.*

SKÿ'-LARK, *n.* A lark that mounts and sings as it flies. [*Alauda arvensis.*] *Spectator.*

SKÿ'-LIGHT, *n.* A window placed in the top of a house or ceiling of a room for the admission of light. *Pope.*

SKÿ'-ROCKET, *n.* A rocket that ascends high and burns as it flies ; a species of fire works. *Addison.*

SLAB, *a.* Thick ; viscous. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

SLAB, *n.* [*W. llab*, *ylab*, a thin strip.] A plane or table of stone ; as a marble *slab*.

2. An outside piece taken from timber in sawing it into boards, planks, &c.

3. A puddle. [See *Slop*.] *Evelyn.*

Slabs of tin, the lesser masses which the workers cast the metal into. These are run into molds of stone.

SLABBER, *v. i.* [*D. slabben* ; *G. schlabbem*, *schlabern*.]

To let the saliva or other liquid fall from the mouth carelessly ; to drivel. It is also written *slaver*.

SLABBER, *v. t.* To sap up hastily, as liquid food. *Barret.*

2. To wet and foul by liquids suffered to fall carelessly from the mouth.

3. To shed ; to spill.

SLABBERER, *n.* One that slabbers ; an idiot.

SLABBERING, *ppr.* Driveling.

SLAB'BY, *a.* Thick ; viscous. [*Not much used.*] *Wiseman.*

2. Wet. [See *Sloppy*.]

SLAB'-LINE, *n.* A line or small rope by which seamen truss up the main-sail or fore-sail. *Mar. Dict.*

SLACK, *a.* [*Sax. slac* ; *Sw. slak* ; *W. llac*, *ylac*. See the Verb.]

1. Not tense ; not hard drawn ; not firmly

extended ; as a *slack* rope ; *slack* rigging ; *slack* shrouds.

2. Weak ; remiss ; not holding fast ; as a *slack* hand.

3. Remiss ; backward ; not using due diligence ; not earnest or eager ; as *slack* in duty or service ; *slack* in business.

4. Not violent ; not rapid ; slow ; as a *slack* pace. *Dryden.*

Slack in stays, in seamen's language, slow in going about ; as a ship. *Mar. Dict.*

Slack water, in seamen's language, the time when the tide runs slowly, or the water is at rest ; or the interval between the flux and reflux of the tide. *Mar. Dict.*

SLACK, *adv.* Partially ; insufficiently ; not intensely ; as *slack* dried hops ; bread *slack* baked. *Mortimer.*

SLACK, *n.* The part of a rope that hangs loose, having no stress upon it. *Mar. Dict.*

SLACK, } *v. i.* [*Sax. slacian* ; *D. slaaken* ; *Sw. slakna* ;

W. *yslaciu* and *yslaciau*, to slacken, to loosen, from *llac*, *llag*, slack, loose, lax, sluggish.]

1. To become less tense, firm or rigid ; to decrease in tension ; as, a wet cord *slackens* in dry weather.

2. To be remiss or backward ; to neglect. *Deut. xxiii.*

3. To lose cohesion or the quality of adhesion ; as, lime *slacks* and crumbles into powder. *Moxon.*

4. To abate ; to become less violent.

Whence these raging fires

Will *slacken*, if his breath stir not their flames. *Milton.*

5. To lose rapidity ; to become more slow ; as, a current of water *slackens* ; the tide *slackens*. *Mar. Dict.*

6. To languish ; to fail ; to flag. *Ainsworth.*

SLACK, } *v. t.* To lessen tension ; to

SLACK'EN, } make less tense or tight ; as, to *slacken* a rope or a bandage.

2. To relax ; to remit ; as, to *slacken* exertion or labor.

3. To mitigate ; to diminish in severity ; as, to *slacken* pain.

4. To become more slow ; to lessen rapidity ; as, to *slacken* one's pace.

5. To abate ; to lower ; as, to *slacken* the heat of a fire.

6. To relieve ; to unbend ; to remit ; as, to *slacken* cares. *Denham.*

7. To withhold ; to use less liberally. *Shak.*

8. To deprive of cohesion ; as, to *slack* lime. *Mortimer.*

9. To repress ; to check.

I should be griev'd, young prince, to think

my presence

Unbent your thoughts and *slacken'd* 'em to

arms. *Addison.*

10. To neglect.

Slack not the good presage. *Dryden.*

11. To repress, or make less quick or active. *Addison.*

SLACK, *n.* Small coal ; coal broken into small parts. *Eng.*

SLACK, *n.* A valley or small shallow dell. [*Local.*] *Grose.*

SLACK'EN, *n.* Among miners, a spongy semi-vitrified substance which they mix with the ores of metals to prevent their fusion. *Encyc.*