

cated, forming prisms of eight, fourteen or sixteen sides. It sometimes occurs massive. It is composed chiefly of silice, lime and alumin, with a portion of oxyd of iron, and oxyd of manganese.

Dict. Ure.

VETCH, *n.* [Fr. *vesce*; It. *veccia*; L. *vicia*; Sp. *veza*; D. *wik*, *wikke*, *vetch*, and a weight; *wikken*, to weigh; G. *wicke*, a vetch; *wickel*, a roller; *wichtig*, weighty; *wickeln*, to wind up. We see *vetch* is from the root of *weigh*, *wag*, *wiggle*, and signifies a little roller.]

A plant of the leguminous kind, with papilionaceous flowers, of the genus *Vicia*. It is a common name of most species of the genus. The name is also applied, with various epithets, to many other leguminous plants of different genera; as the *chickling vetch*, of the genus *Lathyrus*; the *horseshoe vetch*, of the genus *Hippocrepis*; the *milk vetch*, of the genus *As-tragalus*, &c.

Lee.

VETCH/LING, *n.* [from *vetch*.] In botany, a name of the *Lathyrus aphaca*, expressive of its diminutive size. The meadow *vetchling* is a wild plant common in meadows, which makes good hay.

VETCH/Y, *a.* Consisting of vetches or of pea straw; as a *vetchy* bed.

Spenser.

2. Abounding with vetches.

VETERAN, *a.* [L. *veteranus*, from *vetero*, to grow old, from *vetus*, old.]

Having been long exercised in any thing; long practiced or experienced; as a *veteran* officer or soldier; *veteran* skill.

Thomson.

VETERAN, *n.* One who has been long exercised in any service or art, particularly in war; one who has grown old in service and has had much experience.

Ensuing that pierc'd the foe's remotest lines,
The hardy *veteran* with tears resigns.

Addison.

VETERINARIAN, *n.* [L. *veterinarius*.] One skilled in the diseases of cattle or domestic animals.

Brown.

VETERINARY, *a.* [supra.] Pertaining to the art of healing or treating the diseases of domestic animals, as oxen, horses, sheep, &c. A *veterinary* college was established in England in 1792, at St. Pancras, in the vicinity of London. The improvement of the *veterinary* art is of great importance to the agricultural interest.

VE/TO, *n.* [L. *veto*, I forbid.] A forbidding; prohibition; or the right of forbidding; applied to the right of a king or other magistrate or officer to withhold his assent to the enactment of a law, or the passing of a decree. Thus the king of Great Britain has a *veto* upon every act of parliament; he sometimes prevents the passing of a law by his *veto*.

VEX, *v. t.* [L. *vero*; Fr. *verer*; It. *vessare*; Sp. *verar*.]

1. To irritate; to make angry by little provocations; a popular use of the word.

2. To plague; to torment; to harass; to afflict.

Ten thousand torments *vex* my heart.

Prior.

3. To disturb; to disquiet; to agitate.

White curl the waves, and the *vex'd* ocean
roars.

Pope.

4. To trouble; to distress.

I will also *vex* the hearts of many people.
Ezek. xxxii.

5. To persecute. Acts xii.

6. To stretch, as by hooks. [Not in use.]

Dryden.

VEX, *v. i.* To fret; to be teased or irritated.

Chapman.

VEXA'TION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *vexatio*.] The act of irritating, or of troubling, disquieting and harassing.

2. State of being irritated or disturbed in mind.

3. Disquiet; agitation; great uneasiness.

Passions too violent—afford us *vexation* and pain.
Temple.

4. The cause of trouble or disquiet.

Your children were *vexation* to your youth.

Shak.

5. Afflictions; great troubles; severe judgments.

The Lord shall send on thee cursing, *vexation* and rebuke. Deut. xxviii.

6. A harassing by law.

Bacon.

7. A slight teasing trouble.

VEXA'TIOUS, *a.* Irritating; disturbing or agitating to the mind; causing disquiet; afflictive; as a *vexatious* controversy; a *vexatious* neighbor.

2. Distressing; harassing; as *vexatious* wars.

South.

3. Full of trouble and disquiet.

He leads a *vexatious* life.

Digby.

4. Teasing; slightly troublesome; provoking.

A *vexatious* suit, in law, is one commenced for the purpose of giving trouble, or without cause.

VEXA'TIOUSLY, *adv.* In a manner to give great trouble or disquiet.

VEXA'TIOUSNESS, *n.* The quality of giving great trouble and disquiet, or of teasing and provoking.

VEX'ED, *pp.* Teased; provoked; irritated; troubled; agitated; disquieted; afflicted.

VEX'ER, *n.* One who vexes, irritates or troubles.

VEX'IL, *n.* [L. *rexillum*, a standard.] A flag or standard. In botany, the upper petal of a papilionaceous flower.

Martyn.

VEX'ILLARY, *n.* A standard bearer.

VEX'ILLARY, *a.* Pertaining to an ensign or standard.

VEXILLA'TION, *n.* [L. *rexillatio*.] A company of troops under one ensign.

VEX'ING, *ppr.* Provoking; irritating; afflicting.

VEX'INGLY, *adv.* So as to vex, tease or irritate.

Tatler.

VI/AL, *n.* [Fr. *viole*; Gr. *φιάλη*; L. *phiala*.] A phial; a small bottle of thin glass, used particularly by apothecaries and druggists.

Samuel took a *vial* of oil, and poured it on his head. 1 Sam. x.

Vials of God's wrath, in Scripture, are the execution of his wrath upon the wicked for their sins. Rev. xvi.

VI/PAL, *v. t.* To put in a vial.

Milton.

VI/PAND, *n.* [Fr. *viande*; from It. *vivanda*; L. *vivendus*, *vivo*, to live.] Meat dressed; food.

Viands of various kinds allure the taste.

Pope.

[It is used chiefly in the plural.]

VIAT'IC, *a.* [L. *viaticum*, from *via*, way.]

Pertaining to a journey or to traveling.

VIAT'ICUM, *n.* [L. supra.] Provisions for a journey.

2. Among the ancient Romans, an allowance to officers who were sent into the provinces to exercise any office or perform any service, also to the officers and soldiers of the army.

Cyc.

3. In the Romish church, the communion or eucharist given to persons in their last moments.

VIB'RANT, } *n.* [L. *vibrans*.] A name given
VIB'RIION, } to the ichneumon fly, from
the continual vibration of its antennæ.

Cyc.

VIB'RATE, *v. i.* [L. *vibro*; It. *vibrare*.] This word belongs to the root of Eng. *vabble*; W. *guibiau*, to wander, to move in a circular or serpentine direction.]

1. To swing; to oscillate; to move one way and the other; to play to and fro; as, the pendulum of a clock *vibrates* more or less rapidly, as it is shorter or longer. The chords of an instrument *vibrate* when touched.

2. To quiver; as, a whisper *vibrates* on the ear.

Pope.

3. To pass from one state to another; as, a man *vibrates* from one opinion to another.

VIB'RATE, *v. t.* To brandish; to move to and fro; to swing; as, to *vibrate* a sword or staff. The pendulum of a clock *vibrates* seconds.

2. To cause to quiver.

Breath vocalized, that is, *vibrated* or undulated, may differently affect the lips, and impress a swift tremulous motion.

Holder.

VIB'BRATED, *pp.* Brandished; moved one way and the other.

VIBRATIL'ITY, *n.* Disposition to preternatural vibration or motion. [Not much used.]

Rush.

VIB'RATING, *ppr.* Brandishing; moving to and fro, as a pendulum or musical chord.

VIBRA'TION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *vibro*.] The act of brandishing; the act of moving or state of being moved one way and the other in quick succession.

2. In mechanics, a regular reciprocal motion of a body suspended; a motion consisting of continual reciprocations or returns; as of the pendulum of a chronometer. This is frequently called *oscillation*. The number of *vibrations* in a given time depends on the length of the vibrating body; a pendulum three feet long, makes only ten *vibrations* while one of nine inches makes twenty. The *vibrations* of a pendulum are somewhat slower at or near the equator than in remote latitudes. The *vibrations* of a pendulum are isochronal in the same climate.

Cyc.

3. In physics, alternate or reciprocal motion; as the *vibrations* of the nervous fluid, by which sensation has been supposed to be produced, by impressions of external objects propagated thus to the brain.

Cyc.

4. In music, the motion of a chord, or the undulation of any body, by which sound is produced. The acuteness, elevation and gravity of sound, depend on the length of the chord and its tension.

VIBRAT'UNCLE, *n.* A small vibration.

Chambers.

VIB'RATIVE, *a.* That vibrates.

Newton.