

DECORATED, *pp.* Adorned; beautified; embellished.

DECORATING, *pp.* Adorning; embellishing; rendering beautiful to the eye, or lovely to the mind.

DECORATION, *n.* Ornament; embellishment; any thing added which renders more agreeable to the eye or to the intellectual view.

2. In *architecture*, any thing which adorns and enriches an edifice, as vases, paintings, figures, festoons, &c.

3. In *theaters*, the scenes, which are changed as occasion requires.

DECORATOR, *n.* One who adorns or embellishes.

DECOROUS, *a.* [*L. decorus*. See *Decency*.] Decent; suitable to a character, or to the time, place and occasion; becoming; proper; befitting; as a *decorous* speech; *decorous* behavior; a *decorous* dress for a judge.

DECOROUSLY, *adv.* In a becoming manner.

DECORTICATE, *v. t.* [*L. decortico*; *de* and *cortex*, bark.]

To strip off bark; to peel; to husk; to take off the exterior coat; as, to *decorticate* barley. *Arbutnot.*

DECORTICATED, *pp.* Stripped of bark; peeled; husked.

DECORTICATING, *pp.* Stripping off bark or the external coat; peeling.

DECORTICATION, *n.* The act of stripping off bark or husk.

DECORUM, *n.* [*L. from decoo*, to become. See *Decency*.]

1. Propriety of speech or behavior; suitability of speech and behavior, to one's own character, and to the characters present, or to the place and occasion; seemliness; decency; opposed to rudeness, licentiousness, or levity.

To speak and behave with *decorum* is essential to good breeding.

2. In *architecture*, the suitableness of a building, and of its parts and ornaments, to its place and uses.

DECOY, *v. t.* [*D. kooi*, a cabin, birth, bed, fold, cage, decoy; *kooijen*, to lie, to bed.]

To lead or lure by artifice into a snare, with a view to catch; to draw into any situation to be taken by a foe; to entrap by any means which deceive. The fowler *decoys* ducks into a net. Troops may be *decoyed* into an ambush. One ship *decoys* another within reach of her shot.

DECOY, *n.* Any thing intended to lead into a snare; any lure or allurement that deceives and misleads into evil, danger or the power of an enemy.

2. A place for catching wild fowls.

DECOY-DUCK, *n.* A duck employed to draw others into a net or situation to be taken.

DECOYED, *pp.* Lured or drawn into a snare or net; allured into danger by deception.

DECOYING, *pp.* Luring into a snare or net by deception; leading into evil or danger.

DECOY-MAN, *n.* A man employed in decoying and catching fowls.

DECREASE, *v. i.* [*L. decresco*; *de* and *cresco*, to grow; *Fr. decroître*; *It. decres-*

cere; *Sp. decrecer*; *Arm. digriagi*. See *Groat*.]

To become less; to be diminished gradually, in extent, bulk, quantity, or amount, or in strength, quality, or excellence; as, the days *decrease* in length from June to December.

He must increase, but I must *decrease*. John iii.

DECREASE, *v. t.* To lessen; to make smaller in dimensions, amount, quality or excellence, &c.; to diminish gradually or by small deductions; as, extravagance *decreases* the means of charity; every payment *decreases* a debt; intemperance *decreases* the strength and powers of life.

DECREASE, *n.* A becoming less; gradual diminution; decay; as, a *decrease* of revenue; a *decrease* of strength.

2. The wane of the moon; the gradual diminution of the visible face of the moon from the full to the change.

DECREASED, *pp.* Lessened; diminished.

DECREASING, *pp.* Becoming less; diminishing; waning.

DECEE, *n.* [*L. decretum*, from *decreo*, to judge; *de* and *cerno*, to judge, to divide; *Fr. decret*; *It. and Sp. deceto*.]

1. Judicial decision, or determination of a litigated cause; as a *decree* of the court of chancery. The decision of a court of equity is called a *decree*; that of a court of law, a *judgment*.

2. In the *civil law*, a determination or judgment of the emperor on a suit between parties. *Encyc.*

3. An edict or law made by a council for regulating any business within their jurisdiction; as the *decrees* of ecclesiastical councils. *Encyc.*

4. In *general*, an order, edict or law made by a superior as a rule to govern inferiors. There went a *decree* from Cesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. Luke ii.

5. Established law, or rule. He made a *decree* for the rain. Job xxviii.

6. In *theology*, predetermined purpose of God; the purpose or determination of an immutable Being, whose plan of operations is, like himself, unchangeable.

DECEE, *v. t.* To determine judicially; to resolve by sentence; as, the court *decreed* that the property should be restored; or they *decreed* a restoration of the property.

2. To determine or resolve legislatively; to fix or appoint; to set or constitute by edict or in purpose.

Thus shall *decree* a thing, and it shall be established. Job xxii.

Let us not be solicitous to know what God has *decreed* concerning us. *Anon.*

DECEE'D, *pp.* Determined judicially; resolved; appointed; established in purpose.

DECEE'ING, *pp.* Determining; resolving; appointing; ordering.

DECREMENT, *n.* [*L. decrementum*, from *decreo*. See *Decrease*.]

1. Decrease; waste; the state of becoming less gradually.

Rocks and mountains suffer a continual *decrement*. *Woodward.*

2. The quantity lost by gradual diminution, or waste.

3. In *heraldry*, the wane of the moon.

4. In *crystallography*, a successive diminution

of the lamens of molecules, applied to the faces of the primitive form, by which the secondary forms are supposed to be produced. *Hauy.*

DECREPIT, *a.* [*L. decrepilis*, from *de* and *crepo*, to break.]

Broken down with age; wasted or worn by the infirmities of old age; being in the last stage of decay; weakened by age.

Milton. Pope.
DECREPITATE, *v. t.* [*L. decrepo*, to break or burst, to crackle; *de* and *crepo*.]

To roast or calcine in a strong heat, with a continual bursting or crackling of the substance; as, to *decrepitate* salt.

DECREPITATE, *v. i.* To crackle, as salts when roasting.

DECREPITATED, *pp.* Roasted with a crackling noise.

DECREPITATING, *pp.* Crackling; roasting with a crackling noise; suddenly bursting when exposed to heat.

DECREPITATION, *n.* The act of roasting with a continual crackling; or the separation of parts with a crackling noise, occasioned by heat.

DECREPITNESS, *s.* [See *Decrepit*.] The decrepitude, *s.* [*n.* broken, crazy state of the body, produced by decay and the infirmities of age.]

DECRESCENT, *a.* [*L. decrescens*. See *Decrease*.]

Decreasing; becoming less by gradual diminution; as a *decreescent* moon.

DECRETAL, *a.* [See *Decree*.] Appertaining to a decree; containing a decree; as a *decretal* epistle. *Jyliffe.*

DECRETAL, *n.* A letter of the pope, determining some point or question in ecclesiastical law. The *decretals* form the second part of the canon law. *Encyc.*

2. A book of decrees, or edicts; a body of laws. *Spenser.*

3. A collection of the pope's decrees. *Howell.*

DECRETION, *n.* [See *Decrease*.] A decreasing. [Not used.] *Pearson.*

DECRETIST, *n.* One who studies or professes the knowledge of the decretals.

DECRETORILY, *adv.* In a definitive manner. *Goodman.*

DECRETORY, *a.* Judicial; definitive; established by a decree.

The *decretory* rigors of a condemning sentence. *South.*

2. Critical; determining; in which there is some definitive event; as, critical or *decretory* days. *Brown.*

DECREW, *v. i.* To decrease. [Not in use.]

DECREAL, *n.* [See *Decry*.] A crying down; a clamorous censure; condemnation by censure.

DECRIED, *pp.* Cried down; discredited; brought into disrepute.

DECRIER, *n.* One who decries.

DECROWN, *v. t.* [*de* and *coron*.] To deprive of a crown. [Little used.] *Overbury.*

DECRY, *v. t.* [*Fr. decrier*; *de* and *crier*, to cry.] To cry down; to censure as faulty, mean or worthless; to clamor against; to discredit by finding fault; as, to *decry* a poem.

2. To cry down, as improper or unnecessary; to rail or clamor against; to bring in-