

A name given by Herschel to the newly discovered planets between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

**ASTEROIDAL**, *a.* Resembling a star; or pertaining to the asteroids.

**ASTEROPODE**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star, and *πους*, a foot.]

A kind of extraneous fossil, of the same substance with the astrite, to which it serves as the base.

**ASTERT**, *v. t.* To startle. [Not in use.]

**ASTHENIC**, *a.* *asthenic*. [Gr. *a* priv. and *σθενος*, strength.]

Weak; characterized by extreme debility.

**ASTHENOLÖGY**, *n.* [Gr. *a* priv., *σθενος*, strength, and *λογος*, discourse.]

The doctrine of diseases arising from debility.

**ASTHMA**, *n.* *asthma*. [Gr. *ασμα*.]

A shortness of breath; intermittent difficulty of breathing, with cough, straitness and wheezing.

**ASTHMATIC**, *a.* Pertaining to asthma; also affected by asthma; as an *asthmatic* patient.

**ASTIPULATE**, *for Stipulate*. [Not in use.]

**ASTIPULATION**, *for Stipulation*. [Not in use.]

**ASTONY**, *v. t.* [See *Astonish*.] To terrify

**ASTONY**, *v. t.* or *astonish*. [Obs. Chaucer.]

**ASTONED**, *pp.* Astonished. [Obs.]

**ASTONIED**, *pp.* Astonished. [Obs.]

**ASTONISH**, *v. t.* [Old Fr. *estonner*, now *étonner*; L. *attono*, to astonish; *ad* and *tono*.

Sax. *gestun*, noise, and *stunian*, to stun; G. *stauen*; Arm. *eston*, wonderfully. The primary sense is, to stop, to strike dumb, to fix. See *Tone* and *Stun*.]

To stun or strike dumb with sudden fear, terror, surprise or wonder; to amaze; to confound with some sudden passion.

I Daniel was *astounded* at the vision.

**ASTONISHED**, *pp.* Amazed; confounded with fear, surprise, or admiration.

**ASTONISHING**, *pp.* Amazing; confounding with wonder or fear.

**ASTONISHING**, *a.* Very wonderful; of a nature to excite great admiration, or amazement.

**ASTONISHINGLY**, *adv.* In a manner or degree to excite amazement.

**ASTONISHMENT**, *n.* The quality of exciting astonishment.

**ASTONISHMENT**, *n.* Amazement; confusion of mind from fear, surprise or admiration, at an extraordinary or unexpected event.

**ASTOUND**, *v. t.* To astonish; to strike dumb with amazement. From Old Fr. *estonner*.

**ASTRADLE**, *adv.* [a and *straddle*. See *Straddle*.]

With the legs across a thing, or on different sides; as, to sit *astraddle*.

**ASTRAGAL**, *n.* [Gr. *αστραγαλος*, a turning joint, vertebra, spondylious.]

1. In architecture, a little round molding which surrounds the top or bottom of a column, in the form of a ring; representing a ring or band of iron, to prevent the splitting of the column. It is often cut

into beads or berries, and is used in ornamental entablatures to separate the several fucies of the architrave.

2. In gunnery, a round molding on cannon near the mouth.

3. In anatomy, the huckle, ankle, or sling bone; the upper bone of the foot supporting the tibia.

4. In botany, the wood pea; the milk vetch; the liquorice vetch.

**ASTRAL**, *a.* [L. *astrum*; Gr. *αστερ*, a star.]

Belonging to the stars; stary.

**ASTRAY**, *adv.* [a and *stray*. See *Stray*.]

Out of the right way or proper place, both in a literal and figurative sense. In morals and religion, it signifies wandering from the path of rectitude, from duty and happiness.

Before I was afflicted, I went *astray*. Ps. cxix.

Cattle go *astray* when they leave their proper owners or inclosures. See Deut. xxii.

**ASTREA**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star.]

The goddess of justice, a name sometimes given to the sign *virgo*. The poets figure that justice quitted heaven, in the golden age, to reside on earth; but becoming weary with the iniquities of men, she returned to heaven, and commenced a constellation of stars.

**ASTRICT**, *v. t.* [L. *astringo*, *astricus*. See *Astringe*.]

To bind fast, or compress. [Not much used.]

**ASTRICT**, *a.* Compensious; contracted.

**ASTRICTED**, *pp.* Bound fast; compressed with bandages.

**ASTRICTING**, *pp.* Binding close; compressing; contracting.

**ASTRICTION**, *n.* The act of binding close, or compressing with ligatures.

2. A contraction of parts by applications; the stopping of hemorrhages.

**ASTRICTIVE**, *a.* Binding; compressing; styptic.

**ASTRICTORY**, *a.* Astringent; binding; apt to bind.

**ASTRIFEROUS**, *a.* [L. *astrifer*; *astrum*, a star, and *fero*, to bear.]

Bearing or containing stars. [Little used.]

**ASTRIFEROUS**, *a.* [Low L. *astrifer*.]

Bearing stars. [Not used.]

**ASTRINGE**, *v. t.* *astrin'*. [L. *astringo*, of *ad* and *stringo*, to bind fast, to strain. See *Strain*.]

To compress; to bind together; to contract by pressing the parts together.

**ASTRINGED**, *pp.* Compressed; straitened; contracted.

**ASTRINGENCY**, *n.* The power of contracting the parts of the body; that quality in medicines which binds, contracts or strengthens parts which are relaxed; as the *astringency* of acids or bitters.

**ASTRINGENT**, *a.* Binding; contracting; strengthening; opposed to *laxative*.

**ASTRINGENT**, *n.* A medicine which binds or contracts the parts of the body to which it is applied, restrains profuse discharges, coagulates animal fluids, condenses and strengthens the solids.

Modern practice inclines to the use of *aststringent*, for internal applications, and *styptic*, for external.

**ASTRINGENT**, *n.* A falconer that keeps a cross hawk.

**ASTRINGING**, *pp.* Compressing; binding fast; contracting.

**ASTRITE**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star; Fr. *astroite*.]

An extraneous fossil, called also *asteria* and *astroit*. Astrites are stones in the form of small, short, angular, or sulcated columns, about an inch and a half long, and the third of an inch in diameter, composed of several regular joints, which, when separated, resemble a radiated star.

Astrites are said to be detached articulations of encrinetes, a kind of marine polypter.

**ASTROGRAPHY**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star, and *γραφω*, to describe.]

A description of the stars, or the science of describing them.

**ASTROIT**, *n.* Star-stone. [See *Astrite*.]

2. A species of petrified madrepore often found in calcareous stones.

**ASTROLABE**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star, and *λαβω*, to take.]

1. An instrument formerly used for taking the altitude of the sun or stars at sea.

2. A stereographic projection of the sphere, either upon the plane of the equator, the eye being supposed to be in the pole of the world; or upon the plane of the meridian, the eye being in the point of intersection of the equinoctial and the horizon.

3. Among the ancients, the same as the modern almanac.

**ASTROLOGIAN**, *n.* [L. *astrologus*, of *αστερ*, a star, and *λογος*, discourse.]

1. One who professes to foretell future events by the aspects and situation of the stars.

*Astrologian* is little used.

2. Formerly, one who understood the motions of the planets, without predicting.

*Raleigh*.

**ASTROLOGIC**, *a.* Pertaining to astrology; professing or practicing astrology.

**ASTROLOGICALLY**, *adv.* In the manner of astrology.

**ASTROLOGIZE**, *v. i.* To practice astrology.

**ASTROLÖGY**, *n.* [Supra.] A science which teaches to judge of the effects and influences of the stars, and to foretell future events, by their situation and different aspects. This science was formerly in great request, as men ignorantly supposed the heavenly bodies to have a ruling influence over the physical and moral world; but it is now universally exploded by true science and philosophy.

**ASTRONOMER**, *n.* One who is versed in astronomy; one who has a knowledge of the laws of the heavenly orbs, or the principles by which their motions are regulated, with their various phenomena.

**ASTRONOMIC**, *a.* Pertaining to astronomy.

**ASTRONOMICAL**, *a.* *astronomy*.

**ASTRONOMICALLY**, *adv.* In an astronomical manner; by the principles of astronomy.

**ASTRONOMIZE**, *v. i.* To study astronomy.

**ASTRONOMY**, *n.* [Gr. *αστερ*, a star, and *νομος*, a law or rule.]