

NIMBLESS, *n.* Nimbleness. *Obs.*

NIMBLE-WITTED, *a.* Quick; ready to speak. *Spenser.*

NIMBLY, *adv.* With agility; with light, quick motion. *Bacon.*

He capers *nimbly* in a lady's chamber.

NIMBITY, *n.* [*L. nimicitas.*] The state of being too much. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

NIMMER, *n.* [*Sax. niman, to take.*] A thief. [*Not in use.*] *Hudibras.*

NINCOMPPOOP, *n.* [*said to be a corruption of L. non compos, not of sound mind.*] A fool; a blockhead; a trifling dotard. [*A low word.*] *Addison.*

NINE, *a.* [*Goth. niun; G. neun; Sw. nijo; Dan. ni; L. nonus; probably contracted, as the Saxon is nigan, and the Dutch nigen, Hindoo now, Burman no or nonaw.*] Denoting the number composed of eight and one; as *nine* men; *nine* days.

NINE, *n.* The number composed of eight and one; or the number less by a unit than ten; three times three.

NINE-FOLD, *a.* Nine times repeated.

NINE-HOLES, *n.* A game in which holes are made in the ground, into which a pellet is to be bowled. *Milton.*

NINE-PENCE, *n.* A silver coin of the value of nine pence. *Drayton.*

NINE-PINS, *n.* A play with nine pins or sharpened pieces of wood set on end, at which a bowl is rolled for throwing them down. We say, to play at *nine-pins*, or a game at *nine-pins*.

NINE-SCORE, *a.* Noting nine times twenty, or one hundred and eighty. [*See Score.*]

NINE-SCORE, *n.* The number of nine times twenty.

NINETEEN, *a.* [*Sax. niganthyne.*] Noting the number of *nine* and *ten* united; as *nineteen* years.

NINETEENTH, *a.* [*Sax. niganthothe.*] The ordinal of nineteen; designating nineteenth.

NINETIETH, *a.* The ordinal of ninety.

NINETY, *a.* Nine times ten; as *ninety* years.

NINNY, *n.* [*Sp. niño; L. nanus, a dwarf;*

*Ar. نني weak in mind.*]

A fool; a simpleton. *Swift.*

NINNYHAMMER, *n.* A simpleton. [*Little used.*] *Arbutnot.*

NINTH, *a.* [*Sax. nigethu, nigotha; but ninth, in English, is formed directly from nine; Sw. nijudc.*]

The ordinal of nine; designating the number nine, the next preceding ten; as the *ninth* day or month.

NINTH, *n.* In *music*, an interval containing an octave and a tone.

NIP, *v. t.* [*D. knippen, to nip, to clip, to pinch; Sw. knipa; G. kneif, a knife, a nipping tool; knieffen, to nip, to cut off, to pinch; kniff, a pinch, a nipping; knipp, a filip, a snap; W. cneivaw, to clip.*] These words coincide with *knife*, *Sax. cnif, Fr. ganif or canif.*]

1. To cut, bite or pinch off the end or nib, or to pinch off with the ends of the fin-

gers. The word is used in both senses; the former is probably the true sense. Hence,

2. To cut off the end of any thing; to clip, as with a knife or scissors; as, to *nip* off a shoot or twig.

3. To blast; to kill or destroy the end of any thing; hence, to kill; as, the frost has *nipped* the corn; the leaves are *nipped*; the plant was *nipped* in the bud. Hence, to *nip* in the bud, is to kill or destroy in infancy or youth, or in the first stage of growth.

4. To pinch, bite or affect the extremities of any thing; as a *nipping* frost; hence, to pinch or bite in general; to check growth.

5. To check circulation. When blood is *nipt*. [*Unusual.*] *Shak.*

6. To bite; to vex. And sharp remorse his heart did prick and *nip*. *Spenser.*

7. To satirize keenly; to taunt sarcastically. *Hubberd.*

NIP, *n.* A pinch with the nails or teeth. *Ascham.*

2. A small cut, or a cutting off the end. 3. A blast; a killing of the ends of plants; destruction by frost.

4. A biting sarcasm; a taunt. *Stepney.*

5. A sip or small draught; as a *nip* of toddy. [*G. nippen, Dan. nipper, to sip.*]

NIPPED, { Pinched; bit; cropped; NIP, { pp. blasted.

NIPPER, *n.* A satirist. [*Not used.*] *Ascham.*

2. A fore tooth of a horse. The nippers are four.

NIPPERS, *n.* Small pinchers.

NIPPING, *ppr.* Pinching; pinching off; biting off the end; cropping; clipping; blasting; killing.

NIPPINGLY, *adv.* With bitter sarcasm. *Johnson.*

NIPPLE, *n.* [*Sax. nypele; dim. of nib, neb.*] 1. A teat; a dug; the spongy protuberance by which milk is drawn from the breasts of females. *Ray. Encyc.*

2. The orifice at which any animal liquor is separated. *Derham.*

NIPPLEWORT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Lapsana*.

NISAN, *n.* A month of the Jewish calendar, the first month of the sacred year and seventh of the civil year, answering nearly to our March. It was originally called Abib, but began to be called Nisan after the captivity. *Encyc.*

NISI PRIUS, *n.* [*L.*] In *law*, a writ which lies in cases where the jury being impaneled and returned before the justices of the bench, one of the parties requests to have this writ for the ease of the country, that the cause may be tried before the justices of the same county. The purport of the writ is, that the sheriff is commanded to bring to Westminster the men impaneled at a certain day, before the justices, *nisi prius*, that is, unless the justices shall first come into the county to take assizes. Hence the courts directed to try matters of fact in the several counties are called courts of *Nisi Prius*, or *Nisi Prius* courts. In some of the United States, similar courts are established, with powers defined by statute.

NIT, *n.* [*Sax. knitu; G. niss; D. neel; Sw. gnet; Dan. gnid; W. nezen, ncz.*] The egg of a louse or other small insect. *Derham.*

NITENCY, *n.* [*from L. niteo, to shine.*] 1. Brighness; luster. [*Little used.*]

2. [*L. nitor, to strive.*] Endeavor; effort; spring to expand itself. [*Little used.*] *Boyle.*

NITID, *a.* [*L. nitidus.*] Bright; lustrous; shining. *Boyle.*

2. Gay; spruce; fine; applied to persons. [*Little used.*] *Reeve.*

NITER, *n.* [*Fr. nitre; Sp. It. nitro; L. nitrum; Gr. νιτρον; Heb. Syr.*

ניטר, *Ar. نطرون nitrona.* In Hebrew,

the verb under which this word appears signifies to spring, leap, shake, and to strip or break; in *Ch.* to strip or to fall off; in *Syriac*, the same; in *Sam.* to keep, to watch or guard; in *Ar.* the same; in *Eth.* to shine.]

A salt, called also salt-peter [stone-salt,] and in the modern nomenclature of chemistry, nitrate of potash. It exists in large quantities in the earth, and is continually formed in inhabited places, on walls sheltered from rain, and in all situations where animal matters are decomposed, under stables and barns, &c. It is of great use in the arts; is the principal ingredient in gunpowder, and is useful in medicines, in preserving meat, butter, &c. It is a white substance, and has an acrid, bitterish taste. *Hooper. Fourcroy.*

NITHING, *n.* [*Sax.*] A coward; a dastard; a poltroon. [*See Niding.*]

NITRATE, *n.* A salt formed by the union of the nitric acid with a base; as *nitrate* of soda. *Lavoisier. Fourcroy.*

NITRATED, *a.* Combined with niter. *Kirwan.*

NITRIC, *a.* Impregnated with niter. *Nitric acid* is the acid saturated with oxygen, or an acid composed of oxygen and nitrogen or azote.

NITRITE, *n.* A salt formed by the combination of the nitrous acid with a base.

NITROGEN, *n.* [*Gr. νιτρον, niter, and γεννω, to produce.*]

The element of niter; that which produces niter; that element or component part of air which is called azote. [*See Azote.*]

NITROGENOUS, *a.* Pertaining to nitrogen; producing niter.

NITROLEUCIC, *a.* Designating an acid obtained from leucine acted on by niter. *Braconnet.*

NITROMETER, *n.* [*Gr. νιτρον and μετρον, to measure.*]

An instrument for ascertaining the quality or value of niter. *Ure.*

NITRO-MURIATIC, *a.* Partaking of niter and muria or sea-salt. The *nitro-muriatic acid* is a combination or mixture of nitric and muriatic acid.

NITROUS, *a.* Pertaining to niter; partaking of the qualities of niter, or resembling it. *Nitrous acid* is one of the compounds formed of nitrogen and oxygen, in which the oxygen is in a lower proportion than that in which the same elements form *nitric acid*.