

enormously; miserably; in a manner to be cursed or detested. [*A low word.*]

CURS EDNESS, *n.* The state of being under a curse, or of being doomed to execration or to evil.

CURSER, *n.* One who curses, or utters a curse.

CURSHIP, *n.* [See *Cur.*] Dogship; meanness; ill-nature. *Hudibras.*

CURSING, *ppr.* Execrating; imprecating evil on; denouncing evil; dooming to evil, misery, or vexation.

CURSING, *n.* Execration; the uttering of a curse; a dooming to vexation or misery.

CURSITOR, *n.* [from the *L. curso, cursitor*, to run.]

In England, a clerk in the court of chancery, whose business is to make out original writs. In the statute 18 Edward III. the cursitors are called *clerks of course*. They are twenty four in number, and are a corporation among themselves. To each are assigned certain counties, to which he issues writs. *Encyc.*

CURSIVE, *a.* [It. *corsivo*, running. See *Course* and *Current*.]

Running; flowing. *Cursive* hand is a running hand. *Fry.*

CURSORY, *a.* Cursory; hasty. [*Not in use.*] *Shak.*

CURSORILY, *a.* [See *Cursory*.] In a running or hasty manner; slightly; hastily; without attention; as, I read the paper cursorily.

CURSORINESS, *n.* Slight view or attention.

CURSORY, *a.* [L. *cursorius*, from *cursor*. See *Course*.]

1. Running; hasty; slight; superficial; careless; not with close attention; as a *cursor* reading; a *cursor* view.
2. Running about; not stationary.

CURST, *pp. of curse.* [See *Curse*.]

CURST, *a.* Hateful; detestable; forward; tormenting; vexations; peevish; malignant; mischievous; malicious; snarling; a word however which can be hardly said to have a definite signification. It is applied to any thing vexatious. In some of its applications in old authors, it appears to be the Dutch *korst*, crust, and to signify crusty, crabbed, surly.

CURSTNESS, *n.* Peevishness; malignity; forwardness; crabbedness; surliness.

CURT, *a.* [L. *curtus*.] Short. [*Rarely used and not elegant.*] *Brown.*

CURTAL, *v. t.* [composed of *cur* and *taille*, edge.]

To shorten; to cut off the end or a part; as, to *curtal* words. Hence in a more general sense, to shorten in any manner; to abridge; to diminish; as, to *curtal* our privileges. It is followed by of before the thing shortened. His name was *curtailed* of three letters. We are *curtailed* of our rights.

CURTAIL-DOG, *n.* A dog whose tail is cut off, according to the forest laws, and therefore hindered from coursing. *Shak.*

CURTAILED, *pp.* Cut short or shorter; abridged.

CURTAILING, *ppr.* Cutting short or shorter; abridging.

CURTAILING, *n.* Abridgment; abbreviation. *Swift.*

CURTAIN, *n.* *kur'tin*. [It. *cortina*; Low L. Sp. Port. *id.*; D. *gordyn*; Fr. *cortine*, in fortification. This word may be from the root of *court*, and from the sense of separating. I think it is not a contraction of the It. *copertina*.]

1. A cloth hanging round a bed, or at a window, which may be contracted, spread or drawn aside at pleasure; intended for ornament, or for use. Also, the hangings about the ark, among the Israelites.
2. A cloth-hanging used in theaters, to conceal the stage from the spectators. This is raised or let down by cords. Hence the phrases, to *drop the curtain*, to close the scene, to end; to *raise the curtain* or *the curtain will rise*, to denote the opening of the play. And to *draw the curtain*, is to close it, to shut out the light or to conceal an object; or to open it and disclose the object. Behind the curtain, in concealment, in secret.
3. In fortification, that part of the rampart which is between the flanks of two bastions, bordered with a parapet five feet high, behind which the soldiers stand to fire on the covered way and into the moat. *Encyc.*
4. In scripture, tents; dwellings. Hab. iii. 7.

CURTAIN, *v. t.* To inclose with curtains; to furnish with curtains. *Shak.*

CURTAIN-LECTURE, *n.* Reproof given in bed by a wife to her husband. *Addison.*

CURTAL, *n.* A horse with a docked tail. *B. Jonson.*

CURTAL, *a.* Short; abridged; brief. *Milton.*

CURTATE, *a.* [L. *curtatus*, from *curto*, to shorten.]

The *curtate distance*, in astronomy, is the distance of a planet from the sun to that point, where a perpendicular let fall from the planet meets with the ecliptic. *Encyc.*

Or the interval between the sun or earth, and that point where a perpendicular, let fall from the planet, meets the ecliptic. *Cyc.*

CURTATION, *n.* [See *Curtate*.] The interval between a planet's distance from the sun and the curtate distance. *Chambers.*

CURTILAGE, *n.* In law, a yard, garden, inclosure or field near and belonging to a messuage. [This is probably from *court* or the same radical.]

CURTLY, *adv.* Briefly. [*Not in use.*]

CURULE, *a.* [L. *curulis*, from *currus*, a chariot.]

Belonging to a chariot. The *curule* chair or seat, among the Romans, was a stool without a back, covered with leather, and so made as to be folded. It was conveyed in a chariot, and used by public officers.

CURVATED, *a.* [See *Curve*.] Curved; bent in a regular form.

CURVATURE, *n.* [L. *curvatura*. See *Curve*.]

A bending in a regular form; crookedness, or the manner of bending; flexure by which a curve is formed. *Encyc.*

CURVE, *a. curr.* [L. *curvus*, bent, crooked; *curvo*, to bend, turn or wind; Fr. *courbe*, *courber*; It. *curvo*, *curvare*; Sp. *curvo*, *curvar*. If *b* is not radical, this word belongs

to Class Gr. W. *cōr*, a circle; but *qu*, for in Russ. it is *kriev*.]

Bending; crooked; inflected in a regular form, and forming part of a circle; as a *curve* line, which may be cut by a right line in more points than one. *Encyc.*

A *curve* line is that which is neither a straight line, nor composed of straight lines. *Cyc.*

CURVE, *n.* A bending in a regular form, or without angles; that which is bent; a flexure; part of a circle. In geometry, a line which may be cut by a right line in more points than one. *Encyc.*

CURVE, *v. t.* [L. *curvo*; Fr. *courber*; Russ. *krivlyu*.] To bend; to crook; to inflect.

CURVED, *pp.* Bent; regularly inflected.

CURVET, *n.* [It. *corvella*; Fr. *courbette*; Sp. *corveta*. See *Curve*.]

1. In the manege, a particular leap of a horse, when he raises both his fore legs at once, equally advanced, and as his fore legs are falling, he raises his hind legs, so that all his legs are raised at once. *Encyc.*
2. A prank; a frolic.

CURVET, *v. t.* [It. *corvettare*; Fr. *courbeter*; Sp. *corveter*.]

1. To leap; to bound; to spring and form a curvet.
2. To leap and frisk.

CURVILIN-EAR, *a.* [L. *curvus*, bent, and *CURVILIN-EAL*, *a.* [*linea*, a line.]

Having a curve line; consisting of curve lines; bounded by curve lines; as a *curvilinear* figure.

CURVILINEARITY, *n.* The state of being curvilinear, or of consisting in curve lines. *Guth. Quintilian. Pref.*

CURVING, *ppr.* Bending in a regular form; crooked.

CURVITY, *n.* [L. *curvitas*.] A bending in a regular form; crookedness. *Holder.*

CUSHAT, *n.* The ring-dove or wood-pigeon. *Scott.*

CUSHION, *n.* *cush'in*. [Fr. *coussin*; It. *cuscino*; D. *kussen*; G. *kussen*; Sp. *casin*; Port. *casim*; Arn. *coug'in*. Qu. Ar. كوس , Ch. כס keesi, a little cushion for the elbow.]

1. A pillow for a seat; a soft pad to be placed on a chair; a bag, stuffed with wool, hair or other soft material.
2. A bag of leather filled with sand, used by engravers to support the plate.
3. In gilding, a stuffing of fine tow or wool, covered by leather, on a board; used for receiving the leaves of gold from the paper, in order to its being cut into proper sizes and figures. *Encyc.*

Lady's cushion, a plant, a species of Saxifraga. *Lee.*

Sea cushion, sea pink or thrift, a species of Statice. *Lee.*

CUSHION, *v. t.* To seat on a cushion.

CUSHIONED, *a.* Seated on a cushion; supported by cushions. *Johnson.*

CUSHIONET, *n.* A little cushion. *Beaumont.*

CUSKIN, *n.* A kind of ivory cup. [*Not in use.*] *Bailey.*

CUSP, *n.* [L. *cuspis*, a point.] The point or horn of the moon or other luminary. *Encyc.*