

fectly conchoidal. Some varieties are slightly chatoyant. It is fusible by the blow-pipe into a white enamel. Its colors are greenish or bluish gray, greenish blue and flesh red, and it is more or less translucent.

Cleveland.

ELAPSE, *v. i.* *elaps'*. [*L. elapsus*, from *elabor*, labor, to slide.]

To slide away; to slip or glide away; to pass away silently, as time; *applied chiefly or wholly to time.*

[Instead of *elapse*, the noun, we use *lapse*.]

ELAPSED, *pp.* Slid or passed away, as time.

ELAPSING, *pp.* Sliding away; gliding or passing away silently, as time.

ELASTIC, *a.* [from the *Gr. elastikos*, to impel, or *elao*, or *elavio*, to drive; *Fr. elastique*; *It. Sp. elastico*.]

Springing back; having the power of returning to the form from which it is bent, extended, pressed or distorted; having the inherent property of recovering its former figure, after any external pressure, which has altered that figure, is removed; rebounding; flying back. Thus a bow is *elastic*, and when the force which bends it is removed, it instantly returns to its former shape. The air is *elastic*; vapors are *elastic*; and when the force compressing them is removed, they instantly expand or dilate, and recover their former state.

ELASTICALLY, *adv.* In an elastic manner; by an elastic power; with a spring.

ELASTICITY, *n.* The inherent property in bodies by which they recover their former figure or state, after external pressure, tension or distortion. Thus *elastic gum*, extended, will contract to its natural dimensions, when the force is removed. Air, when compressed, will, on the removal of the compressing force, instantly dilate and fill its former space.

ELATE, *a.* [*L. elatus*.] Raised; elevated in mind; flushed, as with success. Whence, lofty; haughty; as *elate* with victory. [*It is used chiefly in poetry.*]

ELATELY, *v. t.* To raise or swell, as the mind or spirits; to elevate with success; to puff up; to make proud.

2. To raise; to exalt. [Unusual.]

Thomson.

ELATED, *pp.* Elevated in mind or spirits; puffed up, as with honor, success or prosperity. We say, *elated* with success; *elated* with pride. [*This is used in prose.*]

ELATEDLY, *adv.* With elation.

ELATERIUM, *n.* A substance deposited from the very acid juice of the Monardella claterium, wild cucumber. It is in thin cakes of a greenish color and bitter taste, and is a powerful cathartic.

Webster's Manual.

ELATERY, *n.* [*Gr. elateris*.] Acting force or elasticity; as the *elateris* of the air. [Unusual.]

ELATIN, *n.* The active principle of the elaterium, from which the latter is supposed to derive its cathartic power.

Webster's Manual.

ELATION, *n.* An inflation or elevation of mind proceeding from self-approbation; self-esteem, vanity or pride, resulting from

success. Hence, haughtiness; pride of prosperity.

Merbury.

ELBOW, *n.* [*Sax. elboga*, or *elneboga*; *ulna*, the arm, the ell, and *boga*, bow; contracted into *elboga*, elbow; *G. elbogen*; *D. elboog*; *Scot. elbock*, *elbuck*.]

1. The outer angle made by the bend of the arm.

Encyc.

The wings that wait our riches out of sight.

2. Any flexure or angle; the obtuse angle of a wall, building or road.

Encyc.

To be at the elbow, is to be very near; to be by the side; to be at hand.

ELBOW, *v. t.* To push with the elbow.

Dryden.

2. To push or drive to a distance; to encroach on.

He'll elbow out his neighbors.

Dryden.

ELBOW, *v. i.* To jut into an angle; to project; to bend.

ELBOW-CHAIR, *n.* A chair with arms to support the elbows; an arm-chair.

Gay.

ELBOW-ROOM, *n.* Room to extend the elbows on each side; hence, in its usual acceptance, perfect freedom from confinement; ample room for motion or action.

South. Shak.

ELD, *n.* [*Sax. eld*, or *ald*, old age. See *Old*.] Old age; decrepitude.

Spenser.

2. Old people; persons worn out with age.

Chapman.

[*This word is entirely obsolete. But its derivative elder is in use.*]

ELDER, *a.* [*Sax. ealdor*, the comparative degree of *eld*, now written *old*. See *Old*.]

1. Older; senior; having lived a longer time; born, produced or formed before something else; opposed to *younger*.

The elder shall serve the younger. Gen. xxv.

His elder son was in the field. Luke xv.

2. Prior in origin; preceding in the date of a commission; as an *elder officer* or *magistrate*. In this sense, we generally use *senior*.

ELDER, *n.* One who is older than another or others.

2. An ancestor.

Carry your head as your elders have done before you. L'Estrange.

3. A person advanced in life, and who, on account of his age, experience and wisdom, is selected for office. Among rude nations, elderly men are rulers, judges, magistrates or counselors. Among the Jews, the seventy men associated with Moses in the government of the people, were *elders*. In the first christian churches, *elders* were persons who enjoyed offices or ecclesiastical functions, and the word includes apostles, pastors, teachers, presbyters, bishops or overseers. Peter and John call themselves *elders*. The first councils of christians were called *presbyteria*, councils of *elders*.

In the modern presbyterian churches, *elders* are officers who, with the pastors or ministers and deacons, compose the consistory or kirk-sessions, with authority to inspect and regulate matters of religion and discipline.

In the first churches of New England, the pastors or ministers were called *elders* or teaching elders.

ELDER, *n.* [*Sax. ellarn*; *Sw. hyll* or *hyll-trä*; *Dan. hyld* or *hyld-trä*; *G. holder* or *hohlander*. It seems to be named from *holiness*.]

A tree or genus of trees, the *Sambucus*, of several species. The common elder of America bears black berries. Some species bear red berries. The stem and branches contain a soft pith.

ELDERLY, *a.* Somewhat old; advanced beyond middle age; bordering on old age; as *elderly people*.

ELDERSHIP, *n.* Seniority; the state of being older.

Dryden.

2. The office of an elder.

Eliot.

3. Presbytery; order of elders.

Hooker.

ELDEST, *a.* [*Sax. ealdest*, superlative of *eld*, old.]

Oldest; most advanced in age; that was born before others; as the *eldest son* or daughter. It seems to be always applied to persons or at least to animals, and not to things. If ever applied to things, it must signify, that was first formed or produced, that has existed the longest time. But applied to things we use *oldest*.

ELDING, *n.* [*Sax. alatan*, to burn.] Fuel.

Gros.

ELEATIC, *a.* An epithet given to a certain sect of philosophers, so called from Elea, or Velia, a town of the Lucani; as the *Eleatic* sect or philosophy.

Encyc.

ELECAMPAINE, *n.* [*D. alant*; *G. alant* or *alantwurzel*; *L. helenium*, from *Gr. helenos*, which signifies this plant and a feast in honor of Helen. Pliny informs us that this plant was so called because it was said to have sprung from the tears of Helen. The last part of the word is from the Latin *campana*; *inula campana*.]

A genus of plants, the *Inula*, of many species. The common elecampane has a perennial, thick, branching root, of a strong odor, and is used in medicine. It is sometimes called yellow star-wort. The Germans are said to candy the root, like ginger, calling it German spice.

Encyc. Hill.

ELECT, *v. t.* [*L. electus*, from *eligo*; *e* or *er* and *lego*, *Gr. lego*, to choose; *Fr. elire*, from *eliger*; *It. eleggere*; *Sp. elegir*; *Port. elegir*.]

1. Properly, to pick out; to select from among two or more, that which is preferred. Hence,

2. To select or take for an office or employment; to choose from among a number; to select or manifest preference by vote or designation; as, to *elect* a representative by ballot or viva voce; to *elect* a president or governor.

3. In theology, to designate, choose or select as an object of mercy or favor.

4. To choose; to prefer; to determine in favor of.

ELECT, *a.* Chosen; taken by preference from among two or more. Hence,

2. In theology, chosen as the object of mercy; chosen, selected or designated to eternal life; predestinated in the divine councils.

3. Chosen, but not inaugurated, consecrated or invested with office; as *bishop elect*; *emperor elect*; *governor or mayor*