

5. The qualities expressed in a representation; as, a man of this *description*. *Burke*.
Hence,

6. The persons having the qualities expressed; a class of persons to whom a description is applicable, or who are in a similar condition.

The secretary proceeds to examine, whether a difference ought to be permitted to remain between them and another description of public creditors. *Hamilton*.

Persons of different descriptions. *Scott*.
DESCRIPTIVE, *a.* Containing description; tending to describe; having the quality of representing; as a *descriptive* figure; a *descriptive* narration; a story *descriptive* of the age.

DESCRY, *v. t.* [*Norm. deservier* or *discoverer*, and *discover*, to discover.]

1. To espy; to explore; to examine by observation.

The house of Joseph sent to *descry* Bethel. Judges i.

2. To detect; to find out; to discover any thing concealed.

3. To see; to behold; to have a sight of from a distance; as, the seamen *descried* land.

4. To give notice of something suddenly discovered. [*Not in use.*] *Hall*.

DESCRY, *n.* Discovery; thing discovered. [*Unusual.*] *Shak*.

DESCRYING, *ppr.* Discovering; spying.
DESECRATE, *v. t.* [*L. desecro*; *de* and *sacro*, to consecrate, from *sacer*, sacred.]

1. To divert from a sacred purpose or appropriation; opposed to *consecrate*; as, to *desecrate* a donation to a church.

2. To divest of a sacred character or office. The clergy—cannot suffer corporal punishment, without being previously *desecrated*.

Booker's Russia.
DESECRATED, *pp.* Diverted from a sacred purpose or appropriation; divested of a sacred character or office.

DESECRATING, *ppr.* Diverting from a purpose to which a thing is consecrated; divested of a sacred character or office.

DESECRATION, *n.* The act of diverting from a sacred purpose or use to which a thing had been devoted; the act of diverting from a sacred character or office.

DESERT, *a. s. a. z.* [*L. desertus, deservo*; *de* and *servo*, to sow, plant or scatter; *Fr. desert*; *Sp. desierto*.]

1. Literally, forsaken; hence, uninhabited; as a *desert* isle. Hence, wild; untilled; waste; uncultivated; as a *desert* land or country.

2. Void; empty; unoccupied. Full many a flower is born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air. *Gray*.

DESERT, *n.* [*L. desertum*.] An uninhabited tract of land; a region in its natural state; a wilderness; a solitude; particularly, a vast sandy plain, as the *deserts* of Arabia and Africa. But the word may be applied to an uninhabited country covered with wood.

DESERT, *v. t.* [*Fr. deservir*, from the adjective, and this from the *L. deservus, deservo*, to forsake.]

1. To forsake; to leave utterly; to abandon; to quit with a view not to return to; as, to *desert* a friend; to *desert* our country; to *desert* a cause.

2. To leave, without permission, a military band, or a ship, in which one is enlisted; to forsake the service in which one is engaged, in violation of duty; as, to *desert* the army; to *desert* one's colors; to *desert* a ship.

DESERT, *v. i.* To run away; to quit a service without permission; as, to *desert* from the army.

DESERT, *v. n.* [from *deserve*.] A deserving; that which gives a right to reward or demands, or which renders liable to punishment; merit or demerit; that which entitles to a recompense of equal value, or demands a punishment equal to the offense: good conferred, or evil done, which merits an equivalent return. A wise legislature will reward or punish men according to their *deserts*.

2. That which is deserved; reward or punishment merited. In a future life, every man will receive his *desert*.

DESERTED, *pp.* Wholly forsaken; abandoned; left.

DESERTER, *n.* A person who forsakes his cause, his post, or his party or friend; particularly, a soldier or seaman who quits the service without permission, and in violation of his engagement.

DESERTFUL, *a.* High in desert; meritorious. *Beaumont*.

DESERTING, *ppr.* Forsaking utterly; abandoning.

DESERTION, *n.* The act of forsaking or abandoning, as a party, a friend, a country, an army or military band, or a ship; the act of quitting, with an intention not to return.

2. The state of being forsaken by God; spiritual despondency.

The agonies of a soul under *desertion*. *South*.

DESERTLESS, *a.* Without merit or claim to favor or reward. *Dryden*.

DESERTLESSLY, *adv.* Undeservedly. *Beaumont*.

DESERTLESS, *n.* A female who deserts. *Milton*.

DESERVE, *v. t. deserv'*. [*L. deservio*; *de* and *servio*, to serve. The *Fr. deservir* is not used.]

1. To merit; to be worthy of; applied to good or evil.

2. To merit by labor or services; to have a just claim to an equivalent for good conferred. The laborer *deserves* his wages; he *deserves* the value of his services.

3. To merit by good actions or qualities in general; to be worthy of, on account of excellence. The virtuous man *deserves* esteem and commendation. A work of value *deserves* praise.

4. To be worthy of, in a bad sense; to merit by an evil act; as, to *deserve* blame or punishment.

God exacteth of these less than thine iniquity *deserveth*. Job xi.

DESERVE, *v. i. deserv'*. To merit; to be worthy of or deserving; as, he *deserves* well or ill of his neighbor.

DESERVED, *pp.* Merited; worthy of.

DESERVEDLY, *adv.* Justly; according to desert, whether of good or evil. A man may be *deservedly* praised, blamed or punished.

DESERVER, *n.* He who deserves or mer-

its; one who is worthy of; used generally in a good sense. *Dryden*.

DESERVING, *ppr.* Meriting; having a just claim to reward; justly meriting punishment.

2. *a.* Worthy of reward or praise; meritorious; possessed of good qualities that entitle to approbation; as a *deserving* officer. **DESERVING**, *n.* The act of meriting; desert; merit.

If ye have done to him according to the *deserving* of his hands. Judges ix.

DESERVINGLY, *adv.* Meritoriously; with just desert.

DESHABILLE, *n.* *deshabil'*. [*Fr. from de* **DESHABIL**, *n.* *deshabil'*, and *habiller*, to clothe. I have restored the true orthography.]

An undress; a loose morning dress; hence, any home dress; as, the lady is in *deshabille*. [*It would be well to anglicize the orthography.*]

DESICANT, *a.* [*See Desiccate*.] Drying. **DESICANT**, *n.* A medicine or application that dries a sore. *Wiseman*.

DESICCATE, *v. t.* [*L. desicco*; *de* and *sicco*, to dry.]

To dry; to exhaust of moisture; to exhale or remove moisture from.

DESICCATE, *v. i.* To become dry. *Bacon*. *Hale*.

DESICCATED, *pp.* Dried.

DESICCATING, *ppr.* Drying; exhausting moisture.

DESICCATION, *n.* The act of making dry; the state of being dried. *Bacon*.

DESICCATIVE, *a.* Drying; tending to dry; that has the power to dry.

DESIDERATE, *v. t.* [*from the L.*] To want; to miss. [*Not in use.*]

DESIDERATUM, *n. plu. desiderata*. [*L. desideratus*—um, from *desidero*, to desire.]

That which is desired; that which is not possessed, but which is desirable; any perfection or improvement which is wanted. The longitude is a *desideratum* in navigation. A tribunal to settle national disputes without war is a great *desideratum*.

DESIGN, *v. t. desi'ne*. [*L. designo*; *de* and *signo*, to seal or stamp, that is, to set or throw; *Sp. designar, disear; It. designare, designare*; *Fr. designer, dessiner*.]

1. To delineate a form or figure by drawing the outline; to sketch; as in painting and other works of art.

2. To plan; to form an outline or representation of any thing. Hence,

3. To project; to form in idea, as a scheme. Hence,

4. To purpose or intend; as, a man *designs* to write an essay, or to study law.

5. To mark out by tokens. [*Not used.*] *Locke*.

6. To intend to apply or appropriate; with *for*; as, we *design* this ground *for* a garden, and that *for* a park. The word *design* may include an adapting or planning a thing for a purpose, or mere intention or scheme of the mind, which implies a plan. The father *designs* his son for the profession of the law, or for the ministry. It was formerly followed by *to*, but this use is now uncommon.

DESIGN, *n.* [*Fr. dessein*.] A plan or representation of a thing by an outline; sketch;