

PERPETUATED, *pp.* Made perpetual; continued through eternity, or for an indefinite time.

PERPETUATING, *ppr.* Continuing forever or indefinitely.

PERPETUATION, *n.* The act of making perpetual, or of preserving from extinction or oblivion through an endless existence, or for an indefinite period of time.

PERPETUITY, *n.* [L. *perpetuitas*.] Endless duration; continuance to eternity.

2. Continued uninterrupted existence, or duration for an indefinite period of time; as the *perpetuity* of laws and institutions; the *perpetuity* of fame.

3. Something of which there will be no end.

PERPHOSPHATE, *n.* A phosphate in which the phosphoric acid is combined with an oxyd at the maximum of oxydation.

PERPLEX, *v. t.* [L. *perplexus*, *perplexor*; *per* and *plector*, to twist, from the root of Gr. *πλέω*, L. *plico*, to fold.]

1. To make intricate; to involve; to entangle; to make complicated and difficult to be understood or unraveled.

What was thought obscure, *perplexed* and too hard for our weak parts, will lie open to the understanding in a fair view.

2. To embarrass; to puzzle; to distract; to tease with suspense, anxiety or ambiguity.

We can distinguish no general truths, or at least shall be apt to *perplex* the mind.

We are *perplexed*, but not in despair.

3. To plague; to vex.

PERPLEX'ED, *pp.* Made intricate; embarrassed; puzzled.

PERPLEX'EDLY, *adv.* Intricately; with involution.

PERPLEX'EDNESS, *n.* Intricacy; difficulty from want of order or precision.

2. Embarrassment of mind from doubt or uncertainty.

PERPLEX'ITY, *n.* Intricacy; entanglement. The jury were embarrassed by the *perplexity* of the case.

2. Embarrassment of mind; disturbance from doubt, confusion, difficulty or anxiety.

Perplexity not suffering them to be idle, they think and do, as it were, in a frenzy.

PERQUADRISULPHATE, *n.* A sulphate with four proportions of sulphuric acid combined with a maximum oxyd.

PERQUISITE, *n. s* as *z.* [L. *perquisitus*, *perquiro*; *per* and *quero*, to seek.]

A fee or pecuniary allowance to an officer for services, beyond his ordinary salary or settled wages; or a fee allowed by law to an officer for a specific service, in lieu of an annual salary. [The latter is the common acceptance of the word in America.]

PERQUISITED, *a.* Supplied with perquisites. [A bad word and not used.]

PERQUISITION, *n. s* as *z.* [L. *perquisitus*.] An accurate inquiry or search.

PERROQUET, *n.* [Fr.] A species of parrot; also, the Alca Psittacula, an aquatic

fowl inhabiting the isles of Japan and the western shores of America.

PERRY, *n.* [Fr. *poiré*, from *poire*, W. *pér*, a pear.]

The juice of pears, which being clarified by fermentation, is a pleasant drink.

PERSCRUTATION, *n.* [L. *perscrutatio*, *perscrutor*.] A searching thoroughly; minute search or inquiry.

PERSECUTE, *v. t.* [Fr. *persecuter*; It. *perseguitare*; Sp. *perseguir*; L. *persequor*; *per* and *sequor*, to pursue. See *Seek* and *Essay*.]

1. In a general sense, to pursue in a manner to injure, vex or afflict; to harass with unjust punishment or penalties for supposed offenses; to inflict pain from hatred or malignity.

2. Appropriately, to afflict, harass or destroy for adherence to a particular creed or system of religious principles, or to a mode of worship. Thus Nero *persecuted* the Christians by crucifying some, burning others, and condemning others to be worried by dogs. See Acts xxii.

3. To harass with solicitations or importunity.

PERSECUTED, *pp.* Harassed by troubles or punishments unjustly inflicted, particularly for religious opinions.

PERSECUTING, *ppr.* Pursuing with enmity or vengeance, particularly for adhering to a particular religion.

PERSECUTION, *n.* The act or practice of persecuting; the infliction of pain, punishment or death upon others unjustly, particularly for adhering to a religious creed or mode of worship, either by way of penalty or for compelling them to renounce their principles. Historians enumerate ten *persecutions* suffered by the Christians, beginning with that of Nero, A. D. 31, and ending with that of Diocletian, A. D. 303 to 313.

2. The state of being persecuted.

Our necks are under *persecution*; we labor and have no rest.

PERSECUTOR, *n.* One that persecutes; one that pursues another unjustly and vexatiously, particularly on account of religious principles.

Henry rejected the pope's supremacy, but retained every corruption beside, and became a cruel *persecutor*.

PERSEVERANCE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *perseverantia*. See *Persevere*.]

1. Persistence in any thing undertaken; continued pursuit or prosecution of any business or enterprise begun; applied alike to good or evil.

Perseverance keeps honor bright.

2. In *theology*, continuance in a state of grace to a state of glory; sometimes called *final perseverance*.

PERSEVERANT, *a.* Constant in pursuit of an undertaking. [Not used.]

PERSEVERE, *v. i.* [L. *persevero*.] The last component part of this word, *severo*, must be the same as in *assevero*, with the radical sense of *set, fixed or continued*.

So *persist* is formed with *per* and *sisto*, to stand. *Constant* and *continue* have a like primary sense. So we say, to *hold on*.]

To *persist* in any business or enterprise undertaken; to pursue steadily any design or course commenced; not to give over or abandon what is undertaken; applied alike to good and evil.

Thrice happy, if they know
Their happiness, and *persevere* upright!

To *persevere* in any evil course, makes you unhappy in this life.

PERSEVERING, *ppr.* Persisting in any business or course begun.

2. *a.* Constant in the execution of a purpose or enterprise; as a *persevering* student.

PERSEVERINGLY, *adv.* With perseverance or continued pursuit of what is undertaken.

PERSIPLAGE, *n.* [Fr. from *persifler*; L. *sibilo*, to hiss.] A jeering; ridicule.

PERSIMMON, *n.* A tree and its fruit, a species of *Diospyros*, a native of the states south of New York. The fruit is like a plum, and when not ripe, very astringent.

PERSIST, *v. i.* [L. *persisto*; *per* and *sisto*, to stand or be fixed.]

To continue steadily and firmly in the pursuit of any business or course commenced; to *persevere*. [Persist is nearly synonymous with *persevere*; but *persist* frequently implies more obstinacy than *persevere*, particularly in that which is evil or injurious to others.]

If they *persist* in pointing their batteries against particular persons, no laws of war forbid the making reprisals.

PERSISTENCE, *n.* The state of persisting; steady pursuit of what is undertaken; perseverance in a good or evil course, more generally in that which is evil and injurious to others, or unadvisable.

2. Obstinacy; contumacy.

PERSISTENT, *a.* In *botany*, continuing without withering; opposed to *marcescent*; as a *persisting* stigma: continuing after the corol is withered, as a *persistent* calyx: continuing after the leaves drop off; as a *persistent* stipule; remaining on the plant till the fruit is ripe, or till after the summer is over, as a *persistent* leaf.

PERSISTING, *ppr.* Continuing in the prosecution of an undertaking; persevering.

PERSISTIVE, *a.* Steady in pursuit; not receding from a purpose or undertaking; persevering.

PERSON, *n. per'sn.* [L. *persona*; said to be compounded of *per*, through or by, and *sonus*, sound; a Latin word signifying primarily a mask used by actors on the stage.]

1. An individual human being consisting of body and soul. We apply the word to living beings only, possessed of a rational nature; the body when dead is not called a *person*. It is applied alike to a man, woman or child.

A *person* is a thinking intelligent being.

2. A man, woman or child, considered as opposed to things, or distinct from them.

A zeal for *persons* is far more easy to be perverted, than a zeal for things.

3. A human being, considered with respect