

NOAH WEBSTER'S
FIRST EDITION OF
AN AMERICAN DICTIONARY
OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

REPUBLISHED IN FACSIMILE EDITION BY
FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
TO DOCUMENT AND DEMONSTRATE:

- I. THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND OF OUR CIVIL INSTITUTIONS WHICH
"REQUIRES AN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OF THE DEFINITION OF WORDS."
- II. "TO THE YOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES" THE BEST AMERICAN AND ENGLISH AUTHORS AS AUTHORITIES
IN THE USE AND DEFINITION OF LANGUAGE.
- III. TO ALL AMERICANS "THAT THE PRINCIPLES OF REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE THEIR
ORIGIN IN THE SCRIPTURES."

PREFACED BY AN ARTICLE:
NOAH WEBSTER, FOUNDING FATHER OF
AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP AND EDUCATION
BY ROSALIE J. SLATER, M.A.

"IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?" PSALM XI:3

FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

CON/STELLATE, *v. i.* [Low L. *constellatus*; *con* and *stello*, to shine, *stella*, a star.] To join luster; to shine with united radiance or one general light. [Little used.]

The several things which engage our affections shine forth and *constellate* in God.

Boyle.

CON/STELLATE, *v. t.* To unite several shining bodies in one splendor. [Little used.]

Brown.

CON/STELLATED, *pp.* United in one splendor.

Brown.

2. Starry; set or adorned with stars or constellations.

J. Barlow.

CON/STELLA/TION, *n.* A cluster of fixed stars; an asterism; a number of stars which appear as if situated near each other in the heavens, and are considered as forming a particular division. The constellations are reduced mostly to the figures of certain animals or other known things, as the bear, the bull, the ram, the balance, &c.

For the stars of heaven, and the constellations thereof, shall not give their light. Is. xiii.

2. An assemblage of splendors or excellencies.

Hammond.

CON/STERNATION, *n.* [L. *consternatio*, from *consterno*; *con* and *sterno*, to throw or strike down.]

Astonishment; amazement or horror that confounds the faculties, and incapacitates a person for consultation and execution; excessive terror, wonder or surprise.

South.

CON/STIPATE, *v. t.* [L. *constipato*; *con* and *stipo*, to crowd, or cram, Eng. to *stuff*, to *stop*. See *Stuff* and *Stop*.]

1. To crowd or cram into a narrow compass; to thicken or condense.

Bacon.

2. To stop, by filling a passage, and preventing motion; as, to *constipate* capillary vessels.

Arbuthnot.

3. To fill or crowd the intestinal canal, and make costive.

Brown.

CON/STIPA/TION, *n.* The act of crowding any thing into a less compass; a pressing together; condensation; as a close *constipation* of particles.

Bentley.

2. More generally, a crowding or filling to hardness the intestinal canal, from defective excretion; costiveness; obstipation.

Encyc. Coxe.

CON/STITUENT, *a.* [L. *constituens*, *constituo*; *con* and *statuo*, to set. See *Statue*, *Statute*.]

Setting; constituting; applied to parts of a thing that are essential to it. Hence, necessary or essential; elemental; forming, composing or making an essential part.

Body, soul, and reason, are the three *constituent* parts of a man.

Dryden.

Oxygen and hydrogen are the *constituent* parts of water.

CON/STITUENT, *n.* He or that which sets, fixes or forms; he or that which constitutes or composes.

Their first composure and origination requires a higher and nobler *constituent*, than chance.

Hale.

2. That which constitutes or composes, as a part, or an essential part.

The lymph in those glands is a necessary *constituent* of the aliment.

Arbuthnot.

3. One who appoints or elects another to an office or employment.

Burke.

CON/STITUTE, *v. t.* [L. *constituo*; *con* and

statuo, to set. See *Statue*, *Statute*. It *constitute*; Sp. *constituir*; Fr. *constituer*.]

1. To set; to fix; to enact; to establish.

We must obey laws appointed and *constituted* by lawful authority, not against the law of God. Taylor.

2. To form or compose; to give formal existence to; to make a thing what it is.

Perspicuity *constitutes* the prime excellence of style.

Truth and reason *constitute* that intellectual gold that defies destruction. Johnson.

3. To appoint, depute or elect to an office or employment; to make and empower.

A sheriff is *constituted* a conservator of the peace.

A has *constituted* B his attorney or agent.

CON/STITUTED, *pp.* Set; fixed; established; made; elected; appointed.

CON/STITUTER, *n.* One who constitutes or appoints.

CON/STITUTING, *ppr.* Setting; establishing; composing; electing; appointing.

CON/STITU/TION, *n.* The act of constituting, enacting, establishing, or appointing.

2. The state of being; that form of being or peculiar structure and connection of parts which makes or characterizes a system or body. Hence the particular frame or temperament of the human body is called its *constitution*. We speak of a robust or feeble *constitution*; a cold, phlegmatic, sanguine or irritable *constitution*. We speak of the *constitution* of the air, or other substance; the *constitution* of the solar system; the *constitution* of things.

3. The frame or temper of mind, affections or passions.

4. The established form of government in a state, kingdom or country; a system of fundamental rules, principles and ordinances for the government of a state or nation. In free states, the constitution is paramount to the statutes or laws enacted by the legislature, limiting and controlling its power; and in the United States, the legislature is created, and its powers designated, by the constitution.

5. A particular law, ordinance, or regulation, made by the authority of any superior, civil or ecclesiastical; as the *constitutions* of the churches; the novel *constitutions* of Justinian and his successors.

6. A system of fundamental principles for the government of rational and social beings.

The New Testament is the moral *constitution* of modern society. Grimke.

CON/STITU/TIONAL, *a.* Bred or inherent in the constitution, or in the natural frame of body or mind; as a *constitutional* infirmity; *constitutional* ardor or dullness.

2. Consistent with the constitution; authorized by the constitution or fundamental rules of a government; legal.

An act of congress prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States is *constitutional*.

3. Relating to the constitution; as a *constitutional* doubt.

Paley.

CON/STITU/TIONALIST, *n.* An adherent to the constitution of government.

2. An innovator of the old constitution, or a framer or friend of the new constitution in France.

Burke.

CON/STITUTIONAL/ITY, *n.* The state of

being constitutional; the state of being inherent in the natural frame; as the *constitutionality* of disease.

Coxe. Med. Rep.

2. The state of being consistent with constitution or frame of government being authorized by its provisions.

The judges of the supreme court of the United States have the power of determining the *constitutionality* of laws.

CON/STITU/TIONALLY, *adv.* In conformity with the constitution or frame of government.

CON/STITU/TIONIST, *n.* One who adheres to the constitution of the country.

Boling.

CON/STITUTIVE, *a.* That constitutes or composes; elemental; essential.

The *constitutive* parts of a schismatic are the esteem of himself and contempt of others.

Decay of

2. Having power to enact or establish.

CON/STRAIN, *v. t.* [Fr. *contraindre*, *constringere*, or *costringere*; Sp. *constringir*; Port. *constringir*; from L. *constringo* and *stringo*, to strain, to bind. See *String*.]

In a general sense, to strain; to urge; to drive; to exert force, physical or moral, either in urging to action or restraining it. Hence,

1. To compel or force; to urge with irresistible power, or with a power sufficient to produce the effect.

The spirit within me *constraineth* me. xxxii.

I was *constrained* to appeal to Caesar. xxviii.

For the love of Christ *constrained* me. Cor. v.

2. To confine by force; to restrain from escape or action; to repress.

My sire in caves *constrains* the wild. How the strait stays the slender waist. *strain*.

3. To hold by force; to press; to strain.

4. To constringe; to bind.

When winter frosts *constrain* the cold.

5. To tie fast; to bind; to chain; to necessitate.

He binds in chains the drowsy prophet, and his limbs *constrain*.

6. To necessitate.

Did fate or we the adulterous act *constrain*.

7. To force; to ravish. [Not used.]

8. To produce in opposition to nature; *constrained* voice; *constrained* noise.

CON/STRAINABLE, *a.* That may be strained, forced, or repressed; subject to constraint, or to restraint.

CON/STRAINED, *pp.* Urged irresistibly; compelled; forced; confined; bound; imprisoned; situated.

CON/STRAINEDLY, *adv.* By compulsion.

CON/STRAINER, *n.* One who constrains or restrains.

CON/STRAINING, *ppr.* Urging with irresistible or powerful force; compelling; repressing; confining; by force; pressing; binding.

CON/STRAINT, *n.* [Fr. *contraindre*, *constringere*, or *costringere*; Sp. *constringir*; Port. *constringir*; from L. *constringo* and *stringo*, to strain, to bind. See *String*.]

1. A forcible or irresistible power, physical or moral, which