

than one proportion, the higher proportion is always a multiple of the lower.

EQUIVALENTLY, *adv.* In an equal manner.

EQUIVOCACY, *n.* Equivocalness. [Not used.]

EQUIVOCAL, *a.* [Low *L. equivocus*; *aguis*, equal, and *vox*, a word; *Fr. equivocal*; *It. equivocale*. See *Vocal*.]

1. Being of doubtful signification; that may be understood in different senses; capable of a double interpretation; ambiguous; as *equivocal* words, terms or senses. Men may be misled in their opinions by the use of *equivocal* terms.

2. Doubtful; ambiguous; susceptible of different constructions; not decided. The character of the man is somewhat *equivocal*. His conduct is *equivocal*.

3. Uncertain; proceeding from some unknown cause, or not from the usual cause. *Equivocal* generation is the production of animals without the intercourse of the sexes, and of plants without seed. This doctrine is now exploded.

EQUIVOCAL, *n.* A word or term of doubtful meaning, or capable of different meanings.

EQUIVOCALLY, *adv.* Ambiguously; in a doubtful sense; in terms susceptible of different senses. He answered the question *equivocally*.

2. By uncertain birth; by equivocal generation.

EQUIVOCALNESS, *n.* Ambiguity; double meaning.

EQUIVOCATE, *v. i.* [It. *equivocare*; *Fr. equivocar*. See *Equivocal*.]

To use words of a doubtful signification; to express one's opinions in terms which admit of different senses; to use ambiguous expressions. To *equivocate* is the dishonorable work of duplicity. The upright man will not *equivocate* in his intercourse with his fellow men.

EQUIVOCATING, *ppr.* Using ambiguous words or phrases.

EQUIVOCATION, *n.* Ambiguity of speech; the use of words or expressions that are susceptible of a double signification. Hypocrites are often guilty of *equivocation*, and by this means lose the confidence of their fellow men. *Equivocation* is incompatible with the christian character and profession.

EQUIVOCATOR, *n.* One who equivocates; one who uses language which is ambiguous and may be interpreted in different ways; one who uses mental reservation.

EQUIVOKE, *n.* [Fr. *equivoque*.] An ambiguous term; a word susceptible of different significations.

2. Equivocation.

EQUIVOCOUS, *a.* [L. *equus*, horse, and *vox*, to call.]

Feeding or subsisting on horse flesh.

ER, the termination of many English words, is the Teutonic form of the Latin *or*; the one contracted from *uer*, the other from *vir*, a man. It denotes an agent, originally of the masculine gender, but now applied to men or things indifferently; as in *hater*, farmer, heater, grater. At the end of

names of places, *er* signifies a man of the place; *Londoner* is the same as *Londonian*.

There is a passage in Herodotus, *Melpomene*, 110, in which the word *uer*, *vir*, a man, is mentioned as used by the Scythians; a fact proving the affinity of the Scythian and the Teutonic nations. Ταυ δὲ Ἀμαζόνες καλεῖσθαι Σκυθίας Οὐρανίας, Ἀμαζόνες δὲ το σωματι τοῦτο κατ' Ἑλλάδα γυναικας ἀνδραγοντας. Οὐρανίαν καλεῖσθαι τοῦ ἀνδρα τοῦ διὰ τὰς ἀνδρας. "The Scythians call the Amazons *Oiurpata*, a word which may be rendered, in Greek, *menkillers*; for *oior* is the name they give to man, *pata* signifies to kill." *Pata*, in the Burman language, signifies to kill; but it is probable that this is really the English *beat*.

ERA, *n.* [L. *era*; *Fr. ere*; *Sp. era*. The origin of the term is not obvious.]

1. In *chronology*, a fixed point of time, from which any number of years is begun to be counted; as the Christian *Era*. It differs from *epoch* in this; *Era* is a point of time fixed by some nation or denomination of men; *epoch* is a point fixed by historians and chronologists. The christian *Era* began at the epoch of the birth of Christ.

2. A succession of years proceeding from a fixed point, or comprehended between two fixed points. The *era* of the Seleucides ended with the reign of Antiochus.

ERADIATE, *v. i.* [L. *e* and *radia*, to beam.]

To shoot as rays of light; to beam.

ERADIVATION, *n.* Emission of rays or beams of light; emission of light or splendor.

ERADIVATE, *v. t.* [L. *eradico*, from *radix*, root.]

1. To pull up the roots, or by the roots. Hence, to destroy any thing that grows; to extirpate; to destroy the roots, so that the plant will not be reproduced; as, to *eradicate* weeds.

2. To destroy thoroughly; to extirpate; as, to *eradicate* errors, or false principles, or vice, or disease.

ERADIVATED, *pp.* Plucked up by the roots; extirpated; destroyed.

ERADIVATING, *ppr.* Pulling up the roots of any thing; extirpating.

ERADIVATION, *n.* The act of plucking up by the roots; extirpation; excision; total destruction.

2. The state of being plucked up by the roots.

ERADIVATIVE, *a.* That extirpates; that cures or destroys thoroughly.

ERADIVATIVE, *n.* A medicine that effects a radical cure.

ERASABLE, *a.* That may or can be erased.

ERASE, *v. t.* [L. *erado*, *erasi*; *e* and *rado*, to scrape, *Fr. raser*, *Sp. raer*, *It. raschiare*, Arm. *raza*. See Ar. *رَضَ* to corrode,

Ch. *רָצַר* to scrape, Heb. *רָצַר* a graving tool,

Syr. and Ar. *رَضَ* garata, to scrape.

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1. To rub or scrape out, as letters or char-

acters written, engraved or painted; to efface; as, to *erase* a word or a name.

2. To obliterate; to expunge; to blot out; as with pen and ink.

3. To efface; to destroy; as ideas in the mind or memory.

4. To destroy to the foundation. [See *Raze*.]

ERASED, *pp.* Rubbed or scratched out; obliterated; effaced.

ERASEMENT, *n.* The act of erasing; a rubbing out; expunction; obliteration; destruction.

ERASING, *ppr.* Rubbing or scraping out; oblitterating; destroying.

ERASION, *n.* s. as *z*. The act of erasing; a rubbing out; obliteration.

ERASTIAN, *n.* A follower of one Erastus, the leader of a religious sect, who denied the power of the church to discipline its members.

ERASTIANISM, *n.* The principles of the Erastians.

ERASURE, *n.* *erazhur*. The act of erasing; a scratching out; obliteration.

2. The place where a word or letter has been erased or obliterated.

ERE, *adv.* [Sax. *ær*; *G. eher*; *D. eer*; *Goth. air*. This is the root of *early*, and *er*, in Saxon, signifies the morning. Before *er*, we use *or*, "or ever." Let it be observed, that *er* is not to be confounded with *er*, for *er*.]

Before; sooner than.

Ere sails were spread new oceans to explore.

Dryden.

The nobleman saith to him, Sir, come down ere my child die. John iv.

In these passages, *ere* is really a preposition, followed by a sentence, instead of a single word, as below.

ERE, *prep.* Before.

Flow'd ere the wonted season.

Ere long, *adv.* [ere and long.] Before a long time had elapsed. [Obs. or little used.]

He mounted the horse, and following the stag, *erelong* slew him.

Spenser.

2. Before a long time shall elapse; before long. *Ere* long you will repent of your folly.

The world *erelong* a world of tears must weep.

Milton.

ERENOW, *adv.* [ere and now.] Before this time.

EREWHILE, *adv.* [ere and while.] Some little while. *Obs.*

I am as fair now as I was *erewhile*.

Shak.

EREBUS, *n.* [L. *erebus*; *Gr. ἔρεβος*; Oriental *ערב* evening, the decline of the sun, whence darkness, blackness.]

In mythology, darkness; hence, the region of the dead; a deep and gloomy place; hell.

Shak. Milton.

ERECT, *a.* [L. *erectus*, from *erigo*, to set upright; and *e* and *rego*, to stretch or make straight, *right*, *rectus*; *It. eretto*. See *Right*.]

1. Upright, or in a perpendicular posture; as, he stood *erect*.

2. Directed upward.

And suppliant hands, to heaven *erect*.

Philips.

3. Upright and firm; bold; unshaken.