

star which appeared over Bethlehem at the nativity of our Savior. There is an order of Bethlehemites also in Peru. *Encyc.*
BETHOUGHT, *bet'haud*, *pret.* and *pp.* of *bet'think*.

BETHRALL, *v. t.* [*be* and *thrall*.] To enslave; to reduce to bondage; to bring into subjection. [*Little used.*] *Shak.*

BETHUMP, *v. t.* [*be* and *thump*.] To beat soundly. [*Little used.*] *Shak.*

BETIDE, *v. t.* *pret.* *betid*, or *betided*; *pp.* *betid*. [*be* and *tide*. *Sax.* *tidan*, to happen. See *Tide*.]

To happen; to befall; to come to; *used* of good or evil.
 What will *betide* the few? *Milton.*

BETIDE, *v. i.* To come to pass; to happen.
 What news else *betideth* here? *Shak.*

Shakespeare has used it with *of*. What would *betide* of thee? but this is unusual or improper.

BETIMES, } *adv.* [*be* and *time*, that is, by
BETIMES, } the time.]

1. Seasonably; in good season or time; before it is late.
 To measure life learn thou *betimes*. *Milton.*

2. Soon; in a short time.
 He tires *betimes*, that spurs too fast *betimes*. *Shak.*

BETOKEN, *v. t.* *betok'n*. [*be* and *token*. *Sax.* *betecan*.]

1. To signify by some visible object; to show by signs.
 A dewy cloud, and in the cloud a bow
Betokening peace from God. *Milton.*

2. To foreshow by present signs; to indicate something future by that which is seen or known; as, a dark cloud often *betokens* a storm. *Thomson.*

BETOKENED, *pp.* *Foreshown*; previously indicated.

BETOKENING, *ppr.* Indicating by previous signs.

BETONY, *n.* [*L.* *betonica*.] A genus of plants, of several species. The purple or wood betony grows in woods and shady places, and is deemed useful as a mild corroborant. *Encyc.*

BETOOK, *pret.* of *betake*.

BETORN, *n.* Torn in pieces.

BETOSS, *v. t.* [*be* and *toss*.] To toss; to agitate; to disturb; to put in violent motion. *Shak.* *Shelton.*

BETRAP, *v. t.* [*from trap*.] To entrap; to ensnare. [*Vol. used.*] *Ocleve.*

BETRAY, *v. t.* [*Chaucer* wrote *betraiss*, *betraiss*, and *Fr. traître* is a contraction of *traître*; *Arm.* *braycza*, to betray; *Norm.* *trahir*, to draw in, to betray; *twire*, a traitor; *Fr. trahir*, which seems to be the *L. traho*. From *trahir*, is formed *trahissant*, and *trahison*, treason. If *traho* is the root, the sense is, to draw aside, to withdraw, or lead away; which would agree with the *D. bedriegen*, *G. betriegen*, *Sw. bedraga*, *Dan. bedrager*, to deceive; and *treachery*, *Fr. tricherie*, is from the root of *trick*. I do not find *betrogan* in the Saxon, but *bedrog* is rendered *fifellit*, and this is from *dragan*, to draw. *Betray* then seems to be a compound of *be* and *dragan*, to draw; and *betraiss*, *supra*, may be from a different root. In strictness, to fail in duty; to be guilty of breach of trust; to vio-

late the confidence reposed. The word does not in itself import to *deliver up*; but by usage, either with or without the word *enemies*, it signifies to deliver up, in breach of trust.]

1. To deliver into the hands of an enemy by treachery or fraud, in violation of trust; as, an officer *betrayed* the city.

The son of man shall be *betrayed* into the hands of men. *Matt. xvii.*

2. To violate by fraud, or unfaithfulness; as, to *betray* a trust.

If the people of America ever *betray* their trust, their guilt will merit even greater punishment than other nations have suffered, and the indignation of heaven. *J. Adams.*

3. To violate confidence by disclosing a secret, or that which was intrusted; to expose; followed by the person, or the thing; as, my friend *betrayed* me, or *betrayed* the secret.

4. To disclose, or permit to appear, what is intended to be kept secret, or what prudence would conceal.

Be swift to hear, but cautious of your tongue, lest you *betray* your ignorance. *Watts.*

Hence,
 5. To mislead or expose to inconvenience not foreseen; as, great confidence *betrays* a man into errors.

6. To show; to discover; to indicate what is not obvious at first view, or would otherwise be concealed.

Nor, after length of years, a stone *betray*
 The place where once the very ruins lay. *Addison.*

This river *betrays* its original in its name. *Holwell.*

All the names in the country *betray* great antiquity. *Bryant.*

7. To fail, or deceive.
 But when I rise, I shall find my legs *betraying* me. *Johnson, Boswell.*

BETRAYED, *pp.* Delivered up in breach of trust; violated by unfaithfulness; exposed by breach of confidence; disclosed contrary to expectation or intention; made known; discovered.

BETRAYER, *n.* One who betrays; a traitor.

BETRAYING, *ppr.* Delivering up treacherously; violating confidence; disclosing contrary to intention; exposing; discovering.

BETRIM, *v. t.* [*be* and *trim*.] To deck; to dress; to adorn; to grace; to embellish; to beautify; to decorate. *Shak.*

BETRIMMED, *pp.* Adorned; decorated.

BETRIMMING, *ppr.* Decking; adorning; embellishing.

BETROTH, *v. t.* [*be* and *troth*, truth, faith. See *Truth*, and *Truth*.]

1. To contract to any one, in order to a future marriage; to promise or pledge one to be the future spouse of another; to affianch; used of either sex. "The father *betroths* his daughter."

2. To contract with one for a future spouse; to espouse; as, a man *betroths* a lady.

3. To nominate to a bishopric, in order to consecration. *Ayliffe.*

BETROTHED, *pp.* Contracted for future marriage.

BETROTHING, *ppr.* Contracting to any one, in order to a future marriage, as the father or guardian; contracting with one

for a future wife, as the intended husband; espousing.

BETROTHMENT, *n.* A mutual promise or contract between two parties, for a future marriage between the persons betrothed; espousals. *Encyc.*

BETRUST, *v. t.* [*be* and *trust*.] To entrust; to commit to another in confidence; of fidelity; to confide. This is less used than *entrust*. *Hall.*

BETRUSTED, *pp.* Entrusted; committed; intrusted.

BETRUSTING, *ppr.* Entrusting; committing in trust.

BETRUSTMENT, *n.* The act of entrusting; the thing entrusted. *Chipman.*

BETSO, *n.* The smallest Venetian coin. *Mason.*

BETTER, *a. comp.* of *bet*. See *Best*. [*Sax.* *bet*, more, better; *beter*, *betera*, better; *Sw. bätter*; *D. beter*; *G. besser*; *D. baad*, profit; *baaten*, to boot, to avail; *Sans. bhadra*, good. The primary sense is, more, or advanced further; and in America, this is a common popular signification. This vessel contains *better* than half, that is, more than half; he walked *better* than a mile, that is, more than a mile.]

1. Having good qualities in a greater degree than another; applied to physical, acquired or moral qualities; as a *better* soil, a *better* man, a *better* physician, a *better* house, a *better* air, a *better* harvest.

2. More advantageous.

Were it not *better* for us to return to Egypt! *Ex. xiv.*

3. More acceptable.

To obey is *better* than sacrifice. *I Sam. xv.*

4. More safe.

It is *better* to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. *Ps. cxviii.*

5. Improved in health; less affected with disease; as, the patient is *better*.

6. To be *better off*, to be in a better condition. *Beddoes, Hygieia*. This is a very common phrase; but ought not off, to be off? It is not elegant.

7. To have the *better*, is to have the advantage or superiority, followed by *of* before him or that over which the advantage is enjoyed; as, the English had the *better* of the Spaniards.

8. To get or gain the *better*, is to obtain the advantage, superiority or victory; as, to get the *better* of an enemy.

9. For the *better*, is for the advantage or improvement.

BETTER, *adv.* In a more excellent manner; with more skill and wisdom, virtue, advantage or success; as, to perform work *better*; to plan a scheme *better*; land *better* cultivated; laws *better* executed; government *better* administered.

2. More correctly, or fully; as, to understand a subject *better* than another.

3. With superior excellence; as, to write or speak *better* than another.

4. With more affection; in a higher degree; as, to love one *better* than another.

It is not easy to specify and exemplify the various applications of *better*. In general, it implies what is more excellent, advantageous, useful, or virtuous, than something else.

BETTER, *v. t.* [*Sax.* *beterian*, *betrian*. See *Better*.]