

Your *means* are slender. *Shak.*

6. Instrument of action or performance.
By all *means*, without fail. Go, by all *means*.

By no *means*, not at all; certainly not; not in any degree.

The wine on this side of the lake is by no *means* so good as that on the other. *Addison.*
By no manner of *means*, by no means; not the least. *Burke.*

By any *means*, possibly; at all.

If by any *means* I might attain to the resurrection of the dead. *Phil. iii.*

Meantime, } in the intervening time. (In
Meanwhile, } this use of these words there is an omission of *in* or *in the*; *in the meantime*.)

MEAN, *v. t.* pret. and pp. *meant*; pronounced *ment*. [Sax. *manan*, *menan*, to mean, to intend, also to relate, to recite or tell, also to *moan*, to lament; G. *meinen*; D. *meenen*; Sw. *mena*; Dan. *meener*, *mener*; Russ. *myu*, to think or believe; Ir. *smuainim*. It coincides in origin with L. *mens*, Eng. *mind*. The primary sense is to set or to thrust forward, to reach, stretch or extend. So in L. *intendo*, to stretch onward or towards, and *propono*, to propose, to set or put forward.]

1. To have in the mind, view or contemplation; to intend.

What *mean* you by this service? *Ex. xii.*
2. To intend; to purpose; to design, with reference to a future act.

Ye thought evil against me, but God *meant* it for good. *Gen. i.*

3. To signify; to indicate.
What *mean* these seven ewe lambs? *Gen. xxi.*

What *meaneth* the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? *1 Sam. iv.*
Go ye, and learn what that *meaneth*— *Matt. ix.*

MEAN, *v. i.* To have thought or ideas; or to have meaning. *Pope.*

MEAN'DER, *n.* [the name of a winding river in Phrygia.]

1. A winding course; a winding or turning in a passage; as the *meanders* of the veins and arteries. *Hale.*

While lingering rivers in *meanders* glide. *Blackmore.*

2. A maze; a labyrinth; perplexity; as the *meanders* of the law. *Arbutnot.*

MEAN'DER, *v. t.* To wind, turn or flow round; to make flexuous. *Drayton.*

MEAN'DER, *v. i.* To wind or turn in a course or passage; to be intricate. *Skenstone.*

MEAN'DERING, *ppr.* or *a.* Winding in a course, passage or current.

MEAN'DRIAN, *a.* Winding; having many turns.

MEANING, *ppr.* Having in mind; intending; signifying.

MEANING, *n.* That which exists in the mind, view or contemplation as a settled aim or purpose, though not directly expressed. We say, this or that is not his *meaning*.

2. Intention; purpose; aim; with reference to a future act.

I am no honest man, if there be any good *meaning* towards you. *Shak.*

3. Signification. What is the *meaning* of all this parade? The *meaning* of a hieroglyphic is not always obvious.

4. The sense of words or expressions; that which is to be understood; signification; that which the writer or speaker intends to express or communicate. Words have a literal *meaning*, or a metaphorical *meaning*, and it is not always easy to ascertain the real *meaning*.

5. Sense; power of thinking. [Little used.]
MEANLY, *adv.* [See *Mean*.] Moderately; not in a great degree.

In the reign of Domitian, poetry was *meanly* cultivated. [Not used.] *Dryden.*

2. Without dignity or rank; in a low condition; as *meanly* born.

3. Poorly; as *meanly* dressed.

4. Without greatness or elevation of mind; without honor; with a low mind or narrow views. He *meanly* declines to fulfill his promise.

Would you *meanly* thus rely
On power, you know, I must obey? *Prior.*

5. Without respect; disrespectfully. We cannot bear to hear others speak *meanly* of our kindred.

ME'ANNESS, *n.* Want of dignity or rank; low state; as *meanness* of birth or condition. Poverty is not always *meanness*; it may be connected with it, but men of dignified minds and manners are often poor.

2. Want of excellence of any kind; poorness; rudeness.

This figure is of a later date, by the *meanness* of the workmanship. *Addison.*

3. Lowness of mind; want of dignity and elevation; want of honor. *Meanness* in men incurs contempt. All dishonesty is *meanness*.

4. Sordidness; niggardliness; opposed to liberality or charitableness. *Meanness* is very different from frugality.

5. Want of richness; poorness; as the *meanness* of dress or equipage.

MEANT, *pret.* and *pp.* of *mean*.

MEAR. [See *Mere*.]

ME'ASE, *n.* [from the root of *measure*.] The quantity of 500; as a *mease* of her rings. [Not used in America.]

MEASLE, *n.* *meez'l.* A leper. [Not in use.] *Wickliffe.*

MEASLED, *a.* *meez'led.* [See *Measles*.] Infected or spotted with measles.

MEASLES, *n.* *meez'les*; with a plural termination. [G. *maser*, a spot; *masig*, measles; D. *mazelen*: from sprinkling or from mixing. Class Ms. No. 14. 15.]

1. A contagious disease of the human body, usually characterized by an eruption of small red points or spots, from which it has its name.

2. A disease of swine. *B. Jonson.*

3. A disease of trees. *Mortimer.*

MEASLY, *a.* *meez'ly.* Infected with measles or eruptions. *Swift.*

MEASURABLE, *a.* *mez'h'urable.* [See *Measure*.]

1. That may be measured; susceptible of mensuration or computation. *Bentley.*

2. Moderate; in small quantity or extent.

MEASURABLENESS, *n.* *mez'h'urableness.* The quality of admitting mensuration.

MEASURABLY, *adv.* *mez'h'urably.* Moderately; in a limited degree.

MEASURE, *n.* *mez'h'ur.* [Fr. *mesure*; It. *misura*; Sp. *medida*; Arm. *musur* or *musul*; Ir. *meas*; W. *meidyr* and *mesur*; G. *mass*, measure, and *messen*, to measure;

D. *maat*; Sw. *matt*; Dan. *maade*, measure, and mode; L. *mensura*, from *mensus*, with a casual *n*, the participle of *metior*, to measure, Eng. to *mete*; Gr. *μετρον*, *μετρεω*. With these correspond the Eng. *meet*, fit, proper, and *meet*, the verb; Sax. *gemet*, meet, fit; *metan* and *gemettan*, to meet or meet with, to find, to mete or measure, and to paint. The seuse is to come to, to fall, to happen, and this sense is connected with that of stretching, extending, that is, reaching to; the latter gives the sense of *measure*. We find in Heb. מִדָּה *measure*; מִדָּה, to mete, to measure. This word in Ar.

מִדָּה *madda*, signifies to stretch or extend, to draw out in length or time; as do other verbs with the same elements, under one of which we find the *meta* of the Latins. The Ch. מֵטָה signifies to come to, to arrive, to reach, to be *mature*, and מֵטָה, in Heb. Ch. and Eth. signifies to find, to come to. Now the Saxon verb unites in itself the significations of all three of the oriental verbs.]

1. The whole extent or dimensions of a thing, including length, breadth and thickness.

The *measure* thereof is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. *Job xi.*

It is applied also to length or to breadth separately.

2. That by which extent or dimension is ascertained, either length, breadth, thickness, capacity, or amount; as, a rod or pole is a *measure* of five yards and a half; an inch, a foot, a yard, are *measures* of length; a gallon is a *measure* of capacity. Weights and *measures* should be uniform. Silver and gold are the common *measure* of value.

3. A limited or definite quantity; as a *measure* of wine or beer.

4. Determined extent or length; limit.

Lord, make me to know my end, and the *measure* of my days. *Ps. xxxix.*

5. A rule by which any thing is adjusted or proportioned.

God's goodness is the *measure* of his providence. *More.*

6. Proportion; quantity settled.

I enter not into the particulars of the law of nature, or its *measures* of punishment; yet there is such a law. *Locke.*

7. Full or sufficient quantity.

I'll never pause again,
Till either death hath clos'd these eyes of mine,
Or fortune given me *measure* of revenge. *Shak.*

8. Extent of power or office.

We will not boast of things without our *measure*. *2 Cor. x.*

9. Portion allotted; extent of ability.

If else thou seekest
Aught not surpassing human *measure*, say. *Milton.*

10. Degree; quantity indefinite.

I have laid down, in some *measure*, the description of the old world. *Abbot.*

A great *measure* of discretion is to be used in the performance of confession. *Taylor.*

11. In *music*, that division by which the motion of music is regulated; or the interval or space of time between the rising and falling of the hand or foot of him who beats time. This *measure* regulates the time of