

sion of the former is the major or minor of the following.

PROTASIS, *n.* [Gr. *πρωσις*, from *πρωειν*, to present.]

1. A proposition; a maxim. *Johnson.*
2. In the ancient drama, the first part of a comic or tragic piece, in which the several persons are shown, their characters intimated, and the subject proposed and entered on. The protasis might extend to two acts, where it ended, and the epitasis commenced. *Encyc.*

PROTATIC, *a.* [Gr. *πρωτατικός*.] Being placed in the beginning; previous.

PROTEAN, *a.* Pertaining to Proteus; readily assuming different shapes. [See *Proteus*.]

PROTECT, *v. t.* [L. *protectus*, *protego*; *pro* and *tego*, to cover; Gr. *σῶω*, with a prefix; Eng. *deck*. See *Deck*.]

To cover or shield from danger or injury; to defend; to guard; to preserve in safety; a word of general import both in a literal and figurative sense. Walls protect a city or garrison; clothing is designed to protect the body from cold; arms may protect one from an assault; our houses protect us from the inclemencies of the weather; the law protects our persons and property; the father protects his children, and the guardian his ward; a shade protects us from extreme heat; a navy protects our commerce and our shores; ambassadors are protected from arrest.

PROTECTED, *pp.* Covered or defended from injury; preserved in safety.

PROTECTING, *ppr.* Shielding from injury; defending; preserving in safety.

PROTECTION, *n.* The act of protecting; defense; shelter from evil; preservation from loss, injury or annoyance. We find protection under good laws and an upright administration. How little are men disposed to acknowledge divine protection!

2. That which protects or preserves from injury.

Let them rise up and help you, and be your protection. Deut. xxxii.

3. A writing that protects; a passport or other writing which secures from molestation.

4. Exemption. Ambassadors at foreign courts are entitled to protection from arrest. Members of parliament, representatives and senators, are entitled to protection from arrest during their attendance on the legislature, as are suitors and witnesses attending a court.

Writ of protection, a writ by which the king of Great Britain exempts a person from arrest. *Blackstone.*

PROTECTIVE, *a.* Affording protection; sheltering; defensive. *Thomson.*

PROTECTOR, *n.* [Fr. *protecteur*.] One that defends or shields from injury, evil or oppression; a defender; a guardian. The king or sovereign is, or ought to be, the protector of the nation; the husband is the protector of his wife, and the father of his children.

2. In England, one who formerly had the care of the kingdom during the king's minority; a regent. Cromwell assumed the title of lord Protector.

3. In catholic countries, every nation and every religious order has a protector residing at Rome. He is a cardinal, and called cardinal protector.

PROTECTORATE, *n.* Government by a protector. *Walpole.*

PROTECTORSHIP, *n.* The office of a protector or regent. *Burnet.*

PROTECTRESS, *n.* A woman or female that protects. *Bacon. Addison.*

PROTEND, *v. t.* [L. *protendo*; *pro* and *tendo*, to stretch.]

To hold out; to stretch forth. With his protended lance he makes defense. *Dryden.*

PROTENDED, *pp.* Reached or stretched forth. *Milford.*

PROTENDING, *ppr.* Stretching forth.

PROTENSE, *n.* *protens'*. Extension. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

PROTIVITY, *n.* [L. *protervitas*, from *protervus*; *pro* and *tervus*, crabbed.] Peevishness; petulance. [Little used.]

PROTEST, *v. i.* [L. *protestor*; *pro* and *testor*, to affirm; It. *protestare*; Fr. *protester*; Sp. *protestar*.]

1. To affirm with solemnity; to make a solemn declaration of a fact or opinion; as, I protest to you, I have no knowledge of the transaction.

2. To make a solemn declaration expressive of opposition; with *against*; as, he protests against your votes. *Denham.*

The conscience has power to protest against the exorbitancies of the passions. *South.*

3. To make a formal declaration in writing against a public law or measure. It is the privilege of any lord in parliament to protest against a law or resolution.

PROTEST, *v. t.* To call as a witness in affirming or denying, or to prove an affirmation.

Fiercely they oppos'd
My journey strange, with clamorous uproar
Protecting fate supreme. *Milton.*

2. To prove; to show; to give evidence of. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

3. In commerce, to protest a bill of exchange, is for a notary public, at the request of the payee, to make a formal declaration under hand and seal, against the drawer of the bill, on account of non-acceptance or non-payment, for exchange, cost, commissions, damages and interest; of which act the indorser must be notified within such time as the law or custom prescribes. In like manner, notes of hand given to a banking corporation are protested for non-payment.

PROTEST, *n.* A solemn declaration of opinion, commonly against some act; appropriately, a formal and solemn declaration in writing of dissent from the proceedings of a legislative body; as the protest of lords in parliament, or a like declaration of dissent of any minority against the proceedings of a majority of a body of men.

2. In commerce, a formal declaration made by a notary public, under hand and seal, at the request of the payee or holder of a bill of exchange, for non-acceptance or non-payment of the same, protesting against the drawer and others concerned, for the exchange, charges, damages and interest. This protest is written on a copy

of the bill, and notice given to the indorser of the same, by which he becomes liable to pay the amount of the bill, with charges, damages and interest; also, a like declaration against the drawer of a note of hand for non-payment to a banking corporation, and of the master of a vessel against seizure, &c. A protest is also a writing attested by a justice of the peace or consul, drawn by the master of a vessel, stating the severity of the voyage by which the ship has suffered, and showing that the damage suffered was not owing to the neglect or misconduct of the master.

PROTESTANT, *a.* Pertaining to those who, at the reformation of religion, protested against a decree of Charles V. and the diet of Spire; pertaining to the adherents of Luther, or others of the reformed churches; as the protestant religion. *Addison. Milner.*

PROTESTANT, *n.* One of the party who adhered to Luther at the reformation in 1529, and protested, or made a solemn declaration of dissent from a decree of the emperor Charles V. and the diet of Spire, and appealed to a general council. This name was afterwards extended to the followers of Calvin, and Protestants is the denomination now given to all who belong to the reformed churches. The king of Prussia has, however, interdicted the use of this name in his dominions.

PROTESTANTISM, *n.* The protestant religion. *South.*

PROTESTANTLY, *adv.* In conformity to the protestants. [A very bad word and not used.] *Milton.*

PROTESTATION, *n.* [Fr.; from *protest*.]

1. A solemn declaration of a fact, opinion or resolution. *Hooker.*
2. A solemn declaration of dissent; a protest; as the protestation of certain noblemen against an order of council. *Clarendon.*

3. In law, a declaration in pleading, by which the party interposes an oblique allegation or denial of some fact, protesting that it does or does not exist. The lord may allege the villenage of the plaintiff by way of protestation, and thus deny the demand. *Blackstone.*

PROTESTED, *pp.* Solemnly declared or alleged; declared against for non-acceptance or non-payment.

PROTESTER, *n.* One who protests; one who utters a solemn declaration.

2. One who protests a bill of exchange.

PROTESTING, *ppr.* Solemnly declaring or affirming; declaring against for non-acceptance or non-payment.

PROTEUS, *n.* [L. from Gr. *Πρωτεύς*.] In mythology, a marine deity, the son of Oceanus and Tethys, whose distinguishing characteristic was the faculty of assuming different shapes. Hence we denominate one who easily changes his form or principles, a Proteus.

PROTHONOTARISHIP, *n.* The office of a prothonotary. [An awkward, harsh word and little used.] *Carew.*

PROTHONOTARY, *n.* [Low L. *protonotarius*; Gr. *πρωτος*, first, and L. *notarius*, a scribe.]