

ABA-TABLE, *a.* That may or can be abated; as an *abatable* writ or nuisance.

ABATE, *v. t.* [Fr. *abattre*, to beat down; *batre*, to beat, to strike; Sp. *batir*, *abate*; Port. *bater*, *abater*; It. *battere*, *abbattere*; Heb. *בָּטַח*, to beat; Syr. *ܒܬܝܚ* id.

Ar. *غَابَتَا* gabata, to beat, and *سَبَطَا* sabata, to beat down, to prostrate. The Saxon has the participle *gebatad*. The prefix is sunk to a in *abate*, and lost in *beat*. See Class Bd. No. 23, 33.]

1. To beat down; to pull down; to destroy in any manner; as to *abate* a nuisance.
2. To lessen; to diminish; to moderate; as to *abate* zeal; to *abate* pride; to *abate* a demand; to *abate* courage.
3. To lessen; to mitigate; as to *abate* pain or sorrow.
4. To overthrow; to cause to fail; to frustrate by judicial sentence; as to *abate* a writ.
5. To deject; to depress; as to *abate* the soul. *Obs.*
6. To deduct;

Nothing to add and nothing to *abate*. *Pope.*

7. To cause to fail; to annul. By the English law, a legacy to a charity is *abated* by a deficiency of assets.

8. In *Connecticut*, to remit, as to *abate* a tax.

ABATE, *v. i.* To decrease, or become less in strength or violence; as pain *abates*; a storm *abates*.

2. To fail; to be defeated, or come to naught; as a writ *abates*. By the civil law a legacy to a charity does not *abate* by deficiency of assets.

3. In *law*, to enter into a freehold after the death of the last occupant, and before the heir or devisee takes possession.

Blackstone.

4. In *horsemanship*, to perform well a downward motion. A horse is said to *abate*, or take down his curves, when, working upon curves, he puts both his hind legs to the ground at once, and observes the same exactness in all the times. *Encyc.*

ABATED, *pp.* Lessened; decreased; destroyed; mitigated; defaced; remitted; overthrown.

ABATEMENT, *n.* The act of abating; the state of being abated.

2. A reduction, removing, or pulling down, as of a nuisance. *Blackstone.*

3. Diminution, decrease, or mitigation, as of grief or pain.

4. Deduction, sum withdrawn, as from an account.

5. Overthrow, failure, or defeat, as of a writ. *Blackstone.*

6. The entry of a stranger into a freehold after the death of the tenant, before the heir or devisee. *Blackstone.*

7. In *heraldry*, a mark of dishonor in a coat of arms, by which its dignity is debased for some stain on the character of the wearer.

ABATER, *n.* The person or thing that abates.

ABATING, *ppr.* Pulling down, diminishing, defeating, remitting.

ABATOR, *n.* A person who enters into a freehold on the death of the last possessor, before the heir or devisee. *Blackstone.*

ABATTIS, *n.* [from *beating* or pulling *ABATIS*, *s.* down. Fr. *abattre*.]

Rubbish. In *fortification*, piles of trees, or branches of trees sharpened, and laid with the points outward, in front of ramparts, to prevent assailants from mounting the walls. *Encyc.*

ABATURE, *n.* [from *abate*.] Grass beaten or trampled down by a stag in passing. *Diel.*

ABB, *n.* [Sax. *ab* or *ob*.] Among weavers, yarn for the warp. Hence *abb-wool* is wool for the *abb*. *Encyc.*

ABBA, *n.* In the Chaldee and Syriac, a father, and figuratively a superior. Sans. *appen*.

In the Syriac, Coptic and Ethiopic churches, it is a title given to the Bishops, and the Bishops bestow the title, by way of distinction, on the Bishop of Alexandria. Hence the title *Baba*, or *Papa*, *Pope* or great father, which the Bishop of Alexandria bore, before the Bishop of Rome.

ABBACY, *n.* [from *abba*, Low Lat. *abbatia*.] The dignity, rights and privileges of an abbot. It comprehends the government and revenues.

ABBATIAL, *a.* Belonging to an abbey.

ABBE, *n.* *Abby*, [from *abba*.]

In a monastic sense, the same as an *abbot*; but more generally, a title, in Catholic countries, without any determinate rank, office or rights. The abbies are numerous, and generally have some literary attainments; they dress as academics or scholars, and act as instructors, in colleges and private families; or as tutors to young gentlemen on their travels; and many of them become authors.

ABBESS, *n.* [from *abba*.]

A female superior or governess of a nunnery, or convent of nuns, having the authority over the nuns which the abbots have over the Monks. [See *Abbey*.]

ABBEY, *n. plu.* *abbeyes*, [from *abba*.]

A monastery or society of persons of either sex, secluded from the world and devoted to religion. The males are called *monks*, and governed by an abbot; the females are called *nuns*, and governed by an *abbess*. These institutions were suppressed in England by Henry VIII.; but they still exist in Catholic countries.

ABBEY-LUBBER, *n.* A name given to monks, in contempt for their idleness.

ABBOT, *n.* [formerly *abbar*, from *abbatized abbas*, or from Heb. plural *בָּבָיִם*.] The superior or governor of an abbey or monastery. Originally monasteries were founded in retired places, and the religious had no concern with secular affairs, being entirely subject to the prelates. But the abbots possessing most of the learning, in ages of ignorance, were called from their seclusion to aid the churches in opposing heresies; monasteries were founded in the vicinity of cities; the abbots became ambitious and set themselves to acquire wealth and honors; some of them assumed the miter, threw off their dependence on the bishops, and obtained seats in parliament. For many centuries, princes and noblemen bore the title of abbots. At present, in catholic countries, abbots are regular, or such as take the vow, and wear

the habit of the order; and *commendatory*, such as are seculars, but obliged, when of suitable age, to take orders. The title is borne also by some persons, who have not the government of a monastery; as bishops, whose sees were formerly abbeyes. *Encyc.*

ABBOTSHIP, *n.* The state of an abbot.

ABBREUVOIR, *n.* [Fr. *abreuvor*, from *abreuer*, to water; Sp. *abreuar*, id.; from Gr. *Βραχυ*.]

Among masons, the joint between stones in a wall, to be filled with mortar. *Diel.*

[I know not whether it is now used.]

ABBREVIATE, *v. t.* [It. *abbreviare*; Sp. *abreviar*; Port. *abreviar*; from L. *abbrevio*, *brevis*, from *brevis*, short; contracted from Gr. *Βραχυ*, from the root of *break*, which see.]

1. To shorten; to make shorter by contracting the parts. [In this sense, not much used, nor often applied to material substances.]

2. To shorten; to abridge by the omission or defalcation of a part; to reduce to a smaller compass; as to *abbreviate* a writing.

3. In *mathematics*, to reduce fractions to the lowest terms. *Wallis.*

ABBREVIATED, *pp.* Shortened; reduced in length; abridged.

2. In *botany*, an abbreviated perianth is shorter than the tube of the corol. *Martyn.*

ABBREVIATING, *ppr.* Shortening; contracting in length or into a smaller compass.

ABBREVIATION, *n.* The act of shortening or contracting.

2. A letter or a few letters used for a word; as Gen. for *Genesis*; U. S. A. for *United States of America*.

3. The reduction of fractions to the lowest terms.

ABBREVIATOR, *n.* One who abridges or reduces to a smaller compass.

ABBREVIATORS, a college of seventy-two persons in the chancery of Rome, whose duty is to draw up the Pope's briefs, and reduce petitions, when granted, to a due form for bulls.

ABBREVIATORY, *a.* Shortening, contracting.

ABBREVIATURE, *n.* A letter or character for shortening; an abridgment, a compend.

A. B. C. The three first letters of the alphabet, used for the whole alphabet. Also a little book for teaching the elements of reading. *Shak.*

ABDALS, *n.* The name of certain fanatics in Persia, who, in excess of zeal, sometimes run into the streets, and attempt to kill all they meet who are of a different religion; and if they are slain for their madness, they think it meritorious to die, and by the vulgar are deemed martyrs. *Encyc.*

ABDERITE, *n.* An inhabitant of Abdera, a maritime town in Thrace. *Democritus* is so called, from being a native of the place. As he was given to laughter, foolish or incessant laughter, is called *abderian*. *Whitaker.*

ABDICANT, *a.* [See *Abdicare*.] Abdicating; renouncing.