

tagion; as *contagious* air; *contagious* clothing.

3. Containing mischief that may be propagated; as *contagious* example.
4. That may be communicated from one to another, or may excite like affections in others.

His genius rendered his courage more *contagious*. *Wart.*

CONTAGIOUSNESS, *n.* The quality of being contagious.

CONTAIN, *v. t.* [*L. contineo*; *con* and *teneo*, to hold; *It. contenere*; *Fr. contenir*; *Sp. contener*. See *Tenel*, *Tenure*.]

1. To hold, as a vessel; as, the vessel contains a gallon. Hence, to have capacity; to be able to hold; *applied to an empty vessel*.

2. To comprehend; to hold within specified limits.

Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee. 1 Kings viii.

3. To comprehend; to comprise. The history of Livy contains a hundred and forty books.

4. To hold within limits prescribed; to restrain; to withhold from trespass or disorder.

The King's person contains the unruly people from evil occasions. *Obs.* *Spenser*.

Fear not, my Lord, we can contain ourselves. *Shak.*

5. To include. This article is not contained in the account. This number does not contain the article specified.

6. To inclose; as, this cover or envelop contains a letter.

CONTAIN, *v. i.* To live in continence or chastity. *Arbuthnot and Pope*. 1 Cor. vii.

CONTAINABLE, *a.* That may be contained; or comprised. *Boyle*.

CONTAINED, *pp.* Held; comprehended; comprised; included; inclosed.

CONTAINING, *ppr.* Holding; having capacity to hold; comprehending; comprising; including; inclosing.

CONTAMINATE, *v. t.* [*L. contaminare*; *con* and *am. taminare*. *Qu. Heb. Ch. Syr.* 872] to defile. *Class Dm. No. 19.*

To defile; to pollute; usually in a figurative sense; to sully; to tarnish; to taint. *Lewdness contaminates* character; *cowardice contaminates* honor.

Shall we now

Contaminate our fingers with base bribes? *Shak.*

CONTAMINATE, *a.* Polluted; defiled; corrupt. *Shak.*

CONTAMINATED, *pp.* Polluted; defiled; tarnished.

CONTAMINATING, *ppr.* Polluting; defiling; tarnishing.

CONTAMINATION, *n.* The act of polluting; pollution; defilement; taint.

CONTECK, *n.* Quarrel; contention. [*Not English.*]

CONTECTION, *n.* [*L. contego*.] A covering. [*Not used.*] *Sir T. Browne*.

CONTEMN, *v. t.* *contem'*. [*L. contemno*; *con* and *temno*, to despise; *It. contemnere*; *Ar.* 26.]

CONTEMN, *v. t.* To drive away, to despise. *Class Dm. No. 1. 4.*

1. To despise; to consider and treat as mean and despicable; to scorn.

In whose eyes a vile person is *contemned*. *Ps. xv.*

2. To slight; to neglect as unworthy of regard; to reject with disdain.

Wherefore do the wicked *contemn* God. *Ps. x.*

They *contemn* the counsel of the Most High. *Ps. evii.*

CONTEMNED, *pp.* Despised; scorned; slighted; neglected, or rejected with disdain.

CONTEMNER, *n.* One who contemns; a despiser; a scorner.

CONTEMNING, *ppr.* Despising; slighting as vile or despicable; neglecting or rejecting, as unworthy of regard.

CONTEMPER, *v. t.* [*Low L. contempero*; *con* and *tempero*, to mix or temper. See *Temper*.]

To moderate; to reduce to a lower degree by mixture with opposite or different qualities; to temper.

The leaves qualify and *contemper* the heat. *Ray.*

CONTEMPERAMENT, *n.* Moderated or qualified degree; a degree of any quality reduced to that of another; temperament.

CONTEMPERATE, *v. t.* [*See Contemper*.]

To temper; to reduce the quality of, by mixing something opposite or different; to moderate. *Brown. Wiseman.*

CONTEMPERATION, *n.* The act of reducing a quality by admixture of the contrary; the act of moderating or tempering. *Brown.*

2. Temperament; proportionate mixture; as the *contemperament* of humors in different bodies. *Hale.*

[Instead of these words, *temper* and *temperament* are now generally used.]

CONTEMPLATE, *v. t.* [*L. contemplan.* If *m* is radical, see *Class Dm. No. 3. 4. 35.*]

1. To view or consider with continued attention; to study; to meditate on. This word expresses the attention of the mind, but sometimes in connection with that of the eyes; as, to *contemplate* the heavens. More generally, the act of the mind only is intended; as, to *contemplate* the wonders of redemption; to *contemplate* the state of the nation and its future prospects.
2. To consider or have in view, in reference to a future act or event; to intend.

A decree of the National Assembly of France, June 26, 1792, *contemplates* a supply from the United States of four millions of livres.

There remain some particulars to complete the information *contemplated* by those resolutions. *Hamilton's Report.*

If a treaty contains any stipulations which *contemplate* a state of future war.

CONTEMPLATE, *v. i.* To think studiously; to study; to muse; to meditate.

He delights to *contemplate* on the works of creation.

CONTEMPLATED, *pp.* Considered with attention; meditated on; intended.

CONTEMPLATING, *ppr.* Considering with continued attention; meditating on; musing.

CONTEMPLATION, *n.* [*L. contemplatio*.] The act of the mind in considering with attention; meditation; study; continued attention of the mind to a particular subject.

Contemplation is keeping the idea, brought into the mind, some time actually in view.

2. Holy meditation; attention to sacred things; a particular application of the foregoing definition.

To have in *contemplation*, to intend or purpose, or to have under consideration.

CONTEMPLATIVE, *a.* Given to contemplation, or continued application of the mind to a subject; studious; thoughtful; as a *contemplative* philosopher, or mind.

2. Employed in study; as a *contemplative* life. *Bacon.*

3. Having the appearance of study, or a studious habit; as a *contemplative* look.

4. Having the power of thought or meditation; as the *contemplative* faculty of man. *Ray.*

CONTEMPLATIVELY, *adv.* With contemplation; attentively; thoughtfully; with deep attention.

CONTEMPLATOR, *n.* One who contemplates; one employed in study or meditation; an inquirer after knowledge.

CONTEMPORANEOUS, *a.* [*See Cotemporary*.] Living or being at the same time.

CONTEMPORARY, *a.* [*It. Sp. contemporaneo*; *Fr. contemporain*; *L. contemporarius*; *con* and *temporalis*, *temporarius*, from *tempus*, time. For the sake of easier pronunciation and a more agreeable sound, this word is often changed to *cotemporary*.]

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