

Then he began to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done. Matt. xi.

[This use seems to have resulted from the omission of *part*, or some similar word, and *most* in this case signifies *greatest*, that is, the *greatest part*.]

2. *The most*, the greatest value, amount or advantage, or the utmost in extent, degree or effect.

A covetous man makes the *most* of what he has, and can get. *L'Estrange*.

At the most, the greatest degree or quantity; the utmost extent. Stock brings six per cent. interest *at the most*, often less.

MOSTIC, *n.* [G. *mahlerstock*, contracted.] A painter's staff or stick on which he rests his hand in painting. *Ainsworth*.

MOSTLY, *adv.* For the greatest part. The exports of the U. States consist *mostly* of cotton, rice, tobacco, flour and lumber.

MOSTWHAT, *adv.* For the most part. *Obs. Hammond*.

MOT. [See *Motto*.]

MOTACILLA, *n.* [L. *motacilla*.] A bird of the genus *Motacilla* or wagtail.

MOTE, in *folk-mote*, &c. signifies a meeting, Sax. *mot*, *genot*.

MOTE, *n.* [Sax. *mot*; Sp. *mota*; W. *ysmot*, a patch or spot.]

A small particle; any thing proverbially small; a spot.

Why beholdest thou the *mote* in thy brother's eye? Matt. vii.

The little *moties* in the sun do ever stir, though there is no wind. *Bacon*.

MOTE, for *mought*, *might* or *must*, obsolete. *Spenser*.

MOTET, *n.* [Fr.] A musical composition; an air or hymn. *Herbert*.

MOTIL, *n.* [Sax. *mogthe*, *mohth*, *moh* or *matha*; Goth. *matha*; D. *mot*; G. *motte*.]

1. An animal of the genus *Phaena*, which breeds in yarn and garments, and often does injury by eating the substance and destroying the texture. Matt. vi.

The name is also applied to the whole genus.

2. *Figuratively*, that which gradually and silently eats, consumes or wastes any thing. Idle persons are a *moth* to the community.

MOTHEAT, *v. t.* [*moth* and *eat*.] To eat or prey upon, as a moth eats a garment. *Herbert*.

MOTHEATEN, *a.* Eaten by moths. Job xiii.

MOTHEEN, *a.* Full of moths. [Not in use.] *Falke*.

MÖTHER, *n.* [Sax. *moder*; D. *moeder*, mother, and *modder*, mud; *baar-moeder*, the womb; *moer*, mother, dam, womb, lees; *moerspul*, hysterics; [*moer* seems to be a contraction of *moeder*;] *moeder-naakt*, stark naked; G. *mutter*, mother, and the thick slimy concretion in vinegar; *bär-mutter*, the womb or matrix; *mutter-fieber*, a hysteric fit; *mutter-lamm* and *mutter-schaf*, a ewe or female sheep; *mutter-flecken* and *mutter-mahl*, a mole; *mutter-pferd*, a mare, the female of the horse kind; *mutter-scheide*, the vagina; *mutter-naekt*, stark naked; *moder*, mud, mold.

Sw. *moder*, mother; *vin-moder*, mother of wine; *moderfull*, prolapsus uteri; *moderlif*, the womb or matrix.

Dan. *moder*, mother; *moderskeede*, the va-

gina; *moderen i quinder*, the matrix; *moder* or *mudder*, mud.

Ir. *mathair*, a mother, and matter, pus.

Gr. *ματηρ*, mother, and *μητρα*, matrix.

L. *mater*, mother; *matrix*, the womb; *materia*, matter, stuff, materials of which any thing is made.

It. *madre*, mother, cause, origin, root, spring, a mold or form for castings; *materia* or *materia*, matter, subject, cause; *matrice*, the matrix.

Sp. *madre*, mother, matrix, womb, the bed of a river, a sink or sewer; *madriz*, matrix; *materia*, matter, purulent running.

Port. *madre*, a mother, the matrix, the channel of a river; *materia*, matter, pus.

Pers. مادر *madar*, a mother.

Saus. *mada*, *madra*, *meddra* or *mata*, mother.

Russ. *mat*, mother; *matka*, a female, a matrix.

Fr. *mere*, mother, contracted from the Latin.

W. *madrez*, matter, purulent discharge.

We observe that in some other languages, as well as in English, the same word signifies a female parent, and the thick slime formed in vinegar; and in all the languages of Europe here cited, the orthography is nearly the same as that of *mud* and *matter*. The question then occurs whether the name of a female parent originated in a word expressing *matter*, mold; either the soil of the earth, as the producer, or the like substance, when shaped and fitted as a mold for castings; or whether the name is connected with the opinion that the earth is the *mother* of all productions; whence the word *mother-earth*. We are informed by a fragment of Sanchoniathon, that the ancient Phenicians considered *mud*, *ματ*, to be the substance from which all things were formed. See *Mud*. The word *matter* is evidently

from the Ar. ماد *madda*, to secrete, eject or discharge a purulent substance; and I think cannot have any direct connection with *mud*. But in the Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, the same word *madre* signifies mother, and a mold for castings; and the northern languages, particularly the German and Danish, seem to establish the fact that the proper sense of *mother* is matrix. Hence *mother* of pearl, the matrix of pearl. If this word had its origin in the name of the earth used for the forms of castings, it would not be a singular fact; for our word *mold*, in this sense, I suppose to be so named from *mold*, fine earth. The question remains *sub judice*.]

1. A female parent; especially, one of the human race; a woman who has borne a child; correlative to *son* or *daughter*.

2. That which has produced any thing.

Alas, poor country! it cannot

Be called our *mother*, but our grave. *Shak.*

So our native land is called *mother* country, and a plant from which a slip or cion is taken, is called the *mother* plant. In this use, *mother* may be considered as an adjective.

3. That which has preceded in time; the

oldest or chief of any thing; as a *mother-church*.

4. Hysterial passion. [Not used.] *Graunt*.

5. A familiar term of address or appellation of an old woman or maion.

6. An appellation given to a woman who exercises care and tenderness towards another, or gives parental advice; as when one says, "a woman has been a *mother* to me."

7. A thick slimy substance concreted in liquors, particularly in vinegar, very different from seum or common lees.

MÖTHER of pearl, *n.* The matrix of pearl; the shell in which pearls are generated; a species of *Mytilus* or *Mussel*. *Encyc.*

MÖTHER of thyme, *n.* A plant of the genus *Thymus*.

MÖTHER, *a.* Native; natural; received by birth; as *mother-wit*.

2. Native; vernacular; received from parents or ancestors; as *mother-tongue*.

MÖTHER, *v. i.* To concrete, as the thick matter of liquors. *Dryden*.

MÖTHER, *v. t.* To adopt as a son or daughter. *Howell*.

MÖTHERHOOD, *n.* The state of being a mother. *Donne*.

MÖTHER-IN-LAW, *n.* The mother of a husband or wife.

MÖTHERLESS, *a.* Destitute of a mother; having lost a mother; as *motherless* children.

MÖTHERLY, *a.* Pertaining to a mother; as *motherly* power or authority. *Hooker*.

2. Becoming a mother; tender; parental; as *motherly* love or care. *Arbutnot*.

MÖTHERLY, *adv.* In the manner of a mother. *Donne*.

MÖTHER-WATER, *n.* A fluid remaining after the evaporation of salt water, and containing deliquescent salts and impurities. *Ure*.

MÖTHER-WIT, *n.* Native wit; common sense.

MÖTHER-WÖRT, *n.* A plant of the genus *Leonurus*.

MÖTHERY, *a.* Concreted; resembling or partaking of the nature of mother; as the *motherly* substance in liquors.

MOTH-MULLEN, *n.* A plant. *Miller*.

MOTH-WÖRT, *n.* A plant.

MOTH Y, *a.* [from *moth*.] Full of moths; as an old *mothy* saddle. *Shak.*

MOTION, *n.* [L. *motio*; Fr. *motion*. See *More*.] The act or process of changing place; change of local position; the passing of a body from one place to another; change of distance between bodies; opposed to *rest*.

Animal motion is that which is performed by animals in consequence of volition or an act of the will; but how the will operates on the body in producing motion, we cannot explain. *Mechanical motion* is effected by the force or power of one body acting on another. *Perpetual motion* is that which is effected or supplied by itself, without the impulse or intervention of any external cause. Hitherto it has been found impossible to invent a machine that has this principle.

2. Animal life and action.

Devoid of sense and *motion*. *Milton*.

3. Manner of moving the body; port; gait; air.