

2. A fiery or luminous body or appearance flying or floating in the atmosphere, or in a more elevated region. We give this name to the brilliant globes or masses of matter which are occasionally seen moving rapidly through our atmosphere, and which throw off, with loud explosions, fragments that reach the earth, and are called falling stones. We call by the same name those fire balls which are usually denominated falling stars, supposed to be owing to gelatinous matter inflated by phosphureted hydrogen gas; also, the lights which appear over moist grounds and grave yards, called *ignes fatui*, which are ascribed to the same cause.

And meteor-like flame lawless through the sky. *Pope.*

METEORIC, *a.* Pertaining to meteors; consisting of meteors.

2. Proceeding from a meteor; as *meteoric stones*.

METEORIZE, *v. i.* To ascend in vapors. [Not used.] *Evclyn.*

METEOROLITE, } *n.* A meteoric stone;
METEROLITE, } a stone or solid compound of earthy and metallic matter which falls to the earth after the dislocation of a luminous meteor or fire ball; called also aerolite. *Cleaveland.*

METEOROLOGIC, } *a.* Pertaining to
METEOROLOGICAL, } the atmosphere and its phenomena. A *meteorological* table or register is an account of the state of the air and its temperature, weight, dryness or moisture, winds, &c. ascertained by the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer, anemometer and other *meteorological* instruments.

METEOROLOGIST, } *n.* A person skilled
METEROLOGIST, } in meteors; one who studies the phenomena of meteors, or keeps a register of them. *Howell.*

METEOROLOGŶ, *n.* [Gr. *μετεωρος*, lofty, and *λογος*, discourse.] The science which treats of the atmosphere and its phenomena, particularly in its relation to heat and moisture. *D. Olmsted.*

METEOROMANCY, } *n.* [Gr. *μετεωρον*, a
METEROMANCY, } meteor, and *μαντεια*, divination.]

A species of divination by meteors, chiefly by thunder and lightning; held in high estimation by the Romans. *Encyc.*

METEOROSCOPY, *n.* [Gr. *μετεωρος*, lofty, and *σκοπεω*, to view.]

That part of astronomy which treats of sublime heavenly bodies, distance of stars, &c. *Bailey.*

METEOROUS, *a.* Having the nature of a meteor. *Milton.*

METER, *n.* [from *mete*.] One who measures; used in compounds, as in coal-meter, land-meter.

METER, *n.* [Sax. *meter*; Fr. *metre*; L. *metrum*; Gr. *μετρον*, from *μετρεω*.]

1. Measure; verse; arrangement of poetical feet, or of long and short syllables in verse. Hexameter is a meter of six feet. This word is most improperly written *metre*. How very absurd to write the simple word in this manner, but in all its numerous compounds, *meter*, as in *diameter*, *hexameter*, *thermometer*, &c.

2. A French measure of length, equal to $39\frac{3}{8}$ English inches, the standard of linear measure, being the ten millionth part of the distance from the equator to the North Pole, as ascertained by actual measurement of an arc of the meridian.

Lunier. D. Olmsted.

METEWAND, *n.* [mete and wand.] A staff or rod of a certain length, used as a measure. [Obs.] *Ascham.*

METGEARD, *n.* [Sax. *metgeard*.] A yard, staff or rod, used as a measure. *Obs.* [We now use *yard*.]

METHEGLIN, *n.* [W. *mezgylin*, according to Owen, from W. *mezgyg*, a physician, and *thyn*, water; a medicinal liquor. But *mez* is mead, and *mezu* is to be strong or able.]

A liquor made of honey and water boiled and fermented, often enriched with spices. *Encyc.*

METHINKS, *v. impers.* pp. *methought*. [me and think.] It seems to me; it appears to me; I think. *Me* is here in the dative. The word is not antiquated, but is not elegant.

METHOD, *n.* [L. *methodus*; Gr. *μεθοδος*; *μετα*, with, and *odos*, way.]

1. A suitable and convenient arrangement of things, proceedings or ideas; the natural or regular disposition of separate things or parts; convenient order for transacting business, or for comprehending any complicated subject. Without *method*, business of any kind will fall into confusion. To carry on farming to advantage, to keep accounts correctly, *method* is indispensable.

2. Way; manner. Let us know the nature of the disease, and the *method* of cure.

3. Classification; arrangement of natural bodies according to their common characteristics; as the *method* of Theophrast; the *method* of Ray; the Linnean *method*.

In natural arrangements a distinction is sometimes made between *method* and *system*. *System* is an arrangement founded, throughout all its parts, on some one principle. *Method* is an arrangement less fixed and determinate, and founded on more general relations. Thus we say, the *natural method*, and the *artificial* or *serual system* of Linne, though the latter is not a perfect system. *Ed. Encyc.*

METHODIC, } *a.* Arranged in conven-
METHODICAL, } nent order; disposed in a just and natural manner, or in a manner to illustrate a subject, or to facilitate practical operations; as a *methodical* arrangement of the parts of a discourse or of arguments; a *methodical* treatise; *methodical* accounts.

METHODICALLY, *adv.* In a methodical manner; according to natural or convenient order.

METHODISM, *n.* The doctrines and worship of the sect of Christians called *Methodists*.

METHODIST, *n.* One that observes method.

2. One of a sect of christians, founded by Morgan, or rather by John Wesley, and so called from the exact regularity of their lives, and the strictness of their principles and rules.

3. A physician who practices by method or theory. *Boyle.*

4. In the cant of irreligious men, a person of strict piety; one who lives in the exact observance of religious duties.

METHODISTIC, *a.* Resembling the Methodists; partaking of the strictness of Methodists. *Ch. Obs.*

METHODIZE, *v. t.* To reduce to method; to dispose in due order; to arrange in a convenient manner.

One who brings with him any observations he has made in reading the poets, will find his own reflections *methodized* and explained in the works of a good critic. *Spectator.*

METHOUGHT, *pret. of methinks*. It seemed to me; I thought. *Milton. Dryden.*

METIC, *n.* [Gr. *μετοικος*; *μετα* and *οικος*, house.]

In ancient Greece, a sojourner; a resident stranger in a Grecian city or place. *Mitford.*

METICULOUS, *a.* [L. *Feticulosus*.] Timid. [Not used.] *Coles.*

METONIC CYCLE, } the cycle of the
METONIC YEAR, } moon, or period of nineteen years, in which the lunations of the moon return to the same days of the month; so called from its discoverer Meton the Athenian. *Encyc. Bailey.*

METONYMIC, } *a.* [See *Metonymy*.]
METONYMICAL, } Used by way of metonymy, by putting one word for another.

METONYMICALLY, *adv.* By putting one word for another.

METONYMY, *n.* [Gr. *μετωνυμία*; *μετα*, over, beyond, and *ονομα*, name.]

In *rhetoric*, a trope in which one word is put for another; a change of names which have some relation to each other; as when we say, "a man keeps a good table," instead of good provisions. "We read *Virgil*," that is, his *poes* or writings. "They have *Moses* and the prophets," that is, their books or writings. A man has a clear head, that is, understanding, intellect; a warm heart, that is, affections.

METOPE, *n.* *met'opy*. [Gr. *μετοπη*; *μετα*, with, near or by, and *οπη*, an aperture or hollow.]

In *architecture*, the space between the triglyphs of the Doric frieze, which among the ancients used to be painted or adorned with carved work. *Encyc.*

METOPOSCOPIST, *n.* [infra.] One versed in physiognomy.

METOPOSCOPY, *n.* [Gr. *μετωπον*, the forehead, and *σκοπεω*, to view.]

The study of physiognomy; the art of discovering the character or the dispositions of men by their features, or the lines of the face. *Encyc.*

METRE. [See *Meter*.]

METRICAL, *a.* [L. *metricus*; Fr. *metrique*.]

1. Pertaining to measure, or due arrangement or combination of long and short syllables.

2. Consisting of verses; as *metrical* compositions.

METROLOGŶ, *n.* [Gr. *μετρον*, measure, and *λογος*, discourse.]

1. A discourse on measures or mensuration; the description of measures.

2. An account of measures, or the science of weights and measures. *J. Q. Adams.*