

PRORUP'TION, *n.* [L. *proruptus*, *prorum-po*; *pro* and *rumpo*, to burst.]

The act of bursting forth; a bursting out.

Brown.

PROSA'IC, *a. s* as *z.* [L. *prosaicus*, from *prosa*, prose; Fr. *prosaïque*.]

Pertaining to prose; resembling prose; not restricted by numbers; applied to writings; as a *prosaic* composition.

PRO'SAL, *a.* Prosaic. [Not used.]

Brown.

PROSCRIB'E, *v. t.* [L. *proscribo*; *pro* and *scribo*, to write. The sense of this word originated in the Roman practice of writing the names of persons doomed to death, and posting the list in public.]

1. To doom to destruction; to put one out of the protection of law, and promise a reward for his head. Sylla and Marius *proscribed* each other's adherents.

2. To put out of the protection of the law.

Robert Vere, earl of Oxford, was banished the realm and *proscribed*.

Spenser.

3. To denounce and condemn as dangerous and not worthy of reception; to reject utterly.

In the year 325, the Arian doctrines were *proscribed* and anathematized by the council of Nice.

Waterland.

4. To censure and condemn as utterly unworthy of reception.

South.

5. To interdict; as, to *proscribe* the use of ardent spirits.

PROSCRIBED, *pp.* Doomed to destruction; denounced as dangerous, or as unworthy of reception; condemned; banished.

PROSCRIBER, *n.* One that dooms to destruction; one that denounces as dangerous, or as utterly unworthy of reception.

PROSCRIBING, *ppr.* Dooming to destruction; denouncing as unworthy of protection or reception; condemning; banishing.

PROSCRIP'TION, *n.* [L. *proscriptio*.] The act of proscribing or dooming to death; among the *Romans*, the public offer of a reward for the head of a political enemy. Such were the *proscriptions* of Sylla and Marius. Under the triumvirate, many of the best Roman citizens fell by *proscription*.

2. A putting out of the protection of law; condemning to exile.

3. Censure and condemnation; utter rejection.

PROSCRIP'TIVE, *a.* Pertaining to or consisting in proscription; proscribing.

Burke.

PROSE, *n. s* as *z.* [L. It. Sp. *prosa*; Fr. *prose*. Qu. orient. פרוס, פרוץ, פרס.]

1. The natural language of man; language loose and unconfined to poetical measure, as opposed to *verse* or *metrical composition*.

Things unattempted yet in *prose* or rhyme.

Milton.

2. A prayer used in the Romish church on particular days.

Harnar.

PROSE, *v. t.* To write in prose.

Milton.

2 To make a tedious relation.

Mason.

PROSECUTE, *v. t.* [L. *prosecutus*, *prosequor*; *pro* and *sequor*, to follow, Eng. to seek. See *Essay*.]

1. To follow or pursue with a view to reach, execute or accomplish; to continue en-

deavors to obtain or complete; to continue efforts already begun; as, to *prosecute* a scheme; to *prosecute* an undertaking. The great canal in the state of New York has been *prosecuted* with success.

That which is morally good is to be desired and *prosecuted*.

Wilkins.

This word signifies either to *begin* and *carry on*, or simply to *continue* what has been begun. When I say, "I have devised a plan which I have not the courage or means to *prosecute*," the word signifies to *begin* to *execute*. When we say, "the nation began a war which it had not means to *prosecute*," it signifies to *continue* to *carry on*. The latter is the genuine sense of the word, but both are well authorized. We *prosecute* any work of the hands or of the head. We *prosecute* a purpose, an enterprise, a work, studies, inquiries, &c.

2. To seek to obtain by legal process; as, to *prosecute* a right in a court of law.

3. To accuse of some crime or breach of law, or to pursue for redress or punishment, before a legal tribunal; as, to *prosecute* a man for trespass or for a riot. It is applied to civil suits for damages, as well as to criminal suits, but not to suits for debt. We never say, a man *prosecutes* another on a bond or note, or in assumpsit; but he *prosecutes* his right or claim in an action of debt, detinue, trover or assumpsit. So we say, a man *prosecutes* another for assault and battery, for a libel or for slander, or for breaking his close. In these cases, *prosecute* signifies to *begin* and to *continue* a suit. The attorney general *prosecutes* offenders in the name of the king or of the state, by information or indictment.

Prosecute differs from *persecute*, as in law it is applied to legal proceedings only, whereas *persecute* implies cruelty, injustice or oppression.

PROSECUTED, *pp.* Pursued, or begun and carried on for execution or accomplishment, as a scheme; pursued for redress or punishment in a court of law, as a person; demanded in law, as a right or claim.

PROSECUTING, *ppr.* Pursuing, or beginning and carrying on for accomplishment; pursuing for redress or punishment; suing for, as a right or claim.

PROSECUTION, *n.* The act or process of endeavoring to gain or accomplish something; pursuit by efforts of body or mind; as the *prosecution* of a scheme, plan, design or undertaking; the *prosecution* of war or of commerce; the *prosecution* of a work, study, argument or inquiry.

2. The institution and carrying on of a suit in a court of law or equity, to obtain some right, or to redress and punish some wrong. The *prosecution* of a claim in chancery is very expensive. Malicious *prosecutions* subject the offender to punishment.

3. The institution or commencement and continuance of a criminal suit; the process of exhibiting formal charges against an offender before a legal tribunal, and pursuing them to final judgment; as *prosecutions* of the crown or of the state by the attorney or solicitor general. *Prose-*

cutions may be by presentment, information or indictment. Blackstone.

PROSECUTOR, *n.* One who pursues or carries on any purpose, plan or business.

2. The person who institutes and carries on a criminal suit in a legal tribunal, or one who exhibits criminal charges against an offender. The attorney general is the *prosecutor* for the king or state.

Blackstone.

PROSELYTE, *n.* [Fr. *proselyte*; It. *prosollita*; Gr. προσηλυτος; πρὸς and ἐρχομαι, to come; ἔλθεον, ἔλθον.]

A new convert to some religion or religious sect, or to some particular opinion, system or party. Thus a Gentile converted to Judaism is a *proselyte*; a pagan converted to christianity is a *proselyte*; and we speak familiarly of *proselytes* to the theories of Brown, of Black, or of Lavoisier. The word primarily refers to converts to some religious creed.

PROSELYTE, *v. t.* To make a convert to some religion, or to some opinion or system. Macknight.

PROSELYTISM, *n.* The making of converts to a religion or religious sect, or to any opinion, system or party.

They were possessed with a spirit of *proselytism* in the most fanatical degree. Burke.

2. Conversion to a system or creed.

PROSELYTIZE, to make converts, or to convert, is not well authorized, or not in common use, and is wholly unnecessary.

PROSEMINA'TION, *n.* [L. *proseminatus*; *pro* and *semino*, to sow.]

Propagation by seed. [Not used.] Hale.

PROSENEAHE'DRAL, *a.* [Gr. πρὸς, ενανθ and ἑδρα.]

In *crystallography*, having nine faces on two adjacent parts of the crystal.

PROSER, *n. s* as *z.* [from *prose*.] A writer of prose. Drayton.

2. In *cant language*, one who makes a tedious narration of uninteresting matters.

PROSODIAL, } [from *prosody*.] Per-
PROSODICAL, } *a.* taining to prosody or
the quantity and accents of syllables; according to the rules of prosody.

Watson. Ed. Dispens.

PROSODIAN, *n.* [from *prosody*.] One skilled in prosody or in the rules of pronunciation and metrical composition.

PROSODIST, *n.* [from *prosody*.] One who understands prosody. Walker.

PROSODY, *n.* [Fr. *prosodie*; L. *prosodia*; Gr. προσωδια; πρὸς and ὠδή, an ode.]

That part of grammar which treats of the quantity of syllables, of accent, and of the laws of versification. It includes also the art of adjusting the accent and metrical arrangement of syllables in compositions for the lyre.

PROSOPOL'ESY, *n.* [Gr. προσωποληψία.] Respect of persons; more particularly, a premature opinion or prejudice against a person, formed by a view of his external appearance. Moore. Addison.

PROSOPOE'IA, } *n.* [Gr. προσωποποιία;
PROSOPOPY, } προσωποι, person,
and ποιω, to make.]

A figure in rhetoric by which things are represented as persons, or by which things inanimate are spoken of as animated beings, or by which an absent person is introduced as speaking, or a deceased person is