

tion of nuns in Flanders, so called from their founder, or from their head dress. *Beguia*, in French, is a linen cap. From this order sprung the Beguines in Flanders. *Encyc. Mason.*

BEGUN', *pp.* of *begin*. Commenced; originated.

BEHALF, *n. behaf*. [This word is probably a corruption. If composed of *be* and *half*, it is a word of modern origin; but I take it to be the Sax. *behufe*, profit, need, or convenience; *G. behuf*; *D. behoef*, necessities, business; *behoefte*, behalf; *Sw. behof*; *Dan. behov*, need, necessity, sufficiency, or what is required, sustenance or support; from the verb *behoove*, *behofien*, *behoever*, to need. The spelling is therefore corrupt: it should be *behof* or *behoof*. See *Behoof*.]

1. Favor; advantage; convenience; profit; support; defense; vindication. The advocate pleads in *behalf* of the prisoner. The patriot suffers in *behalf* of his country.

2. Part; side; noting substitution, or the act of taking the part of another; as, the agent appeared in *behalf* of his constituents, and entered a claim.

BEHAPPEN, *v.i.* [*be* and *happen*.] To happen to. *Spenser.*

BEHAVE, *v.t.* [*G. gehaben*; *Sax. gehabban*, and *behaben*; *be* and *have*.]

1. To restrain; to govern; to subdue. [The Saxon sense of the word.]

He did *behave* his anger e'er 'twas spent.

Shak.

This sense is obsolete. Yet it often seems to be implied; for to *behave one's self*, is really, to govern one's self; to have in command.

2. To carry; to conduct; used with the reciprocal pronoun; as, he *behaves himself* manfully. But the tendency of modern usage is to omit the pronoun; as, he *behaves* well.

BEHAVE, *v. i.* To act; to conduct; generally applied to manners; or to conduct in any particular business; and in a good or bad sense. He *behaves* well or ill.

BEHA VED, *pp.* Conducted.

BEHAVING, *ppr.* Carrying; conducting.

BEHAVIOR, *n. behavjur*. [See *Behave*.]

Manner of behaving, whether good or bad; conduct; manners; carriage of one's self, with respect to propriety, or morals; deportment. It expresses external appearance or action; sometimes in a particular character; more generally in the common duties of life; as, our future destiny depends on our *behavior* in this life. It may express correct or good manners, but I doubt whether it ever expresses the idea of elegance of manners, without another word to qualify it.

To *be upon one's behavior*, is to be in a state of trial, in which something important depends on propriety of conduct. The modern phrase is, to be or to be put, upon one's good behavior.

BEHEAD', *v.t. behed'*. [*be* and *head*.]

To cut off the head; to sever the head from the body, with a cutting instrument; appropriately used of the execution of men for crimes.

BEHEAD'ED, *pp. behed'ed*. Having the head cut off.

BEHEAD'ING, *ppr. behed'ing*. Severing the head from the body.

BEHEAD'ING, *n. behed'ing*. The act of separating the head from the body by a cutting instrument; decollation.

BEHELD', *pret.* and *pp.* of *behold*, which see.

BEHEMOTH, *n.* [Heb. *בְּהֵמוֹת*, *behemot*, a beast or brute; from an Arabic verb, which signifies, to shut, to lie hid, to be dumb. In Eth. dumb.]

Authors are divided in opinion as to the animal intended in scripture by this name; some supposing it to be an ox, others, an elephant; and Bochart labors to prove it the hippopotamus, or river horse. The latter opinion is most probable. [See *Hippopotamus*.] The original word in Arabic signifies a brute or beast in general, especially a quadruped.

BEHEN, *BEN*, or *BEK'EN*, *n.* A plant. The white behen is a species of Cuculius, called Swedish Lychnis, or gum seungpur. The empalement of its flower resembles net-work, and its leaves have somewhat of the flavor of pease.

Family of Plants. Encyc.

The *behen* of the ships, or white behen, is spouting poppy. *Red behen* is sea lavender. *Lee. Bailey. Coxe.*

BEHEST', *n.* [*be* and *Sax. hese*, a command; *Ger. geheis*, command, from *heissen*, to call, tell, or command. See *Heat*.] Command; precept; mandate. [*Antiquated, except in poetry.*]

BEHIGHT', *v. t. behite*; *pret. behol*. [*Sax. behatan*, to promise.]

To promise; to entrust; to call, or name; to command; to adjudge; to address; to inform; to mean; to reckon. The orthography is corrupt; it should be *behite*. *Obs. Spenser. Chaucer.*

BEHIND, *prep.* [*Sax. behindan*, of *be* and *hindan*, behind; *Goth. hindar*, beyond, behind; *hinder-leithan*, to pass, praterire; *Ger. hinter*.]

1. At the back of another; as, to ride *behind* a horseman.

2. On the back part, at any distance; in the rear; as, to walk *behind* another.

3. Remaining; left after the departure of another, whether by removing to a distance, or by death; as, a man leaves his servant *behind* him, or his estate at his decease.

4. Left at a distance, in progress or improvement; as, one student is *behind* another in mathematics.

5. Inferior to another in dignity and excellence.

For I suppose I was not a whit *behind* the very chiefest apostles. 2 Cor. xi.

6. On the side opposite the front or nearest part, or opposite to that which fronts a person; on the other side; as *behind* a bed; *behind* a hill; *behind* a house, tree, or rock.

Behind the back, in scripture, signifies, out of notice, or regard; overlooked; disregarded.

They cast thy laws *behind* their backs. Nch. xix. Is. xxxviii.

BEHIND, *adv.* [*be* and *hind*.] Out of sight; not produced, or exhibited to view; remaining; as, we know no what evidence is *behind*.

2. Backwards; on the back-part; as, to look *behind*.

3. Past in the progress of time.

Forgetting those things which are *behind*. Phil. iii.

4. Future, or remaining to be endured.

And till up that which is *behind* of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh. Col. i.

5. Remaining after a payment; unpaid; as, there is a large sum *behind*.

6. Remaining after the departure of; as, he departed and left us *behind*.

BEHINDHAND, *a.* [*behind* and *hand*.]

In arrears; in an exhausted state; in a state in which rent or profit has been anticipated, and expenditures precede the receipt of funds to supply them. In popular use, a state of poverty, in which the means of living are not adequate to the end. Also, in a state of backwardness, in which a particular business has been delayed beyond the proper season for performing it; as, he is *behindhand* in his business.

Behindhand with, is *behind* in progress; not upon equal terms in forwardness; as, to be *behindhand* with the fashionable world.

This word is really an adjective, as it is applied to the person rather than to the verb; but like *adrift*, *aloft*, *ashamed*, and several other words, never precedes the noun. Shakspeare's "behindhand slackness," therefore, according to present usage, is not a legitimate phrase.

BEHOLD, *v.t. pret.* and *pp. beheld'*. [*Sax. behaldan*, *beholdan*, *geholdan*, *ghaldan*, from *healdan*, to hold. The sense is, to hold, or rather to reach with the eye, to have in sight, from straining, or extending. In Saxon, the verb signifies not only to look or see, but to guard; so in Latin, *obseruo*, from *servo*, to keep. This explanation leads us to an understanding of the participle *beholden*, which retains the primitive sense of the verb, bound, obliged. The Germans retain the original sense in *behalten*, to hold or keep; as the Dutch do in *gehouden*, held, bound; and the Danes in *beholder*, to keep, retain; *behold*, a retreat, refuge, reservation. See *Observe* and *Regard*.]

1. To fix the eyes upon; to see with attention; to observe with care.

Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John i.

2. In a less intensive sense, to look upon; to see.

When he *beheld* the serpent of brass, he lived. Num. xxi.

BEHOLD, *v. i.* To look; to direct the eyes to an object.

And I *beheld*, and lo, in the midst of the throne, a lamb, as it had been slain. Rev. 5.

2. To fix the attention upon an object; to attend; to direct or fix the mind.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. Rev. iii.

This word is much used in this manner for exciting attention, or admiration. It is in the imperative mode, expressing command, or exhortation; and by no means a mere exclamation.

BEHOLD'EN, *pp.* or *a. behold'n*. [The participle of *behold*, to keep, guard, or bind. See *Behold*.]

Obliged; bound in gratitude; indebted.

Little are we *beholden* to your love. *Shak.*