

TENT'ORY, *n.* [L. *tentorium*.] The awning of a tent. *Evelyn.*
TENT'WÖRT, *n.* [*tent* and *wort*.] A plant of the genus *Asplenium*.
TENUFO'LIÖUS, *a.* [L. *tenuis* and *folium*.] Having thin or narrow leaves.
TENU'ITY, *n.* [Fr. *tenuité*; L. *tenuitas*, from *tenuis*, thin. See *Thin*.]
 1. Thinness; smallness in diameter; exility; thinness, applied to a broad substance, and slenderness, applied to one that is long; as the *tenuity* of paper or of a leaf; the *tenuity* of a hair or filament.
 2. Rarity; rareness; thinness; as of a fluid; as the *tenuity* of the air in the higher regions of the atmosphere; the *tenuity* of the blood. *Bacon.*
 3. Poverty. [Not in use.] *K. Charles.*
TEN'UOUS, *a.* [L. *tenuis*.] Thin; small; minute. *Brown.*
 2. Rare.
TEN'URE, *n.* [Fr. from *tenir*, L. *tenco*, to hold.]
 1. A holding. In *English law*, the manner of holding lands and tenements of a superior. All the species of ancient tenures may be reduced to four, three of which subsist to this day. 1. Tenure by knight service, which was the most honorable. This is now abolished. 2. Tenure in free socage, or by a certain and determinate service, which is either free and honorable, or villain and base. 3. Tenure by copy of court roll, or copyhold tenure. 4. Tenure in ancient demain. There was also tenure in frankalmoign, or free alms. The tenure in free and common socage has absorbed most of the others. *Blackstone.*
 In the United States, almost all lands are held in fee simple; not of a superior, but the whole right and title to the property being vested in the owner.
 Tenure in general, then, is the particular manner of holding real estate, as by exclusive title or ownership, by fee simple, by fee tail, by courtesy, in dower, by copyhold, by lease, at will, &c.
 2. The consideration, condition or service which the occupier of land gives to his lord or superior for the use of his land.
 3. Manner of holding in general. In absolute governments, men hold their rights by a precarious tenure.
TEPEFAC'TION, *n.* [L. *tepefacio*; *tepidus*, warm, and *facio*, to make.]
 The act or operation of warming, making tepid or moderately warm.
TEP'EFY, *v. t.* [L. *tepefacio*.] To make moderately warm. *Goldsmith.*
TEP'EFY, *v. i.* To become moderately warm.
TEP'ID, *a.* [L. *tepidus*, from *tepeo*, to be warm; Russ. *toplyu*.]
 Moderately warm; lukewarm; as a *tepid* bath; *tepid* rays; *tepid* vapors.
Tepid mineral waters, are such as have less sensible cold than common water. *Cyc.*
TEP'IDNESS, *n.* Moderate warmth: lukewarmness. *Rambler.*
TE'POR, *n.* [L.] Gentle heat; moderate warmth. *Arbutnot.*
TER'APHIM, *n.* [Heb.] Household deities or images.

TERATOL'OÖY, *n.* [Gr. *τερας*, a prodigy, and *λογος*, discourse.]
 Bombast in language; affectation of sublimity. [Not used.] *Bailey.*
TERCE, *n. ters.* [Sp. *tercia*; Fr. *tiers*, tierce, a third.]
 A cask whose contents are 42 gallons, the third of a pipe or butt.
TER'CEL, *n.* The male of the common falcon (*Falco peregrinus*.) *Ed. Encyc.*
TERCE-MAJOR, *n.* A sequence of the three best cards.
TER'EBINTII, *n.* [Fr. *terebinthe*; Gr. *τερεβινθος*.] The turpentine tree. *Spenser.*
TEREBIN'THINATE, *a.* Terebinthine; impregnated with the qualities of turpentine. *Ramsay.*
TEREBIN'THINE, *a.* [L. *terebinthinus*, from *terebinthina*, turpentine.]
 Pertaining to turpentine; consisting of turpentine, or partaking of its qualities.
TER'EBRATE, *v. t.* [L. *terebro*, *tero*.] To bore; to perforate with a gimlet. [Little used.] *Derham.*
TEREBRA'TION, *n.* The act of boring. [Little used.] *Bacon.*
TEREBRAT'ULITE, *n.* Fossil terebratula, a kind of shell.
TERE'DO, *n.* [L. from *tero*, to wear.] A worm that bores and penetrates the bottom of ships; or rather a genus of worms, so called.
TER'EK, *n.* A water fowl with long legs.
TER'ET, *a.* [L. *teres*.] Round and tapering; columnar; as the stem of a plant. *Martyn.*
TERGEM'INAL, *a.* [L. *tergeminus*.]
TERGEM'INATE, *a.* Thrice double; as a *tergeminat* leaf. *Martyn.*
TERGEM'INOUS, *a.* [supra.] Threefold.
TERGIF'ETOUS, *a.* *Tergifetous* plants, are such as bear their seeds on the back of their leaves, as ferns. *Cyc.*
TER'GIVERSATE, *v. i.* [L. *tergum*, the back, and *verto*, to turn.] To shift; to practice evasion. [Little used.] *Bailey.*
TERGIVERSA'TION, *n.* A shifting; shift; subterfuge; evasion.
 Writing is to be preferred before verbal conferences, as being more free from passion and tergiversation. *Bramhall.*
 2. Change; fickleness of conduct.
 The colonel, after all his tergiversation, lost his life in the king's service. *Clarendon.*
TERM, *n.* [Gr. *τερμα*; Fr. *terme*; It. *termine*; Sp. *termino*; L. *terminus*, a limit or boundary; W. *terv*, *tervyn*, from *terv*, extreme.]
 1. A limit; a bound or boundary; the extremity of any thing; that which limits its extent.
 Corruption is a reciprocal to generation, and they two are as nature's two *terms* or boundaries. *Bacon.*
 2. The time for which any thing lasts; any limited time; as the *term* of five years; the *term* of life.
 3. In *geometry*, a point or line that limits. A line is the *term* of a superficies, and a superficies is the *term* of a solid.
 4. In *law*, the limitation of an estate; or rather the whole time or duration of an estate; as a lease for the *term* of life, for the *term* of three lives, for the *term* of twenty one years.
 5. In *law*, the time in which a court is held or open for the trial of causes. In Eng-

land, there are four terms in the year; Hilary term, from January 23d to February 12th; Easter term, from Wednesday, fortnight after Easter, to the Monday next after Ascension day; Trinity term, from Friday next after Trinity Sunday to the Wednesday, fortnight after; and Michaelmas term, from November 6th to the 28th. These terms are observed by the courts of king's bench, the common pleas and exchequer, but not by the parliament, the chancery or by inferior courts. The rest of the year is called vacation. In the United States, the terms to be observed by the tribunals of justice, are prescribed by the statutes of congress and of the several states.

6. In *universities* and *colleges*, the time during which instruction is regularly given to students, who are obliged by the statutes and laws of the institution to attend to the recitations, lectures and other exercises.
 7. In *grammar*, a word or expression; that which fixes or determines ideas.

In painting, the greatest beauties cannot be always expressed for want of *terms*. *Dryden.*

8. In the *arts*, a word or expression that denotes something peculiar to an art; as a technical *term*.
 9. In *logic*, a syllogism consists of three terms, the major, the minor, and the middle. The predicate of the conclusion is called the major term, because it is the most general, and the subject of the conclusion is called the minor term, because it is less general. These are called the extremes; and the third term, introduced as a common measure between them, is called the mean or middle term. Thus in the following syllogism.

Every vegetable is combustible;

Every tree is a vegetable;

Therefore every tree is combustible.

Combustible is the predicate of the conclusion, or the major term; *every tree* is the minor term; *vegetable* is the middle term. *Hedge's Logic.*

10. In *architecture*, a kind of statues or columns adorned on the top with the figure of a head, either of a man, woman or satyr. Terms are sometimes used as consoles, and sustain entablatures; and sometimes as statues to adorn gardens.

11. Among the *ancients*, terms, *termini miliarum*, were the heads of certain divinities placed on square land-marks of stone, to mark the several stadia on roads. These were dedicated to Mercury, who was supposed to preside over highways. *Cyc.*

12. In *algebra*, a member of a compound quantity; as *a*, in *a+b*; or *ab*, in *ab+cd*. *Day.*

13. Among *physicians*, the monthly courses of females are called *terms*. *Bailey.*

14. In *contracts*, *terms*, in the plural, are conditions; propositions stated or promises made, which when assented to or accepted by another, settle the contract and bind the parties. A engages to build a house for B for a specific sum of money, in a given time; these are his *terms*. When B promises to give to A that sum for building the house, he has agreed to the *terms*; the contract is completed and binding upon both parties.