

How plain this abuse is, and what *prejudice* it does to the understanding of the sacred Scriptures. *Locke.*

[This is a sense of the word too well established to be condemned.]

PREJUDICE, *v. t.* To prepossess with unexamined opinions, or opinions formed without due knowledge of the facts and circumstances attending the question; to bias the mind by hasty and incorrect notions, and give it an unreasonable bent to one side or other of a cause.

Suffer not any beloved study to *prejudice* your mind so far as to despise all other learning. *Hutton.*

2. To obstruct or injure by prejudices, or an undue previous bias of the mind; or to hurt; to damage; to diminish; to impair; in a very general sense. The advocate who attempts to prove too much, may *prejudice* his cause.

I am not to *prejudice* the cause of my fellow poets, though I abandon my own defense. *Dryden.*

PREJUDICED, *pp.* or *a.* Prepossessed by unexamined opinions; biased.

PREJUDICIAL, *a.* Biased or blinded by prejudices; as a *prejudicial* eye. [Not in use.] *Hooker.*

2. Hurtful; mischievous; injurious; disadvantageous; detrimental; tending to obstruct or impair. A high rate of interest is *prejudicial* to trade and manufactures. Intemperance is *prejudicial* to health.

His going away the next morning with all his troops, was most *prejudicial* to the king's affairs. *Clarendon.*

One of the young ladies reads while the others are at work; so that the learning of the family is not at all *prejudicial* to its manufactures. *Addison.*

PREJUDICIALNESS, *n.* The state of being prejudicial; injuriousness.

PRELACY, *n.* [from *prelate*.] The office or dignity of a prelate.

Prelacies may be termed the greater benefices. *Ayliffe.*

2. Episcopacy; the order of bishops.

How many are there that call themselves protestants, who put *prelacy* and popery together as terms convertible? *Swift.*

3. Bishops, collectively.

Divers of the reverend *prelacy*. *Hooker.*

PRELATE, *n.* [Fr. *prelat*; It. *prelato*; from L. *prælat*, *præfero*.]

An ecclesiastic of the higher order, as an archbishop, bishop or patriarch; a dignitary of the church. *Bacon.*

PRELATESHIP, *n.* The office of a prelate. *Harmer.*

PRELATIVE, } Pertaining to prelates
PRELATIVEAL, } *a.* or prelacy; as *prelativeal* authority.

PRELATIVEALLY, *adv.* With reference to prelates. *Morton.*

PRELATION, *n.* [L. *prælatio*, *præfero*.] Preference; the setting of one above another. [Little used.] *Hale.*

PRELATISM, *n.* Prelacy; episcopacy. *Milton.*

PRELATIST, *n.* [from *prelate*.] An advocate for prelacy or the government of the church by bishops; a high churchman.

I am an episcopalian, but not a *prelatist*.

T. Scott.

PRELATURE, } [Fr. *prélature*.]
PRELATURESHIP, } *n.* The state or dignity of a prelate. *Dict.*

PRELACY, *n.* Episcopacy; prelacy. [Not in use.] *Milton.*

PRELECT, *v. t.* [L. *prælectus*, *prælego*; *præ*, before, and *lego*, to read.]

To read a lecture or public discourse.

PRELECTION, *n.* [L. *prælectio*.] A lecture or discourse read in public or to a select company. *Horsley.*

PRELECTOR, *n.* A reader of discourses; a lecturer. *Hale.*

PRELIBATION, *n.* [from L. *prælibo*; *præ*, before, and *libo*, to taste.]

1. Foretaste; a tasting beforehand or by anticipation.

The joy that proceeds from a belief of pardon is a *prelibation* of heavenly bliss.

2. An effusion previous to tasting. *Johnson.*

PRELIMINARY, *a.* [Fr. *preliminaire*; It. *preliminare*; Sp. *preliminar*; L. *præ*, before, and *limen*, threshold or limit.]

Introductory; previous; proœmial; that precedes the main discourse or business; as *preliminary* observations to a discourse or book; *preliminary* articles to a treaty; *preliminary* measures.

PRELIMINARY, *n.* That which precedes the main discourse, work, design or business; something previous or preparatory; as the *preliminaries* to a negotiation or treaty; the *preliminaries* to a combat. The parties met to settle the *preliminaries*.

PRELUDE, *n.* [Fr. *id.*; It. Sp. *preludio*; Low L. *præludium*, from *præ*, before, and *ludo*, to play.]

1. A short flight of music, or irregular air played by a musician before he begins the piece to be played, or before a full concert.

2. Something introductory or that shows what is to follow; something preceding which bears some relation or resemblance to that which is to follow. *Encyc. Young.*

The last Georgie was a good *prelude* to the *Æneis*. *Addison.*

3. A forerunner; something which indicates a future event.

PRELUDE, *v. t.* To introduce with a previous performance; to play before; as, to *prelude* a concert with a lively air.

2. To precede, as an introductory piece; as, a lively air *preludes* the concert.

PRELUDE, *v. i.* To serve as an introduction to. *Dryden.*

PRELUDED, *pp.* Preceded by an introductory performance; preceded.

PRELUDER, *n.* One that plays a prelude, or introduces by a previous irregular piece of music.

PRELUDING, *ppr.* Playing an introductory air; preceding.

PRELUDIOUS, *a.* Previous; introductory. *Cleaveland.*

PRELUDIUM, *n.* [Low L.] A prelude. *Dryden.*

PRELUSIVE, *a.* Previous; introductory; indicating that something of a like kind is to follow; as *prelusive* drops. *Thomson.*

PRELUSORY, *a.* Previous; introductory; preclusive. *Bacon.*

PREMATURE, *a.* [Fr. *prématuré*, from L. *præmaturus*; *præ*, before, and *maturus*, ripe.]

1. Ripe before the natural or proper time; as the *premature* fruits of a hot bed.

2. Happening, arriving, performed or adopted before the proper time; as a *premature* fall of snow in autumn; a *premature* birth; a *premature* opinion; a *premature* measure.

3. Arriving or received without due authentication or evidence; as *premature* report, news or intelligence.

PREMATURELY, *adv.* Too soon; too early; before the proper time; as fruits *prematurely* ripened; opinions *prematurely* formed; measures *prematurely* taken.

2. Without due evidence or authentication; as intelligence *prematurely* received.

PREMATURENESS, } *n.* Ripeness before the natural or proper time.
PREMATURITY, }

2. Too great haste; unseasonable earliness. *Warton.*

PREMEDITATE, *v. t.* [Fr. *préméditer*; It. *premeditare*; L. *præmeditor*; *præ*, before, and *meditor*, to meditate.]

To think on and revolve in the mind beforehand; to contrive and design previously; as, to *premeditate* theft or robbery.

With words *premeditated* thus he said. *Dryden.*

PREMEDITATE, *v. i.* To think, consider or revolve in the mind beforehand; to deliberate; to have formed in the mind by previous thought or meditation. *Hooker.*

PREMEDITATE, *a.* Contrived by previous meditation. *Burnet.*

PREMEDITATED, *pp.* Previously considered or meditated.

2. Previously contrived, designed or intended; deliberate; willful; as *premeditated* murder.

PREMEDITATELY, *adv.* With previous meditation. *Fellham.*

PREMEDITATING, *ppr.* Previously meditating; contriving or intending beforehand.

PREMEDITATION, *n.* [L. *præmeditatio*.]

1. The act of meditating beforehand; previous deliberation.

A sudden thought may be higher than nature can raise without *premeditation*. *Dryden.*

2. Previous contrivance or design formed; as the *premeditation* of a crime.

PREMERIT, *v. t.* [*præ* and *merit*.] To merit or deserve beforehand. [Little used.] *K. Charles.*

PREMICES, *n.* [Fr. from L. *primitiæ*, *primus*.] First fruits. [Not used.] *Dryden.*

PREMIER, *a.* [Fr. from L. *primus*, first.] First; chief; principal; as the *premier* place; *premier* minister. *Camden. Swift.*

PREMIER, *n.* The first minister of state; the prime minister.

PREMIERSHIP, *n.* The office or dignity of the first minister of state.

PREMISS, *v. t.* s as z. [L. *præmissus*, *præmitto*, to send before.]

1. To speak or write before, or as introductory to the main subject; to offer previously, as something to explain or aid in understanding what follows.