

The war with France was during the *ministry* of Pitt.

5. Persons who compose the executive government or the council of a supreme magistrate; the body of ministers of state.

Swift.

6. Business; employment.

He abhorred the wicked *ministry* of arms.

Dryden.

MINISTRYSHIP, for *ministry*, is little used and hardly proper.

Swift.

MIN'IUM, *n.* [L.] The red oxyd of lead, produced by calcination. Lead exposed to air while melting is covered with a gray dusky pellicle. This taken off and agitated becomes a greenish gray powder, inclining to yellow. This oxyd, separated by sifting from the grains of lead which it contains, and exposed to a more intense heat, takes a deep yellow color, and in this state it is called *massicot*. The latter, slowly heated, takes a beautiful red color, and is called *minium*.

Fourcroy.

MINK, *n.* An American quadruped of the genus *Mustela*, an amphibious animal that burrows in the earth on the side of a river or pond, whose fur is more valuable than that of the muskrat.

Belknap.

MINNOC, used by Shakspeare, is supposed by Johnson to be the same as *minx*. *Qu. mimic.*

MIN'NOW, } [Fr. *menu*, small.] A very
MIN'OW, } *n.* small fish, a species of *Cyprinus*.

Encyc. Walton.

MIN'OR, *a.* [L.; the comparative degree of a word not found in that language, but existing in the Celtic dialects, *W. main*, *Arm. moan*, *Ir. min*, *mion*, the root of *L. minuo*, to diminish. See *Mince*.]

1. Less; smaller; sometimes applied to the bulk or magnitude of a single object; more generally to amount, degree or importance. We say, the *minor* divisions of a body, the *minor* part of a body; opposed to the *major* part. We say, *minor* sums, *minor* faults, *minor* considerations, details or arguments. In the latter phrases, *minor* is equivalent to small, petty, inconsiderable, not principal, important or weighty.

2. In *music*, less or lower by a lesser semitone; as a third *minor*.

Encyc.

Asia Minor, the Lesser Asia, that part of Asia which lies between the Euxine on the north, and the Mediterranean on the south.

MI-NOR, *n.* A person of either sex under age; one who is under the authority of his parents or guardians, or who is not permitted by law to make contracts and manage his own property. By the laws of Great Britain and of the United States, persons are *minors* till they are twenty one years of age.

2. In *logic*, the second proposition of a regular syllogism, as in the following:

Every act of injustice partakes of meanness.

To take money from another by gaming, or reputation by seduction, are acts of injustice.

Therefore the taking of money from another by gaming, or reputation by seduction, partake of meanness.

3. A Minorite, a Franciscan friar.

4. A beautiful bird of the East Indies.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

MI-NORATE, *v. t.* To diminish. [Not used.]

MINORA'TION, *n.* A lessening; diminution.

MINORITE, *n.* A Franciscan friar.

MINOR'ITY, *n.* [Fr. *minorité*, from *L. minor*.]

1. The state of being under age. [See *Minor*.]

2. The smaller number; as the *minority* of the senate or house of representatives; opposed to *majority*. We say, the *minority* was large or small; *AB* was in the *minority*; the *minority* must be ruled by the majority.

MINOTAUR, *n.* [Fr. *minotaure*; *It. minotaurus*; *L. minotaurus*; from *man*, which must have been in early ages a Latin word, and *taurus*, a bull.]

A fabled monster, half man and half bull.

Ovid. Virgil. Shak.

MIN'STER, *n.* [Sax. *minstre* or *mynster*. See *Monastery*.]

A monastery; an ecclesiastical convent or fraternity; but it is said originally to have been the church of a monastery; a cathedral church.

Encyc.

MIN'STREL, *n.* [Fr. *menetrier*, for *menestrier*; *Sp. ministril*, a minstrel, and a tipstaff; or petty officer of justice; *Port. menestral*; perhaps a derivative from *menear*, to move, stir, wag, wield. If so, the word originally signified a performer on a musical instrument, who accompanied his performances with gestures, like the *histrio* and *joculator*.]

A singer and musical performer on instruments. Minstrels were formerly poets as well as musicians, and held in high repute by our rude ancestors. Their attendance was sought and their performances lavishly rewarded by princes. It was in the character of a minstrel that king Alfred entered the camp of the Danes his enemies, and explored their situation.

MIN'STRELSY, *n.* The arts and occupations of minstrels; instrumental music.

2. A number of musicians.

The *minstrelsy* of heaven.

Milton.

MINT, *n.* [Sax. *mynt*, money or stamped coin; *D. munt*, *mint*, coin; *G. münze*; *Sw. mynt*; *Dan. myndt*, coin. This word is doubtless a derivative from *minc*, or *L. moneta*, from the same root.]

1. The place where money is coined by public authority. In Great Britain, formerly, there was a *mint* in almost every county; but the privilege of coining is now considered as a royal prerogative in that country, and as the prerogative of the sovereign power in other countries. The only *mint* now in Great Britain is in the Tower of London. The *mint* in the United States is in Philadelphia.

2. A place of invention or fabrication; as a *mint* of phrases; a *mint* of calumny.

Shak. Addison.

3. A source of abundant supply.

MINT, *v. t.* [Sax. *myntian*.] To coin; to make and stamp money.

Bacon.

2. To invent; to forge; to fabricate.

MINT, *n.* [Sax. *mynt*; *Sw. mynta*; *Dan. mynte*; *G. münze*; *L. mentha*; *It. Sp. menta*; *Fr. mente*; *D. kruisment*, cross-

mint; *Ir. miontas*; *Arm. mendt* or *mintys*.]

A plant of the genus *Mentha*.

MINT'AGE, *n.* That which is coined or stamped.

Milton.

2. The duty paid for coining.

MINT'ER, *n.* A coiner; also, an inventor.

MINT'MAN, *n.* A coiner; one skilled in coining or in coins.

MINT'MASTER, *n.* The master or superintendent of a mint.

Boyle.

2. One who invents or fabricates.

Locke.

MIN'UEND, *n.* [L. *minuendus*, *minuo*, to lessen.]

In *arithmetic*, the number from which another number is to be subtracted.

MIN'UET, *n.* [Sp. *minueto*; *Fr. menuet*, from *menu*, small, *W. main*. See *Mince*.]

1. A slow graceful dance, consisting of a coupee, a high step and a balance.

Encyc.

2. A tune or air to regulate the movements in the dance so called; a movement of three crotchets or three quavers in a bar.

MIN'UM, *n.* [from *W. main*, *Fr. menu*, small. See *Mince*.]

1. A small kind of printing types; now written *minion*.

2. A note of slow time containing two crotchets; now written *minim*, which see.

MINU'TE, *a.* [L. *minutus*; *Fr. menu*, *W. main*, small. See *Mince*.]

1. Very small, little or slender; of very small bulk or size; small in consequence; as a *minute* grain of sand; a *minute* filament. The blood circulates through very *minute* vessels. *Minute* divisions of a subject often perplex the understanding. *Minute* details are tedious.

2. Attending to small things; critical; as *minute* observation.

MINUTE, *n.* *min'it*. [L. *minutum*, that is, a small portion.]

1. A small portion of time or duration, being the sixtieth part of an hour.

Since you are not sure of a *minute*, throw not away an hour.

Franklin.

2. In *geometry*, the sixtieth part of a degree of a circle.

3. In *architecture*, the sixtieth, but sometimes the thirtieth part of a module.

Encyc.

4. A space of time indefinitely small. I will be with you in a *minute*, or in a few *minutes*, that is, in a short time.

5. A short sketch of any agreement or other subject, taken in writing; a note to preserve the memory of any thing; as, to take *minutes* of a contract; to take *minutes* of a conversation or debate.

MINUTE, *v. t.* *min'it*. To set down a short sketch or note of any agreement or other subject in writing.

Spectator.

MINUTE-BOOK, *n.* A book of short hints.

MINUTE-GLASS, *n.* A glass, the sand of which measures a minute.

MINUTE-GUNS, *n.* Guns discharged every minute.

MINUTE-HAND, *n.* The hand that points to the minutes on a clock or watch.

MINU'TELY, *adv.* [from *minute*.] To a small point of time, space or matter; exactly; nicely; as, to measure the length of any thing *minutely*; to ascertain time *minutely*; to relate a story *minutely*.

MINUTELY, *a.* *min'itly*. Happening every minute.

Hammond.