

knowledge of; as, the *discovery* of truth; the *discovery* of magnetism.

5. The act of spying; first sight of; as, the *discovery* of America by Columbus, or of the Continent by Cabot.

6. That which is discovered, found out or revealed; that which is first brought to light, seen or known. The properties of the magnet were an important *discovery*. Redemption from sin was a *discovery* beyond the power of human philosophy.

7. In *dramatic poetry*, the unraveling of a plot, or the manner of unfolding the plot or fable of a comedy or tragedy.

DISCREDIT, *v. t.* [Fr. *discréditer*; Sp. *descreditar*; It. *screditare*. See the Verb.]

1. Want of credit or good reputation; some degree of disgrace or reproach; disesteem; applied to persons or things. Frauds in manufactures bring them into *discredit*.

It is the duty of every christian to be concerned for the reputation or *discredit* his life may bring on his profession. Rogers.

2. Want of belief, trust or confidence; disbelief; as, later accounts have brought the story into *discredit*.

DISCREDIT, *v. t.* [Fr. *discréditer*; de, des, dis, and credit.]

1. To disbelieve; to give no credit to; not to credit or believe; as, the report is *discredited*.

2. To deprive of credit or good reputation; to make less reputable or honorable; to bring into disesteem; to bring into some degree of disgrace, or into disrepute.

He least *discredits* his travels, who returns the same man he went. Walton.

Our virtues will be often *discredited* with the appearance of evil. Rogers.

3. To deprive of credibility. Shak.

DISCREDITABLE, *a.* Tending to injure credit; injurious to reputation; disgraceful; disreputable. Blair.

DISCREDITED, *pp.* Disbelieved; brought into disrepute; disgraced.

DISCREDITING, *pp.* Disbelieving; not trusting to; depriving of credit; disgracing.

DISCREET, *a.* [Fr. *discret*; Sp. *discreto*; It. *dis*; L. *discretus*, the participle assigned to *discerno*, *dis* and *cerno*, but probably from the root of *cerno*, W. *rhidyll*, from *rhidian*, to secrete, as *cerno*, is from the root of *cerno*, or *cernere*, Gr. *κρῖνω*, L. *cerno*; Gr. *διακρίνω*. Class Rd. It is sometimes written *discrete*; the distinction between *discreet* and *discrete* is arbitrary, but perhaps not entirely useless. The literal sense is, separate, reserved, wary, hence discerning.]

1. Prudent; wise in avoiding errors or evil, and in selecting the best means to accomplish a purpose; circumspect; cautious; wary; not rash.

It is the *discreet* man, not the witty, nor the learned, nor the brave, who guides the conversation, and gives measures to society. Addison.

Let Pharaoh look out a man *discreet* and wise. Gen. xli.

DISCREETLY, *adv.* Prudently; circumspectly; cautiously; with nice judgment of what is best to be done or omitted.

DISCREETNESS, *n.* The quality of being discreet; discretion.

DISCREPANCE, *n.* [L. *discrepantia*, *discrepan*, from *dis-*

crepo, to give a different sound, to vary to jar; *dis* and *crepo*, to creak. See *Crepidula*.]

Difference; disagreement; contrariety; applicable to facts or opinions.

There is no real discrepancy between these two censures. Fisher.

DISCREPANT, *a.* Different; disagreeing; contrary.

DISCRETE, *a.* [L. *discretus*. See *Discret*.]

1. Separate; distinct; disjunct. *Discrete proportion* is when the ratio of two or more pairs of numbers or quantities is the same, but there is not the same proportion between all the numbers; as 3 : 6 :: 8 : 16, 3 bearing the same proportion to 6, as 8 does to 16. But 3 is not to 6 as 6 to 8. It is thus opposed to continued or continual proportion, as 3 : 6 :: 12 : 24. Harris.

2. Disjunctive; as, I resign my life, but not my honor, is a *discrete* proposition. Johnson.

DISCRETE, *v. t.* To separate; to discontinue. [Not used.] Brown.

DISCRETION, *n.* [Fr. *discretion*; It. *discrezione*; Sp. *discreción*; from the L. *discretio*, a separating; *discretus*, *discerno*. See *Discret*.]

1. Prudence, or knowledge and prudence; that discernment which enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution; nice discernment and judgment, directed by circumspection, and primarily regarding one's own conduct.

A good man—will guide his affairs with *discretion*. Ps. cxli.

My son, keep sound wisdom and *discretion*. Prov. iii.

2. Liberty or power of acting without other control than one's own judgment; as, the management of affairs was left to the *discretion* of the prince; he is left to his own *discretion*. Hence,

To surrender at *discretion*, is to surrender without stipulation or terms, and commit one's self entirely to the power of the conqueror.

3. Disjunction; separation. [Not much used.] Mole.

DISCRETIONARY, *a.* Left to *discretion*; *discretionary*, *a.* tion; unrestrained except by *discretion* or judgment; that is to be directed or managed by *discretion* only. Thus, the President of the U. States is, in certain cases, invested with *discretionary* powers, to act according to circumstances.

DISCRETIONARILY, *adv.* At *discretion*; *discretionally*, *adv.* tion; according to *discretion*.

DISCREPITIVE, *a.* [See *Discret* and *Discrete*.] Disjunctive; noting separation or opposition. In logic, a *discrepitive* proposition expresses some distinction, opposition or variety, by means of *but*, *though*, *yet*, &c.; as, travelers change their climate, *but* not their temper; Job was patient, *though* his grief was great.

2. In grammar, *discrepitive* distinctions are such as imply opposition or difference; as, not a man, but a beast. Johnson.

3. Separate; distinct.

DISCRETIVELY, *adv.* In a *discrepitive* manner.

DISCRIMINABLE, *a.* That may be discriminated.

DISCRIMINATE, *v. t.* [L. *discrimino*, from *discrimen*, difference, distinction; *dis* and *crimen*, differently applied; coinciding with the sense of Gr. *διακρίνω*, *κρίνω*, L. *cerno*.]

1. To distinguish; to observe the difference between; as, we may usually *discriminate* true from false modesty.

2. To separate; to select from others; to make a distinction between; as, in the last judgment, the righteous will be *discriminated* from the wicked.

3. To mark with notes of difference; to distinguish by some note or mark. We *discriminate* animals by names, as nature has *discriminated* them by different shapes and habits.

DISCRIMINATE, *v. i.* To make a difference or distinction; as, in the application of law, and the punishment of crimes, the judge should *discriminate* between degrees of guilt.

2. To observe or note a difference; to distinguish; as, in judging of evidence, we should be careful to *discriminate* between probability and slight presumption.

DISCRIMINATE, *a.* Distinguished; having the difference marked. Bacon.

DISCRIMINATED, *pp.* Separated; distinguished.

DISCRIMINATELY, *adv.* Distinctly; with minute distinction; particularly. Johnson.

DISCRIMINATENESS, *n.* Distinctness; marked difference. Diel.

DISCRIMINATING, *pp.* Separating; distinguishing; marking with notes of difference.

2. *a.* Distinguishing; peculiar; characterized by peculiar differences; as the *discriminating* doctrines of the gospel.

3. *a.* That discriminates; able to make nice distinctions; as a *discriminating* mind. Johnson.

DISCRIMINATION, *n.* The act of distinguishing; the act of making or observing a difference; distinction; as the *discrimination* between right and wrong.

2. The state of being distinguished. Stillingfleet.

3. Mark of distinction. K. Charles.

DISCRIMINATIVE, *a.* That makes the mark of distinction; that constitutes the mark of difference; characteristic; as the *discriminative* features of men.

2. That observes distinction; as *discriminative* providence. More.

DISCRIMINATIVELY, *adv.* With discrimination or distinction. Foster.

DISCRIMINOUS, *a.* Hazardous. [Not used.] Harvey.

DISCUBITORY, *a.* [L. *discubitorius*; *discumbo*; *dis* and *cubo*, to lie down or lean.] Leaning; inclining; or fitted to a leaning posture. Brown.

DISCULPATE, *v. t.* [Fr. *disculper*; Sp. *disculpar*; *dis* and *L. culpa*, a fault.] To free from blame or fault; to exculpate; to excuse.

Neither does this effect of the independence of nations *disculpate* the author of an unjust war. Trans. of Vattel. Hist. of California.

DISCULPATED, *pp.* Cleared from blame; exculpated.