

WAP'ACUT, *n.* The spotted owl of Hudson's bay.

WAP'ED, *a.* [from the root of *L. vapulo*, to strike, and *whap*, which the common people in N. England use, and pronounce *whop*.]

Dejected; cast down; crushed by misery. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

WAP'ENTAKE, } *n.* [Sax. *wæpen-tac*; but
WAP'ENTAC, } it is rather Gothic, as this division of a county was peculiar to the northern counties; *wæpen*, a weapon, and *tac*, *tace*, touch; Goth. *tekan*. See *Touch*. This name had its origin in a custom of touching lances or spears when the hundred or chief entered on his office. "Cum quis accipiebat prefecturam wapentachii, die statuto in loco ubi consueverant congregari, omnes majores natu contra eum conveniebant, et descendente eo de equo suo, omnes assurgebant ei. Ipse vero erecta lancea sua, ab omnibus secundum morem fœdus accipiebat: omnes enim quotquot venissent eum lanceis suis ipsius hastam tangebant, et ita se confirmabant per contactum armorum, pace palam concessa. *Wapnu* enim arma sonat; *tac*, tactus est—hac de causa totus ille conventus dicitur *wapentac*, eo quod per tactum armorum suorum ad invicem confederati sunt."

LL. Edward Confessor 33. Wilkins.

Lye seems to doubt this explanation of the word *wapentac*, because the word *tac* is not found in the Saxon. He seems not to have considered that the word is known only in the north of England, where the Gothic dialects prevailed; and surely the word must have been understood in the age of Edward the Confessor.]

In some northern counties of England, a division or district, answering to the hundred or cantred in other counties. The name was first given to the meeting, *supra.*

Selden. Blackstone. Wilkins.

WAPP, *n.* In a ship, the rope with which the shrouds are set taught in wale-knots. *Cyc.*

WAP'PE, *n.* A species of cur, said to be so called from his voice. His only use is to alarm the family by barking when any person approaches the house. *Cyc.*

WAP'PER, *n.* A fish; a name given to the smaller species of the river gudgeon. *Cyc.*

WAR, *n.* *waur*. [Sax. *war*; Fr. *guerre*; It. Sp. Port. *guerra*; D. *warren*, to quarrel, wrangle, entangle; Dan. *virrer*; G. *verwirren*, to perplex, embroil, disturb. The primary sense of the root is to strive, struggle, urge, drive, or to turn, to twist.]

1. A contest between nations or states, carried on by force, either for defense, or for revenging insults and redressing wrongs, for the extension of commerce or acquisition of territory, or for obtaining and establishing the superiority and dominion of one over the other. These objects are accomplished by the slaughter or capture of troops, and the capture and destruction of ships, towns and property. Among rude nations, war is often waged and carried on for plunder. As war is the contest of nations or states, it always implies that such contest is authorized by the monarch or the sovereign power

of the nation. When war is commenced by attacking a nation in peace, it is called an *offensive* war, and such attack is *aggressive*. When war is undertaken to repel invasion or the attacks of an enemy, it is called *defensive*, and a defensive war is considered as justifiable. Very few of the wars that have desolated nations and deluged the earth with blood, have been justifiable. Happy would it be for mankind, if the prevalence of christian principles might ultimately extinguish the spirit of war, and if the ambition to be great, might yield to the ambition of being good. Preparation for war is sometimes the best security for peace. *Anon.*

2. In *poetical language*, instruments of war. His complement of stores, and total war. *Prior.*

3. *Poetically*, forces; army. O'er the embattled ranks the waves return, And overwhelm their war. *Milton.*

4. The profession of arms; art of war; as a fierce man of war. Is. ii. *Wisdom.*

5. Hostility; state of opposition or contest; act of opposition. *Shak.*

6. Enmity; disposition to contention. The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart. Ps. lv.

Man of war, in naval affairs, a ship of large size, armed and equipped for attack or defense.

Holy war, a crusade; a war undertaken to deliver the Holy Land, or Judea, from infidels. These *holy wars* were carried on by most unholy means.

WAR, *v. i.* To make war; to invade or attack a nation or state with force of arms; to carry on hostilities; or to be in a state of contest by violence.

He teacheth my hands to war. 2 Sam. xxii. And they warred against the Midianites. Num. xxxi.

Why should I war without the walls of Troy? *Shak.*

2. To contend; to strive violently; to be in a state of opposition.

Lusts which war against the soul. 1 Pet. ii.

WAR, *v. t.* To make war upon; as, to war the Scot. [Not used.]

2. To carry on a contest. That thou mightest war a good warfare. 1 Tim. i.

WAR-BEAT, } *a.* [war and beat.] Worn
WAR-BEATEN, } down in war. *J. Barlow.*

WAR'BLE, *v. t.* [G. *wirbeln*, to turn, whirl, warble; *wirbel*, a whirl, a vortex; *wirbel-bein*, a turning bone or joint, L. *vertebra*; Dan. *heirvler*, Eng. to whirl. These words are all of one family; L. *verto*, Eng. *veer*, *vary*, &c.]

1. To quaver a sound or the voice; to modulate with turns or variations. Certain birds are remarkable for warbling their songs.

2. To cause to quaver. And touch the warbled string. *Milton.*

3. To utter musically; to be modulated. If she be right invok'd with warbled song. *Milton.*

Warbling sweet the nuptial lay. *Trumbull.*

WAR'BLE, *v. i.* To be quavered or modulated.

Such strains ne'er warble in the linnet's throat. *Gay.*

2. To be uttered melodiously; as warbling lays.

For warbling notes from inward cheering flow. *Sidney.*

3. To sing. Birds on the branches warbling. *Milton.*

WAR'BLED, *pp.* Quavered; modulated; uttered musically.

WAR'BLER, *n.* A singer; a songster; used of birds.

In lulling strains the feather'd warblers woo. *Tickell.*

2. The common name of a genus of small birds (*Sylvia*), comprising most of the small woodland songsters of Europe and N. America. They feed on insects and are very lively and active. The blue-bird is a species of the genus. *Ed. Encyc. Wilson.*

WAR'BLE, *n.* In *furriery*, small hard tumors on the backs of horses, occasioned by the heat of the saddle in traveling, or by the uneasiness of its situation; also, small tumors produced by the larvae of the gad fly, in the backs of horses, cattle, &c. *Cyc.*

WAR'BLING, *ppr.* Quavering the voice; modulating notes; singing.

2. *a.* Filled with musical notes; as the warbling glade. *Trumbull.*

WAR'BLING, *n.* The act of shaking or modulating notes; singing.

WARD, in composition, as in *toward*, *homeward*, is the Sax. *weard*, from the root of L. *verto*, &c. It corresponds to the L. *versus*.

WARD, *v. t.* *waurd*. [Sax. *weardian*; Sw. *vårda*; Dan. *værger*; probably from Sax. *warian*, *werian*; Goth. *waryan*; D. *weeren*, to defend, guard, prevent; W. *guaru*, to fend; allied to *wary*, *aware*; Fr. *garder*, for *guarder*, It. *guardare*, Sp. *guardar*. The primary sense is to repel, to keep off; hence to stop; hence to defend by repelling or other means.]

1. To guard; to keep in safety; to watch. Whose gates he found fast shut, no living wight

To ward the same— *Spenser.*

[In this sense, *ward* is obsolete, as we have adopted the French of the same word, to *guard*. We now never apply *ward* to the thing to be defended, but always to the thing against which it is to be defended. We *ward off* a blow or dagger, and we *guard* a person or place.]

2. To defend; to protect. Tell him it was a hand that *warded* him From thousand dangers. *Shak.*

[Obs. See the remark, *supra*.]

3. To fend off; to repel; to turn aside any thing mischievous that approaches.

Now *wards* a falling blow, now strikes again. *Daniel.*

The pointed jav'lin *warded* off his rage. *Addison.*

It instructs the scholar in the various methods of *warding off* the force of objections. *Watts.*

[This is the present use of *ward*. To *ward off* is now the more general expression, nor can I, with Johnson, think it less elegant.]

WARD, *v. i.* *waurd*. To be vigilant; to keep guard. *Obs.*

2. To act on the defensive with a weapon.

She drove the stranger to no other shift, than to *ward* and go back. *Sidney.*

And on their *warding* arms light bucklers bear. *Dryden.*