

**AL'TERABLE, a.** That may become different; that may vary.

**AL'TERABLENESS, n.** The quality of admitting alteration; variability.

**AL'TERABLY, adv.** In a manner that may be altered, or varied.

**AL'TERAGE, n.** [From *alto*, to feed.]

The breeding, nourishing or fostering of a child. *Sir J. Davies.* But this is not an English word.

**AL'TERANT, a.** Altering; gradually changing.

**AL'TERANT, n.** A medicine which, without a sensible operation, gradually corrects the state of the body and changes it from a diseased to a healthy condition. An alterative. *Encyc. Quincy.*

**AL'TERATION, n.** [L. *alteratio*.]

The act of making different, or of varying in some particular; an altering or partial change; also the change made, or the loss or acquisition of qualities not essential to the form or nature of a thing. Thus a cold substance suffers an *alteration* when it becomes hot.

**AL'TERATIVE, a.** Causing alteration; having the power to alter.

**AL'TERATIVE, n.** A medicine which, without sensible operation, gradually induces a change in the habit or constitution and restores healthy functions. This word is more generally used than *alterant*.

**AL'TERATE, v. t.** [L. *alteror*, *altero*, from *alter*, another.]

To contend in words; to dispute with zeal, heat or anger; to wrangle.

**AL'TERATION, n.** [L. *alteratio*.]

Warm contention in words; dispute carried on with heat or anger; controversy; wrangle.

**AL'TERN, a.** [L. *alternus*, of *alter*, another.]

1. Acting by turns; one succeeding another; *alternate*, which is the word generally used.

2. In *crystallography*, exhibiting, on two parts, an upper and a lower part, faces which alternate among themselves, but which, when the two parts are compared, correspond with each other. *Cleveland.*

**Altern-base**, in trigonometry, is a term used in distinction from the true base. Thus in oblique triangles, the true base is the sum of the sides, and then the difference of the sides is the altern-base; or the true base is the difference of the sides, and then the sum of the sides is the altern-base. *Encyc.*

**AL'TERNACY, n.** Performance or actions by turns. [Little used.]

**AL'TERNAL, a.** Alternative. [Little used.]

**AL'TERNALLY, adv.** By turns. [Little used.] *May.*

**AL'TERNATE, a.** [L. *alternatus*.]

1. Being by turns; one following the other in succession of time or place; hence reciprocal.

And bid *alternate* passions fall and rise.

2. In *botany*, branches and leaves are *alternate*, when they rise higher on opposite sides alternately, come out singly, and follow in gradual order. *Encyc. Lee.*

**Alternate alligation.** [See *Alligation*.]

**Alternate angles**, in geometry, the internal angles made by a line cutting two parallel, and lying on opposite sides of the

cutting line; the one below the first parallel, and the other above the second. *Johnson.*

In *heraldry*, the first and fourth quarters, and the second and third, are usually of the same nature, and are called *alternate quarters*.

**AL'TERNATE, n.** That which happens by turns with something else; vicissitude. *Prior.*

**AL'TERNATE, v. t.** [L. *alterno*. See *Alter*.] With the accent on the second syllable, the participle *alternating* can hardly be pronounced.

To perform by turns, or in succession; to cause to succeed by turns; to change one thing for another reciprocally; as, God *alternates* good and evil.

**AL'TERNATE, v. i.** To happen or to act by turns; as, the flood and ebb tides *alternate* with each other.

2. To follow reciprocally in place.

Different species *alternating* with each other. *Kirwan.*

**AL'TERNATELY, adv.** In reciprocal succession; by turns, so that each is succeeded by that which it succeeds, as night follows day and day follows night.

**AL'TERNATENESS, n.** The quality of being alternate, or of following in succession.

**AL'TERNATING, ppr.** Performing or following by turns.

**AL'TERNATION, n.** The reciprocal succession of things, in time or place; the act of following and being followed in succession; as, we observe the *alternation* of day and night, cold and heat, summer and winter.

2. The different changes or alterations of orders, in numbers. Thus, if it is required to know how many changes can be rung on six bells, multiply the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, continually into one another, and the last product is the number required. This is called *permutation*.

3. The answer of the congregation speaking alternately with the minister.

4. Alternate performance, in the choral sense. *Mason.*

**AL'TERNATIVE, a.** [Fr. *alternatif*.] Offering a choice of two things.

**AL'TERNATIVE, n.** That which may be chosen or omitted; a choice of two things, so that if one is taken, the other must be left. Thus, when two things offer a choice of one only, the two things are called *alternatives*. In strictness, then, the word can not be applied to more than two things, and when one thing only is offered for choice, it is said there is no *alternative*.

Between these *alternatives* there is no middle ground. *Cranch.*

**AL'TERNATIVELY, adv.** In the manner of alternatives; in a manner that admits the choice of one out of two things.

**AL'TERNATIVENESS, n.** The quality or state of being alternative.

**AL'TERNITY, n.** Succession by turns; alternation.

**AL'THEA, n.** [Gr. *αλθαία*, from *αλθεω*, or *αλθαιω*, to heal.]

In *botany*, a genus of polyandrian monadelphs, of several species; called in English *marsh-mallows*.

The common species has a perennial root,

and an annual stalk rising four or five feet. It abounds with mucilage, and is used as an emollient. *Encyc.*

**ALTHOUGH, altho'**, obs. verb, or used only in the Imperative. [*all* and *though*; from *Sax. thah*, or *theah*; Ir. *daighim*, to give; Ger. *dach*; D. *dog*; Sw. *dach*, and *endach*; Dan. *dogh*, though. See *Though*.] Grant all this; be it so; allow all; suppose that; admit all that; as, "although the fig-tree shall not blossom." Hab. iii. That is, grant, admit or suppose what follows—"the fig-tree shall not blossom." It is a transitive verb, and admits after it the definitive that—although the fig-tree shall not blossom; but this use of the verb, has been long obsolete. The word may be defined by *notwithstanding*, *non obstante*; or *as opposing* may be equivalent to *admitting* or *supposing*.

**ALTIT'OU'ENCE, n.** [L. *altus*, high, and *loquor*, loquens, speaking.]

Lofty speech; pompous language.

**AL'TIMETER, n.** [L. *altus*, high, and Gr. *μετρον*, measure. See *Measure* and *Mode*.]

An instrument for taking altitudes by geometrical principles, as a geometrical quadrant.

**AL'TIMETRY, n.** The art of ascertaining altitudes by means of a proper instrument, and by trigonometrical principles without actual mensuration.

**ALTIN, n.** A money of account in Russia, value three kopecks, or about three cents; also a lake in Siberia, ninety miles in length. *Tooke. Encyc.*

**ALTIN-CAR, n.** A species of factitious salt or powder, used in the fusion and purification of metals, prepared in various ways. [See *Tincol*.] *Encyc.*

**ALTIS ONANT, } a.** [L. *altus*, high, and

**ALTIS ONOUS, } sonans**, sounding; *sonus*, sound.]

High sounding, lofty or pompous, as language. *Evelyn.*

**AL'TITUDE, n.** [L. *altitudo*, of *altus*, high, and a common termination, denoting state, condition or manner.]

1. Space extended upward; height; the elevation of an object above its foundation; as, the *altitude* of a mountain, or column; or the elevation of an object or place above the surface on which we stand, or above the earth; as, the *altitude* of a cloud or a meteor; or the elevation of one object above another; as, of a bird above the top of a tree.

2. The elevation of a point, a star, or other object above the horizon. This is *true* or *apparent* altitude; *true*, when taken from the rational or real horizon; *apparent*, when taken from the sensible, or apparent horizon.

3. *Figuratively*, high degree; superior excellence; highest point of excellence.

He is proud to the *altitude* of his virtue. *Shak.*

**The altitude of the eye**, in perspective, is a right line let fall from the eye, perpendicular to the geometrical plane. *Encyc.*

**Meridian altitude** is an arch of the meridian between the horizon and any star or point on the meridian.

**ALTIVOLANT, a.** [L. *altus*, high, and *volans*, flying.]

Flying high.