

ing, and calculated to excite curiosity or wonder.

2. Artful perplexity.

MYS'TERY, *n.* [L. *mysterium*, Gr. *μυστήριον*, a secret. This word in Greek is rendered also *murium latibulum*; but probably both senses are from that of hiding or shutting; Gr. *μύω*, to shut, to conceal.]

1. A profound secret; something wholly unknown or something kept cautiously concealed, and therefore exciting curiosity or wonder; such as the *mystery* of the man with the iron mask in France.

2. In *religion*, any thing in the character or attributes of God, or in the economy of divine providence, which is not revealed to man. *President Moore.*

3. That which is beyond human comprehension until explained. In this sense, *mystery* often conveys the idea of something awfully sublime or important; something that excites wonder.

Great is the *mystery* of godliness. 1 Tim. iii.

Having made known to us the *mystery* of his will. Eph. i.

We speak the wisdom of God in a *mystery*. 1 Cor. ii.

4. An enigma; any thing artfully made difficult.

5. A kind of ancient dramatic representation. *Bp. Percy.*

6. A trade; a calling; any mechanical occupation which supposes skill or knowledge peculiar to those who carry it on, and therefore a secret to others.

[The word in the latter sense has been supposed to have a different origin from the foregoing, viz. Fr. *metier*, Norm. *mes-tier*, business, trade, occupation, as if from Norm. *mestie*, master. But this is probably incorrect.]

MYS'TIC, } *a.* [L. *mysticus*; Gr. *μυστικός*.]
MYS'TICAL, } *a.* Obscure; hid; secret. *Dryden.*

2. Sacredly obscure or secret; remote from human comprehension.

God hath revealed a way *mystical* and supernatural. *Hooker.*

3. Involving some secret meaning; allegorical; emblematical; as *mystic* dance; *mystic* Babylon. *Milton. Burnet.*

MYS'TICALLY, *adv.* In a manner or by an act implying a secret meaning. *Donne.*

MYS'TICALNESS, *n.* The quality of being mystical, or of involving some secret meaning.

MYS'TICISM, *n.* Obscurity of doctrine.

2. The doctrine of the Mystics, who profess a pure, sublime and perfect devotion,

wholly disinterested, and maintain that they hold immediate intercourse with the divine Spirit.

MYS'TICS, *n.* A religious sect who profess to have direct intercourse with the Spirit of God.

MYTH'IC, *a.* [from Gr. *μῦθος*, a fable.] Fabulous. *Shuckford.*

MYTHOLOG'ICAL, *a.* [See *Mythology*.] Relating to mythology; fabulous.

MYTHOLOG'ICALLY, *adv.* In a way suited to the system of fables.

MYTHOL'OGIST, *n.* One versed in mythology; one who writes on mythology, or explains the fables of the ancient pagans. *Norris.*

MYTHOL'OGIZE, *v. i.* To relate or explain the fabulous history of the heathen.

MYTHOL'OGY, *n.* [Gr. *μῦθος*, a fable, and *λογος*, discourse.]

A system of fables or fabulous opinions and doctrines respecting the deities which heathen nations have supposed to preside over the world or to influence the affairs of it.

MYT'ILITE, *n.* [Gr. *μυτίλος*, a kind of shell.]

In *geology*, a petrified muscle or shell of the genus *Mytilus*. *Kirwan.*

N.

N is the fourteenth letter of the English Alphabet, and an articulation formed by placing the end of the tongue against the root of the upper teeth. It is an imperfect mute or semi-vowel, and a nasal letter; the articulation being accompanied with a sound through the nose. It has one sound only, and after *n* is silent or nearly so, as in *hymn* and *condemn*.

N, among the ancients, was a numeral letter signifying 900, and with a stroke over it, **N**, 9000. Among the lawyers, **N. L.** stood for *non liquet*, the case is not clear.

In commerce, **No.** is an abbreviation of the French *nombre*, and stands for *number*. **N. S.** stands for *New Style*.

NAB, *n.* The summit of a mountain or rock. [Local.] *Grose.*

NAB, *v. t.* [Sw. *nappa*; Dan. *napper*; G. D. *knappen*. See *Knapp*.]

To catch suddenly; to seize by a sudden grasp or thrust; a word little used and only in low language.

NAB'OB, *n.* A deputy or prince in India, subordinate to the Subahs; hence,

2. A man of great wealth.

NACKER. [See *Naker*.]

NA'CREOUS, *a.* [See *Naker*.] Having a pearly luster. *Phillips.*

NA'CRITE, *n.* [See *Naker*.] A rare mineral, called also talekite, consisting of scaly parts; glimmering, pearly, friable, with a greasy feel; the color, a greenish white. *Jameson. Ure.*

NA'DIR, *n.* [Ar. ⁵نَظِير, from ⁵نَظَر nata-ra, to be like, proportional, corresponding to, opposite.]

That point of the heavens or lower hemisphere directly opposite to the zenith; the point directly under the place where we stand.

NA'DLE-STEIN, *n.* [G. *nadel* and *stein*.] Needle-stone; rutile. *Ure.*

NÆVE, *n.* [L. *navus*.] A spot. *Dryden.*

NAFE, } *n.* A kind of tufted sea-fowl.

NAFF, } *n.* *Todd.*

NAG, *n.* A small horse; a horse in general, or rather a sprightly horse. *L'Estrange.*

2. A paramour; in contempt. *Shak.*

NAID, } *n.* [Gr. *ναϊδες*, naiads, from *ναω*, to flow.]

NA'IDAD, } *n.* *to flow.*

In *mythology*, a water nymph; a deity that presides over rivers and springs.

NAIL, *n.* [Sax. *nagel*; Sw. G. D. *nagel*; Dan. *nagle*; Russ. *nagot*; Sans. *naga* or *nak-ha*. If the word was originally applied to a claw or talon, the primary sense may be to catch, or it may be a shoot.]

1. The claw or talon of a fowl or other animal.

2. The horny substance growing at the end of the human fingers and toes.

3. A small pointed piece of metal, usually with a head, to be driven into a board or other piece of timber, and serving to fasten it to other timber. The larger kinds of instruments of this sort are called

spikes; and a long thin kind with a flatish head, is called a *brad*.

4. A stud or boss; a short nail with a large broad head. *Swift.*

5. A measure of length, being two inches and a quarter, or the 16th of a yard.

On the *nail*, in hand; immediately; without delay or time of credit; as, to pay money on the *nail*. *Swift.*

To hit the *nail* on the head, to hit or touch the exact point.

NAIL, *v. t.* To fasten with nails; to unite, close or make compact with nails.

2. To stud with nails.

The rivets of your arms were *nail'd* with gold. *Dryden.*

3. To stop the vent of a cannon; to spike.

NA'ILED, *pp.* Fastened with nails; studded.

NA'ILER, *n.* One whose occupation is to make nails.

NA'ILERY, *n.* A manufactory where nails are made.

NA'ILING, *ppr.* Fastening with nails; studding.

NA'IVELY, *adv.* [Fr. *naïf*, from L. *nativus*.] With native or unaffected simplicity.

NA'IVETE, } *n.* Native simplicity; unaffected plainness or ingenuousness. *Gray.*

NA'KED, *a.* [Sax. *nacod*; G. *nackst*, *nackt*; D. *nackt*; Sw. *naken*; Dan. *nögen*; Russ. *nagei*, *nagost* and *nagota*, nakedness; Ir. *nochta*, open, discovered; *nochduighe*, na-