

ABROTANUM, *n.* [Gr. *Αβροτανον*.]

A species of plant arranged under the Genus, *Artemisia*; called also southern wood.

ABRUPT, *a.* [L. *abruptus*, from *abruptum*, to break off, of *ab* and *rumpo*. See *Rupture*.]

1. Literally, broken off, or broken short. Hence,

2. Steep, craggy; applied to rocks, precipices and the like.

3. Figuratively, sudden; without notice to prepare the mind for the event; as an abrupt entrance and address.

4. Unconnected; having sudden transitions from one subject to another; as an abrupt style. Ben Jonson.

5. In botany, an abrupt pinnate leaf is one which has neither leaflet, nor tendril at the end. Martyn.

ABRUPT, *n.* A chasm or gulf with steep sides. "Over the vast abrupt." Milton. [This use of the word is infrequent.]

ABRUPTION, *n.* A sudden breaking off; a violent separation of bodies. Woodward.

ABRUPTLY, *adv.* Suddenly; without giving notice, or without the usual forms; as, the Minister left France abruptly.

ABRUPTNESS, *n.* A state of being broken; or craggedness; steepness.

2. Figuratively, suddenness; unceremonious haste or vehemence.

ABSCISS, *n.* [L. *abscissus*, from *ab* and *cedo*, to go from.]

An imposthume. A collection of morbid matter, or pus in the cellular or adipose membrane; matter generated by the supuration of an inflammatory tumor.

Quincy. Hooper.

ABSCIND, *vt.* [L. *abscindo*.] To cut off. [Little used.]

ABSCISS, *n.* [L. *abscissus*, from *ab* and *scindere*, to cut; Gr. *σχίζω*. See *Scissors*.] In conics, a part of the diameter, or transverse axis of a conic section, intercepted between the vertex or some other fixed point, and a semiordinate. Eucly.

ABSCISSION, *n.* [See *Absciss*.]

A cutting off, or a being cut off. In surgery, the separation of any corrupted or useless part of the body, by a sharp instrument; applied to the soft parts, as amputation is to the bones and flesh of a limb. Quincy.

ABSCOND, *r. i.* [L. *abscondo*, to hide, of *abs* and *condo*, to hide, i. e. to withdraw, or to thrust aside or into a corner or secret place.]

1. To retire from public view, or from the place in which one resides or is ordinarily to be found; to withdraw, or absent one's self in a private manner; to be concealed; appropriately, used of persons who secrete themselves to avoid a legal process.

2. To hide, withdraw or be concealed; as, "the marmot absconds in winter." [Little used.] Ray.

ABSCONDER, *n.* One who withdraws from public notice, or conceals himself from public view.

ABSCONDING, *ppr.* Withdrawing privately from public view; as, an absconding debtor, who confines himself to his apartments, or absents himself to avoid the ministers of justice. In the latter sense, it is properly an adjective.

ABSENCE, *n.* [L. *absens*, from *absuam*, *abses*, to be away; *ab* and *sum*.]

1. A state of being at a distance in place, or

not in company. It is used to denote any distance indefinitely, either in the same town, or country, or in a foreign country; and primarily supposes a prior presence. "Speak well of one in his absence."

2. Want; destitution; implying no previous presence. "In the absence of conventional law." Ch. Kent.

3. In law, non-appearance; a not being in court to answer.

4. Heedlessness; inattention to things present. Absence of mind is the attention of the mind to a subject which does not occupy the rest of the company, and which draws the mind from things or objects which are present, to others distant or foreign.

ABSENT, *a.* Not present; not in company; at such a distance as to prevent communication. It is used also for being in a foreign country.

A gentleman is absent on his travels.

Absent from one another. Gen. xxxi. 49.

2. Heedless; inattentive to persons present, or to subjects of conversation in company.

An absent man is uncivil to the company.

3. In familiar language, not at home; as, the master of the house is absent. In other words, he does not wish to be disturbed by company.

ABSENT, *v. t.* To depart to such a distance as to prevent intercourse; to retire or withdraw; to forbear to appear in presence; used with the reciprocal pronoun. Let a man absent himself from the company.

ABSENTÉE, *n.* One who withdraws from his country, office or estate; one who removes to a distant place or to another country.

ABSENTER, *n.* One who absents himself.

ABSENTMENT, *n.* A state of being absent. Barrow.

ABSENTHIAN, *a.* [from *absinthium*.] Of the nature of wormwood. Randolph.

ABSENTHATED, *a.* Impregnated with wormwood. Diet.

ABSENTHUM, *n.* [Gr. *αψινθιον*; Pers. *افسنه*.]

افسنه *afsinthin*; the same in Chaldaic. Budæus in his commentaries on Theophrastus, supposes the word composed of a priv. and *αψω*, delight, so named from its bitterness. But it may be an Oriental word.]

The common wormwood; a bitter plant, used as a tonic. A species of *Artemisia*.

ABSSIS, *n.* In astronomy. [See *Apsis*.]

ABSOLUTE, *a.* [L. *absolutus*. See *Absolute*.]

1. Literally, in a general sense, free, independent of anything extraneous. Hence,

2. Complete in itself; positive; as an absolute declaration.

3. Unconditional, as an absolute promise.

4. Existing independent of any other cause, as God is absolute.

5. Unlimited by extraneous power or control, as an absolute government or prince.

6. Not relative, as absolute space. Stillfleet.

In grammar, the case absolute, is when a word or member of a sentence is not immediately dependent on the other parts of the sentence in government.

Absolute equation, in astronomy, is the aggregate of the optic and eccentric equa-

tions. The apparent inequality of a planet's motion in its orbit, arising from its unequal distances from the earth at different times, is called its optic equation; the eccentric inequality is caused by the uniformity of the planet's motion, in an elliptical orbit, which, for that reason, appears not to be uniform.

Absolute numbers, in algebra, are such as have no letters annexed, as $2a+3a=48$. The two latter numbers are absolute or pure. Eucly.

Absolute space, in physics, is space considered without relation to any other object. Bailey.

Absolute gravity, in philosophy, is that property in bodies by which they are said to weigh so much, without regard to circumstances of modification, and this is always as the quantity of matter they contain. Bailey.

ABSOLUTELY, *adv.* Completely, wholly, as a thing is absolutely unintelligible.

2. Without dependence or relation; in a state unconnected.

Absolutely we cannot discommend, we cannot absolutely approve, either willingness to live, or forwardness to die. Hooker.

3. Without restriction or limitation; as God reigns absolutely.

4. Without condition, as God does not forgive absolutely, but upon condition of faith and repentance.

5. Positively, peremptorily, as command me absolutely not to go. Milton.

ABSOLUTENESS, *n.* Independence; completeness in itself.

2. Despotism, authority, or that which is subject to no extraneous restriction, or control.

ABSOLUTION, *n.* In the civil law, an acquittal or sentence of a judge declaring an accused person innocent. In the canon law, a remission of sins pronounced by a priest in favor of a penitent. Among protestants, a sentence by which an excommunicated person is released from his liability to punishment. Ayliffe. South.

ABSOLUTORY, *a.* Absolving; that absolves.

ABSOLVATORY, *a.* [from *absolve*.] Containing absolution, pardon, or release; having power to absolve. Cotgrave.

ABSOLVE, *v. t.* *absolv*, [L. *absolvere*, from *abs* and *solvere*, to loose or release; Ch. *לשׁל*, to solve, to finish; Heb. *לשׁל*, to loose or loosen. See *Solve*.]

To set free or release from some obligation, debt or responsibility; or from that which subjects a person to a burden or penalty; as to absolve a person from a promise; to absolve an offender, which amounts to an acquittal and remission of his punishment. Hence, in the civil law, the word was used for acquit; and in the canon law, for forgive, or a sentence of remission. In ordinary language, its sense is to set free or release from an engagement. Formerly, good writers used the word in the sense of finish, accomplish; as to absolve work, in Milton; but in this sense, it seems to be obsolete.

ABSOLVED, *pp.* Released; acquitted; remitted; declared innocent.

ABSOLVER, *n.* One who absolves; also one that pronounces sin to be remitted.