Mĕs'mer-ĭst, *n.* One who practices, or believes in, mesmerism.

Mĕs'mer-ĭ-zā'tion, *n.* The act of mesmerizing.

Mĕs'mer-īze, *v. t.* [*imp. & p. p.* MESMERIZED; *p. pr. & vb. n.* MESMERIZING.] To bring into a state of mesmeric sleep.

Mĕs'mer-īz'er, *n.* One who practices mesmerism.

Mĕsne (mēn), *a.* [Norm. Fr. *mesne*, middle. Cf. MEAN, *a.*] (*Law.*) Middle; intervening; as, a *mesne* lord, that is, a lord who holds land of a superior, but grants a part of it to another person, in which case he is a *tenant* to the superior, but *lord* or superior to the second grantee, and hence is called the *mesne* lord.

Mesne process, intermediate process: process intervening between the beginning and end of a suit, sometimes restricted to be the whole process preceding the execution. In some states, this term is applied to the original writ or *first* process. *Blackstone. Burrill.*—*Mesne profits*, profits of premises during the time the owner has been wrongfully kept out of the possession of his estate. *Bouvier. Burrill.*

Mĕs'o-blāst, *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and βλαστός, bud.] A soft, solid, or gelatinous body occupying the interior of a cell, and usually called the nucleus. *Agassiz.*

Mĕs'o-cārp, *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and καρπός, fruit.] (*Bot.*) The middle layer of a pericarp which consists of three distinct or dissimilar layers. *Gray.*

Mĕs'o-cō'lon, *n.* [Gr. μεσέντερον, from μέσος, middle, and κῶλον, the colon; Fr. *mésocolon.*] (*Anat.*) That part of the mesentery to which the colon is attached.

Mĕs'o-gās'tric, *a.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and γαστήρ, the belly.] (*Anat.*) The membrane which sustains the stomach.

Mĕs'o-lābe, *n.* [Fr. *mésolabe*, Lat. *mesolabium*, Gr. μεσόλαβον, from μέσος, middle, and λαμβάνειν, to take.] An instrument employed by the ancients for finding two mean proportionals between two given lines, which were required in the problem of the duplication of the cube. *Brande.*

Mĕs'ŏlīte, *n.* (*Min.*) A mineral of a grayish-white, yellowish, or reddish color, and silky or pearly luster, occurring in implanted globules, with a flat, columnar, radiate structure, and consisting chiefly of the hydrous silicate of alumina, lime, and soda.

Mĕs'o-leū'cos, *n.* [Lat. *mesoleucos*, from Gr. μεσόλευκος, mixed with white, from μέσος, middle, and λευκός, white; Fr. *mésoleucose.*] A precious stone with a streak of white in the middle. [*Obs.*]

Mĕs'o-lite (49), *n.* (*Min.*) See MESOTYPE.

Mĕs'o-lŏ'bar, *a.* [See *infra.*] (*Anat.*) Of, or pertaining to, the mesolobe.

Mĕs'o-lōbe, *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and λοβός, lobe.] (*Anat.*) A white, medullary band, connecting the two hemispheres of the brain with each other.

Mĕs'o-lŏg'a-rĭthm, *n.* [Fr. *mésologarithme*, from Gr. μέσος, middle, and Fr. *logarithme*, Eng. *logarithm*, q. v.] A logarithm of the cosine or cotangent. *Keplar. Hutton.*

Mĕs-sŏm'e-nas, *n.* [Lat. *mesomelas*, Gr. μέσος, middle, and μέλας, black.] A precious stone with a black vein parting every color in the midst. [*Obs.*]

Mĕs'o-phlœ'um (-flē'um), *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and φλοιός, bark.] (*Bot.*) The middle bark of a tree. *Gray.*

Mĕs'o-phȳl'lum, *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and φύλλον, leaf.] (*Bot.*) The parenchyma of a leaf between the skin of the two surfaces. *Gray.*

Mĕs'o-spĕrm, *n.* [Fr. *mésosperme*, from Gr. μέσος, middle, and σπέρμα, seed, from σπείρειν, to sow.] (*Bot.*) A membrane of a seed; — synonymous with *secundine*, the second membrane from the surface.

Mĕs'o-thō'rax, *n.* [Fr. *mésothorax*, from Gr. μέσος, middle, and θώραξ, breast.] (*Entom.*) The middle segment of the thorax in insects. *Brande.*

Mĕs'o-tȳpe, *n.* [Fr. *mésotype*, from Gr. μέσος, middle, and τύπος, type.] (*Min.*) A zeolitic mineral, occurring in slender crystals, and delicate, radiated concretions, and consisting of the hydrated silicate either of alumina and soda, in which case it is called also *soda mesotype*, or *natrolite*, or of alumina and lime, in which case it is called *lime mesotype*, or *scolecite*, or of alumina and both lime and soda, in which case it is called *mesolite*. *Dana.*

Mĕs'o-zō'ic, *a.* (Gr. μέσος, middle, and ζωή, life.] (*Geol.*) Belonging, or relating to, the secondary age, or the era between the paleozoic and cænozoic.

Mĕs'pĭ-lus, *n.* [Lat. *mespilus*, or *mespilum*, medlar, from Gr. μέσπιλον.] (*Bot.*) A genus of trees, including the medlar.

Mes-prīse', *n.* [O. Fr. *mespris*, N. Fr. *mépris*, from *mespriser*, *mépriser*, to despise, from Lat. *minus*, less, and *pretiare*, to prize.] (*Obs.*)

1. Contempt.

2. Misadventure; ill success. *Spenser.*

Mes-qui'te (mes-kē'tē), or **Mes-quite'** (mes-kēt'), *n.* [Said to be an Indian word.] (*Bot.*) (*a.*) A shrub or small tree growing in Texas and Mexico, not unlike a mimosa, bearing large, edible pods (*Algarobia glandulosa* of Gray). (*b.*) A rich native grass in Western Texas, a species of *Aristida*; — so called from its growing in company with the tree.

☞ The natives make it a word of three syllables, as above.

Mĕss, *n.* [A-S. *mese*, *mase*, Goth. *mes*, a table; Lat. *mensa*, O. H. Ger. *misi*, *mosi*, Goth. *mats*, O. H. Ger. *maz*, food; Fr. *mets*, *mats*, *mes*, *mas*, dish, mess, food; Norm. Fr. *mees*, *meese.*]

1. A dish, or a quantity of food prepared or set on a table at one time; provision of food for a person or party for one meal; as, a *mess* of pottage.

At their savory dinner set
Of herbs and other country *messes*. *Milton.*

2. A number of persons who eat together, and for whom food is prepared in common; specifically, a set of officers who eat at the same table together; — used chiefly among soldiers and sailors.

3. A medley; a mixed mass; a confusion or embarrassment. *Chapman.*

Mĕst, *v. t.* [*imp. & p. p.* MESSED (mĕst); *p. pr. & vb. n.* MESSING.] [A-S. *metsian*, to give meat, to feed. Cf. MAT.] (*Obs.*)

1. To eat; to feed.

2. To associate at the same table; to eat in company

Mĕss, *v. t.* To supply with a mess.

Mĕs'sage, *n.* [Fr. *message*, Pr. *messatge*, It. *messaggio*, Sp. *mensaje*, L. Lat. *messagium*, *missagium*, *missaticum*, from Lat. *mittere*, *missum*, to send.]

1. Any notice, word, or communication, written or verbal, sent from one person to another.

The welcome message made, was soon received. *Dryden.*

2. Hence, specifically, an official address or communication, not made in person, but delivered by a messenger; as, an official written communication of facts or opinions sent by a chief magistrate to the two houses of a legislature or other deliberative body

Mĕs'sa-ger, *n.* [See MESSENGER.] A messenger. (*Obs.*) *Gower.*

Mĕs'sel, *n.* An outcast; a leper. [*Obs.*] See MEASLE. *Wright.*

Mĕs'sel-ry, *n.* Leprosy. [*Obs.*] *Chaucer.*

Mĕs'sen-ger, *n.* [O. Eng. *messanger*, O. Fr. *messagier*, N. Fr. *messager*, It. *messaggiere*, It. *messaggiero*, Sp. *mensagero*, Pg. *mensageiro.* See *supra.*]

1. One who bears a message or an errand; the bearer of a verbal or written communication, notice, or invitation, from one person to another, or to a public body; an office servant.

2. One who, or that which, foreshows; a harbinger; a forerunner.

You gray lines,
That fret the clouds, are *messengers* of day. *Shak.*

3. (*Naut.*) A hawser wound round the capstan, and having its two ends lashed together, and used for hearing in the cable. *Dana. Brande.*

4. (*Law.*) A person appointed to perform certain ministerial duties under bankrupt and insolvent laws, such as to take charge of the estate of the bankrupt or insolvent, and to transact certain other duties in reference to the proceedings in bankruptcy or insolvency. *Bouvier. Toullier.*

Syn. — Carrier; intelligencer; courier; harbinger; forerunner; precursor; herald.

Mĕs'sen-ger, a. A dog; a cur. [*Obs. or Prov. Eng.*] *Halliwell.* "Dame Julia's *messet*." *Hall.*

Mes-si'ad, *n.* A German epic poem by Klopstock, the subject of which is the sufferings and triumph of the Messiah. *Brande.*

Mes-si'ah, *n.* [Heb. *mâshîach*, anointed, from *mâshach*, to anoint.] Christ, the anointed; the Savior of the world.

At thy nativity a glorious choir
Of angels in the fields of Bethlehem sung
To shepherds watching at their folds by night,
And told them the *Messiah* now was born. *Milton.*

Mes-si'ah-ship, *n.* The character, state, or office of the Savior. "Josephus . . whose prejudices were against the *Messiahship* and religion of Jesus." *Bucknminster.*

Mĕs'si-ăn'ic, *a.* Relating to the Messiah; as, the *Messianic* office or character.

Mes-si'as, *n.* The Messiah.

I know that *Messias* cometh, which is called Christ. *John* iv. 25.

Mĕs'sĭ-dŏr', *n.* [Fr., from Lat. *messis*, harvest, and Gr. δῶρον, gift.] The tenth month of the French republican calendar, dating from September 22, 1792. It commenced June 19, and ended July 18. See VENDEMIAIRE.

Mĕs'sieurs (mĕsh'yerz) (Synop., § 130), *n. pl.* [Fr. pl. of *monsieur*, q. v.] Sirs; gentlemen, — abbreviated to *Messrs.*, and used as the plural of *Mr.*

Mĕs'si-nēse' (61), *a., sing. & pl.* (*Geog.*) A native or inhabitant of Messina; in the plural, the people of Messina.

Mĕs'si-nēse', *a.* (*Geog.*) Of, or pertaining to, Messina, or its inhabitants.

Mĕss'māte, *n.* An associate in eating; one who eats ordinarily at the same table.

Mĕs'suage (mĕs'wej), *n.* [O. Fr. *messuage*, *mesnage*, *mainage*, L. Lat. *messuagium*, *mansionaticum*, from Lat. *mansio*, *mansionis*, a staying, remaining, dwelling, from *manere*, *mansum*, to stay, remain.] (*Law.*) A dwelling-house, with the adjacent buildings and curtilage, and the adjoining lands appropriated to the use of the household.

Cowell. Bouvier.

They wedded her to sixty thousand pounds,
To lands in Kent, and messuages in York. *Tennyson.*

Mes-tee', *n.* The offspring of a white person and a quadroon; — so called in the West Indies. [WRITTEN also *mustee.*]

Mes-ti'no (mes-tē'no), *n.* [Sp. *mestizo*, Pr. & O. Fr. *mestis*, N. Fr. *métis*, from Lat. *mixtus*, mixed, p. p. of *miscere*, to mix.] The child of a Spaniard or creole and a native Indian; — so called in Spanish America.

Me-sȳm'nĭ-cŭm, *n.* [Gr. μέσος, middle, and ὑμνος, a festive song. See HYMN.] (*Anc. Pont.*) A repetition at the end of a stanza.

Mĕt, *imp. & p. p.* of MEET: also, obsolete *imp.* of *mete*, to measure.

Then Hector, Priam's martial son, stepped forth and *met* the ground. *Chapman.*

Mĕt'a. [Gr. μετά.] A prefix in words of Greek origin, signifying *beyond*, *over*, *after*, *behind*, *with*, *between*, *reversely*.

Mĕ-tăb'a-sĭs, *n.* [Gr. μετάβασις, from μεταβαίνειν, to pass over, from μετά, beyond, over, and βαίνειν, to pass, go; Fr. *métabase.* See *supra.*]

1. (*Rhet.*) A passing from one thing to another; transition.

2. (*Med.*) The same as METABOLA.

Mĕt-tăb'o-lă, *n.* [Gr. μεταβολή, from μεταβάλλειν, to throw round, to turn about, change, from μετά, beyond, and βάλλειν, to throw; Fr. *métabole.* See META.] (*Med.*) A change of remedy, air, time, or disease. (*Obs.*)

Mĕt'a-bŏ'lĭ-an, *n.* [Gr. μεταβολή, change. See *supra.*] (*Entom.*) An insect which undergoes a metamorphosis.

Mĕt'a-bŏl'ĭc, *a.* Pertaining to metamorphosis; pertaining to, or involving, change.

Mĕt'a-cārp'al, *a.* Belonging to the metacarpus.

Mĕt'a-cār'pus, *n.* [Gr. μετακάρπιον, from μετά, beyond, between, and καρπός, the wrist; Fr. *métacarpe.*] (*Anat.*) The part of the hand between the wrist and the fingers.

Mĕt'a-cĕn'ter, *n.* [Gr. μετά, beyond, and κέντρον, center.] (*Hydrostatics.*) The point of intersection of the vertical line passing through the center of gravity of a floating body when in its position of equilibrium, and a vertical line through the center of gravity of the fluid displaced, when the body is turned through a small angle from that position.

☞ When the *metacenter* is above the center of gravity, the position of the body is stable; when below it, unstable.

Mĕ-tăch'ro-nĭsm, *n.* [Fr. *métachronisme*, from Gr. μετάχρονος, μετακρόνος, after the time, happening afterward, from μετά, beyond, after, and χρόνος, time.] An error committed in chronology by placing an event after its real time.

Mĕt'a-çĭsm, *n.* [Fr. *métacisme*, Lat. *metacismus*, Gr. μετακισμός.] A defect in pronouncing the letter m, or a too frequent use or repetition of it.

Mĕt'a-găl'late, *n.* (*Chem.*) A salt formed by the union of metagallic acid with a base.

Mĕt'a-găl'lĭc, *a.* [Gr. μετά, beyond, over, and Eng. *gallic.*] (*Chem.*) Pertaining to, or derived from, gallic acid; as, *metagallic* acid.

Mĕt'a-gĕn'e-sĭs, *n.* [Gr. μετά, beyond, and γένεσις, production.] (*Physiol.*) The production of sexual individuals by non-sexual means, either directly or through intervening sexless generations; alternation of generation; polymorphism.

☞ During the non-sexual stages of production, large numbers of individuals are usually given off, as in the strobile. Thus, by a sort of budding, a series of individuals may be produced that are entirely without sexual distinction. Each of these may, in its turn, by subdivision or some other form of budding, give rise to a brood of sexless beings, which in turn produce individuals sexually marked, and from the eggs of these may reappear the form with which the cycle of a sexual multiplication began. *Metagenesis* may be only a periodic form of reproduction in the animal, and has yet been observed only among invertebrates. *Dana.*

Mĕt'a-jĕ-nĕt'ĭc, *a.* Pertaining to metagenesis.

Mĕt'a-jĕn'ĭc, *a.* [Gr. μετά, beyond, and γένεσις, production.] Pertaining to metagenesis, or the production of changes in a species after its first origin, as it goes on to a more perfect state. *R. Owen.*

Mĕt'a-grăm'ma-tĭsm, *n.* [Gr. μετά, beyond, after, and γράμμα, letter, that which is written, from γράφειν, to write.] The transposition of the letters of a name into such a connection as to express some perfect sense applicable to the person named; anagramatism.

Mĕt'al (mĕt'al, *or* mē'tal) (Synop., § 130), *n.* [Fr. *métal*, Pr. *metal*, *metall*, Sp. & Pg. *metal*, It. *metallo*, Lat. *metallum*, Gr. μέταλλον, Ger. & Sw. *metall*, Dan. *metal*, D. *metaal*, Ir. *miotal*, Gael. *meatal*, W *mettel.*]

1. A substance having a peculiar luster, called the *metallic*, whether in the mass or in powder, insoluble in water, a good conductor of heat and electricity, and usually solid at ordinary temperatures. The metals are found either native, or in combination with oxygen, sulphur, and some other elements

2. To ask earnestly for; to seek to obtain by supplication; to entreat for; to request; to beseech; to petition.

He that will have the benefit of this act must *pray* a prohibition before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *Ayliffe.*

4. To affect or move by prayer: to intercede in behalf of; — often with a following preposition or adverb.

Praying souls out of purgatory, by masses said in their behalf, became an ordinary office. *Milner.*

To pray in aid (*Law*), to call in for help one who has interest in the cause.

Prāy'er (prā'er, 6), *n.* One who prays; a supplicant.

Prāyer (prâr), *n.* [O. Fr. *preiere*, *preere*, N. Fr. *prière*, Pr. *pregaria*, *preguiera*, *preguiera*, It. *preghiera*, *preghiera*, from Lat. *precarius*, obtained by prayer, from *precari*, to pray. See *supra.*]

1. The act of praying or of asking a favor; earnest request; hence, an earnest memorial to a court or a legislative body.

2. Especially, the act of addressing supplication to God; the offering up to the Supreme Being of adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving; the practice of communion with God in devotional address, worship, and supplication; as, public *prayer*, secret *prayer*, &c. "As he is famed for mildness, peace, and *prayer*." *Shak.*

3. The form of words used in praying; a formula of supplication; an expressed petition; a supplication addressed to God; as a written or extemporaneous *prayer*; a long *prayer*; an earnest or appropriate *prayer*.

He made those two excellent *prayers* which were published immediately after his death. *Pitt.*

Syn. — Petition; orison; supplication; entreaty; suit; request.

Prāyer'-bŏŏk (prâr'bo͝ok), *n.* A book containing prayers or the forms of devotion, public or private.

Prāyer'fŭl (prâr'-), *a.* Given to prayer; using much prayer; devotional; as, a *prayerful* frame of mind.

Prāyer'fŭl-ly (prâr'-), *adv.* In a prayerful manner.

Prāyer'fŭl-ness (prâr'-), *n.* The quality of being prayerful.

Prāyer'less (prâr'-), *a.* Not using prayer; habitually neglecting the duty of prayer to God; as, a *prayerless* family, or man. "The next time you go *prayerless* to bed." *Baxter.*

Prāyer'less-ly (prâr'-), *adv.* In a prayerless manner.

Prāyer'less-ness (prâr'-), *n.* Total or habitual neglect of prayer.

Prāyer'-meet-ing, *n.* A meeting or gathering for prayer.

Prāy'ing, *n.* Act of making a prayer; a prayer made. "Masses and *prayings* for the dead." *Bale.*

Prāy'ing-ly, *adv.* With supplication to God.

Pre, An English form of the Lat. prefix *præ*, before, originally dat. f., answering to *pro*, as dat. m., of *per*, through. It expresses priority of time, place, or rank. It sometimes signifies *beyond*, and may be rendered *very*, as in *prepotent.*

Prē-ăc'cu-sā'tion, *n.* Previous accusation.

Prēach (preech), *v. i.* [*imp. & p. p.* PREACHED (preecht); *p. pr. & vb. n.* PREACHING.] [O. Fr. *precher*, *prechier*, *preescher*, *preecer*, N. Fr. *prêcher*, Pr. & Sp. *predicar*, It. *predicare*, Lat. *prædicare*, from Lat. *prædicere*, to cry in public, to proclaim, fr. *præ*, before, and *dicere*, to make known, *dicere*, to say; A-S. *predician*, D. *prediken*, *preken*, Dan. *prædike*, Sw. *predika*, Ger. *predigen.*]

1. To pronounce a public discourse on a religious subject, or from a text of Scripture; to deliver a sermon.

From that time Jesus began to *preach*. *Matt.* iv. 17

2. To give earnest advice on moral or religious grounds; to discourse in the manner of a preacher.

Prēach, *v. t.* 1. To proclaim or publish in religious discourses; to utter in a sermon or a formal religious harangue.

The Lord hath anointed me to *preach* good tidings unto the meek. *Is.* lxi. 1.

2. To inculcate in public discourse; to speak in favor of; to support by public teaching.

He oft to them *preached*
Conversion and repentance. *Milton.*

3. To deliver or pronounce; as, to *preach* a sermon.

4. To teach or instruct by preaching; to inform by preaching. [*Rare.*]

The Spirits of the Dead,
Quitting their mortal mansion, enter not,
As ye are now preached, their final seat
Of bliss, or bale. *Southey.*

To preach up, to discourse in favor of.

Can they *preach up* equality of birth? *Dryden.*

Prēach, *n.* [Fr. *prêche*, from *prêcher.* See *supra.*] A religious discourse. [*Obs.*] "To term religion, in that sort exercised, a mere *preach*." *Hooker.*

Prēach'er, *n.* [O. Fr. *precheres*, *preeschierres*, N. Fr. *prêcheur*, *prédicateur*, Fr. *prédicateur*, Sp. *predicador*, Pg. *prégador*, It. *predicatore*, Lat. *prædicator*, A-S. *predicere*, Ger. *prediger.* See PREACH, *v. i.*]

1. One who preaches; one who discourses publicly on religious subjects.

2. One who inculcates any thing with earnestness.

No *preacher* is listened to but Time. *Swift.*

Prēach'er-ship, *n.* The office of a preacher. [*Rare.*] "Turned out of the *preachership* of the Rolls." *Macaulay.*

Prēach'ing, *n.* The act of one who preaches; a public religious discourse. *Milner.*

Prēach'man, *n.* A preacher; — so called in contempt. *Howell.*

Prēach'ment, *n.* A discourse or sermon; a religious harangue — used deprecatingly or in contempt. *Shak.*

Prē'ac-quaint', *v. t.* To acquaint previously or beforehand. *Sheridan.*

Prē'ac-quaint'ance, *n.* Previous acquaintance or knowledge. *Harris.*

Pre-ăct', *v. t.* To act beforehand; to perform previously. "Those which, though acted after evening service, must needs be *preacted* by the fancy . . all the day before." *Fuller.*

Prē-ăc'tion, *n.* Previous action.

Prē'a-dăm'ĭc, *a.* Prior to Adam. *Sp. Taylor.*

Prē-ăd'am-īte, *n.* [Prefix *pre*, before, and Adam; Fr. *préadamite.*] An inhabitant of the earth before Adam.

Prē-ăd'am-ĭt'ic, *a.* Existing or occurring before Adam; as, fictitious, *pre-adamitic* periods. *Kirwan.*

Prē'ad-mĭn'is-trā'tion, *n.* Previous administration. *Shak.*

Prē'ad-mŏn'ish, *v. t.* [*imp. & p. p.* PREADMONISHED (prē'ad-mŏn'isht); *p. pr. & vb. n.* PREADMONYSHING.] To admonish previously.

Prē-ăd'mo-nĭ'tion (-mo-nĭsh'un), *n.* Previous warning or admonition.

Prē-ăd'ver-tīse', *v. t.* To advertise or announce beforehand.

Prē'am-ble, *n.* [Fr. *préambule*, Sp. *preambulo*, It. *preambolo*, L. Lat. *præambulum*, from Lat. *præambulare*, walking before. See PREAMBULATE.] An introductory portion; an introduction or preface, as to a book, document, and the like; specifically, the introductory part of a statute, which states the reasons and intent of the law.

Prē'am-ble, *v. i.* [O. Fr. *préambler.*] To introduce with previous remarks; to preface.

Prē'am-ble, *v. i.* To precede any thing; to serve as a preface.

We must be content to hear a *preambling* boast of your valor. *Milton.*

Pre-ăm'bu-la-ry, *a.* [Lat. *præambulus*, O. Fr. *préambulaire.* See PREAMBLE, *n.*] Of, or pertaining to, a preamble; introductory; contained or provided for in a preamble. "A *preambulary* tax." *Burke.*

Prē-ăm'bu-lāte, *v. i.* [Lat. *præambulare*, *præambulatum*, from *præ*, before, and *ambulare*, to walk, to go.] To walk or go before. [*Obs.*] *Jordan.*

Prē-ăm'bu-lā'tion, *n.* 1. A walking or going before. [*Obs.*] *Chaucer.*

2. A preamble. [*Obs.*] *Chaucer.*

Pre-ăm'bu-la-to-ry, *a.* Going before; preceding; leading the way; introductory. [*Obs.*]

Simon Magus had *preambulatory* inspleties. *Sp. Taylor.*

Prē-ăm'bu-lŏus, *a.* Same as PREAMBULATORY.

Prē'an-nounçe', *v. t.* To announce beforehand.

Prē-ăn'te-pe-nŭl'ti-mate, *a.* Being or indicating the fourth syllable from the end of a word, or that preceding the antepenult.

Prē'ap-point', *v. t.* To appoint previously.

Prē'ap-point'ment, *n.* Previous appointment.

Prē-ăp'pre-hĕn'sion, *n.* [See APPREHEND.] An opinion formed before examination. *Browne.*

Prēase, *v. t. or i.* To press; to crowd; to urge. [*Obs.*] *Spenser.*

Prēase, *n.* Press; crowd. [*Obs.*] See PRESS.

Prēas'ing, *a.* Crowding. [*Obs.*] *Spenser.*

Prē'as-sur'ançe (-ash-shur'-), *n.* Previous assurance. *Coleridge.*

Prē'au-dĭ-ençe, *n.* [See AUDIENCE.] (*Law.*) Precedence or rank at the bar among lawyers; right of previous audience. *Blackstone.*

Prē'bend, *n.* [Fr. *prébende*, Pr. & Sp. *prebenda*, It. *prebenda*, *prebenda*, L. Lat. *prabenda*, from Lat. *præbere*, to hold forth, afford, allow, contracted from *præhibere*, from *præ*, before, and *habere*, to have, hold.]

1. The stipend or maintenance granted to a prebendary out of the estate of a cathedral or collegiate church with which he is connected.

2. A prebendary. [*Obs.*] *Bacon.*

Dignitary prebend, one having jurisdiction annexed to it. — *Simple prebend*, one restricted to the revenue only.

Pre-bĕnd'al, *a.* Pertaining to a prebend; as, a *prebendal* priest or stall. *Chesterfield.*

Prē'bend-a-ry, *n.* [Fr. *prébendier*, It. *prebendario*, L. Lat. *prebendarius.* See *supra.*] A clergyman attached to a collegiate or cathedral church, who enjoys a prebend in consideration of his officiating at stated times in the church. *Hook.*

☞ A *prebendary* differs from a *canon* in this: the prebendary receives his prebend in consideration of his officiating in the church; the canon has his stipend merely in consequence of his being received into the cathedral or college.

Prē'bend-a-ry-ship, *n.* The office of a prebendary; a canonry. *Wotton.*

Prē'bend-āte, *v. t.* To invest with the office of prebendary; to cause to become a prebendary. [*Obs.*]

Prē'bend-ship, *n.* A prebendaryship. [*Obs.*]

Prē'cant, *n.* [Lat. *precans*, *precantis*, p. pr. of *precari*, to pray.] One who prays. "Asserting the efficacy of prayer relatively to the pray-er or *precant* himself." *Coleridge.*

Pre-cā'ri-oŭs, *a.* [Lat. *precarius*, obtained by begging or prayer, depending on request or on the will of another, from *precari*, to pray, beg, from *prex*, *precis*, a prayer; Fr. *précaire*, Pr. *precari*, Sp. & It. *precario.*]

1. Depending on the will or pleasure of another; held by courtesy; liable to be changed or lost at the pleasure of another.

2. Held by a doubtful tenure; depending on unknown or unforeseen causes or events; exposed to constant risk; not to be depended on for certainty or stability; uncertain. "Intervals of partial and *precarious* liberty." *Macaulay.*

Syn. — Uncertain; unsettled; unsteady; doubtful; dubious; equivocal. — PRECARIOUS, UNCERTAIN. *Precarious* is stronger than *uncertain*. Derived originally from the Latin *precari*, it first signified "granted to on treaty," and, hence, "wholly dependent on the will of another." Thus it came to express the highest species of uncertainty, and is applied to such things as depend wholly on future casualties. "This little happiness is so very *precarious*, that it wholly depends on the will of others." *Addison.*

With certain pain, *uncertain of relief*,
True emblem of a wretched lover's grief. *Granville.*

Pre-cā'ri-oŭs-ly, *adv.* At the will or pleasure of others; dependently; by an uncertain tenure; as, he subsists *precariously.* *Macaulay.*

Pre-cā'ri-oŭs-ness, *n.* The quality or state of being precarious; dependence on the will or pleasure of others, or on unknown events; uncertainty.

Pre-cā'tion, *n.* The act of entreating or praying; supplication; entreaty. [*Obs.*] *Cotton.*

Prē'ca-tĭve, *a.* [Lat. *precativus* and *precativus*.] (*Obs.*)

Prē'ca-to-ry, *a.* *vius*, from *precari*, to pray. See PRECARIOUS.] Suppliant; beseeching.

Precatory words (*Law*), words of recommendation, request, entreaty, wish, or expectation employed in wills, as distinguished from *express directions*; — in some cases creating a trust. *Jarman.*

Pre-cau'tion, *n.* [Fr. *précaution*, Sp. *precaucion*, It. *precauzione*, Lat. *præcautio*, from *præcavere*, *præcautum*, to guard against beforehand, from *præ*, before, and *cavere*, to be on one's guard.]

1. Previous caution or care; caution previously employed to prevent mischief or secure good in possession.

2. A measure taken beforehand to ward off evil or secure good or success; a precautionary act.

Pre-cau'tion, *v. t.* [*imp. & p. p.* PRECAUTIONED; *p. pr. & vb. n.* PRECAUTIONING.] [Fr. *précautionner.*] To warn or advise beforehand for preventing mischief or securing good. *Locke.*

Pre-cau'tion-al, *a.* Preventive of mischief; precautionary. *Monstagu.*

Pre-cau'tion-a-ry, *a.* Proceeding from, or containing, previous caution; adapted to prevent mischief or secure good; as, *precautionary* advice or measures.

Pre-cau'tioŭs (-shus), *a.* Taking precautions or preventive measures.

Pre-cau'tioŭs-ly, *adv.* With precaution.

Prē'çe-dā'ne-oŭs, *a.* [From *precede.*] Preceding; antecedent; anterior. [*Obs.*] *Hale.*

Prē-çēde', *v. t.* [*imp. & p. p.* PRECEDED; *p. pr. & vb. n.* PRECEDING.] [Lat. *præcedere*, from *præ*, before, and *cedere*, to go, to be in motion; Fr. *précéder*, Pr., Sp., & Pg. *preceder*, It. *precedere.*]

1. To go before in place or order of time; to occur first with relation to any thing. "Harm *precedes* not sin." *Milton.*

2. To go before in rank or importance.

3. To preface; to introduce; — used with *by* or *with* before the instrumental object. [*Rare.*]

It is usual to *precede* hostilities by a public declaration. *Kent*

Prē'çē-dençe, } *n.* [O. Fr. *précidence*, Sp. *pre-*
Prē'çē-den-çy, } *dencia*, It. *precedenza.* See *infra.*]

1. The act or state of being precedent; a going before; priority in position, rank, or time; as, the *precedence* of one event to another.

2. The state of going or being before in rank or dignity or the place of honor; right to a more honorable place; prior or superior rank.

Precedence went in truck,
And he was content whom turbe was so. *Cowper.*

Which of the different desires has *precedency* in determining the will to the next action? *Locke*

Syn. — Antecedence; priority; pre-eminence; preference; superiority.

Prē'çē'dent, *a.* [Lat. *præcedens*, p. pr. of *præcedere*; Fr. *précédent*, Sp. & It. *precedente.* See PRECEDE.] Going before; anterior; preceding: antecedent; as, *precedent* services; a *precedent* fault of the will.

The world, or any part thereof, could not be *precedent* to the creation of man. *Hale.*

Precedent condition (*Law*), a condition preceding the vesting of an estate, or the accruing of a right.

Prē'çe-dent, *n.* 1. Something done or said that

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