

1. Regulated or bestowed by election or choice.

I will say positively and resolutely, that it is impossible an elective monarchy should be so free and absolute as an hereditary. *Bacon.*

The last change of their government, from elective to hereditary, has made it seem hitherto of less force, and unfit for action abroad. *Temple.*

2. Exerting the power of choice.

To talk of compelling a man to be good, is a contradiction; for where there is force, there can be no choice: whereas all moral goodness consisteth in the elective act of the understanding will.

Grew's Cosmologia Sacra.

ELECTIVELY. *adv.* [from *elect.*] by choice; with preference of one to another.

How or why that should have such an influence upon the spirits, as to drive them into those muscles *electively*, I am not subtle enough to discern.

Ray on the Creation.

They work not *electively*, or upon proposing to themselves an end of their operations. *Grew.*

ELECTOR. *n. s.* [from *elect.*]

1. He that has a vote in the choice of any officer.

From the new world her silver and her gold Came, like a tempest, to confound the old; Feeding with these the brib'd electors' hopes, Alone she gave us emperors and popes. *Waller.*

2. A prince who has a voice in the choice of the German emperor.

ELECTORAL. *adj.* [from *elector.*] Having the dignity of an elector.

ELECTORATE. *n. s.* [from *elector.*] The territory of an elector.

He has a great and powerful king for his son-in-law; and can himself command, when he pleases, the whole strength of an electorate in the empire. *Addison's Freeholder.*

ELECTRE. *n. s.* [*electrum*, Lat.]

1. Amber; which, having the quality when warmed by friction of attracting bodies, gave to one species of attraction the name of *electricity*, and to the bodies that so attract the epithet *electric*.

2. A mixed metal.

Change silver plate or vessel into the compound stuff, being a kind of silver *electre*, and turn the rest into coin. *Bacon.*

ELECTRICAL. } *adj.* [from *electru*

ELECTRICK }

See **ELECTRE.**

1. Attractive without magnetism; attractive by a peculiar property, supposed once to belong chiefly to amber.

By *electrick* bodies do I conceive not only such as take up light bodies, in which number the ancients only placed jett and amber; but such as, conveniently placed, attract all bodies palpable.

Brown's Vulgar Errors.

An *electrick* body can by friction emit an exhalation so subtle, and yet so potent, as by its emission to cause no sensible diminution of the weight of the *electrick* body, and to be expanded through a sphere, whose diameter is above two feet, and yet to be able to carry up lead, copper, or leaden at the distance of above a foot from the *electrick* body. *Newton.*

2. Produced by an *electrick* body.

If that attraction were not rather *electrick* than magnetical, it was wonderful what Helmont delivered concerning a glass, wherein the magistery of loadstone was prepared, which retained an attractive quality. *Brown.*

If a piece of white paper, or a white cloth, or the end of one's finger, be held at about a quarter of an inch from the glass, the *electrick* vapour, excited by friction, will, by dashing against the white paper, cloth, or finger, be put into such an agitation as to emit light. *Newton's Opticks.*

ELECTRICITY. *n. s.* [from *electrick.* See

ELECTRE.] A property in some bodies, whereby, when rubbed so as to grow warm, they draw little bits of paper, or such like substances to them.

Quincy.

Such was the account given a few years ago of electricity; but the industry of the present age, first excited by the experiments of Gray, has discovered in electricity a multitude of philosophical wonders. Bodies electrified by a sphere of glass, turned nimbly round, not only emit flame, but may be fitted with such a quantity of the electrical vapour, as, if discharged at once upon a human body, would endanger life. The force of this vapour has hitherto appeared instantaneous, persons at both ends of a long chain seeming to be struck at once. The philosophers are now endeavouring to intercept the strokes of lightning.

ELECTUARY. *n. s.* [*electarium*, *Caelius Aurel.*, which is now written *electuary.*] A form of medicine made of conserves and powders, in the consistence of honey

Electuaries made up with honey or syrup, when the consistence is too thin, ferment; and when too thick, candy. By both which the ingredients will be altered or impaired.

Quincy.

We meet with divers *electuaries*, which have no ingredient, except sugar, common to any two of them. *Boyle.*

ELEMO'SYNARY. *adj.* [*ελεημοσύνη*.]

1. Living upon alms; depending upon charity. Not used.

It is little better than an absurdity, that the cause should be an *elemosynary* for its subsistence to its effects, as a nature posterior to and dependent on itself. *Glenville's Scepis.*

2. Given in charity. This is the present use.

ELEGANCE. } *n. s.* [*elegantia*, Lat.]

ELEGANCY. }

1. Beauty rather soothing than striking; beauty without grandeur; the beauty of propriety not of greatness.

St. Augustine, out of a kind of *elegancy* in writing, makes some difference. *Raleigh's Hist.*

These questions have more propriety, and *elegancy*, understood of the old world. *Burnet.*

2. Any thing that pleases by its nicety. In this sense it has a plural.

My compositions in gardening are altogether *Pindarick*, and run into the beautiful wildness of nature, without the nicer *elegancies* of art. *Spred.*

ELEGANT. *adj.* [*elegans*, Lat.]

1. Pleasing by minuter beauties.

Trifles themselves are *elegant* in him. *Pope.*

There may't thou find some elegant retreat. *London.*

2. Nice; not coarse; not gross.

Polite with candour, *elegant* with ease. *Pope.*

ELEGANTLY. *adv.* [from *elegant.*]

1. In such a manner as to please.

Now read with them those organic arts which enable men to discourse and write perspicuously, *elegantly*, and according to the fittest style of lofty, mean, or lowly. *Milton.*

In a poem *elegantly* writ,

I will not quarrel with a slight mistake. *R. from.*

2. Neatly; nicely; with minute beauty; with pleasing propriety.

They describe her in part finely and *elegantly*, and in part gravely and sententious. *Bacon.*

Whoever would write *elegantly*, must have regard to the different turn and juncture of every period: there must be proper distances and pauses. *Pope's Odyssey, Notes.*

ELEGIACK. *adj.* [*elegiacus*, Lat.]

1. Used in Elegies.

2. Pertaining to elegies.

3. Mournful; forrowful.

Let *elegiac* lay the woe relate,
Soft as the breath of distant futes. *Gay's Trivia.*

ELEGY. *n. s.* [*elegus*, Lat.]

1. A mournful song.

He haug odes upon hawthorns, and *elegies* upon brambles, all forsooth deifying the name of Rosalind. *Shakespeare.*

2. A funeral song.

So on Meander's banks, when death is nigh,
The mournful swan sings her own *elegy.* *Dryden.*

3. A short poem without points or affected elegancies.

ELEMENT. *n. s.* [*elementum*, Lat.]

1. The first or constituent principle of any thing.

If nature should intermit her course, those principal and mother *elements* of the world, whereof all things in this lower world are made, should lose the qualities which now they have. *Hooker.*

A man may rationally retain doubts concerning the number of those ingredients of bodies, which some call *elements*, and others principles. *Boyle.*

Simple substances are either spirits, which have no manner of composition, or the first principles of bodies usually called *elements*, of which other bodies are compounded. *Watts.*

2. The four elements, usually so called, are earth, fire, air, water, of which our world is composed. When it is used alone, *element* commonly means the air.

The king is but a man: the violet smells to him as it doth to me; and the *element* shews to him as it doth to me. *Shakespeare.*

My dearest sister, fare thee well;
The *elements* be kind to thee, and make
Thy spirits all of comfort. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleop.*

The king,
Contending with the fretful *elements*,
Bids the wind blow the earth into the sea,
Or swell the curled waters. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

The heavens and the earth shall pass away, and the *elements* melt with fervent heat. *Peter.*

Here be four of you able to make a good world; for you are as differing as the four *elements.* *Bacon.*

He from his flaming ship his children sent,
To perish in a milder *element.* *Waller.*

3. The proper habitation or sphere of any thing: as water of fish.

We are simple men; we do not know the works by charms, by spells, and such daubry as is beyond our *element.* *Shakespeare.*

Our torments may, in length of time,
Become our *elements.* *Milton.*

They shew that they are out of their *element*, and that logick is none of their talent. *Baker on Learning.*

4. An ingredient; a constituent part.

Who set the body and the limbs
Of this great sport together, as you guess?
—One sure that promises an *element*
In such a business. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*

5. The letters of any language.

6. The lowest or first rudiments of literature or science.

With religion it fareth as with other sciences; the first delivery of the *elements* thereof must, for like consideration, be framed according to the weak and slender capacity of young beginners. *Hooker.*

Every parish should keep a petty schoolmaster, which should bring up children in the first *elements* of letters. *Spenser.*

We, when we were children, were in bondage under the *elements* of the world. *Gal. iv. 3.*

There is nothing more pernicious to a youth, in the *elements* of painting, than an ignorant master. *Dryden.*

To **ELEMENT.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To compound of elements.

Whether any one such body be met with, in those said to be *elemented* bodies, I now question. *Boyle.*

2. To constitute; to make as a first principle.

Doll