

*Maundy Thursday.*—The Thursday before Easter, so called from the Saxon *maunday*, a basket, say some; from the French, say others; but more probably from the Latin *dies mandati*, that is, the day of command to commemorate the charge given by our Saviour to his disciples before his last supper.

*Mendicants.*—Beggars. There are four principal orders of friar-mendicants; that is, the Carmelites, Jacobins, Franciscans, and Augustines. With these rank the Capuchins, &c.

*Miracle.*—A prodigy. Some effect of which does not follow from the known laws of nature.

*Miserere.*—A lamentation. The beginning of the 51st or 54th penitential psalm.

*Month's Mind.*—A solemn office for the repose of the soul, performed one month after decease.

*Mortmain.*—A law to prevent property falling into the hands of idle ecclesiastics.

*Mortuaries.*—A corse present, and made as a recompense for any deficiency in the payment of tithes and oblations.

*Mothering.*—A visiting of the mother church to make offerings at the high altar.

*Novice.*—One who has entered a religious house, but not yet taken the vow.

*Novitiate.*—The time spent in a religious house, by way of trial, before a vow is taken.

*Nun.*—A woman secluded in a cloister from the world.

*Nuncio.*—An ambassador from the pope to some Catholic prince or state.

*Obit.*—A funeral celebration or office for the dead.

*Oblatæ.*—Bread made without leaven and not consecrated, yet blessed upon the altar; anciently placed upon the breasts of the dead.

*Oriel.*—A portico or court; also, a small dining-room, near the hall, in monasteries.

*Pall.*—A pontifical garment worn by popes, &c., over the other garments, as a sign of their jurisdiction.

*Palm Sunday.*—The Sunday next before Easter, kept in memory of the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem.