

M.

M. This letter, used as a Roman numeral, stands for one thousand.

It was also, in old English law, a brand or stigma impressed upon the brawn of the thumb of a person convicted of manslaughter and admitted to the benefit of clergy.

This letter was sometimes put on the face of treasury notes of the United States, and signifies that the treasury note bears interest at the rate of one mill per centum, and not one per centum interest. 13 Pet. 176.

M. also stands as an abbreviation for several words of which it is the initial letter; as "Mary," (the English queen of that name,) "Michaelmas," "master," "middle."

M. D. An abbreviation for "Middle District," in reference to the division of the United States into judicial districts. Also an abbreviation for "Doctor of Medicine."

M. R. An abbreviation for "Master of the Rolls."

M. T. An abbreviation for "Michaelmas Term."

MACE. A large staff, made of the precious metals, and highly ornamented. It is used as an emblem of authority, and carried before certain public functionaries by a mace-bearer.

MACE-BEARER. In English law. One who carries the mace before certain functionaries. In Scotland, an officer attending the court of session, and usually called a "macer."

MACE-GREFF. In old English law. One who buys stolen goods, particularly food, knowing it to have been stolen.

MACE-PROOF. Secure against arrest.

MACEDONIAN DECREE. In Roman law. This was the *Senatus-consultum Macedonianum*, a decree of the Roman senate, first given under Claudius, and renewed under Vespasian, by which it was declared that no action should be maintained to recover a loan of money made to a child who was under the *patria potestas*. It was intended to strike at the practice of usurers in making loans, on unconscionable terms, to family heirs who would mortgage their future expectations from the paternal estate. The law is said to have derived its name from that of

a notorious usurer. See Mackeld. Rom. Law, § 432; Inst. 4, 7, 1; Dig. 14, 6.

MACER. A mace-bearer; an officer attending the court of session in Scotland.

MACHECOLLARE. To make a warlike device over a gate or other passage like to a grate, through which scalding water or ponderous or offensive things may be cast upon the assailants. Co. Litt. 5a.

MACHINATION. Contriving a plot or conspiracy. The act of planning or contriving a scheme for executing some purpose, particularly an evil purpose; an artful design formed with deliberation.

MACHINE. In patent law. Any contrivance used to regulate or augment force or motion; more properly, a complex structure, consisting of a combination, or peculiar modification, of the mechanical powers.

The term "machine," in patent law, includes every mechanical device, or combination of mechanical powers and devices, to perform some function and produce a certain effect or result. But where the result or effect is produced by chemical action, by the operation or application of some element or power of nature, or of one substance to another, such modes, methods, or operations are called "processes." A new process is usually the result of discovery; a machine, of invention. 15 How. 252, 287.

MACHINERY. A more comprehensive term than "machine;" including the appurtenances necessary to the working of a machine. 111 Mass. 540; 108 Mass. 78.

MACHOLUM. A barn or granary open at the top; a rick or stack of corn. Spelman.

MACTATOR. A murderer.

MACULARE. In old European law. To wound. Spelman.

MADE KNOWN. Where a writ of *scire facias* has been actually served upon a defendant, the proper return is that its contents have been "made known" to him.

MADRAS REGULATIONS. Certain regulations prescribed for the government of the Madras presidency. Mozley & Whitley.

MÆC-BURGH. Kindred; family.

MÆGBOTE. In Saxon law. A recompense or satisfaction for the slaying or murder of a kinsman. Spelman.

MÆRE. Famous; great; noted; as *Æl-mere*, all famous. Gibs. Camd.

MÆREMIUM. Timber; wood suitable for building purposes.

MAGIC. In English statutes. Witchcraft and sorcery.

MAGIS. Lat. More; more fully; more in number; rather.

Magis de bono quam de malo lex intendit. Co. Litt. 78b. The law favors a good rather than a bad construction. Where the words used in an agreement are susceptible of two meanings, the one agreeable to, the other against, the law, the former is adopted. Thus, a bond conditioned "to assign all offices" will be construed to apply to such offices only as are assignable. Chit. Cont. 78.

Magis dignum trahit ad se minus dignum. The more worthy draws to itself the less worthy. Yearb. 20 Hen. VI. 2, arg.

MAGISTER. In English law. A master or ruler; a person who has attained to some eminent degree in science. Cowell.

In the civil law. A title of several offices under the Roman Empire.

MAGISTER AD FACULTATES. In English ecclesiastical law. The title of an officer who grants dispensations; as to marry, to eat flesh on days prohibited, and the like. Bac. Abr. "Ecclesiastical Courts," A, 5.

MAGISTER CANCELLARIÆ. In old English law. Master of the chancery; master in chancery. These officers were said to be called "*magistri*," because they were priests. Latch, 133.

MAGISTER EQUITUM. Master of the horse. A title of office under the Roman Empire.

MAGISTER LIBELLORUM. Master of requests. A title of office under the Roman Empire.

MAGISTER LITIS. Master of the suit; the person who controls the suit or its prosecution, or has the right so to do.

MAGISTER NAVIS. In the civil law. The master of a ship or vessel. He to whom the care of the whole vessel is committed. Dig. 14, 1, 1, 5.

MAGISTER PALATII. Master of the palace or of the offices. An officer under the Roman Empire bearing some resemblance to

the modern lord chamberlain. Tayl. Civil Law, 37.

Magister rerum usus. Use is the master of things. Co. Litt. 229b. Usage is a principal guide in practice.

Magister rerum usus; magistra rerum experientia. Use is the master of things; experience is the mistress of things. Co. Litt. 69, 229; Wing. Max. 752.

MAGISTER SOCIETATIS. In the civil law. The master or manager of a partnership; a managing partner or general agent; a manager specially chosen by a firm to administer the affairs of the partnership. Story, Partn. § 95.

MAGISTERIAL. Relating or pertaining to the character, office, powers, or duties of a magistrate or of the magistracy.

MAGISTRACY. This term may have a more or less extensive signification according to the use and connection in which it occurs. In its widest sense it includes the whole body of public functionaries, whether their offices be legislative, judicial, executive, or administrative. In a more restricted (and more usual) meaning, it denotes the class of officers who are charged with the application and execution of the laws. In a still more confined use, it designates the body of judicial officers of the lowest rank, and more especially those who have jurisdiction for the trial and punishment of petty misdemeanors or the preliminary steps of a criminal prosecution, such as police judges and justices of the peace. The term also denotes the office of a magistrate.

MAGISTRALIA BREVIA. In old English practice. Magisterial writs; writs adapted to special cases, and so called from being framed by the *masters* or principal clerks of the chancery. Bract. fol. 413b; Crabb, Com. Law, 547, 548.

MAGISTRATE. A public officer belonging to the civil organization of the state, and invested with powers and functions which may be either judicial, legislative, or executive.

But the term is commonly used in a narrower sense, designating, in England, a person intrusted with the commission of the peace, and, in America, one of the class of inferior judicial officers, such as justices of the peace and police justices.

A magistrate is an officer having power to issue a warrant for the arrest of a person

charged with a public offense. Pen. Code Cal. § 807.

The word "magistrate" does not necessarily imply an officer exercising any judicial functions, and might very well be held to embrace notaries and commissioners of deeds. 57 Mo. 336.

MAGISTRATE'S COURT. In American law. Courts in the state of South Carolina, having exclusive jurisdiction in matters of contract of and under twenty dollars.

A local court in the city of Philadelphia, possessing the criminal jurisdiction of a police court and civil jurisdiction in actions involving not more than one hundred dollars. It is not a court of record. See Const. Pa. art. 4, § 12.

MAGISTRATUS. In the civil law. A magistrate. Calvin. A judicial officer who had the power of hearing and determining causes, but whose office properly was to inquire into matters of law, as distinguished from fact. Hallifax, Civil Law, b. 3, c. 8.

MAGNA ASSISA. In old English law. The grand assize. Glanv. lib. 2, cc. 11, 12.

MAGNA ASSISA ELIGENDA. An ancient writ to summon four lawful knights before the justices of assize, there to choose twelve others, with themselves to constitute the *grand assize* or great jury, to try the matter of right. The trial by grand assize was instituted by Henry II. in parliament, as an alternative to the duel in a writ of right. Abolished by 3 & 4 Wm. IV. c. 27. Wharton.

MAGNA AVERIA. In old pleading. Great beasts, as horses, oxen, etc. Cro. Jac. 580.

MAGNA CENTUM. The great hundred, or six score. Wharton.

MAGNA CHARTA. The great charter. The name of a charter (or constitutional enactment) granted by King John of England to the barons, at Runnymede, on June 15, 1215, and afterwards, with some alterations, confirmed in parliament by Henry III. and Edward I. This charter is justly regarded as the foundation of English constitutional liberty. Among its thirty-eight chapters are found provisions for regulating the administration of justice, defining the temporal and ecclesiastical jurisdictions, securing the personal liberty of the subject and his rights of property, and the limits of taxation, and for preserving the liberties and privileges of the church. *Magna Charta* is so called, partly to distinguish it from the *Charta de Foresta*, which was granted about the same time, and

partly by reason of its own transcendent importance.

Magna Charta et Charta de Foresta sont appelés les "deux grandes charters." 2 Inst. 570. *Magna Charta* and the Charter of the Forest are called the "two great charters."

MAGNA COMPONERE PARVIS. To compare great things with small things.

MAGNA CULPA. Great fault; gross negligence.

MAGNA NEGLIGENTIA. In the civil law. Great or gross negligence.

Magna negligentia culpa est; magna culpa dolus est. Gross negligence is fault; gross fault is fraud. Dig. 50, 16, 226.

MAGNA PRECARIA. In old English law. A great or general reape-day. Cowell; Blount.

MAGNA SERJEANTIA. In old English law. Grand serjeanty. Fleta, lib. 2, c. 4, § 1.

MAGNUM CAPE. In old practice. Great or grand *cape*. 1 Reeve, Eng. Law, 418. See **GRAND CAPE**.

MAGNUM CONCILIUM. In old English law. The great council; the general council of the realm; afterwards called "parliament." 1 Bl. Comm. 148; 1 Reeve, Eng. Law, 62; Spelman.

The king's great council of barons and prelates. Spelman; Crabb, Com. Law, 228.

MAGNUS ROTULUS STATUTORUM. The great statute roll. The first of the English statute rolls, beginning with *Magna Charta*, and ending with Edward III. Hale, Com. Law, 16, 17.

MAHA-GEN. In Hindu law. A banker or any great shop-keeper.

MAHAL. In Hindu law. Any land or public fund producing a revenue to the government of Hindostan. "*Mahalaat*" is the plural.

MAHLBRIEF. In maritime law. The German name for the contract for the building of a vessel. This contract contains a specification of the kind of vessel intended, her dimensions, the time within which she is to be completed, the price and times of payment, etc. Jac. Sea Laws, 2-8.

MAIDEN. In Scotch law. An instrument formerly used in beheading criminals.

It resembled the French guillotine, of which it is said to have been the prototype. Whar-ton.

MAIDEN ASSIZE. In English law. Originally an assize at which no person was condemned to die. Now it is a session of a criminal court at which there are no prisoners to be tried.

MAIDEN RENTS. A fine paid by the tenants of some manors to the lord for a license to marry a daughter. Cowell. Or, perhaps, for the lord's omitting the custom of *marcheta*, (*q. v.*)

MAIGNAGIUM. A brasier's shop, or, perhaps, a bouse. Cowell.

MAIHEM. See **MAYHEM**; **MAIM**.

MAIHEMATUS. Maimed or wounded.

MAIHEMIUM. In old English law. *Mayhem*, (*q. v.*)

Maihemium est homicidium inchoatum. 3 Inst. 118. *Mayhem* is incipient homicide.

Maihemium est inter crimina majora minimum, et inter minora maximum. Co. Litt. 127. *Mayhem* is the least of great crimes, and the greatest of small.

Maihemium est membri mutilatio, et dici poterit, ubi aliquis in aliqua parte sui corporis effectus sit inutilis ad pugandum. Co. Litt. 126. *Mayhem* is the mutilation of a member, and can be said to take place when a man is injured in any part of his body so as to be useless in fight.

MAIL. As applied to the post-office, this term means the carriage of letters, whether applied to the bag into which they are put, the coach or vehicle by means of which they are transported, or any other means employed for their carriage and delivery by public authority. 6 Daly, 560. It may also denote the letters or other matter so carried.

The term "mail," as used in Rev. St. U. S. § 5469, relative to robbing the mails, may mean either the whole body of matter transported by the postal agents, or any letter or package forming a component part of it. 41 Fed. Rep. 130.

Mail also denotes armor, as in the phrase a "coat of mail."

In Scotch law. Rent; a rent or tribute. A tenant who pays a rent is called a "mail-payer," "mailer," or "mail-man." Skene.

MAIL MATTER. This term includes letters, packets, etc., received for transmission, and to be transmitted by post to the person to whom such matter is directed. 30 Fed. Rep. 820.

MAILABLE. Suitable or admissible for transmission by the mail; belonging to the classes of articles which, by the laws and postal regulations, may be sent by post.

MAILE. In old English law. A kind of ancient money, or silver half-pence; a small rent.

MAILED. This word, as applied to a letter, means that the letter was properly prepared for transmission by the servants of the postal department, and that it was put in the custody of the officer charged with the duty of forwarding the mail. 67 Mo. 163.

MAILS AND DUTIES. In Scotch law. The rents of an estate. Bell.

MAIM. To deprive a person of a member or part of the body, the loss of which renders him less capable of fighting; to commit *mayhem*, (*q. v.*)

In this respect, "to wound" is distinguishable from "to maim;" for the latter implies a permanent injury, whereas a wound is any mutilation or laceration which breaks the continuity of the outer skin. 11 Cox, Crim. Cas. 125.

MAIMING. Depriving of any necessary part. See **MAYHEM**.

MAIN. L. Fr. A hand. More commonly written "*meyn*."

MAIN-A-MAIN. L. Fr. Immediately. Kelham.

MAIN CHANNEL. The main channel of a river is that bed over which the principal volume of water flows. 31 Fed. Rep. 755.

MAIN-RENT. Vassalage.

MAIN SEA. The open, uninclosed ocean; or that portion of the sea which is without the *fauces terræ* on the sea-coast, in contradistinction to that which is surrounded or inclosed between narrow headlands or promontories. 5 Mason, 298; 73 N. Y. 396; 2 East, P. C. c. 17, § 9; 7 N. Y. 555; 8 Barb. 203.

MAINA D. A false oath; perjury. Cowell.

MAINE-PORT. A small tribute, commonly of loaves of bread, which in some

places the parishioners paid to the rector in lieu of small tithes. Cowell.

MAINOUR. In criminal law. An article stolen, when found in the hands of the thief. A thief caught with the stolen goods in his possession is said to be taken "with the mainour," that is, with the property *in manu*, in his hands. 4 Bl. Comm. 307.

The word seems to have corresponded with the Saxon "*handhabend*," (*q. v.*) In modern law it has sometimes been written as an English word "manner," and the expression "taken in the manner" occurs in the books. Crabb, Eng. Law, 154.

MAINOVRE, or MAINCEUVRE. A trespass committed by hand. See 7 Rich. II. c. 4.

MAINPERNABLE. Capable of being bailed; bailable; admissible to bail on giving surety by mainpernors.

MAINPERNOR. In old practice. A surety for the appearance of a person under arrest, who is delivered out of custody into the hands of his bail. "Mainpernors" differ from "bail" in that a man's bail may imprison or surrender him up before the stipulated day of appearance; mainpernors can do neither, but are barely sureties for his appearance at the day. Bail are only sureties that the party be answerable for the special matter for which they stipulate; mainpernors are bound to produce him to answer all charges whatsoever. 3 Bl. Comm. 128. Other distinctions are made in the old books. See Cowell.

MAINPRISE. The delivery of a person into the custody of *mainpernors*, (*q. v.*) Also the name of a writ (now obsolete) commanding the sheriff to take the security of mainpernors and set the party at liberty.

MAINSWORN. Forsworn, by making false oath with *hand (main)* on book. Used in the north of England. Brownl. 4; Hob. 125.

MAINTAIN. To maintain an action or suit is to commence or institute it; the term imports the existence of a cause of action. 8 Minn. 105, (Gil. 80, 81.)

MAINTAINED. In pleading. A technical word indispensable in an indictment for maintenance. 1 Wils. 325.

MAINTAINOR. In criminal law. One that maintains or seconds a cause depending in suit between others, either by disbursing money or making friends for either party towards his help. Blount. One who is guilty of *maintenance* (*q. v.*)

MAINTENANCE. Sustenance; support; assistance. The furnishing by one person to another, for his support, of the means of living, or food, clothing, shelter, etc., particularly where the legal relation of the parties is such that one is bound to support the other, as between father and child, or husband and wife.

In criminal law. An unauthorized and officious interference in a suit in which the offender has no interest, to assist one of the parties to it, against the other, with money or advice to prosecute or defend the action. 1 Russ. Crimes, 254.

Maintenance, in general, signifies an unlawful taking in hand or upholding of quarrels and sides, to the hindrance of common right. Co. Litt. 363b; Hawk. P. C. 393.

The intermeddling of a stranger in a suit, for the purpose of stirring up strife and continuing litigation. 35 Vt. 69.

Maintenance is the assisting another person in a lawsuit, without having any concern in the subject. 3 Johns. 220.

Maintenance is where one officiously intermeddles in a suit which in no way belongs to him. The term does not include all kinds of aid in the prosecution or defense of another's cause. It does not extend to persons having an interest in the thing in controversy, nor to persons of kin or affinity to either party, nor to counsel or attorneys, for their acts are not officious, nor unlawful. The distinction between "champerty" and "maintenance" is that maintenance is the promoting, or undertaking to promote, a suit by one who has no lawful cause to do so, and champerty is an agreement for a division of the thing in controversy, in the event of success, as a reward for the unlawful assistance. 3 Har. (Del.) 208.

"Maintenance," at common law, signifies an unlawful taking in hand or upholding of quarrels or sides, to the disturbance or hindrance of common right. The maintaining of one side, in consideration of some bargain to have part of the thing in dispute, is called "champerty." Champerty, therefore, is a species of maintenance. 40 Conn. 570.

MAIOR. An old form of "mayor."

MAIRE. In old Scotch law. An officer to whom process was directed. Otherwise called "mair of fie," (fee,) and classed with the "serjand." Skene.

MAIRIE. In French law. The government building of each commune. It contains the record office of all civil acts and the list of voters; and it is there that political and municipal elections take place. Arg. Fr. Merc. Law, 566.

MAISON DE DIEU. Fr. A hospital; an almshouse; a monastery. St. 39 Eliz. c. 5. Literally, "house of God."

MAISTER. An old form of "master."

MAISURA. A house, mansion, or farm. Cowell.

MAITRE. Fr. In French maritime law. Master; the master or captain of a vessel. Ord. Mar. liv. 2, tit. 1, art. 1.

MAJESTAS. Lat. In Roman law. The majesty, sovereign authority, or supreme prerogative of the state or prince. Also a shorter form of the expression "*crimen majestatis*," or "*crimen læsæ majestatis*," an offense against sovereignty, or against the safety or organic life of the Roman people; *i. e.*, high treason.

MAJESTY. Royal dignity. A term used of kings and emperors as a title of honor.

MAJOR. A person of full age; one who is no longer a minor; one who has attained the management of his own concerns and the enjoyment of his civic rights.

In military law. The officer next in rank above a captain.

MAJOR ANNUS. The greater year; the bissextile year, consisting of 366 days. Bract. fol. 359b.

MAJOR GENERAL. In military law. An officer next in rank above a brigadier general, and next below a lieutenant general, and who usually commands a division or an army corps.

Major hæreditas venit unicuique nostrum a jure et legibus quam a parentibus. 2 Inst. 56. A greater inheritance comes to every one of us from right and the laws than from parents.

Major numerus in se continet minorem. Bract. fol. 16. The greater number contains in itself the less.

MAJORA REGALIA. The king's dignity, power, and royal prerogative, as opposed to his revenue, which is comprised in the *minora* regalia. 2 Steph. Comm. 475; 1 Bl. Comm. 240.

Majore pœna affectus quam legibus statuta est, non est infamis. One affected with a greater punishment than is provided by law is not infamous. 4 Inst. 66.

MAJORES. In Roman law and genealogical tables. The male ascendants beyond the sixth degree.

In old English law. Greater persons; persons of higher condition or estate.

Majori summæ minor inest. In the greater sum the less is included. 2 Kent, Comm. 618; Story, Ag. § 172.

MAJORITY. Full age; the age at which, by law, a person is entitled to the management of his own affairs and to the enjoyment of civic rights. The opposite of minority. Also the *status* of a person who is a major in age.

In the law of elections, majority signifies the greater number of votes. When there are only two candidates, he who receives the greater number of the votes cast is said to have a majority; when there are more than two competitors for the same office, the person who receives the greatest number of votes has a *plurality*, but he has not a majority unless he receives a greater number of votes than those cast for all his competitors combined.

In military affairs, majority denotes the rank and commission of a major.

Majus dignum trahit ad se minus dignum. The more worthy draws to itself the less worthy. Co. Litt. 43, 355b; Bract. fol. 175; Noy, Max. p. 6, max. 18.

MAJUS JUS. In old practice. Greater right or more right. A plea in the old real actions. 1 Reeve, Eng. Law, 476. *Majus jus merum*, more mere right. Bract. fol. 31.

MAKE. 1. To cause to exist; to form, fashion, or produce; to do, perform, or execute; as to make an issue, to make oath, to make a presentment.

2. To do in form of law; to perform with due formalities; to execute in legal form; as to make answer, to make a return.

3. To execute as one's act or obligation; to prepare and sign; to sign, execute, and deliver; as to make a conveyance, to make a note.

4. To conclude, determine upon, agree to, or execute; as to make a contract.

5. To cause to happen by one's neglect or omission; as to make default.

6. To make acquisition of; to procure; to collect; as to make the money on an execution.

7. To have authority or influence; to support or sustain; as in the phrase, "This precedent makes for the plaintiff."

MAKE AN ASSIGNMENT. To transfer one's property to an assignee for the benefit of one's creditors.

MAKE A CONTRACT. To agree upon, and conclude or adopt, a contract. In case of

a written contract, to reduce it to writing, execute it in due form, and deliver it as binding.

MAKE DEFAULT. To fail or be wanting in some legal duty; particularly, to omit the entering of an appearance when duly summoned in an action at law or other judicial proceeding, to neglect to obey the command of a subpoena, etc.

MAKE ONE'S FAITH. A Scotch phrase, equivalent to the old English phrase, "to make one's law."

MAKER. One who makes, frames, or ordains; as a "law-maker." One who makes or executes; as the maker of a promissory note.

MAKING LAW. In old practice. The formality of denying a plaintiff's charge under oath, in open court, with compurgators. One of the ancient methods of trial, frequently, though inaccurately, termed "waging law," or "wager of law." 3 Bl. Comm. 341.

MAL. A prefix meaning bad, wrong, fraudulent; as maladministration, malpractice, malversation, etc.

MAL GREE. L. Fr. Against the will; without the consent. Hence the single word "*malgre*," and more modern "*maugre*," (*q. v.*)

MAL-TOLTE. Fr. In old French law. A term said to have arisen from the usurious gains of the Jews and Lombards in their management of the public revenue. Steph. Lect. 372.

MALA. Lat. Bad; evil; wrongful.

MALA FIDES. Bad faith. The opposite of *bona fides*, (*q. v.*) *Malâ fide*, in bad faith. *Malâ fidei possessor*, a possessor in bad faith. Mackeld. Rom. Law, § 297.

Mala grammatica non vitiat chartam. Sed in expositione instrumentorum mala grammatica quoad fieri possit evitanda est. Bad grammar does not vitiate a deed. But in the exposition of instruments, bad grammar, as far as it can be done, is to be avoided. 6 Coke, 39; Broom, Max. 686.

MALA IN SE. Wrongs in themselves; acts morally wrong; offenses against conscience. 1 Bl. Comm. 57, 58; 4 Bl. Comm. 8.

MALA PRAXIS. Malpractice; unskillful management or treatment. Particularly applied to the neglect or unskillful manage-

ment of a physician, surgeon, or apothecary. 3 Bl. Comm. 122.

MALA PROHIBITA. Prohibited wrongs or offenses; acts which are made offenses by positive laws, and prohibited as such. 1 Bl. Comm. 57, 58; 4 Bl. Comm. 8.

MALADMINISTRATION. This term is used, in the law-books, interchangeably with *mis-administration*, and both words mean "wrong administration." 14 Neb. 183, 15 N. W. Rep. 331.

MALANDRINUS. In old English law. A thief or pirate. Wals. 338.

MALARY. In Hindu law. Judicial; belonging to a judge or magistrate.

MALBERGE. A hill where the people assembled at a court, like the English assizes; which by the Scotch and Irish were called "parley hills." Du Cange.

MALCONNA. In Hindu law. A treasury or store-house.

MALE. Of the masculine sex; of the sex that begets young.

MALE CREDITUS. In old English law. Unfavorably thought of; in bad repute or credit. Bract. fols. 116, 154.

Maledicta est expositio quæ corruptit textum. That is a cursed interpretation which corrupts the text. 4 Coke, 35a; Broom, Max. 622.

MALEDICTION. A curse, which was anciently annexed to donations of lands made to churches or religious houses, against those who should violate their rights. Cowell.

MALEFACTION. A crime; an offense.

MALEFACTOR. He who is guilty, or has been convicted, of some crime or offense.

Maleficia non debent remanere impunita; et impunitas continuum affectum tribuit delinquenti. 4 Coke, 45. Evil deeds ought not to remain unpunished; and impunity affords continual incitement to the delinquent.

Maleficia propositis distinguuntur. Jenk. Cent. 290. Evil deeds are distinguished from evil purposes, or by their purposes.

MALEFICIUM. In the civil law. Waste; damage; tort; injury. Dig. 5, 18, 1.

MALESON, or MALISON. A curse.

MALESWORN, or MALSWORN. Forsworn. Cowell.

MALFEASANCE. The wrongful or unjust doing of some act which the doer has no right to perform, or which he has stipulated by contract not to do. It differs from "misfeasance" and "non-feasance," (which titles see.) See 1 Chit. Pr. 9; 1 Chit. Pl. 134.

MALFETRIA. In Spanish law. Offense. White, New Recop. b. 2, tit. 19, c. 1, § 1.

MALICE. In criminal law. In its legal sense, this word does not simply mean ill will against a person, but signifies a wrongful act done intentionally, without just cause or excuse. 4 Barn. & C. 255.

A conscious violation of the law (or the prompting of the mind to commit it) which operates to the prejudice of another person.

About as clear, comprehensive, and correct a definition as the authorities afford is that "malice is a condition of the mind which shows a heart regardless of social duty and fatally bent on mischief, the existence of which is inferred from acts committed or words spoken." 8 Tex. App. 109.

"Malice," in its common acceptation, means ill will towards some person. In its legal sense, it applies to a wrongful act done intentionally, without legal justification or excuse. 1 Ind. 344.

A man may do an act willfully, and yet be free of malice. But he cannot do an act maliciously without at the same time doing it willfully. The malicious doing of an act includes the willful doing of it. Malice includes intent and will. 66 Me. 323.

Malice is either *express* or *implied*. The former is the case where the party declares or manifests a positive intention to commit the crime; while implied malice is gathered, as an inference of law, from the facts and circumstances proved.

In the definition of "murder," *malice aforethought* exists where the person doing the act which causes death has an intention to cause death or grievous bodily harm to any person, (whether the person is actually killed or not,) or to commit any felony whatever, or has the knowledge that the act will probably cause the death of or grievous bodily harm to some person, although he does not desire it, or even wishes that it may not be caused. Steph. Crim. Dig. 144; 1 Russ. Crimes, 641.

The words "malice aforethought" long ago acquired in law a settled meaning, somewhat different from the popular one. In their legal sense they do not import an actual intention to kill the deceased. The idea is not spite or malevolence to the deceased

in particular, but evil design in general, the dictate of a wicked, depraved, and malignant heart; not premeditated personal hatred or revenge towards the person killed, but that kind of unlawful purpose which, if persevered in, must produce mischief. 49 N. H. 399.

MALICE PREPENSE. Malice aforethought; deliberate, predetermined malice. 2 Rolle, 461.

MALICIOUS. Evincing malice; done with malice and an evil design; willful.

MALICIOUS ABANDONMENT. In criminal law. The desertion of a wife or husband without just cause.

MALICIOUS ARREST. An arrest made willfully and without probable cause, but in the course of a regular proceeding.

MALICIOUS INJURY. An injury committed against a person at the prompting of malice or hatred towards him, or done spitefully or wantonly.

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF. A term applied to the willful destruction of personal property, from actual ill will or resentment towards its owner or possessor. 3 Dev. & B. 130.

Malicious mischief or damage is a species of injury to private property, which the law considers as a public crime. This is such as is done, not *animo furandi*, or with an intent of gaining by another's loss, but either out of a spirit of wanton cruelty or wicked revenge. In this latter light it bears a near relation to the crime of arson, for, as that affects the habitation, so does this the property, of individuals; and therefore any damage arising from this mischievous disposition, though only a trespass at the common law, is now, by several statutes, made severely penal. Jacob.

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION. A judicial proceeding instituted against a person out of the prosecutor's malice and ill will, with the intention of injuring him, without probable cause to sustain it, the process and proceedings being regular and formal, but not justified by the facts. For this injury an action on the case lies, called the "action of malicious prosecution."

MALIGNARE. To malign or slander; also to maim.

MALITIA. Lat. Actual evil design; express malice.

Malitia est acida; est mali animi affectus. Malice is sour; it is the quality of a bad mind. 2 Bulst. 49.

MALITIA PRÆCOGITATA. Malice aforethought.

Malitia supplet ætatem. Malice supplies [the want of] age. Dyer, 104b; Broom, Max. 316.

Malitiis hominum est obviandum. The wicked or malicious designs of men must be thwarted. 4 Coke, 15b.

MALLUM. In old European law. A court of the higher kind in which the more important business of the county was dispatched by the count or earl. Spelman. A public national assembly.

MALO ANIMO. Lat. With an evil mind; with a bad purpose or wrongful intention; with malice.

MALO GRATO. In spite; unwillingly.

MALO SENSU. In an evil sense or meaning; with an evil signification.

MALPRACTICE. See **MALA PRAXIS.**

MALT MULNA. A quern or malt-mill.

MALT-SHOT or **MALT-SCOT.** A certain payment for making malt. Somner.

MALT-TAX. An excise duty upon malt in England. 1 Bl. Comm. 313; 2 Steph. Comm. 581.

MALTREATMENT. In reference to the treatment of his patient by a surgeon, this term signifies improper or unskillful treatment; it may result either from ignorance, neglect, or willfulness; but the word does not necessarily imply that the conduct of the surgeon, in his treatment of the patient, is either willfully or grossly careless. 2 Allen, 142.

MALUM. Lat. In Roman law. A mast; the mast of a ship. Dig. 50, 17, 242, pr. Held to be part of the ship. Id.

MALUM IN SE. A wrong in itself; an act or case involving illegality from the very nature of the transaction, upon principles of natural, moral, and public law. Story, Ag. § 346.

An act is said to be *malum in se* when it is inherently and essentially evil, that is, immoral in its nature and injurious in its consequences, without any regard to the fact of its being noticed or punished by the law of the state. Such are most or all of the offenses cognizable at common law, (without the denouncement of a statute;) as murder, larceny, etc. An act is said to be *malum prohibitum* when it is wrong only because prohibited; that is, it is not inherently immoral, but becomes illegal because its commission is expressly forbidden by positive law. Many acts contrary to excise or revenue laws are considered by moralists to be of this character.

Malum non habet efficientem, sed deficientem, causam. 3 Inst. Proem. Evil has not an efficient, but a deficient, cause.

Malum non præsumitur. Wickedness is not presumed. Branch, Princ.; 4 Coke, 72a.

MALUM PROHIBITUM. A wrong prohibited; a thing which is wrong because prohibited; an act which is not inherently immoral, but becomes so because its commission is expressly forbidden by positive law; an act involving an illegality resulting from positive law. Contrasted with *malum in se*. Story, Ag. § 346.

Malum quo communius eo pejus. The more common an evil is, the worse it is. Branch, Princ.

Malus usus abolendus est. A bad or invalid custom is [ought] to be abolished. Litt. § 212; Co. Litt. 141; 1 Bl. Comm. 76; Broom, Max. 921.

MALVEILLES. In old English law. Ill will; crimes and misdemeanors; malicious practices. Cowell.

MALVEIS PROCURORS. Such as used to pack juries, by the nomination of either party in a cause, or other practice. Cowell.

MALVEISA. A warlike engine to batter and beat down walls.

MALVERSATION. In French law. This word is applied to all grave and punishable faults committed in the exercise of a charge or commission, (office,) such as corruption, exaction, concussion, larceny. Merl. Repert.

MAN. A human being. A person of the male sex. A male of the human species above the age of puberty.

In feudal law. A vassal; a tenant or feudatory. The Anglo-Saxon relation of *lord and man* was originally purely personal, and founded on mutual contract. 1 Spence, Ch. 37.

MAN OF STRAW. See **MEN OF STRAW.**

MANACLES. Chains for the hands; shackles.

MANAGE. To conduct; to carry on; to direct the concerns of a business or establishment. Generally applied to affairs that are somewhat complicated and that involve skill and judgment.

MANAGER. A person chosen or appointed to manage, direct, or administer the affairs of another person or of a corporation or company.

MANAGERS OF A CONFERENCE. Members of the houses of parliament appointed to represent each house at a conference between the two houses. It is an ancient rule that the number of commons named for a conference should be double those of the lords. May, Parl. Pr. c. 16.

MANAGING AGENT. A person who is invested with general power, involving the exercise of judgment and discretion, as distinguished from an ordinary agent or employe, who acts in an inferior capacity, and under the direction and control of superior authority, both in regard to the extent of the work and the manner of executing the same. 19 Hun, 408.

MANAGING OWNER OF SHIP. The managing owner of a ship is one of several co-owners, to whom the others, or those of them who join in the adventure, have delegated the management of the ship. He has authority to do all things usual and necessary in the management of the ship and the delivery of the cargo, to enable her to prosecute her voyage and earn freight, with the right to appoint an agent for the purpose. 6 Q. B. Div. 93; Sweet.

MANAGIUM. A mansion-house or dwelling-place. Cowell.

MANAS MEDIÆ. Men of a mean condition, or of the lowest degree.

MANBOTE. In Saxon law. A compensation or recompense for homicide, particularly due to the lord for killing his man or vassal, the amount of which was regulated by that of the *were*.

MANCA, MANCUS, or MANCUSA. A square piece of gold coin, commonly valued at thirty pence. Cowell.

MANCEPS. In Roman law. A purchaser; one who took the article sold in his hand; a formality observed in certain sales. Calvin. A farmer of the public taxes.

MANCHE-PRESENT. A bribe; a present from the donor's own hand.

MANCIPARE. In Roman law. To sell, alienate, or make over to another; to sell with certain formalities; to sell a person; one of the forms observed in the process of emancipation.

MANCIPATE. To enslave; to bind; to tie.

MANCIPATIO. In Roman law. A certain ceremony or formal process anciently required to be performed, to perfect the sale or conveyance of *res mancipi*, (land, houses, slaves, horses, or cattle.) The parties were present, (vendor and vendee,) with five witnesses and a person called "*libripens*," who held a balance or scales. A set form of words was repeated on either side, indicative of transfer of ownership, and certain prescribed gestures performed, and the vendee then struck the scales with a piece of copper, thereby symbolizing the payment, or weighing out, of the stipulated price.

The ceremony of *mancipatio* was used, in later times, in one of the forms of making a will. The testator acted as vendor, and the heir (or *familiæ emptor*) as purchaser, the latter symbolically *buying* the whole estate, or succession, of the former. The ceremony was also used by a father in making a fictitious sale of his son, which sale, when three times repeated, effectuated the emancipation of the son.

MANCIPI RES. In Roman law. Certain classes of things which could not be alienated or transferred except by means of a certain formal ceremony of conveyance called "*mancipatio*," (*q. v.*) These included land, houses, slaves, horses, and cattle. All other things were called "*res nec mancipi*." The distinction was abolished by Justinian. The distinction corresponded as nearly as may be to the early distinction of English law into real and personal property; *res mancipi* being objects of a military or agricultural character, and *res nec mancipi* being all other subjects of property. Like personal estate, *res nec mancipi* were not originally either valuable *in se* or valued. Brown.

MANCIPIUM. In Roman law. The momentary condition in which a *filius*, etc., might be when in course of emancipation from the *potestas*, and before that emancipation was absolutely complete. The condition was not like the *dominica potestas* over slaves, but slaves are frequently called "*mancipia*" in the non-legal Roman authors. Brown.

MANCIPIE. A clerk of the kitchen, or caterer, especially in colleges. Cowell.

MANCOMUNAL. In Spanish law. An obligation is said to be *mancomunada* when one person assumes the contract or debt of

another, and makes himself liable to pay or fulfill it. Schm. Civil Law, 120.

MANDAMIENTO. In Spanish law. Commission; authority or power of attorney. A contract of good faith, by which one person commits to the gratuitous charge of another his affairs, and the latter accepts the charge. White, New Recop. b. 2, tit. 12, c. 1.

MANDAMUS. Lat. We command. This is the name of a writ (formerly a high prerogative writ) which issues from a court of superior jurisdiction, and is directed to a private or municipal corporation, or any of its officers, or to an executive, administrative, or judicial officer, or to an inferior court, commanding the performance of a particular act therein specified, and belonging to his or their public, official, or ministerial duty, or directing the restoration of the complainant to rights or privileges of which he has been illegally deprived.

The action of *mandamus* is one, brought in a court of competent jurisdiction, to obtain an order of such court commanding an inferior tribunal, board, corporation, or person to do or not to do an act the performance or omission of which the law enjoins as a duty resulting from an office, trust, or station. Where discretion is left to the inferior tribunal or person, the *mandamus* can only compel it to act, but cannot control such discretion. Rev. Code Iowa, 1880, § 3373.

The writ of *mandamus* is either *peremptory* or *alternative*, according as it requires the defendant absolutely to obey its behest, or gives him an opportunity to show cause to the contrary. It is the usual practice to issue the alternative writ first. This commands the defendant to do the particular act, or else to appear and show cause against it at a day named. If he neglects to obey the writ, and either makes default in his appearance or fails to show good cause against the application, the peremptory *mandamus* issues, which commands him absolutely and without qualification to do the act.

MANDANS. In the civil law. The employing party in a contract of mandate. One who gives a thing in charge to another; one who requires, requests, or employs another to do some act for him. Inst. 3, 27, 1, et seq.

MANDANT. In French and Scotch law. The employing party in the contract of *mandatum*, or mandate. Story, Bailm. § 138.

Mandata licita recipiunt strictam interpretationem, sed illicita latam et ex-

tensam. Lawful commands receive a strict interpretation, but unlawful commands a broad and extended one. Bac. Max. reg. 16.

MANDATAIRE. Fr. In French law. A person employed by another to do some act for him; a mandatary.

Mandatarius terminos sibi positos transgredi non potest. A mandatary cannot exceed the limits assigned him. Jenk. Cent. 53.

MANDATARY. He to whom a mandate, charge, or commandment is given; also, he that obtains a benefice by *mandamus*.

MANDATE. In practice. A judicial command or precept proceeding from a court or judicial officer, directing the proper officer to enforce a judgment, sentence, or decree. Jones, Bailm. 52.

In the practice of the supreme court of the United States, the mandate is a precept order, issued upon the decision of an appeal or writ of error, directing the action to be taken, or disposition to be made of the case, by the inferior court.

In some of the state jurisdictions, the name "mandate" has been substituted for "*mandamus*" as the formal title of that writ.

In contracts. A bailment of property in regard to which the bailee engages to do some act without reward. Story, Bailm. § 137.

A mandate is a contract by which a lawful business is committed to the management of another, and by him undertaken to be performed gratuitously. The mandatary is bound to the exercise of slight diligence, and is responsible for gross neglect. The fact that the mandator derives no benefit from the acts of the mandatary is not of itself evidence of gross negligence. 42 Miss. 525.

A mandate, procuration, or letter of attorney is an act by which one person gives power to another to transact for him and in his name one or several affairs. The mandate may take place in five different manners,—for the interest of the person granting it only; for the joint interest of both parties; for the interest of a third person; for the interest of a third person and that of the party granting it; and, finally, for the interest of the mandatary and a third person. Civil Code La. arts. 2985, 2986.

Mandates and deposits closely resemble each other; the distinction being that in mandates the care and service are the principal, and the custody the accessory, while in deposits the custody is the principal thing, and the care and service are merely accessory. Story, Bailm. § 140.

The word may also denote a request or direction. Thus, a check is a *mandate* by the drawer to his banker to pay the amount to the transferee or holder of the check. 1 Q. B. Div. 33.

In the civil law. The instructions which the emperor addressed to a public functionary, and which were rules for his conduct. These mandates resembled those of the proconsuls, the *mandata jurisdictionis*, and were ordinarily binding on the legates or lieutenants of the emperor in the imperial provinces, and there they had the authority of the principal edicts. Sav. Dr. Rom. c. 3, § 24, no. 4.

MANDATO. In Spanish law. The contract of mandate. Escriche.

MANDATO, PANES DE. Loaves of bread given to the poor upon Maundy Thursday.

MANDATOR. The person employing another to perform a mandate.

MANDATORY. Containing a command; preceptive; imperative; peremptory. A provision in a statute is *mandatory* when disobedience to it will make the act done under the statute absolutely void; if the provision is such that disregard of it will constitute an irregularity, but one not necessarily fatal, it is said to be *directory*. So, the mandatory part of a writ is that which commands the person to do the act specified.

MANDATORY INJUNCTION. In equity practice. An order compelling a defendant to restore things to the condition in which they were at the time when the plaintiff's complaint was made. 33 Law J Eq. (N. S.) 393.

MANDATUM. In the civil law. The contract of mandate, (*q. v.*)

MANDAVI BALLIVO. (I have commanded or made my mandate to the bailiff.) In English practice. The return made by a sheriff, where the bailiff of a liberty has the execution of a writ, that he has commanded the bailiff to execute it. 1 Tidd, Pr. 309; 2 Tidd, Pr. 1025.

MANENTES. Tenants. Obsolete. Cowell.

MANERA. In Spanish law. Manner or mode. Las Partidas. pt. 4, tit. 4, l. 2.

MANERIUM. In old English law. A manor.

Manerium dicitur a manendo, secundum excellentiam, sedes magna, fixa,

et stabilis. Co. Litt. 58. A manor is so called from *manendo*, according to its excellence, a seat, great, fixed, and firm.

MANGONARE. In old English law. To buy in a market.

MANGONELLUS. A warlike instrument for casting stones against the walls of a castle. Cowell.

MANHOOD. In feudal law. A term denoting the ceremony of doing homage by the vassal to his lord. The formula used was, "*Devenio vester homo*," I become your man. 2 Bl. Comm. 54.

To arrive at manhood means to arrive at twenty-one years of age. 1 Dev. & B. Eq. 585.

MANIA. "Mania is that form of insanity where the mental derangement is accompanied with more or less of excitement. Sometimes the excitement amounts to a fury. The individual in such cases is subject to hallucinations and illusions. He is impressed with the reality of events which have never occurred, and of things which do not exist, and acts more or less in conformity with his belief in these particulars. The mania may be general, and affect all or most of the operations of the mind; or it may be partial, and be confined to particular subjects. In the latter case it is generally termed 'monomania.'" Per Field, J., 2 Abb. (U. S.) 510.

MANIA A POTU. A disease induced from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors; the same as *delirium tremens*.

MANIFEST. In maritime law. A sea-letter; a written document required to be carried by merchant vessels, containing an account of the cargo, with other particulars, for the facility of the customs officers.

In evidence. That which is clear and requires no proof; that which is notorious.

Manifesta probatione non indigent. 7 Coke, 40. Things manifest do not require proof.

MANIFESTO. A formal written declaration, promulgated by a prince, or by the executive authority of a state or nation, proclaiming its reasons and motives for declaring a war, or for any other important international action.

MANIPULUS. In canon law. A handkerchief, which the priest always had in his left hand. Blount.

MANKIND. The race or species of human beings. In law, females, as well as males, may be included under this term. Fortesc. 91.

MANNER. This is a word of large signification, but cannot exceed the subject to which it belongs. The incident cannot be extended beyond its principal. 75 Pa. St. 89, 54.

Manner does not necessarily include time. Thus, a statutory requirement that a mining tax shall be "enforced in the same manner" as certain annual taxes need not imply an annual collection. 8 Nev. 15, 29.

Also a thing stolen, in the hand of the thief; a corruption of "*mainour*," (*q. v.*)

MANNER AND FORM; MODO ET FORMA. Formal words introduced at the conclusion of a traverse. Their object is to put the party whose pleading is traversed not only to the proof that the matter of fact denied is, in its general effect, true as alleged, but also that the manner and form in which the fact or facts are set forth are also capable of proof. Brown.

MANNING. A day's work of a man. Cowell. A summoning to court. Spelman.

MANNIRE. To cite any person to appear in court and stand in judgment there. It is different from *bannire*; for, though both of them are citations, this is by the adverse party, and that is by the judge. Du Cange.

MANNOPUS. In old English law. Goods taken in the hands of an apprehended thief. The same as "*mainour*," (*q. v.*)

MANNUS. A horse. Cowell.

MANOR. A house, dwelling, seat, or residence.

In English law, the manor was originally a tract of land granted out by the king to a lord or other great person, in fee. It was otherwise called a "barony" or "lordship," and appendant to it was the right to hold a court, called the "court-baron." The lands comprised in the manor were divided into *terre tenementales* (tenemental lands or bocland) and *terre dominicales*, or demesne lands. The former were given by the lord of the manor to his followers or retainers in freehold. The latter were such as he reserved for his own use; but of these part were held by tenants in copyhold, *i. e.*, those holding by a copy of the record in the lord's court; and part, under the name of the "lord's waste," served for public roads and commons of pasture for the lord and ten-

ants. The tenants, considered in their relation to the court-baron and to each other, were called "*pares curiæ*." The word also signified the franchise of having a manor, with jurisdiction for a court-baron and the right to the rents and services of copyholders.

In American law. A manor is a tract held of a proprietor by a fee-farm rent in money or in kind, and descending to the oldest son of the proprietor, who in New York is called a "patroon." 13 N. Y. 291.

MANQUELLER. In Saxon law. A murderer.

MANRENT. In Scotch law. The service of a man or vassal. A bond of manrent was an instrument by which a person, in order to secure the protection of some powerful lord, bound himself to such lord for the performance of certain services.

MANSE. In old English law. A habitation or dwelling, generally with land attached. Spelman.

A residence or dwelling-house for the parish priest; a parsonage or vicarage house. Cowell. Still used in Scotch law in this sense.

MANSER. A bastard. Cowell.

MANSION. A dwelling-house.

In old English law. Residence; dwelling.

MANSION-HOUSE. In the law of burglary, etc., any species of dwelling-house. 3 Inst. 64.

MANSLAUGHTER. In criminal law. The unlawful killing of another without malice, either express or implied; which may be either voluntarily, upon a sudden heat, or involuntarily, but in the commission of some unlawful act. 1 Hale, P. C. 466; 4 Bl. Comm. 191.

Manslaughter is the unlawful killing of a human creature without malice, either express or implied, and without any mixture of deliberation whatever; which may be voluntary, upon a sudden heat of passion, or involuntary, in the commission of an unlawful act, or a lawful act without due caution and circumspection. Code Ga. 1882, § 4324; Pen. Code Cal. § 192.

The distinction between "manslaughter" and "murder" consists in the following: In the former, though the act which occasions the death be unlawful or likely to be attended with bodily mischief, yet the malice, either express or implied, which is the very essence of murder, is presumed

to be wanting in manslaughter. 1 East, P. C. 218; 5 Cush. 304.

It also differs from "murder" in this: that there can be no accessories before the fact, there having been no time for premeditation. 1 Hale, P. C. 427; 1 Russ. Crimes, 485; 1 Bish. Crim. Law, 678.

MANSO, or MANSUM. A mansion or house. Spelman.

MANSTEALING. A word sometimes used synonymously with "kidnapping," (*q. v.*)

MANSUETUS. Tame; as though accustomed to come to the hand. 2 Bl. Comm. 391.

MANSUM CAPITALE. The manor-house or lord's court. Paroch. Antiq. 150.

MANTEA. In old records. A long robe or mantle.

MANTHEOFF. In Saxon law. A horse-stealer.

MANTICULATE. To pick pockets.

MAN-TRAPS. Engines to catch trespassers, now unlawful unless set in a dwelling-house for defense between sunset and sunrise. 24 & 25 Vict. c. 100, § 31.

MANU BREVI. Lat. With a short hand. A term used in the civil law, signifying shortly; directly; by the shortest course; without circuitry.

MANU FORTI. With strong hand. A term used in old writs of trespass. *Manu forti et cum multitudine gentium*, with strong hand and multitude of people. Reg. Orig. 183.

MANU LONGA. With a long hand. A term used in the civil law, signifying indirectly or circuitously. Calvin.

MANU OPERA. Cattle or implements of husbandry; also stolen goods taken from a thief caught in the fact. Cowell.

MANUAL. Performed by the hand; used or employed by the hand; held in the hand. Thus, a distress cannot be made of tools in the "manual occupation" of the debtor.

MANUAL GIFT. The manual gift, that is, the giving of corporeal movable effects, accompanied by a real delivery, is not subject to any formality. Civil Code La. art. 1539.

MANUALIA BENEFICIA. The daily distributions of meat and drink to the canons and other members of cathedral churches for their present subsistence. Cowell.

MANUALIS OBEDIENTIA. Sworn obedience or submission upon oath. Cowell.

MANUCAPTIO. In old English practice A writ which lay for a man taken on suspicion of felony, and the like, who could not be admitted to bail by the sheriff, or others having power to let to mainprise. Fitzh. Nat. Brev. 249.

MANUCAPTORS. The same as mainperners.

MANUFACTORY. A building, the main or principal design or use of which is to be a place for producing articles as products of labor; not merely a place where something may be made by hand or machinery, but what in common understanding is known as a "factory." 57 Pa. St. 82.

MANUFACTURE, v. The primary meaning of this word is "making with the hand," but this definition is too narrow for its present use. Its meaning has expanded as workmanship and art have advanced, so that now nearly all artificial products of human industry, nearly all such materials as have acquired changed conditions or new and specific combinations, whether from the direct action of the human hand, from chemical processes devised and directed by human skill, or by the employment of machinery, are now commonly designated as "manufactured." 57 Md. 526. See, also, 5 Blatchf. 215; 59 Mich. 163, 26 N. W. Rep. 311.

MANUFACTURE, n. In patent law. Any useful product made directly by human labor, or by the aid of machinery directed and controlled by human power, and either from raw materials, or from materials worked up into a new form. Also the process by which such products are made or fashioned.

MANUFACTURER. One who is engaged in the business of working raw materials into wares suitable for use. 63 How. Pr. 453. See **MANUFACTURE**.

MANUFACTURING CORPORATION. A corporation engaged in the production of some article, thing, or object, by skill or labor, out of raw material, or from matter which has already been subjected to artificial forces, or to which something has been added to change its natural condition. 99 N. Y. 181, 1 N. E. Rep. 669. The term does not include a mining corporation. 106 Mass. 135.

MANUMISSION. The act of liberating a slave from bondage and giving him free

dom. In a wider sense, releasing or delivering one person from the power or control of another.

Manumittere idem est quod extra manum vel potestatem ponere. Co. Litt. 137. To manumit is the same as to place beyond hand and power.

MANUNG, or MONUNG. In old English law. The district within the jurisdiction of a reeve, apparently so called from his power to exercise therein one of his chief functions, viz., to exact (*amanian*) all fines.

MANUPES. A foot of full and legal measure.

MANURABLE. In old English law. Capable of being had or held in hand; capable of manual occupation; capable of being cultivated; capable of being touched; tangible; corporeal. Hale, Anal. § 24.

MANURE. In old English law. To occupy; to use or cultivate; to have in manual occupation; to bestow manual labor upon. Cowell.

MANUS. Lat. A hand.

In the civil law, this word signified power, control, authority, the right of physical coercion, and was often used as synonymous with "*potestas*."

In old English law, it signified an oath or the person taking an oath; a compurgator.

MANUS MORTUA. A dead band; mortmain. Spelman.

MANUSCRIPT. A writing; a paper written with the hand; a writing that has not been printed.

MANUTENENTIA. The old writ of maintenance. Reg. Orig. 182.

MANWORTH. In old English law. The price or value of a man's life or head. Cowell.

MANY. This term denotes a multitude, not merely a number greater than that denoted by the word "few." (Aia.) 6 South. Rep. 282.

MANZIE. In old Scotch law. Mayhem; mutilation of the body of a person. Skene.

MAP. A representation of the earth's surface, or of some portion of it, showing the relative position of the parts represented, usually on a flat surface. Webster. "A map is but a transcript of the region which it portrays, narrowed in compass so as to facilitate

an understanding of the original." 3 Minn. 103, (Gil. 55.)

MARA. In old records. A mere or moor; a lake, pool, or pond; a bog or marsh that cannot be drained. Cowell; Blount; Spelman.

MARAUDER. "A marauder is defined in the law to be 'one who, while employed in the army as a soldier, commits larceny or robbery in the neighborhood of the camp, or while wandering away from the army.' But in the modern and metaphorical sense of the word, as now sometimes used in common speech, it seems to be applied to a class of persons who are not a part of any regular army, and are not answerable to any military discipline, but who are mere lawless banditti, engaged in plundering, robbery, murder, and all conceivable crimes." 37 Mo. 328.

MARC-BANCO. The name of a piece of money coined at Hamburg. Its value is thirty-five cents.

MARCA. A mark; a coin of the value of 13s. 4d. Spelman.

MARCATUS. The rent of a mark by the year anciently reserved in leases, etc.

MARCH. In Scotch law. A boundary line or border. Bell. The word is also used in composition; as *march-dike*, *march-stone*.

MARCHANDISES AVARIÉES. In French mercantile law. Damaged goods.

MARCHERS. In old English law. Noblemen who lived on the marshes of Wales or Scotland, and who, according to Camden, had their private laws, as if they had been petty kings; which were abolished by the statute 27 Hen. VIII. c. 26. Called also "lords marchers." Cowell.

MARCHES. An old English term for boundaries or frontiers, particularly the boundaries and limits between England and Wales, or between England and Scotland, or the borders of the dominions of the crown, or the boundaries of properties in Scotland. Mozley & Whitley.

MARCHES, COURT OF. An abolished tribunal in Wales, where pleas of debt or damages, not above the value of £50, were tried and determined. Cro. Car. 384.

MARCHETA. In old Scotch law. A custom for the lord of a fee to lie the first night with the bride of his tenant. Abolished by Malcolm III. Spelman; 2 Bl. Comm. 83.

A fine paid by the tenant for the remission of such right, originally a mark or half a mark of silver. Spelman.

In old English law. A fine paid for leave to marry, or to bestow a daughter in marriage. Cowell.

MARCHIONESS. A dignity in a woman answerable to that of marquis in a man, conferred either by creation or by marriage with a marquis. Wharton.

MARE. Lat. The sea.

MARE CLAUSUM. The sea closed; that is, not open or free. The title of Selden's great work, intended as an answer to the *Mare Liberum* of Grotius; in which he undertakes to prove the sea to be capable of private dominion. 1 Kent, Comm. 27.

MARE LIBERUM. The sea free. The title of a work written by Grotius against the Portuguese claim to an exclusive trade to the Indies, through the South Atlantic and Indian oceans; showing that the sea was not capable of private dominion. 1 Kent, Coram. 27.

MARESCALLUS. In old English law. A marshal; a master of the stables; an officer of the exchequer; a military officer of high rank, having powers and duties similar to those of a constable. Du Cange. See **MARSHAL**.

MARESCHAL. L. Fr. Marshal; a high officer of the royal household. Britt. fol. 1b.

MARETIUM. Marshy ground overflowed by the sea or great rivers. Co. Litt. 5.

MARGIN. A sum of money, or its equivalent, placed in the hands of a stockbroker by the principal or person on whose account the purchase is to be made, as a security to the former against losses to which he may be exposed by a subsequent depression in the market value of the stock. 49 Barb. 468.

MARGINAL NOTE. In Scotch law. A note inserted on the margin of a deed, embodying either some clause which was omitted in transcribing or some change in the agreement of the parties. Bell.

An abstract of a reported case, a summary of the facts, or brief statement of the principle decided, which is prefixed to the report of the case, sometimes in the margin, is also spoken of by this name.

MARINARIUS. An ancient word which signified a mariner or seaman. In England,

marinarius capitaneus was the admiral or warden of the ports.

MARINE. Naval; relating or pertaining to the sea; transacted at sea; doing duty or service on the sea.

This is also a general name for the navy of a kingdom or state; as also the whole economy of naval affairs, or whatever respects the building, rigging, arming, equipping, navigating, and fighting ships. It comprehends also the government of naval armaments, and the state of all the persons employed therein, whether civil or military. Also one of the marines. Wharton.

MARINE CONTRACT. One relating to maritime affairs, shipping, navigation, marine insurance, affreightment, maritime loans, or other business to be done upon the sea or in connection with navigation.

MARINE CORPS. A body of soldiers enlisted and equipped for service on board vessels of war; also the naval forces of the nation.

MARINE COURT IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK. A local court of New York having original jurisdiction of civil causes, where the action is for personal injuries or defamation, and of other civil actions where the damages claimed do not exceed \$2,000. It is a court of record. It was originally created as a tribunal for the settlement of causes between seamen.

MARINE INSURANCE. A contract whereby, for a consideration stipulated to be paid by one interested in a ship, freight, or cargo, subject to the risks of marine navigation, another undertakes to indemnify him against some or all of those risks during a certain period or voyage. 1 Phil. Ins. 1.

A contract whereby one party, for a stipulated premium, undertakes to indemnify the other against certain perils or sea-risks to which his ship, freight, and cargo, or some of them, may be exposed during a certain voyage, or a fixed period of time. 3 Kent, Comm. 253.

Marine insurance is an insurance against risks connected with navigation, to which a ship, cargo, freightage, profits, or other insurable interest in movable property may be exposed during a certain voyage or a fixed period of time. Civil Code Cal. § 2655.

A contract of marine insurance is one by which a person or corporation, for a stipulated premium, insures another against losses

occurring by the casualties of the sea. Code Ga. 1882, § 2824.

MARINE INTEREST. Interest, allowed to be stipulated for at an extraordinary rate, for the use and risk of money loaned on *respondentia* and bottomry bonds.

MARINE LEAGUE. A measure of distance commonly employed at sea, being equal to one-twentieth part of a degree of latitude.

MARINE RISK. The perils of the sea; the perils necessarily incident to navigation.

MARINE SOCIETY. In English law. A charitable institution for the purpose of apprenticing boys to the naval service, etc., incorporated by 12 Geo. III. c. 67.

MARINER. A seaman or sailor; one engaged in navigating vessels upon the sea.

MARINES. A body of infantry soldiers, trained to serve on board of vessels of war when in commission and to fight in naval engagements.

Maris et fœminæ conjunctio est de jure naturæ. 7 Coke, 13. The connection of male and female is by the law of nature.

MARISCHAL. An officer in Scotland, who, with the lord high constable, possessed a supreme itinerant jurisdiction in all crimes committed within a certain space of the court, wherever it might happen to be. Wharton.

MARISCUS. A marshy or fenny ground. Co. Litt. 5a.

MARITAGIO AMISSO PER DEFALTAM. An obsolete writ for the tenant in frank-marriage to recover lands, etc., of which he was deforced.

MARITAGIUM. The portion which is given with a daughter in marriage. Also the power which the lord or guardian in chivalry had of disposing of his infant ward in matrimony.

Maritagium est aut liberum aut servitio obligatum; liberum maritagium dicitur ubi donator vult quod terra sic data quietata sit et libera ab omni seculari servitio. Co. Litt. 21. A marriage portion is either free or bound to service; it is called "frank-marriage" when the giver wills that land thus given be exempt from all secular service.

MARITAGIUM HABERE. To have the free disposal of an heiress in marriage.

MARITAL. Relating to, or connected with, the *status* of marriage; pertaining to a husband; incident to a husband.

MARITAL COERCION. Coercion of the wife by the husband.

MARITAL PORTION. In Louisiana. The name given to that part of a deceased husband's estate to which the widow is entitled. Civil Code La. art. 55; 3 Mart. (N. S.) 1.

MARITAL RIGHTS. The rights of a husband. The expression is chiefly used to denote the right of a husband to property which his wife was entitled to during the continuance of the marriage.

MARITIMA ANGLIÆ. In old English law. The emolument or revenue coming to the king from the sea, which the sheriffs anciently collected, but which was afterwards granted to the admiral. Spelman.

MARITIMA INCREMENTA. In old English law. Marine increases. Lands gained from the sea. Hale, de Jure Mar. pt. 1, c. 4.

MARITIME. Pertaining to the sea or ocean or the navigation thereof; or to commerce conducted by navigation of the sea or (in America) of the great lakes and rivers.

It is nearly equivalent to "marine" in many connections and uses; in others, the two words are used as quite distinct.

MARITIME CAUSE. A cause of action originating on the high seas, or growing out of a maritime contract. 1 Kent, Comm. 367, et seq.

MARITIME CONTRACT. A contract whose subject-matter has relation to the navigation of the seas or to trade or commerce to be conducted by navigation or to be done upon the sea or in ports. Over such contracts the admiralty has concurrent jurisdiction with the common-law courts.

MARITIME COURT. A court exercising jurisdiction in maritime causes; one which possesses the powers and jurisdiction of a court of admiralty.

MARITIME INTEREST. An expression equivalent to marine interest, (*q. v.*)

MARITIME JURISDICTION. Jurisdiction in maritime causes; such jurisdiction

as belongs to a court of admiralty on the instance side.

MARITIME LAW. That system of law which particularly relates to commerce and navigation, to business transacted at sea or relating to navigation, to ships and shipping, to seamen, to the transportation of persons and property by sea, and to marine affairs generally.

The law relating to harbors, ships, and seamen. An important branch of the commercial law of maritime nations; divided into a variety of departments, such as those about harbors, property of ships, duties and rights of masters and seamen, contracts of affreightment, average, salvage, etc. Wharton.

MARITIME LIEN. A lien arising out of damage done by a ship in the course of navigation, as by collision, which attaches to the vessel and freight, and is to be enforced by an action *in rem* in the admiralty courts.

MARITIME LOAN. A contract or agreement by which one, who is the lender, lends to another, who is the borrower, a certain sum of money, upon condition that if the thing upon which the loan has been made should be lost by any peril of the sea, or *vis major*, the lender shall not be repaid unless what remains shall be equal to the sum borrowed; and if the thing arrive in safety, or in case it shall not have been injured but by its own defects or the fault of the master or mariners, the borrower shall be bound to return the sum borrowed, together with a certain sum agreed upon as the price of the hazard incurred. Emerig. Mar. Loans, c. 1, s. 2.

MARITIME PROFIT. A term used by French writers to signify any profit derived from a maritime loan.

MARITIME SERVICE. In admiralty law. A service rendered upon the high seas or a navigable river, and which has some relation to commerce or navigation,—some connection with a vessel employed in trade, with her equipment, her preservation, or the preservation of her cargo or crew. 4 Woods, 267, 16 Fed. Rep. 924.

MARITIME STATE, in English law, consists of the officers and mariners of the British navy, who are governed by express and permanent laws, or the articles of the navy, established by act of parliament.

MARITIME TORT. A tort committed upon the high seas, or upon a navigable river

or other navigable water, and hence falling within the jurisdiction of a court of admiralty. The term is never applied to a tort committed upon land, though relating to maritime matters. See 3 Wall. 33; 17 Fed. Rep. 387.

MARITUS. Lat. A husband; a married man. Calvin.

MARK. 1. A character, usually in the form of a cross, made as a substitute for his signature by a person who cannot write, in executing a conveyance or other legal document. It is commonly made as follows: A third person writes the name of the marksman, leaving a blank space between the Christian name and surname; in this space the latter traces the mark, or crossed lines, and above the mark is written "his," (or "her,") and below it, "mark."

2. The sign, writing, or ticket put upon manufactured goods to distinguish them from others, appearing thus in the compound, "trade-mark."

3. A token, evidence, or proof; as in the phrase "a mark of fraud."

4. A weight used in several parts of Europe, and for several commodities, especially gold and silver. When gold and silver are sold by the *mark*, it is divided into twenty-four carats.

5. A money of accounts in England, and in some other countries a coin. The English mark is two-thirds of a pound sterling, or 13s. 4d.; and the Scotch mark is of equal value in Scotch money of account. Enc. Amer.

6. In early Teutonic and English law. A species of village community, being the lowest unit in the political system; one of the forms of the *gens* or clan, variously known as the "*mark*," "*gemeinde*," "*commune*," or "*parish*." Also the land held in common by such a community. The union of several such village communities and their *marks*, or common lands, forms the next higher political union, the hundred. Freem. Compar. Politics, 116, 117.

7. The word is sometimes used as another form of "*marque*," a license of reprisals.

MARKEPENNY. A penny anciently paid at the town of Maldon by those who had gutters laid or made out of their houses into the streets. Wharton.

MARKET. A public time and appointed place of buying and selling; also purchase and sale. It differs from the *forum*, or market of antiquity, which was a public market-

place on one side only, or during one part of the day only, the other sides being occupied by temples, theaters, courts of justice, and other public buildings. Wharton.

The liberty, privilege, or franchise by which a town holds a market, which can only be by royal grant or immemorial usage.

By the term "market" is also understood the demand there is for any particular article; as, "the cotton market in Europe is dull."

MARKET GELD. The toll of a market.

MARKET OVERT. In English law. An open and public market. The market-place or spot of ground set apart by custom for the sale of particular goods is, in the country, the only market *overt*; but in London every shop in which goods are exposed publicly to sale is market overt, for such things only as the owner professes to trade in. Godb. 131; 5 Coke, 83; 2 Bl. Comm. 449.

MARKET PRICE means, when price at the place of exportation is in view, the price at which articles are sold and purchased, clear of every charge but such as is laid upon it at the time of sale. 2 Wash. C. C. 493.

MARKET TOWNS. Those towns which are entitled to hold markets. 1 Steph. Comm. (7th Ed.) 130.

MARKET VALUE signifies a price established by public sales, or sales in the way of ordinary business. 99 Mass. 345.

MARKET ZELD, (properly *market geld*.) In old records. The toll of a market. Cowell.

MARKETABLE. Such things as may be sold in the market; those for which a buyer may be found.

MARKETABLE TITLE. A "marketable title" to land is such a title as a court of equity, when asked to decree specific performance of the contract of sale, will compel the vendee to accept as sufficient. It is said to be not merely a defensible title, but a title which is free from plausible or reasonable objections.

MARKSMAN. In practice and conveyancing. One who makes his mark; a person who cannot write, and only makes his mark in executing instruments. Arch. N. Pr. 13; 2 Chit. 92.

MARLBIDGE, STATUTE OF. An English statute enacted in 1267 (52 Hen. III.) at Marlbridge, (now called "Marlborough,") where parliament was then sitting.

It related to land tenures, and to procedure, and to unlawful and excessive distresses.

MARQUE AND REPRISAL, LETTERS OF. These words, "marque" and "reprisal," are frequently used as synonymous, but, taken in their strict etymological sense, the latter signifies a "taking in return;" the former, the passing the frontiers (*marches*) in order to such taking. Letters of marque and reprisal are grantable, by the law of nations, whenever the subjects of one state are oppressed and injured by those of another, and justice is denied by that state to which the oppressor belongs; and the party to whom these letters are granted may then seize the bodies or the goods of the subjects of the state to which the offender belongs, until satisfaction be made, wherever they happen to be found. Reprisals are to be granted only in case of a clear and open denial of justice. At the present day, in consequence partly of treaties and partly of the practice of nations, the making of reprisals is confined to the seizure of commercial property on the high seas by public cruisers, or by private cruisers specially authorized thereto. Brown.

MARQUIS, or MARQUESS. In English law. One of the second order of nobility; next in order to a duke.

MARQUISATE. The seigniorship of a marquis.

MARRIAGE. Marriage, as distinguished from the agreement to marry and from the act of becoming married, is the civil *status* of one man and one woman united in law for life, for the discharge to each other and the community of the duties legally incumbent on those whose association is founded on the distinction of sex. 1 Bish. Mar. & Div. § 3.

A contract, according to the form prescribed by law, by which a man and woman, capable of entering into such contract, mutually engage with each other to live their whole lives together in the state of union which ought to exist between a husband and wife. Shelf. Mar. & Div. 1.

Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract, to which the consent of parties capable of making it is necessary. Consent alone will not constitute marriage; it must be followed by a solemnization, or by a mutual assumption of marital rights, duties, or obligations. Civil Code Cal. § 55.

Marriage is the union of one man and one woman, "so long as they both shall live," to the exclusion of all others, by an obligation which, during that time, the parties cannot of their own voli-

tion and act dissolve, but which can be dissolved only by authority of the state. 19 Ind. 53.

The word also signifies the act, ceremony, or formal proceeding by which persons take each other for husband and wife.

In old English law, marriage is used in the sense of "*maritagium*," (*q. v.*) or the feudal right enjoyed by the lord or guardian in chivalry of disposing of his ward in marriage.

MARRIAGE ARTICLES. Articles of agreement between parties contemplating marriage, intended as preliminary to a formal marriage settlement, to be drawn after marriage. Ath. Mar. Sett. 92.

MARRIAGE BROKAGE. The act by which a third person, for a consideration, negotiates a marriage between a man and woman. The money paid for such services is also known by this name.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY. The form, religious or civil, for the solemnization of a marriage.

MARRIAGE CONSIDERATION. The consideration furnished by an intended marriage of two persons. It is the highest consideration known to the law.

MARRIAGE LICENSE. A license or permission granted by public authority to persons who intend to intermarry. By statute, in some jurisdictions, it is made an essential prerequisite to the lawful solemnization of the marriage.

MARRIAGE-NOTICE BOOK. A book kept, in England, by the registrar, in which applications for and issue of registrar's licenses to marry are recorded.

MARRIAGE PORTION. Dowry; a sum of money or other property which is given to or settled on a woman on her marriage.

MARRIAGE PROMISE. Betrothal; engagement to intermarry with another.

MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT. A written agreement in the nature of a conveyance, called a "settlement," which is made in contemplation of a proposed marriage and in consideration thereof, either by the parties about to intermarry, or one of them, or by a parent or relation on their behalf, by which the title to certain property is settled, *i. e.*, fixed or limited to a prescribed course of succession; the object being, usually, to provide for the wife and children. Thus, the

estate might be limited to the husband and issue, or to the wife and issue, or to husband and wife for their joint lives, remainder to the survivor for life, remainder over to the issue, or otherwise. Such settlements may also be made after marriage, in which case they are called "post-nuptial."

MARRIED WOMAN. A woman who has a husband living and not divorced; a *feme covert*.

MARSHAL. In old English law. The title borne by several officers of state and of the law, of whom the most important were the following: (1) The earl-marshal, who presided in the court of chivalry; (2) the marshal of the king's house, or knight-marshal, whose special authority was in the king's palace, to hear causes between members of the household, and punish faults committed within the verge; (3) the marshal of the king's bench prison, who had the custody of that jail; (4) the marshal of the exchequer, who had the custody of the king's debtors; (5) the marshal of the judge of assize, whose duty was to swear in the grand jury.

In American law. An officer pertaining to the organization of the federal judicial system, whose duties are similar to those of a sheriff. He is to execute the process of the United States courts within the district for which he is appointed, etc.

Also, in some of the states, this is the name of an officer of police, in a city or borough, having powers and duties corresponding generally to those of a constable or sheriff.

MARSHAL OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH. An officer who had the custody of the queen's bench prison. The St. 5 & 6 Vict. c. 22, abolished this office, and substituted an officer called "keeper of the queen's prison."

MARSHALING ASSETS. In equity. The arranging or ranking of assets in the due order of administration. Such an arrangement of the different funds under administration as shall enable all the parties having equities thereon to receive their due proportions, notwithstanding any intervening interests, liens, or other claims of particular persons to prior satisfaction out of a portion of these funds. The arrangement or ranking of assets in a certain order towards the payment of debts. 1 Story, Eq. Jur. § 558; 4 Kent, Comm. 421.

The arrangement of assets or claims so as to secure the proper application of the assets to the various claims; especially when there

are two classes of assets, and some creditors can enforce their claims against both, and others against only one, and the creditors of the former class are compelled to exhaust the assets against which they alone have a claim before having recourse to other assets, thus providing for the settlement of as many claims as possible. Pub. St. Mass. p. 1292.

MARSHALING LIENS. The ranking or ordering of several estates or parcels of land, for the satisfaction of a judgment or mortgage to which they are all liable, though successively conveyed away by the debtor. The rule is that, where lands subject to the lien of a judgment or mortgage have been sold or incumbered by the owner at different times to different purchasers, the various tracts are liable to the satisfaction of the lien in the inverse order of their alienation or incumbrance, the land last sold being first chargeable. 1 Black, Judgm. § 440.

MARSHALING SECURITIES. An equitable practice, which consists in so ranking or arranging classes of creditors, with respect to the assets of the common debtor, as to provide for satisfaction of the greatest number of claims. The process is this: Where one class of creditors have liens or securities on *two* funds, while another class of creditors can resort to only *one* of those funds, equity will compel the doubly-secured creditors to first exhaust that fund which will leave the single security of the other creditors intact. See 1 Story, Eq. Jur. § 633.

MARSHALSEA. In English law. A prison belonging to the king's bench. It has now been consolidated with others, under the name of the "Queen's Prison."

MARSHALSEA, COURT OF. The court of the Marshalsea had jurisdiction in actions of debt or torts, the cause of which arose within the verge of the royal court. It was abolished by St. 12 & 13 Vict. c. 101. 4 Steph. Comm. 317, note *d*.

MART. A place of public traffic or sale.

MARTE SUO DECURRERE. Lat. To run by its own force. A term applied in the civil law to a suit when it ran its course to the end without any impediment. Calvin.

MARTIAL LAW. A system of law, obtaining only in time of actual war and growing out of the exigencies thereof, arbitrary in its character, and depending only on the will of the commander of an army, which is established and administered in a place or

district of hostile territory held in belligerent possession, or, sometimes, in places occupied or pervaded by insurgents or mobs, and which suspends all existing civil laws, as well as the civil authority and the ordinary administration of justice. See, also, MILITARY LAW.

"Martial law, which is built upon no settled principles, but is entirely arbitrary in its decisions, is in truth and reality no law, but something indulged rather than allowed as a law. The necessity of order and discipline in an army is the only thing which can give it countenance, and therefore it ought not to be permitted in time of peace, when the king's courts are open for all persons to receive justice according to the laws of the land." 1 Bl. Comm. 418.

Martial law is neither more nor less than the will of the general who commands the army. It overrides and suppresses all existing civil laws, civil officers, and civil authorities, by the arbitrary exercise of military power; and every citizen or subject—in other words, the entire population of the country, within the confines of its power—is subjected to the mere will or caprice of the commander. He holds the lives, liberty, and property of all in the palm of his hand. Martial law is regulated by no known or established system or code of laws, as it is over and above all of them. The commander is the legislator, judge, and executioner. 5 Blatchf. 321.

Martial law is not the same thing as *military law*. The latter applies only to persons connected with the military forces of the country or to affairs connected with the army or with war, but is permanent in its nature, specific in its rules, and a recognized part of the law of the land. The former applies, when in existence, to all persons alike who are within the territory covered, but is transient in its nature, existing only in time of war or insurrection, is not specific or always the same, as it depends on the will and discretion of the military commander, and is no part of the law of the land.

MARTINMAS. The feast of St. Martin of Tours, on the 11th of November; sometimes corrupted into "Martimas" or "Martlemas." It is the third of the four cross quarter-days of the year. Wharton.

MARUS. In old Scotch law. A maire: an officer or executor of summons. Otherwise called "*præco regis*." Skene.

MASAGIUM. A message.

MASCULINE. Of the male sex.

MASSA. In the civil law. A mass; an unwrought substance, such as gold or silver, before it is wrought into cups or other articles. Dig. 47, 2, 52, 14; Fleta, lib. 2, c. 60. §§ 17, 22.

MAST. To fatten with mast, (acorns, etc.) 1 Leon. 186.

MAST-SELLING. In old English law. The practice of selling the goods of dead seamen at the mast. Held void. 7 Mod. 141.

MASTER. One having authority; one who rules, directs, instructs, or superintends; a head or chief; an instructor; an employer. Applied to several judicial officers. See *infra*.

MASTER AND SERVANT. The relation of master and servant exists where one person, for pay or other valuable consideration, enters into the service of another and devotes to him his personal labor for an agreed period. Sweet.

MASTER AT COMMON LAW. The title of officers of the English superior courts of common law appointed to record the proceedings of the court to which they belong; to superintend the issue of writs and the formal proceedings in an action; to receive and account for the fees charged on legal proceedings, and moneys paid into court. There are five to each court. They are appointed under St. 7 Wm. IV. and 1 Vict. c. 30, passed in 1837. Mozley & Whitley.

MASTER IN CHANCERY. An officer of a court of chancery who acts as an assistant to the judge or chancellor. His office is to inquire into such matters as may be referred to him by the court, examine causes, take testimony, take accounts, compute damages, etc., reporting his findings to the court in such shape that a decree may be made; also to take oaths and affidavits and acknowledgments of deeds. In modern practice, many of the functions of a master are performed by clerks, commissioners, auditors, and referees, and in some jurisdictions the office has been superseded.

MASTER IN LUNACY. In English law. The masters in lunacy are judicial officers appointed by the lord chancellor for the purpose of conducting inquiries into the state of mind of persons alleged to be lunatics. Such inquiries usually take place before a jury. 2 Steph. Comm. 511-57 B.

MASTER OF A SHIP. In maritime law. The commander of a merchant vessel, who has the chief charge of her government and navigation and the command of the crew, as well as the general care and control of the vessel and cargo, as the representative and

confidential agent of the owner. He is commonly called the "captain."

MASTER OF THE CROWN OFFICE. The queen's coroner and attorney in the criminal department of the court of queen's bench, who prosecutes at the relation of some private person or common informer, the crown being the nominal prosecutor. St. 6 & 7 Vict. c. 20; Wharton.

MASTER OF THE FACULTIES. In English law. An officer under the archbishop, who grants licenses and dispensations, etc.

MASTER OF THE HORSE. In English law. The third great officer of the royal household, being next to the lord steward and lord chamberlain. He has the privilege of making use of any horses, footmen, or pages belonging to the royal stables.

MASTER OF THE MINT. In English law. An officer who receives bullion for coinage, and pays for it, and superintends everything belonging to the mint. He is usually called the "warden of the mint." It is provided by St. 33 Vict. c. 10, § 14, that the chancellor of the exchequer for the time being shall be the master of the mint.

MASTER OF THE ORDNANCE. In English law. A great officer, to whose care all the royal ordnance and artillery were committed.

MASTER OF THE ROLLS. In English law. An assistant judge of the court of chancery, who holds a separate court ranking next to that of the lord chancellor, and has the keeping of the rolls and grants which pass the great seal, and the records of the chancery. He was originally appointed only for the superintendence of the writs and records appertaining to the common-law department of the court, and is still properly the chief of the masters in chancery. 3 Steph. Comm. 417.

Under the act constituting the supreme court of judicature, the master of the rolls becomes a judge of the high court of justice and *ex officio* a member of the court of appeal. The same act, however, provides for the abolition of this office, under certain conditions, when the next vacancy occurs. See 36 & 37 Vict. c. 66, §§ 5, 31, 32.

MASTERS OF THE SUPREME COURT. In English law. Officials deriving their title from Jud. (Officers') Act 1879, and being, or filling the places of, the sixteen

masters of the common-law courts, the queen's coroner and attorney, the master of the crown office, the two record and writ clerks, and the three associates. Wharton.

MASTER OF THE TEMPLE. The chief ecclesiastical functionary of the Temple Church.

MASTER'S REPORT. The formal report or statement made by a master in chancery of his decision on any question referred to him, or of any facts or action he has been directed to ascertain or take.

MASURA. In old records. A decayed house; a wall; the ruins of a building; a certain quantity of land, about four oxgangs.

MATE. The officer second in command on a merchant vessel.

MATELOTAGE. In French law. The hire of a ship or boat.

MATER-FAMILIAS. Lat. In the civil law. The mother or mistress of a family. A chaste woman, married or single. Calvin.

MATERIA. Lat. In the civil law. Materials; as distinguished from *species*, or the *form* given by labor and skill. Dig. 41, 1, 7, 7-12; Fleta, lib. 3, c. 2, § 14.

Materials (wood) for building, as distinguished from "*lignum*." Dig. 32, 55, pr.

In English law. Matter; substance; subject-matter. 3 Bl. Comm. 322.

MATERIAL. Important; more or less necessary; having influence or effect; going to the merits; having to do with matter, as distinguished from form. An allegation is said to be material when it forms a substantive part of the case presented by the pleading. Evidence offered in a cause, or a question propounded, is material when it is relevant and goes to the substantial matters in dispute, or has a legitimate and effective influence or bearing on the decision of the case.

MATERIAL-MAN. A person who has furnished materials used in the construction or repair of a building, structure, or vessel.

MATERIALITY. The property or character of being material. See **MATERIAL**.

MATERIALS. The substance or matter of which anything is made; matter furnished for the erection of a house, ship, or other structure; matter used or intended to be used in the construction of any mechanical product. See 71 Pa. St. 293.

MATERNA MATERNIS. Lat. A maxim of the French law, signifying that property of a decedent, acquired by him through his mother descends to the relations on the mother's side.

MATERNAL. That which belongs to, or comes from, the mother; as maternal authority, maternal relation, maternal estate, maternal line.

MATERNAL PROPERTY. That which comes from the mother of the party, and other ascendants of the maternal stock. Dem. Liv. Prél. t. 3, s. 2, no. 12.

MATERNITY. The character, relation, state, or condition of a mother.

MATERTERA. Lat. In the civil law. A maternal aunt; a mother's sister. Inst. 3, 6, 1; Bract. fol. 68b.

MATERTERA MAGNA. In the civil law. A great aunt; a grandmother's sister, (*avix soror*.) Dig. 38, 10, 10, 15.

MATERTERA MAJOR. In the civil law. A greater aunt; a great-grandmother's sister, (*proavix soror*;) a father's or mother's great-aunt, (*patris vel matris matertera magna*.) Dig. 38, 10, 10, 16.

MATERTERA MAXIMA. In the civil law. A greatest aunt; a great-great-grandmother's sister, (*abavix soror*;) a father's or mother's greater aunt, (*patris vel matris matertera major*.) Dig. 38, 10, 10, 17.

MATH. A mowing.

MATHEMATICAL EVIDENCE. Demonstrative evidence; such as establishes its conclusions with absolute necessity and certainty. It is used in contradistinction to *moral* evidence.

MATIMA. A godmother.

MATRICIDE. The murder of a mother; or one who has slain his mother.

MATRICULA. In the civil and old English law. A register of the admission of officers and persons entered into any body or society, whereof a list was made. Hence those who are admitted to a college or university are said to be "matriculated." Also a kind of almshouse, which had revenues appropriated to it, and was usually built near the church, whence the name was given to the church itself. Wharton.

MATRICULATE. To enter as a student in a university.

Matrimonia debent esse libera. Marriages ought to be free. A maxim of the civil law. 2 Kent, Comm. 102.

MATRIMONIAL CAUSES. In English ecclesiastical law. Causes of action or injuries respecting the rights of marriage. One of the three divisions of causes or injuries cognizable by the ecclesiastical courts, comprising suits for jactitation of marriage, and for restitution of conjugal rights, divorces, and suits for alimony. 3 Bl. Comm. 92-94; 8 Steph. Comm. 712-714.

MATRIMONIUM. Lat. In Roman law. A legal marriage, contracted in strict accordance with the forms of the older Roman law, *i. e.*, either with the *farreum*, the *co-emptio*, or by *usus*. This was allowed only to Roman citizens and to those neighboring peoples to whom the right of *connubium* had been conceded. The effect of such a marriage was to bring the wife into the *manus*, or marital power, of the husband, and to create the *patria potestas* over the children.

Matrimonium subsequens tollit peccatum præcedens. Subsequent marriage cures preceding criminality.

MATRIMONY. Marriage, (*q. v.*) in the sense of the relation or *status*, not of the ceremony.

MATRIX. In the civil law. The protocol or first draft of a legal instrument, from which all copies must be taken. See (Tex.) 16 S. W. Rep. 53.

MATRIX ECCLESIA. Lat. A mother church. This term was anciently applied to a cathedral, in relation to the other churches in the same see, or to a parochial church, in relation to the chapels or minor churches attached to it or depending on it. Blount.

MATRON. A married woman; an elderly woman. The female superintendent of an establishment or institution, such as a hospital, an orphan asylum, etc., is often so called.

MATRONS, JURY OF. Such a jury is impaneled to try if a woman condemned to death be with child.

MATTER. Facts; substance as distinguished from form; the merits of a case.

MATTER IN CONTROVERSY, OR IN DISPUTE. The subject of litigation; the matter for which a suit is brought and upon which issue is joined. 1 Wall. 337.

MATTER IN DEED. Such matter as may be proved or established by a deed or specialty. Matter of fact, in contradistinction to matter of law. Co. Litt. 320; Steph. Pl. 197.

MATTER IN ISSUE. That upon which the plaintiff proceeds in his action, and which the defendant controverts by his pleadings, not including facts offered in evidence to establish the matters in issue. 15 N. H. 9. That ultimate fact or state of facts in dispute upon which the verdict or finding is predicated. 4 Fed. Rep. 386. See 2 Black, Judgm. § 614, and cases cited.

Matter in ley ne serra mise in boutche del jurors. Jenk. Cent. 180. Matter of law shall not be put into the mouth of the jurors.

MATTER IN PAIS. Matter of fact that is not in writing; thus distinguished from matter in deed and matter of record; matter that must be proved by parol evidence.

MATTER OF COURSE. Anything done or taken in the course of routine or usual procedure, which is permissible and valid without being specially applied for and allowed.

MATTER OF FACT. That which is to be ascertained by the senses, or by the testimony of witnesses describing what they have perceived. Distinguished from matter of law.

MATTER OF FORM. Whatever belongs or relates merely to the *form* of a pleading or other instrument, or to its language, arrangement, or technicality, without affecting its *substance*, (*i. e.*, its substantial validity or sufficiency,) is called "matter of form," as distinguished from "matter of substance."

MATTER OF LAW. Whatever is to be ascertained or decided by the application of statutory rules or the principles and determinations of the law, as distinguished from the investigation of particular facts, is called "matter of law."

MATTER OF RECORD. Any judicial matter or proceeding entered on the records of a court, and to be proved by the production of such record. It differs from matter in deed, which consists of facts which may be proved by specialty.

MATTER OF SUBSTANCE. That which goes to the merits. The opposite of matter of form.

MATTERS OF SUBSISTENCE FOR MAN. This phrase comprehends all articles or things, whether animal or vegetable, living or dead, which are used for food, and whether they are consumed in the form in which they are bought from the producer or are only consumed after undergoing a process of preparation, which is greater or less, according to the character of the article. 19 Grat. 813.

Maturiora sunt vota mulierum quam virorum. 6 Coke, 71. The desires of women are more mature than those of men; *i. e.*, women arrive at maturity earlier than men.

MATURITY. In mercantile law. The time when a bill of exchange or promissory note becomes due. Story, Bills, § 329.

MAUGRE. L. Fr. In spite of; against the will of. Litt. § 672.

MAUNDY THURSDAY. The day preceding Good Friday, on which princes gave alms.

MAXIM. An established principle or proposition. A principle of law universally admitted, as being a correct statement of the law, or as agreeable to natural reason.

Coke defines a maxim to be "conclusion of reason," and says that it is so called "*quia maxima ejus dignitas et certissima auctoritas, et quod maxime omnibus probetur.*" Co. Litt. 11a. He says in another place: "A maxime is a proposition to be of all men confessed and granted without prooffe, argument, or discourse." Id. 67a.

The maxims of the law, in Latin, French, and English, will be found distributed through this book in their proper alphabetical order.

Maxime paci sunt contraria vis et injuria. The greatest enemies to peace are force and wrong. Co. Litt. 161b.

Maximus erroris populus magister. Bacon. The people is the greatest master of error.

"MAY," in the construction of public statutes, is to be construed "must" in all cases where the legislature mean to impose a positive and absolute duty, and not merely to give a discretionary power. 1 Pet. 46, 64; 3 Hill, 612, 615.

MAYHEM. In criminal law. The act of unlawfully and violently depriving another of the use of such of his members as may render him less able, in fighting, either to de-

fend himself or annoy his adversary. 4 Bl. Comm. 205.

Every person who unlawfully and maliciously deprives a human being of a member of his body, or disables, disfigures, or renders it useless, or cuts or disables the tongue, or puts out an eye, or slits the nose, ear, or lip, is guilty of mayhem. Pen. Code Cal. § 203.

MAYHEMAVIT. Maimed. This is a term of art which cannot be supplied in pleading by any other word, as *mutilavit, truncavit*, etc. 3 Thom. Co. Litt. 548; 7 Mass. 247.

MAYN. L. Fr. A hand; handwriting. Britt. c. 28.

MAYNOVER. L. Fr. A work of the hand; a thing produced by manual labor. Yearb. M. 4 Edw. III. 38.

MAYOR. The executive head of a municipal corporation; the governor or chief magistrate of a city.

MAYOR'S COURT. A court established in some cities, in which the mayor sits with the powers of a police judge or committing magistrate in respect to offenses committed within the city, and sometimes with civil jurisdiction in small causes, or other special statutory powers.

MAYOR'S COURT OF LONDON. An inferior court having jurisdiction in civil cases where the whole cause of action arises within the city of London.

MAYORALTY. The office or dignity of a mayor.

MAYORAZGO. In Spanish law. The right to the enjoyment of certain aggregate property, left with the condition thereon imposed that they are to pass in their integrity, perpetually, successively to the eldest son. Schm. Civil Law, 62.

MAYORESS. The wife of a mayor.

MEAD. Ground somewhat watery, not plowed, but covered with grass and flowers. Enc. Lond.

MEADOW. A tract of low or level land producing grass which is mown for hay. Webster.

A tract which lies above the shore, and is overflowed by spring and extraordinary tides only, and yields grasses which are good for hay. 34 Conn. 429.

MEAL-RENT. A rent formerly paid in meal.

MEAN, or MESNE. A middle between two extremes, whether applied to persons, things, or time.

MEANDER. To meander means to follow a winding or flexuous course; and when it is said, in a description of land, "thence with the meander of the river," it must mean a meandered line,—a line which follows the sinuosities of the river,—or, in other words, that the river is the boundary between the points indicated. 14 Or. 341, 12 Pac. Rep. 495; 10 Minn. 100, (Gil. 75.)

This term is used in some jurisdictions with the meaning of surveying and mapping a stream according to its meanderings, or windings and turnings. See 2 Wis. 317.

MEANS. 1. The instrument or agency through which an end or purpose is accomplished.

2. Resources; available property; money or property, as an available instrumentality for effecting a purpose, furnishing a livelihood, paying a debt, or the like.

MEANS OF SUPPORT. This term embraces all those resources from which the necessities and comforts of life are or may be supplied, such as lands, goods, salaries, wages, or other sources of income. 71 Ill. 241.

MEASE, or MESE. Norman-French for a house. Litt. §§ 74, 251.

MEASON-DUE. (Corruption of *maison de Dieu*.) A house of God; a monastery; religious house or hospital. See 39 Eliz. c. 5.

MEASURE. That by which extent or dimension is ascertained, either length, breadth, thickness, capacity, or amount. Webster. The rule by which anything is adjusted or proportioned.

MEASURE OF DAMAGES. The rule, or rather the system of rules, governing the adjustment or apportionment of damages as a compensation for injuries in actions at law.

MEASURE OF VALUE. In the ordinary sense of the word, "measure" would mean something by comparison with which we may ascertain what is the value of anything. When we consider, further, that value itself is relative, and that two things are necessary to constitute it, independently of the third thing, which is to measure it, we may define a "measure of value" to be something by comparing with which any two other things we may infer their value in relation to one another. 2 Mill, Pol. Econ. 101.

MEASURER, or METER. An officer in the city of London, who measured woolen clothes, coals, etc.

MEASURING MONEY. In old English law. A duty which some persons exacted, by letters patent, for every piece of cloth made, besides alnage. Now abolished.

MECHANIC. A workman employed in shaping and uniting materials, such as wood, metal, etc., into some kind of structure, machine, or other object, requiring the use of tools. 11 Lea, 517; 13 Pa. St. 525.

MECHANIC'S LIEN. A species of lien created by statute in most of the states, which exists in favor of persons who have performed work or furnished material in and for the erection of a building. Their lien attaches to the land as well as the building, and is intended to secure for them a priority of payment.

The lien of a mechanic is created by law, and is intended to be a security for the price and value of work performed and materials furnished, and as such it attaches to and exists on the land and the building erected thereon, from the commencement of the time that the labor is being performed and the materials furnished; and the mechanic has an actual and positive interest in the building anterior to the time of its recognition by the court, or the reducing of the amount due to a judgment. 12 Iowa, 292.

MEDERIA. In old records. A house or place where metheglin, or mead, was made.

MEDFEE. In old English law. A bribe or reward; a compensation given in exchange, where the things exchanged were not of equal value. Cowell.

MEDIA ANNATA. In Spanish law. Half-yearly profits of land. 5 Tex. 34, 79.

MEDIA NOX. In old English law. Midnight. *Ad mediam noctem*, at midnight. Fleta, lib. 5, c. 5, § 31.

MEDIÆ ET INFIRMÆ MANUS HOMINES. Men of a middle and base condition. Blount.

MEDIANUS HOMO. A man of middle fortune.

MEDIATE POWERS. Those incident to primary powers given by a principal to his agent. For example, the general authority given to collect, receive, and pay debts due by or to the principal is a primary power. In order to accomplish this, it is fre-

quently required to settle accounts, adjust disputed claims, resist those which are unjust, and answer and defend suits. These subordinate powers are sometimes called "mediate powers." Story, Ag. § 58.

MEDIATE TESTIMONY. Secondary evidence, (*q. v.*)

MEDIATION. Intervention; interposition; the act of a third person who interferes between two contending parties with a view to reconcile them or persuade them to adjust or settle their dispute. In international law and diplomacy, the word denotes the friendly interference of a state in the controversies of others, for the purpose, by its influence and by adjusting their difficulties, of keeping the peace in the family of nations.

MEDIATOR. One who interposes between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them.

MEDIATORS OF QUESTIONS. In English law. Six persons authorized by statute, (27 Edw. III. St. 2, c. 24,) who, upon any question arising among merchants relating to unmerchantable wool, or undue packing, etc., might, before the mayor and officers of the staple, upon their oath certify and settle the same; to whose determination therein the parties concerned were to submit. Cowell.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE. Evidence furnished by medical men, testifying in their professional capacity as experts, or by standard treatises on medicine or surgery.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE. The science which applies the principles and practice of the different branches of medicine to the elucidation of doubtful questions in a court of justice. Otherwise called "forensic medicine," (*q. v.*) A sort of mixed science, which may be considered as common ground to the practitioners both of law and physic. 1 Steph. Comm. 8.

MEDICINE. "The practice of medicine is a pursuit very generally known and understood, and so also is that of surgery. The former includes the application and use of medicines and drugs for the purpose of curing, mitigating, or alleviating bodily diseases, while the functions of the latter are limited to manual operations usually performed by surgical instruments or appliances." 24 Hun, 633.

MEDICINE-CHEST. A box containing an assortment of medicines, required by stat-

ute to be carried by all vessels above a certain tonnage.

MEDICO-LEGAL. Relating to the law concerning medical questions.

MEDIETAS LINGUÆ. In old practice. Moiety of tongue; half-tongue. Applied to a jury impaneled in a cause consisting the one half of natives, and the other half of foreigners. See *DE MEDIETATE LINGUÆ.*

MEDIO ACQUIETANDO. A judicial writ to distrain a lord for the acquitting of a mesne lord from a rent, which he had acknowledged in court not to belong to him. Reg. Jur. 129.

MEDITATIO FUGÆ. In Scotch law. Contemplation of flight; intention to abscond. 2 Kames, Eq. 14, 15.

MEDIUM TEMPUS. In old English law. Meantime; mesne profits. Cowell.

MEDLETUM. In old English law. A mixing together; a medley or *mêlée*; an affray or sudden encounter. An offense suddenly committed in an affray. The English word "medley" is preserved in the term "chance-medley." An intermeddling, without violence, in any matter of business. Spelman.

MEDLEY. An affray; a sudden or casual fighting; a hand to hand battle; a *mêlée*. See *CHANCE-MEDLEY*; *CHAUD-MEDLEY*.

MEDSCEAT. In old English law. A bribe; hush money.

MEDSYPP. A harvest supper or entertainment given to laborers at harvest-home. Cowell.

MEETING. A coming together of persons; an assembly.

In the law of corporations, meetings are of two kinds,—ordinary and extraordinary; or, as they are also called, general and special. Ordinary or general meetings are usually held at stated times and for the transaction of business generally. Extraordinary or special meetings are held as occasion may require for the transaction of some particular business, which ought to be specified in the notice convening the meeting. One meeting may be both ordinary and extraordinary. Lind. Comp. 572.

MEGBOTE. In Saxon law. A recompense for the murder of a relation.

MEIGNE, or MAISNADER. In old English law. A family.

MEINDRE AGE. L. Fr. Minority; lesser age. Kelham.

MEINY, MEINE, or MEINIE. The royal household; a retinue.

MEJORADO. In Spanish law. Preferred; advanced. White, New Recop. l. 8, tit. 10, c. 1, § 4.

MELANCHOLIA. In medical jurisprudence. A kind of mental unsoundness characterized by extreme depression of spirits, ill-grounded fears, delusions, and brooding over one particular subject or train of ideas. Webster.

MELDFEOH. In Saxon law. The recompense due and given to him who made discovery of any breach of penal laws committed by another person, called the "promoter's [*i. e.*, informer's] fee." Wharton.

MELIOR. Lat. Better; the better. *Melior res*, the better (best) thing or chattel. Bract. fol. 60.

Melior est conditio defendentis. The condition of the party in possession is the better one, *i. e.*, where the right of the parties is equal. Broom, Max. 715, 719.

Melior est conditio possidentis, et rei quam actoris. The condition of the possessor is the better, and the condition of the defendant is better than that of the plaintiff. 4 Inst. 180; Broom, Max. 714, 719.

Melior est conditio possidentis ubi neuter jus habet. Jenk. Cent. 118. The condition of the possessor is the better where neither of the two has a right.

Melior est justitia vere præveniens quam severe puniens. That justice which absolutely prevents [a crime] is better than that which severely punishes it. 3 Inst. Epil.

MELIORATIONS. In Scotch law. Improvements of an estate, other than mere repairs; betterments. 1 Bell, Comm. 73.

Meliorem conditionem ecclesiæ suæ facere potest prælatus, deteriolem nequaquam. Co. Litt. 101. A bishop can make the condition of his own church better, but by no means worse.

Meliorem conditionem suam facere potest minor, deteriolem nequaquam. Co. Litt. 337. A minor can make his own condition better, but by no means worse.

Melius est in tempore occurrere, quam post causam vulneratum remedium quærere. 2 Inst. 299. It is better to meet a thing in time than after an injury inflicted to seek a remedy.

Melius est jus deficiens quam jus incertum. Law that is deficient is better than law that is uncertain. Loft, 395.

Melius est omnia mala pati quam malo consentire. 3 Inst. 23. It is better to suffer every ill than to consent to ill.

Melius est petere fontes quam sectari rivulos. It is better to go to the fountain head than to follow little streamlets.

Melius est recurrere quam male currere. It is better to run back than to run badly; it is better to retrace one's steps than to proceed improperly. 4 Inst. 176.

MELIUS INQUIRENDUM. To be better inquired into.

In old English law. The name of a writ commanding a further inquiry respecting a matter; as, after an imperfect inquiry in proceedings in outlawry, to have a new inquest as to the value of lands.

MEMBER. One of the persons constituting a partnership, association, corporation, guild, etc.

One of the persons constituting a court, a legislative assembly, etc.

One of the limbs or portions of the body capable of being used in fighting in self-defense.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS. A member of the senate or house of representatives of the United States. In popular usage, particularly the latter.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. One having the right to sit in either house of the British parliament.

MEMBERS. In English law. Places where a custom-house has been kept of old time, with officers or deputies in attendance; and they are lawful places of exportation or importation. 1 Chit. Com. Law, 726.

MEMBRANA. Lat. In the civil law. Parchment. Dig. 32, 52.

In old English law. A skin of parchment. The ancient rolls usually consist of several of these skins, and the word "*membrana*" is used, in citations to them, in the same way as "page" or "folio," to distinguish the particular skin referred to.

MEMBRUM. A slip or small piece of land.

MÉMOIRE. In French law. A document in the form of a petition, by which appeals to the court of cassation are initiated.

MEMORANDUM. Lat. To be remembered; be it remembered. A formal word with which the body of a record in the court of king's bench anciently commenced. Townsh. Pl. 486; 2 Tidd, Pr. 719. The whole clause is now, in practice, termed, from this initial word, the "memorandum," and its use is supposed to have originated from the circumstance that proceedings "by bill" (in which alone it has been employed) were formerly considered as the by-business of the court. Gilb. Com. Pl. 47, 48.

Also an informal note or instrument embodying something that the parties desire to fix in memory by the aid of written evidence, or that is to serve as the basis of a future formal contract or deed.

This word is used in the statute of frauds as the designation of the written agreement, or note or evidence thereof, which must exist in order to bind the parties in the cases provided. The memorandum must be such as to disclose the parties, the nature and substance of the contract, the consideration and promise, and be signed by the party to be bound or his authorized agent. See 2 Kent, Comm. 510.

MEMORANDUM ARTICLES. In the law of marine insurance, this phrase designates the articles of merchandise which are usually mentioned in the memorandum clause, (*q. v.*) and for which the underwriter's liability is thereby limited.

MEMORANDUM CHECK. A check given by a borrower to a lender, for the amount of a short loan, with the understanding that it is not to be presented at the bank, but will be redeemed by the maker himself when the loan falls due. This understanding is evidenced by writing the word "*Mem.*" on the check. This is not unusual among merchants.

MEMORANDUM CLAUSE. In a policy of marine insurance the memorandum clause is a clause inserted to prevent the underwriters from being liable for injury to goods of a peculiarly perishable nature, and for minor damages. It begins as follows: "N. B. Corn, fish, salt, fruit, flour, and seed are warranted free from average, unless general, or the ship be stranded,"—meaning

that the underwriters are not to be liable for damage to these articles caused by sea-water or the like. Maude & P. Shipp. 371; Sweet.

MEMORANDUM IN ERROR. A document alleging error in fact, accompanied by an affidavit of such matter of fact.

MEMORANDUM OF ALTERATION. Formerly, in England, where a patent was granted for two inventions, one of which was not new or not useful, the whole patent was bad, and the same rule applied when a material part of a patent for a single invention had either of those defects. To remedy this the statute 5 & 6 Win. IV. c. 83, empowers a patentee (with the fiat of the attorney general) to enter a disclaimer (*q. v.*) or a memorandum of an alteration in the title or specification of the patent, not being of such a nature as to extend the exclusive right granted by the patent, and thereupon the memorandum is deemed to be part of the letters patent or the specification. Sweet.

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION. A document to be subscribed by seven or more persons associated for a lawful purpose, by subscribing which, and otherwise complying with the requisitions of the companies' acts in respect of registration, they may form themselves into an incorporated company, with or without limited liability. 3 Steph. Comm. 20.

MEMORIAL. A document presented to a legislative body, or to the executive, by one or more individuals, containing a petition or a representation of facts.

In English law. That which contains the particulars of a deed, etc., and is the instrument registered, as in the case of an annuity which must be registered. Wharton.

MEMORITER. Lat. From memory; by or from recollection. Thus, *memoriter* proof of a written instrument is such as is furnished by the recollection of a witness who had seen and known it.

MEMORIZATION. Committing anything to memory. Used to describe the act of one who listens to a public representation of a play or drama, and then, from his recollection of its scenes, incidents, or language, reproduces it, substantially or in part, in derogation of the rights of the author. See 5 Term R. 245; 14 Amer. Law Reg. (N. S.) 207.

MEMORY. Mental capacity; the mental power to review and recognize the successive

states of consciousness in their consecutive order. This word, as used in jurisprudence to denote one of the psychological elements necessary in the making of a valid will or contract or the commission of a crime, implies the mental power to conduct a consecutive train of thought, or an orderly planning of affairs, by recalling correctly the past states of the mind and past events, and arranging them in their due order of sequence and in their logical relations with the events and mental states of the present.

The phrase "sound and disposing mind and memory" means not merely distinct recollection of the items of one's property and the persons among whom it may be given, but entire power of mind to dispose of property by will. Abbott.

Also the reputation and name, good or bad, which a man leaves at his death.

MEMORY, TIME OF. According to the English common law, which has been altered by 2 & 3 Wm. IV. c. 71, the time of memory commenced from the reign of Richard I., A. D. 1189. 2 Bl. Comm. 31.

MEN OF STRAW. Men who used in former days to ply about courts of law, so called from their manner of making known their occupation, (*i. e.*, by a straw in one of their shoes,) recognized by the name of "straw-shoes." An advocate or lawyer who wanted a convenient witness knew by these signs where to meet with one, and the colloquy between the parties was brief. "Don't you remember?" said the advocate; to which the ready answer was, "To be sure I do." "Then come into court and swear it." And straw-shoes went into court and swore it. Athens abounded in straw-shoes. Quart. Rev. vol. 33, p. 344.

MENACE. A threat; the declaration or show of a disposition or determination to inflict an evil or injury upon another.

MENETUM. In old Scotch law. A stock-horn; a horn made of wood, "with circles and girds of the same." Skene.

MENIAL. A servant of the lowest order; more strictly, a domestic servant living under his master's roof.

MENS. Lat. Mind; intention; meaning; understanding; will.

MENS LEGISLATORIS. The intention of the law-maker.

MENS REA. Lat. A guilty mind; a guilty or wrongful purpose; a criminal intent.

Mens testatoris in testamentis spectanda est. Jenk. Cent. 277. The intention of the testator is to be regarded in wills.

MENSA. Patrimony or goods and necessary things for livelihood. Jacob. A table; the table of a money-changer. Dig. 2, 14, 47.

MENSA ET THORO. From bed and board. See **DIVORCE**.

MENSALIA. Parsonages or spiritual livings united to the tables of religious houses, and called "mensal benefices" amongst the canonists. Cowell.

MENSIS. Lat. In the civil and old English law. A month. *Mensis vetitus*, the prohibited month; fence-month, (*q. v.*)

MENSOR. In the civil law. A measurer of land; a surveyor. Dig. 11, 6; Id. 50, 6, 6; Cod. 12, 28.

MENSULARIUS. In the civil law. A money-changer or dealer in money. Dig. 2, 14, 47, 1.

MENSURA. In old English law. A measure.

MENSURA DOMINI REGIS. "The measure of our lord the king," being the weights and measures established under King Richard I. in his parliament at Westminster, 1197. 1 Bl. Comm. 275; Mozley & Whitley.

MENTAL ALIENATION. A phrase sometimes used to describe insanity, (*q. v.*)

MENTAL RESERVATION. A silent exception to the general words of a promise or agreement not expressed, on account of a general understanding on the subject. But the word has been applied to an exception existing in the mind of the one party only, and has been degraded to signify a dishonest excuse for evading or infringing a promise. Wharton.

MENTIRI. Lat. To lie; to assert a falsehood. Calvin.; 3 Bulst. 260.

MENTITION. The act of lying; a falsehood.

MENU, LAWS OF. A collection or institute of the earliest laws of ancient India. The work is of very remote antiquity.

MER, or MERE. A fenny place. Cowell.

MERA NOCTIS. Midnight. Cowell.

MERANNUM. In old records. Timbers; wood for building.

MERCABLE. Merchantable; to be sold or bought.

MERCANTANT. A foreign trader.

MERCANTILE AGENCIES. Establishments which make a business of collecting information relating to the credit, character, responsibility, and reputation of merchants, for the purpose of furnishing the information to subscribers. 15 Amer. & Eng. Enc. Law, 280.

MERCANTILE LAW. An expression substantially equivalent to the law-merchant or commercial law. It designates the system of rules, customs, and usages generally recognized and adopted by merchants and traders, and which, either in its simplicity or as modified by common law or statutes, constitutes the law for the regulation of their transactions and the solution of their controversies.

MERCANTILE LAW AMENDMENT ACTS. The statutes 19 & 20 Vict. cc. 60, 97, passed mainly for the purpose of assimilating the mercantile law of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

MERCANTILE PAPER. Commercial paper; such negotiable paper (bills, notes, checks, etc.) as is made or transferred by and between merchants or traders, and is governed by the usages of the business world and the law-merchant.

MERCANTILE PARTNERSHIP. One which habitually buys and sells; one which buys for the purpose of afterwards selling. 32 Pittsb. Leg. J. (O. S.) 310.

MERCAT. A market. An old form of the latter word common in Scotch law, formed from the Latin "*mercatum*."

MERCATIVE. Belonging to trade.

MERCATUM. Lat. A market. A contract of sale. Supplies for an army, (*commeatus*.)

MERCATURE. The practice of buying and selling.

MERCEDARY. A birer; one that hires.

MERCEN-LAGE. The law of the Mercians. One of the three principal systems of laws which prevailed in England about the beginning of the eleventh century. It was observed in many of the midland counties,

and those bordering on the principality of Wales. 1 Bl. Comm. 65.

MERCENARIUS. A hireling or servant. Jacob.

MERCES. In the civil law. Reward of labor in money or other things. As distinguished from "*pensio*," it means the rent of farms, (*prædia rustici*.) Calvin.

MERCHANDISE. All commodities which merchants usually buy and sell, whether at wholesale or retail; wares and commodities such as are ordinarily the objects of trade and commerce. But the term is never understood as including real estate, and is rarely applied to provisions such as are purchased day by day, or to such other articles as are required for immediate consumption.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1862. The statute 25 & 26 Vict. c. 88, designed to prevent the fraudulent marking of merchandise and the fraudulent sale of merchandise falsely marked.

MERCHANT. A man who traffics or carries on trade with foreign countries, or who exports and imports goods and sells them by wholesale. Webster. Merchants of this description are commonly known by the name of "shipping merchants."

A trader; one who, as a business, buys and sells wares and merchandise.

MERCHANT APPRAISERS. Where the appraisal of an invoice of imported goods made by the revenue officers at the custom-house is not satisfactory to the importer, persons may be selected (under this name) to make a definitive valuation. They must be merchants engaged in trade.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS. Certain English statutes, beginning with the St. 16 & 17 Vict. c. 131, whereby a general superintendence of merchant shipping is vested in the board of trade.

MERCHANTABLE. Fit for sale; vendible in market; of a quality such as will bring the ordinary market price.

MERCHANTMAN. A ship or vessel employed in foreign or domestic commerce or in the merchant service.

MERCHANTS' ACCOUNTS. Accounts between merchant and merchant, which must be current, mutual, and unsettled, consisting of debts and credits for merchandise. 6 How. (Miss.) 328.

MERCHANTS, STATUTE OF. The English statute 13 Edw. I. St. 3, repealed by 23 & 27 Vict. c. 125.

MERCHET. In feudal law. A fine or composition paid by inferior tenants to the lord for liberty to dispose of their daughters in marriage. Cowell. The same as *mar-cheta* (*q. v.*)

MERCIAMENT. An amerciamento, penalty, or fine, (*q. v.*)

MERCIMONIA. In old writs. Wares. *Mercimonia et merchandizas*, wares and merchandises. Reg. Brev. Append. 10.

MERCIMONIATUS ANGLIÆ. In old records. The impost of England upon merchandise. Cowell.

Mercis appellatio ad res mobiles tantum pertinet. The term "merchandise" belongs to movable things only. Dig. 50, 16, 66.

Mercis appellatione homines non contineri. Men are not included under the denomination of "merchandise." Dig. 50, 16, 207.

MERCY. In practice. The arbitrament of the king or judge in punishing offenses not directly censured by law. Jacob. So, "to be in mercy" signifies to be amerced or fined for bringing or defending an unjust suit, or to be liable to punishment in the discretion of the court.

In criminal law. The discretion of a judge, within the limits prescribed by positive law, to remit altogether the punishment to which a convicted person is liable, or to mitigate the severity of his sentence; as when a jury recommends the prisoner to the mercy of the court.

MERE. Sax. A marsh. Spelman.

MERE. L. Fr. Mother. *Æle, mere, fille*, grandmother, mother, daughter. Britt. c. 89. *En ventre sa mere*, in its mother's womb.

MERE MOTION. The free and voluntary act of a party himself, done without the suggestion or influence of another person, is said to be done of his mere motion, *ex mere motu*, (*q. v.*) Brown.

The phrase is used of an interference of the courts of law, who will, under some circumstances, of their own motion, object to an irregularity in the proceedings, though no objection has been taken to the informal-

ity by the plaintiff or defendant in the suit. 3 Chit. Gen. Pr. 430.

MERE RIGHT. The mere right of property in land; the *jus proprietatis*, without either possession or even the right of possession. 2 Bl. Comm. 197. The abstract right of property.

MERE-STONE. In old English law. A stone for bounding or dividing lands. Yearb. P. 18 Hen. VI. 5.

MERENNIIUM. In old records. Timber. Cowell.

MERETRICIOUS. Of the nature of unlawful sexual connection. The term is descriptive of the relation sustained by persons who contract a marriage that is void by reason of legal incapacity. 1 Bl. Comm. 436.

MERGER. The fusion or absorption of one thing or right into another; generally spoken of a case where one of the subjects is of less dignity or importance than the other. Here the less important ceases to have an independent existence.

In real-property law. It is a general principle of law that where a greater estate and a less coincide and meet in one and the same person, without any intermediate estate, the less is immediately annihilated, or, in the law phrase, is said to be *merged*, that is, sunk or drowned, in the greater. Thus, if there be tenant for years, and the reversion in fee-simple descends to or is purchased by him, the term of years is *merged* in the inheritance, and shall never exist any more. 2 Bl. Comm. 177; 1 Steph. Comm. 293; 4 Kent, Comm. 99.

Of rights. This term, as applied to rights, is equivalent to "*confusio*" in the Roman law, and indicates that where the qualities of debtor and creditor become united in the same individual, there arises a confusion of rights which extinguishes both qualities; whence, also, merger is often called "extinguishment." Brown.

Rights of action. In the law relating to rights of action, when a person takes or acquires a remedy or security of a higher nature, in legal estimation, than the one which he already possesses for the same right, then his remedies in respect of the minor right or security merge in those attaching to the higher one. Leake, Cont. 506; 10 C. B. 561. As where a claim is merged in the judgment recovered upon it.

In criminal law. When a man commits a great crime which includes a lesser, or com-

mits a felony which includes a tort against a private person, the latter is merged in the former. 1 East, P. C. 411.

MERIDIES. In old English law. Noon. Fleta, lib. 5, c. 5, § 31.

MERITORIOUS CAUSE OF ACTION. This description is sometimes applied to a person with whom the ground of action, or the consideration, originated or from whom it moved. For example, where a cause of action accrues to a woman while sole, and is sued for, after her marriage, by her husband and herself jointly, she is called the "meritorious cause of action."

MERITORIOUS CONSIDERATION. One founded upon some moral obligation; a valuable consideration in the second degree.

MERITS. In practice. Matter of substance in law, as distinguished from matter of mere form; a substantial ground of defense in law. A defendant is said "to swear to *merits*" or "to make affidavit of *merits*" when he makes affidavit that he has a good and sufficient or substantial defense to the action on the merits. 3 Chit. Gen. Pr. 543, 544. "Merits," in this application of it, has the technical sense of merits *in law*, and is not confined to a strictly moral and conscientious defense. *Id.* 545; 1 Burrill, Pr. 214.

As used in the New York Code of Procedure, § 349, it has been held to mean "the strict legal rights of the parties, as contradistinguished from those mere questions of practice which every court regulates for itself, and from all matters which depend upon the *discretion or favor* of the court." 4 How. Pr. 332.

A "defense upon the merits" is one which depends upon the inherent justice of the defendant's contention, as shown by the substantial facts of the case, as distinguished from one which rests upon technical objections or some collateral matter. Thus there may be a *good* defense growing out of an error in the plaintiff's pleadings, but there is not a defense upon the merits unless the real nature of the transaction in controversy shows the defendant to be in the right.

MERO MOTU. See **EX MERO MOTU**; **MERE MOTION.**

MERSCUM. A lake; also a marsh or fen-land.

MERTLAGE. A church calendar or rubric. Cowell.

MERTON, STATUTE OF. An old English statute, relating to dower, legitimacy, wardships, procedure, inclosure of common,

and usury. It was passed in 1235, (20 Hen. III.,) and was named from Merton, in Surrey, where parliament sat that year. See Barring. St. 41, 46.

MERUM. In old English law. Mere; naked or abstract. *Merum jus*, mere right. Bract. fol. 31.

MERX. Lat. Merchandise; movable articles that are bought and sold; articles of trade.

Merx est quicquid vendi potest. Merchandise is whatever can be sold. Com. 355; 3 Wood. Lect. 263.

MESCREAUNTES. L. Fr. Apostates; unbelievers.

MESCROYANT. A term used in the ancient books to designate an infidel or unbeliever.

MESE. A house and its appurtenance. Cowell.

MESNE. Intermediate; intervening; the middle between two extremes, especially of rank or time.

An intermediate lord; a lord who stood between a tenant and the chief lord; a lord who was also a tenant. "Lord, *mesne*, and tenant; the tenant holdeth by four pence, and the mesne by twelve pence." Co. Litt. 23a.

MESNE ASSIGNMENT. If A. grant a lease of land to B., and B. assign his interest to C., and C. in his turn assign his interest therein to D., in this case the assignments so made by B. and C. would be termed "mesne assignments;" that is, they would be assignments intervening between A.'s original grant and the vesting of D.'s interest in the land under the last assignment. Brown.

MESNE INCUMBRANCE. An intermediate charge, burden, or liability; an incumbrance which has been created or has attached to property between two given periods.

MESNE LORD. In old English law. A middle or intermediate lord; a lord who held of a superior lord. 2 Bl. Comm. 59. More commonly termed a "mesne," (*q. v.*)

MESNE PROCESS. As distinguished from *final* process, this signifies any writ or process issued between the commencement of the action and the suing out of execution. It includes the writ of summons, (although that is now the usual commencement of actions,) because anciently that was preceded by the original writ.

The writ of *capias ad respondendum* was called "mesne" to distinguish it, on the one hand, from the original process by which a suit was formerly commenced; and, on the other, from the final process of execution.

MESNE PROFITS. Intermediate profits; that is, profits which have been accruing between two given periods. Thus, after a party has recovered the land itself in an action of ejectment, he frequently brings another action for the purpose of recovering the profits which have been accruing or arising out of the land between the time when his title to the possession accrued or was raised and the time of his recovery in the action of ejectment, and such an action is thence termed an "action for mesne profits." Brown.

MESNE PROFITS, ACTION OF. An action of trespass brought to recover profits derived from land, while the possession of it has been improperly withheld; that is, the yearly value of the premises.

MESNE, WRIT OF. An ancient and abolished writ, which lay when the lord paramount distrained on the tenant paravail. The latter had a writ of mesne against the mesne lord.

MESNALTY, or MESNALITY. A manor held under a superior lord. The estate of a mesne.

MESS BRIEF. In Danish sea law. One of a ship's papers; a certificate of admeasurement granted at the home port of a vessel by the government or by some other competent authority. Jac. Sea Laws, 51.

MESSAGE FROM THE CROWN. In English law. The method of communicating between the sovereign and the house of parliament. A written message under the royal sign-manual is brought by a member of the house, being a minister of the crown or one of the royal household. Verbal messages are also sometimes delivered. May, Parl. Pr. c. 17.

MESSAGE, PRESIDENT'S. An annual communication from the president of the United States to congress, made at or near the beginning of each session, embodying his views on the state and exigencies of national affairs, suggestions and recommendations for legislation, and other matters. Const. U. S. art. 2, § 3.

MESSARIUS. In old English law. A chief servant in husbandry; a bailiff.

MESSE THANE. One who said mass; a priest. Cowell.

MESSENGER. One who bears messages or errands; a ministerial officer employed by executive officers, legislative bodies, and courts of justice, whose service consists principally in carrying verbal or written communications or executing other orders. In Scotland there are officers attached to the courts, called "messengers at arms."

An officer attached to a bankruptcy court, whose duty consists, among other things, in seizing and taking possession of the bankrupt's estate during the proceedings in bankruptcy.

The messenger of the English court of chancery has the duty of attending on the great seal, either in person or by deputy, and must be ready to execute all such orders as he shall receive from the lord chancellor, lord keeper, or lords commissioners. Brown.

Messis sementem sequitur. The crop belongs to [follows] the sower. A maxim in Scotch law. Where a person is in possession of land which he has reason to believe is his own, and sows that land, he will have a right to the crops, although before it is cut down it should be discovered that another has a preferable title to the land. Bell.

MESSAGE. This term is now synonymous with "dwelling-house," but had once a more extended signification. It is frequently used in deeds, in describing the premises.

Although the word "message" may, there is no necessity that it must, import more than the word "dwelling-house," with which word it is frequently put in apposition and used synonymously. 2 Bing. N. C. 617.

In Scotland. The principal dwelling-house within a barony. Bell.

META. Lat. A goal, bound, or turning-point. In old English law, the term was used to denote a bound or boundary line of land; a landmark; a material object, as a tree or a pillar, marking the position or beginning of a boundary line.

METACHRONISM. An error in computation of time.

METALLUM. In Roman law. Metal; a mine. Labor in mines, as a punishment for crime. Dig. 40, 5, 24, 5; Calvin.

METATUS. In old European law. A dwelling; a seat; a station; quarters; the place where one lives or stays. Spelman.

METAYER SYSTEM. A system of agricultural holdings, under which the land is divided, in small farms, among single families, the landlord generally supplying the stock which the agricultural system of the country is considered to require, and receiving, in lieu of rent and profit, a fixed proportion of the produce. This proportion, which is generally paid in kind, is usually one-half. 1 Mill, Pol. Econ. 296, 363; and 2 Smith, Wealth Nat. 3, c. ii. The system prevails in some parts of France and Italy.

METECORN. A measure or portion of corn, given by a lord to customary tenants as a reward and encouragement for labor. Cowell.

METEGAVEL. A tribute or rent paid in victuals. Cowell.

METER. An instrument of measurement; as a coal-meter, a gas-meter, a land-meter.

METES AND BOUNDS. In conveying. The boundary lines of lands, with their terminating points or angles.

METEWAND, or METEYARD. A staff of a certain length wherewith measures are taken.

METHEL. Sax. Speech; discourse. *Mathian*, to speak; to harangue. Ane. Inst. Eng.

METHOD. In patent law. "Engine" and "method" mean the same thing, and may be the subject of a patent. Method, properly speaking, is only placing several things, or performing several operations, in the most convenient order, but it may signify a contrivance or device. Fessen. Pat. 127; 8 Term R. 106.

METRE. The unit of measure in the "metric system" of weights and measures. It is a measure of length, being the ten-millionth part of the distance from the equator to the north pole, and equivalent to 39.37 inches. From this unit all the other denominations of measure, as well as of weight, are derived. The metric system was first adopted in France in 1795.

METRIC SYSTEM. A system of measures for length, surface, weight, and capacity, founded on the *metre* as a unit. It originated in France, has been established by law there and in some other countries, and is recommended for general use by other governments.

METROPOLIS. A mother city; one from which a colony was sent out. The capital of a province. Calvin.

METROPOLITAN. In English law. One of the titles of an archbishop. Derived from the circumstance that archbishops were consecrated at first in the metropolis of a province. 4 Inst. 94.

In England, the word is frequently used to designate a statute, institution, governmental agency, etc., relating exclusively or especially to the city of London; *e. g.*, the metropolitan board of works, metropolitan buildings act, etc.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS. A board constituted in 1855 by St. 18 & 19 Vict. c. 120, for the better sewer-ing, draining, paving, cleansing, lighting, and improving the metropolis (London.) The board is elected by vestries and district boards, who in their turn are elected by the rate-payers. Wharton.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DISTRICT. A region composed of New York city and some adjacent territory, which was, for police purposes, organized as one district, and provided with a police force common to the whole.

METTESHEP, or METTENSCHER. In old records. An acknowledgment paid in a certain measure of corn; or a fine or penalty imposed on tenants for default in not doing their customary service in cutting the lord's corn.

METUS. Lat. Fear; terror. In a technical sense, a reasonable and well-grounded apprehension of some great evil, such as death or mayhem, and not arising out of mere timidity, but such as might fall upon a man of courage. Fear must be of this description in order to amount to duress avoiding a contract. See Bract. lib. 2, c. 5; 1 Bl. Comm. 131; Calvin.

MEUBLES. In French law. The movables of English law. Things are *meubles* from either of two causes: (1) From their own nature, *e. g.*, tables, chairs; or (2) from the determination of the law, *e. g.*, obligations.

MEUBLES MEUBLANS. In French law. The utensils and articles of ornament usual in a dwelling-house. Brown.

Meum est promittere, non dimittere. It is mine to promise, not to discharge. 2 Rolle, 39.

MICHAELMAS. The feast of the Archangel Michael, celebrated in England on the 29th of September, and one of the usual quarter days.

MICHAELMAS HEAD COURT. A meeting of the heritors of Scotland, at which the roll of freeholders used to be revised. See Bell.

MICHAELMAS TERM. One of the four terms of the English courts of common law, beginning on the 2d day of November and ending on the 25th. 3 Steph. Comm. 562.

MICHE, or MICH. O. Eng. To practice crimes requiring concealment or secrecy; to pilfer articles secretly. *Micher*, one who practices secret crime. Webster.

MICHEL-GEMOT. One of the names of the general council immemorially held in England. The *Witenagemote*.

One of the great councils of king and noblemen in Saxon times. Jacob.

MICHEL-SYNOTH. Great council. One of the names of the general council of the kingdom in the times of the Saxons. 1 Bl. Comm. 147.

MICHERY. Theft; cheating.

MIDDLE TERM. A phrase used in logic to denote the term which occurs in both of the premises in the syllogism, being the means of bringing together the two terms in the conclusion.

MIDDLE THREAD. The middle thread of a stream is an imaginary line drawn lengthwise through the middle of its current.

MIDDLEMAN. An agent between two parties, an intermediary who performs the office of a broker or factor between seller and buyer, producer and consumer, land-owner and tenant, etc.

A middleman, in Ireland, is a person who takes land in large tracts from the proprietors, and then rents it out to the peasantry in small portions at a greatly enhanced price. Wharton.

MIDDLESEX, BILL OF. See BILL OF MIDDLESEX.

MIDSHIPMAN. In ships of war, a kind of naval cadet, whose business is to second or transmit the orders of the superior officers and assist in the necessary business of the vessel, but understood to be in training for a commission. A *passed* midshipman is one

who has passed an examination and is a candidate for promotion to the rank of lieutenant.

MIDSUMMER-DAY. The summer solstice, which is on the 24th day of June, and the feast of St. John the Baptist, a festival first mentioned by Maximus Tauricensis, A. D. 400. It is generally a quarter-day for the payment of rents, etc. Wharton.

MIDWIFE. In medical jurisprudence. A woman who practices midwifery; an *accoucheuse*.

MIESES. In Spanish law. Crops of grain. White, New Recop. b. 1, tit. 7, c. 5, § 2.

Migrans jura amittat ac privilegia et immunitates domicilii prioris. One who emigrates will lose the rights, privileges, and immunities of his former domicile. Voet, Com. ad Pand. tom. i. 347; 1 Kent, Comm. 76.

MILE. A measure of length or distance, containing 8 furlongs, or 1,760 yards, or 5,280 feet.

MILEAGE. A payment or charge, at a fixed rate per mile, allowed as a compensation for traveling expenses to members of legislative bodies, witnesses, sheriffs, and bailiffs.

MILES. In the civil law. A soldier.

In old English law. A knight, because military service was part of the feudal tenure. Also a tenant by military service, not a knight. 1 Bl. Comm. 404; Seld. Tit. Hon. 334.

MILITARE. To be knighted.

MILITARY. Pertaining to war or to the army; concerned with war. Also the whole body of soldiers; an army.

MILITARY BOUNTY LAND. Land granted by various laws of the United States, by way of bounty, to soldiers for services rendered in the army; being given in lieu of a money payment.

MILITARY CAUSES. In English law. Causes of action or injuries cognizable in the court military, or court of chivalry. 3 Bl. Comm. 103.

MILITARY COMMISSIONS. Courts whose procedure and composition are modeled upon courts-martial, being the tribunals by which alleged violations of martial law are tried and determined. The membership of

such commissions is commonly made up of civilians and army officers. They are probably not known outside of the United States, and were first used by General Scott during the Mexican war. 15 Amer. & Eng. Enc. Law, 473.

MILITARY COURTS. In England the court of chivalry and courts-martial, in America courts-martial and courts of inquiry, are called by this general name.

MILITARY FEUDS. The genuine or original feuds which were in the hands of military men, who performed military duty for their tenures.

MILITARY JURISDICTION. "There are, under the constitution, three kinds of military jurisdiction,—one to be exercised both in peace and war; another to be exercised in time of foreign war without the boundaries of the United States, or in time of rebellion and civil war within states or districts occupied by rebels treated as belligerents; and a third to be exercised in time of invasion or insurrection within the limits of the United States, or during rebellion within the limits of states maintaining adhesion to the national government, when the public danger requires its exercise. The first of these may be called 'jurisdiction under military law,' and is found in acts of congress prescribing rules and articles of war, or otherwise providing for the government of the national forces; the second may be distinguished as 'military government,' superseding, as far as may be deemed expedient, the local law, and exercised by the military commander under the direction of the president, with the express or implied sanction of congress; while the third may be denominated 'martial law proper,' and is called into action by congress, or temporarily, when the action of congress cannot be invited, and in the case of justifying or excusing peril, by the president, in times of insurrection or invasion, or of civil or foreign war, within districts or localities where ordinary law no longer adequately secures public safety and private rights." Per Chase, C. J., 4 Wall. 141.

MILITARY LAW. A system of regulations for the government of an army. 1 Kent, Comm. 341, note.

That branch of the laws which respects military discipline and the government of persons employed in the military service. De Hart, Mil. Law, 16. See **MARTIAL LAW**.

MILITARY OFFENSES. Those offenses which are cognizable by the courts military, as insubordination, sleeping on guard, desertion, etc.

MILITARY STATE. The soldiery of the kingdom of Great Britain.

MILITARY TENURES. The various tenures by knight-service, grand-serjeanty, cornage, etc., are frequently called "military tenures." from the nature of the services which they involved. 1 Steph. Comm. 204.

MILITARY TESTAMENT. In English law. A nuncupative will, that is, one made by word of mouth, by which a soldier may dispose of his goods, pay, and other personal chattels, without the forms and solemnities which the law requires in other cases. St. 1 Vict. c. 26, § 11.

MILITES. Knights; and, in Scotch law, freeholders.

MILITIA. The body of soldiers in a state enrolled for discipline, but not engaged in actual service except in emergencies, as distinguished from regular troops or a standing army.

MILL. A machine or engine for grinding, sawing, manufacturing, etc.; also the building containing such machinery.

An American money of account, of the value of the tenth part of a cent.

MILL-HOLMS. Low meadows and other fields in the vicinity of mills, or watery places about mill-dams. Enc. Lond.

MILLBANK PRISON. Formerly called the "Penitentiary at Millbank." A prison at Westminster, for convicts under sentence of transportation, until the sentence or order shall be executed, or the convict be entitled to freedom, or be removed to some other place of confinement. This prison is placed under the inspectors of prisons appointed by the secretary of state, who are a body corporate, "The Inspectors of the Millbank Prison." The inspectors make regulations for the government thereof, subject to the approbation of the secretary of state, and yearly reports to him, to be laid before parliament. The secretary also appoints a governor, chaplain, medical officer, matron, etc. Wharton.

MILLEATE, or MILL-LEAT. A trench to convey water to or from a mill. St. 7 Jac. I. c. 19.

MILLED MONEY. This term means merely coined money; and it is not necessary that it should be marked or rolled on the edges. Leach, 708.

MIL-REIS. The name of a piece of money in the coinage of Portugal, and the Azores and Madeira islands. Its value at the custom-house, according as it is coined in the first, second, or third of the places named, is \$1.12, or 83½ cents, or \$1.

MINA. In old English law. A measure of corn or grain. Cowell; Spelman.

MINAGE. A toll or duty paid for selling corn by the mina. Cowell.

MINARE. In old records. To mine or dig mines. *Minator*, a miner. Cowell.

MINATOR CARUCÆ. A plowman. Cowell.

Minatur innocentibus qui parcit nocentibus. 4 Coke, 45. He threatens the innocent who spares the guilty.

MIND. In its legal sense, "mind" means only the ability to will, to direct, to permit, or to assent. In this sense, a corporation has a mind, and exerts its mind each time that it assents to the terms of a contract. 43 N. J. Law, 492.

MIND AND MEMORY. A phrase applied to testators, denoting the possession of mental capacity to make a will. In order to make a valid will, the testator must have a sound and disposing *mind and memory*. In other words, he ought to be capable of making his will, with an understanding of the nature of the business in which he is engaged, a recollection of the property he means to dispose of, of the persons who are the objects of his bounty, and the manner in which it is to be distributed between them. 3 Wash. C. C. 585.

MINE. A pit or excavation in the earth, from which metallic ores or other mineral substances are taken by digging. Webster.

MINER. One who mines; a digger for metals and other minerals. While men of scientific attainments, or of experience in the use of machinery, are to be found in this class, yet the word by which the class is designated imports neither learning nor skill. (Colo.) 19 Pac. Rep. 604.

MINERALS. All fossil bodies or matters dug out of mines or quarries, whence

anything may be dug; such as beds of stone which may be quarried. 14 Mees. & W. 859.

Any natural production, formed by the action of chemical affinities, and organized when becoming solid by the powers of crystallization. Webster.

MINERATOR. In old records. A miner.

Minima pœna corporalis est major qualibet pecuniaria. The smallest corporal punishment is greater than any pecuniary one. 2 Inst. 220.

Minime mutanda sunt quæ certam habuerunt interpretationem. Things which have had a certain interpretation [whose interpretation has been settled, as by common opinion] are not to be altered. Co. Litt. 365; Wing. Max. p. 748, max. 202.

MINIMENT. An old form of *muniment*, (*q. v.*) Blount.

Minimum est nihilo proximum. The smallest is next to nothing.

MINING CLAIM. A parcel of land, containing precious metal in its soil or rock, and appropriated by an individual, according to established rules, by the process of "location." 104 U. S. 649.

MINING COMPANIES. This designation was formerly applied in England to the associations formed in London in 1825 for working mines in Mexico and South America; but at present it comprises, both in England and America, all mining projects carried on by joint-stock associations or corporations. Rapalje & Lawrence.

MINING PARTNERSHIP. An association of several owners of a mine for cooperation in working the mine. A mining partnership is governed by many of the rules relating to ordinary partnerships, but also by some rules peculiar to itself, one of which is that one person may convey his interest in the mine and business without dissolving the partnership. 102 U. S. 645; 23 Cal. 203; 9 Colo. 46, 10 Pac. Rep. 232.

MINISTER. In public law. One of the highest functionaries in the organization of civil government, standing next to the sovereign or executive head, acting as his immediate auxiliary, and being generally charged with the administration of one of the great bureaus or departments of the executive branch of government. Otherwise

called a "cabinet minister," "secretary of state," or "secretary of a department."

In international law. An officer appointed by the government of one nation as a mediator or arbitrator between two other nations who are engaged in a controversy, with their consent, with a view to effecting an amicable adjustment of the dispute.

A general name given to the diplomatic representatives sent by one state to another, including ambassadors, envoys, and residents.

In ecclesiastical law. A person ordained according to the usages of some church or associated body of Christians for the preaching of the gospel and filling the pastoral office.

In practice. An officer of justice, charged with the execution of the law, and hence termed a "ministerial officer;" such as a sheriff, bailiff, coroner, sheriff's officer. Britt. c. 21.

An agent; one who acts not by any inherent authority, but under another.

MINISTERIAL. That which is done under the authority of a superior; opposed to *judicial*; that which involves obedience to instructions, but demands no special discretion, judgment, or skill.

MINISTERIAL ACT. A ministerial act may be defined to be one which a person performs in a given state of facts, in a prescribed manner, in obedience to the mandate of legal authority, without regard to or the exercise of his own judgment, upon the propriety of the act being done. Acts done out of court in bringing parties into court are, as a general proposition, ministerial acts. 54 Ind. 376.

MINISTERIAL POWERS. A phrase used in English conveyancing to denote powers given for the good, not of the donee himself exclusively, or of the donee himself necessarily at all, but for the good of several persons, including or not including the donee also. They are so called because the donee of them is as a minister or servant in his exercise of them. Brown.

MINISTERIAL TRUSTS. (Also called "instrumental trusts.") Those which demand no further exercise of reason or understanding than every intelligent agent must necessarily employ; as to convey an estate. They are a species of special trusts, distinguished from discretionary trusts, which necessarily require much exercise of the understanding. 2 Bouv. Inst. no. 1896.

MINISTRANT. The party cross-examining a witness was so called, under the old system of the ecclesiastical courts.

MINISTRI REGIS. Lat. In old English law. Ministers of the king, applied to the judges of the realm, and to all those who hold ministerial offices in the government. 2 Inst. 208.

MINISTRY. Office; service. Those members of the government who are in the cabinet.

MINOR. An infant or person who is under the age of legal competence. A term derived from the civil law, which described a person under a certain age as *less than* so many years. *Minor viginti quinque annis*, one less than twenty-five years of age. Inst. 1, 14, 2.

Also, less; of less consideration; lower; a person of inferior condition. Fleta, 2, 47, 13, 15; Calvin.

MINOR ÆTAS. Lat. Minority or infancy. Cro. Car. 516. Literally, lesser age.

Minor ante tempus agere non potest in casu proprietatis nec etiam convenire; differetur usque ætatem; sed non cadit breve. 2 Inst. 291. A minor before majority cannot act in a case of property, nor even agree; it should be deferred until majority; but the writ does not fail.

MINOR FACT. In the law of evidence. A relative, collateral, or subordinate fact; a circumstance. Wills, Circ. Ev. 27; Burrill, Circ. Ev. p. 121, note, 582.

Minor jurare non potest. A minor cannot make oath. Co. Litt. 172b. An infant cannot be sworn on a jury. Litt. 289.

Minor minorem custodire non debet, alios enim præsumitur male regere qui seipsum regere nescit. A minor ought not to be guardian to a minor, for he who knows not how to govern himself is presumed to be unfit to govern others. Fleta, lib. 1, c. 10; Co. Litt. 88b.

Minor non tenetur respondere durante minori ætate, nisi in causa dotis, propter favorem. 3 Bulst. 143. A minor is not bound to reply during his minority, except as a matter of favor in a cause of dower.

Minor qui infra ætatem 12 annorum fuerit ultagari non potest, nec extra legem poni, quia ante talem ætatem, non est sub lege aliqua, nec in decenna. Co. Litt. 128. A minor who is under twelve

years of age cannot be outlawed, nor placed without the law, because before such age he is not under any law, nor in a decennary.

Minor septemdecim annis non admittitur fore executorem. A person under seventeen years is not admitted to be an executor. 6 Coke, 67. A rule of ecclesiastical law.

MINORA REGALIA. In English law. The lesser prerogatives of the crown, including the rights of the revenue. 1 Bl. Comm. 241.

MINORITY. The state or condition of a minor; infancy.

The smaller number of votes of a deliberative assembly; opposed to majority, (which see.)

MINT. The place designated by law where bullion is coined into money under authority of the government.

Also a place of privilege in Southwark, near the queen's prison, where persons formerly sheltered themselves from justice under the pretext that it was an ancient palace of the crown. The privilege is now abolished. Wharton.

MINT-MARK. The masters and workers of the English mint, in the indentures made with them, agree "to make a privy mark in the money they make, of gold and silver, so that they may know which moneys were of their own making." After every trial of the pix, having proved their moneys to be lawful, they are entitled to their *quietus* under the great seal, and to be discharged from all suits or actions. Wharton.

MINT-MASTER. One who manages the coinage. See MASTER OF THE MINT.

MINTAGE. The charge or commission taken by the mint as a consideration for coining into money the bullion which is brought to it for that purpose; the same as "seigniorage."

Also that which is coined or stamped as money; the product of the mint.

MINUS. Lat. In the civil law. Less; less than. The word had also, in some connections, the sense of "not at all." For example, a debt remaining wholly unpaid was described as "*minus solutum*."

Minus solvit, qui tardius solvit. He does not pay who pays too late. Dig. 50, 16, 12, 1.

MINUTE. In measures of time or circumference, a minute is the sixtieth part of an hour or degree.

In practice. A memorandum of what takes place in court, made by authority of the court.

MINUTE-BOOK. A book kept by the clerk or prothonotary of a court for entering memoranda of its proceedings.

MINUTE TITHES. Small tithes, such as usually belong to a vicar, as of wool, lambs, pigs, butter, cheese, herbs, seeds, eggs, honey, wax, etc.

MINUTES. In Scotch practice. A pleading put into writing before the lord ordinary, as the ground of his judgment. Bell.

In business law. Memoranda or notes of a transaction or proceeding. Thus, the record of the proceedings at a meeting of directors or shareholders of a company is called the "minutes."

MINUTIO. In the civil law. A lessening; diminution or reduction. Dig. 4, 5, 1.

MIRROR. The Mirror of Justice, or of the Justices, commonly spoken of as the "Mirror," is an ancient treatise on the laws of England, written during the reign of Edward II., and attributed to one Andrew Horne.

MIS. An inseparable particle used in composition, to mark an ill sense or depravation of the meaning; as "miscomputation" or "misaccompting," *i. e.*, false reckoning. Several of the words following are illustrations of the force of this monosyllable.

MISA. In old English law. The mise or issue in a writ of right. Spelman.

In old records. A compact or agreement; a form of compromise. Cowell.

MISADVENTURE. A mischance or accident; a casualty caused by the act of one person and inflicting injury upon another. Homicide "by misadventure" is where a man, doing a lawful act, without any intention of hurt, unfortunately kills another. 4 Bl. Comm. 182.

MISALLEGE. To cite falsely as a proof or argument.

MISAPPLICATION. Improper, illegal, wrongful, or corrupt use or application of funds, property, etc.

MISAPPROPRIATION. This is not a technical term of law, but it is sometimes

applied to the misdemeanor which is committed by a banker, factor, agent, trustee, etc., who fraudulently deals with money, goods, securities, etc., intrusted to him, or by a director or public officer of a corporation or company who fraudulently misapplies any of its property. Steph. Crim. Dig. 257, et seq. Sweet.

MISBEHAVIOR. Ill conduct; improper or unlawful behavior. Verdicts are sometimes set aside on the ground of misbehavior of jurors.

MISCARRIAGE. In medical jurisprudence. The expulsion of the *ovum* or embryo from the *uterus* within the first six weeks after conception. Between that time, and before the expiration of the sixth month, when the child may possibly live, it is termed "abortion." When the delivery takes place soon after the sixth month, it is denominated "premature labor." But the criminal act of destroying the *fœtus* at any time before birth is termed, in law, "procuring miscarriage." Chit. Med. Jur. 410.

In practice. As used in the statute of frauds, ("debt, default, or miscarriage of another,") this term means any species of unlawful conduct or wrongful act for which the doer could be held liable in a civil action.

MISCEGENATION. Mixture of races; marriage between persons of different races; as between a white person and a negro.

MISCHARGE. An erroneous charge; a charge, given by a court to a jury, which involves errors for which the judgment may be reversed.

MISCHIEF. In legislative parlance, the word is often used to signify the evil or danger which a statute is intended to cure or avoid.

In the phrase "malicious mischief," (which see,) it imports a wanton or reckless injury to persons or property.

MISCOGNISANT. Ignorant; uninformed. The word is obsolete.

MISCONDUCT. Any unlawful conduct on the part of a person concerned in the administration of justice which is prejudicial to the rights of parties or to the right determination of the cause; as "misconduct of jurors," "misconduct of an arbitrator." The term is also used to express a dereliction from duty, injurious to another, on the part of one employed in a professional capacity, as an

attorney at law, (1 Denio, 267,) or a public officer, (60 Me. 58.)

MISCONTINUANCE. In practice. An improper continuance; want of proper form in a continuance; the same with "discontinuance." Cowell.

MISCREANT. In old English law. An apostate; an unbeliever; one who totally renounced Christianity. 4 Bl. Comm. 44.

MISDATE. A false or erroneous date affixed to a paper or document.

MISDELIVERY. The delivery of property by a carrier or warehouseman to a person not authorized by the owner or person to whom the carrier or warehouseman is bound by his contract to deliver it. 133 Mass. 156.

MISDEMEANANT. A person guilty of a misdemeanor; one sentenced to punishment upon conviction of a misdemeanor. See **FIRST-CLASS MISDEMEANANT.**

MISDEMEANOR. In criminal law. A general name for criminal offenses of every sort, punishable by indictment or special proceedings, which do not in law amount to the grade of felony.

A misdemeanor is an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law either forbidding or commanding it. This general definition, however, comprehends both "crimes" and "misdemeanors," which, properly speaking, are mere synonymous terms; though, in common usage, the word "crimes" is made to denote such offenses as are of a deeper and more atrocious dye; while smaller faults and omissions of less consequence are comprised under the milder term of "misdemeanors" only. In the English law, "misdemeanor" is generally used in contradistinction to "felony;" and misdemeanors comprehend all indolent offenses which do not amount to felony, as libels, conspiracies, attempts, and solicitations to commit felonies, etc. Brown.

MISDESCRIPTION. An error or falsity in the description of the subject-matter of a contract which deceives one of the parties to his injury, or is misleading in a material or substantial point.

MISDIRECTION. In practice. An error made by a judge in instructing the jury upon the trial of a cause.

MISE. The issue in a writ of right. When the tenant in a writ of right pleads that his title is better than the demandant's, he is said to join the *mise* on the mere right.

Also expenses; costs; disbursements in an action.

MISE-MONEY. Money paid by way of contract or composition to purchase any liberty, etc. Blount.

Misera est servitus, ubi jus est vagum aut incertum. It is a wretched state of slavery which subsists where the law is vague or uncertain. 4 Inst. 245; Broom, Max. 150.

MISERABLE DEPOSITUM. Lat. In the civil law. The name of an involuntary deposit, made under pressing necessity; as, for instance, shipwreck, fire, or other inevitable calamity. Poth. Proc. Civile, pt. 5, c. 1, § 1; Code La. 2935.

MISERERE. The name and first word of one of the penitential psalms, being that which was commonly used to be given by the ordinary to such condemned malefactors as were allowed the benefit of clergy; whence it is also called the "psalm of mercy." Whar-ton.

MISERICORDIA. Mercy; a fine or amercement; an arbitrary or discretionary amercement.

MISERICORDIA COMMUNIS. In old English law. A fine set on a whole county or hundred.

MISFEASANCE. A misdeed or trespass. The doing what a party ought to do improperly. 1 Tidd, Pr. 4. The improper performance of some act which a man may lawfully do. 3 Steph. Comm. 460.

Misfeasance, strictly, is not doing a lawful act in a proper manner, omitting to do it as it should be done; while malfeasance is the doing an act wholly wrongful; and non-feasance is an omission to perform a duty, or a total neglect of duty. But "misfeasance" is often carelessly used in the sense of "malfeasance." 33 Conn. 109.

MISFEAZANCE. See MISFEASANCE.

MISFORTUNE. An adverse event, calamity, or evil fortune, arising by accident, (or without the will or concurrence of him who suffers from it,) and not to be foreseen or guarded against by care or prudence. See 20 Q. B. Div. 816. In its application to the law of homicide, this term always involves the further idea that the person causing the death is not at the time engaged in any unlawful act. 4 Bl. Comm. 182.

MISJOINDER. The improper joining together of parties to a suit, as plaintiffs or defendants, or of different causes of action.

MISKENNING. In Saxon and old English law. An unjust or irregular summoning to court; to speak unsteadily in court; to

vary in one's plea. Cowell; Blount; Spelman.

MISLAY. To deposit in a place not afterwards recollected; to lose anything by forgetfulness of the place where it was laid.

MISLEADING. Delusive; calculated to lead astray or to lead into error. Instructions which are of such a nature as to be misunderstood by the jury, or to give them a wrong impression, are said to be "misleading."

MISNOMER. Mistake in name; the giving an incorrect name to a person in a pleading, deed, or other instrument.

MISPLEADING. Pleading incorrectly, or omitting anything in pleading which is essential to the support or defense of an action, is so called; as in the case of a plaintiff not merely stating his title in a defective manner, but setting forth a title which is essentially defective in itself; or if, to an action of debt, the defendant pleads "not guilty" instead of *nil debet*. Brown.

MISPRISION. Incriminal law. A term used to signify every considerable misdemeanor which has not a certain name given to it by law. 3 Inst. 36.

Neglect or light account made of a crime; omission to reveal it. "Misprision of treason" is the bare knowledge and concealment of treason, without any degree of assent thereto, for any assent makes the party a principal traitor. 4 Bl. Comm. 120; 4 Steph. Comm. 200. "Misprision of felony" is the concealment of a felony committed by another, without such previous concert with or subsequent assistance of the latter as will make the party concealing an accessory before or after the fact. 4 Steph. Comm. 260. These are "misprisions," in the proper sense of the term. Contempts and high misdemeanors were formerly termed "positive misprisions." 4 Bl. Comm. 121.

Misprisions of clerks are mistakes made by clerks, etc., in writing or keeping records.

MISPRISION OF TREASON. Misprision of treason is the knowledge and concealment of treason, without otherwise assenting to or participating in the crime. Pen. Code Cal. § 38.

MISREADING. Reading a deed or other instrument to an illiterate or blind man (who is a party to it) in a false or deceitful manner, so that he conceives a wrong

Idea of its tenor or contents. See 5 Coke, 19; 6 East, 309; 2 Johns. 404.

MISRECITAL. The erroneous or incorrect recital of a matter of fact, either in an agreement, deed, or pleading.

MISREPRESENTATION. An intentional false statement respecting a matter of fact, made by one of the parties to a contract, which is material to the contract and influential in producing it. 29 N. J. Eq. 262.

False or fraudulent misrepresentation is a representation contrary to the fact, made by a person with a knowledge of its falsehood, and being the cause of the other party's entering into the contract. 6 Clark & F. 232.

Negligent misrepresentation is a false representation made by a person who has no reasonable grounds for believing it to be true, though he does not know that it is untrue, or even believes it to be true. L. R. 4 H. L. 79.

Innocent misrepresentation is where the person making the representation had reasonable grounds for believing it to be true. L. R. 2 Q. B. 580.

MISSA. The mass.

MISSÆ PRESBYTER. A priest in orders. Blount.

MISSAL. The mass-book.

MISSILIA. In Roman law. Gifts or liberalities, which the prætors and consuls were in the habit of throwing among the people. Inst. 2, 1, 45.

MISSING SHIP. In maritime law. A vessel is so called when, computed from her known day of sailing, the time that has elapsed exceeds the average duration of similar voyages at the same season of the year. 2 Duer, Ins. 469.

MISSIO. Lat. In the civil law. A sending or putting. *Missio in bona*, a putting the creditor in possession of the debtor's property. Mackeld. Rom. Law, § 521. *Missio iudicium in consilium*, a sending out of the *judices* (or jury) to make up their sentence. Halifax, Civil Law, b. 3, c. 13, no. 31.

MISSIVES. In Scotch law. Writings passed between parties as evidence of a transaction. Bell.

MISSTAICUS. In old records. A messenger.

MISTAKE. Some unintentional act, omission, or error arising from ignorance, surprise, imposition, or misplaced confidence. Code Ga. § 3117; 1 Story, Eq. Jur. § 110.

That result of ignorance of law or fact which has misled a person to commit that which, if he had not been in error, he would not have done. Jeremy, Eq. Jur. 358.

A mistake exists when a person, under some erroneous conviction of law or fact, does, or omits to do, some act which, but for the erroneous conviction, he would not have done or omitted. It may arise either from unconsciousness, ignorance, forgetfulness, imposition, or misplaced confidence. Bisph. Eq. § 185.

Mistake of fact is a mistake not caused by the neglect of a legal duty on the part of the person making the mistake, and consisting in (1) an unconscious ignorance or forgetfulness of a fact, past or present, material to the contract; or (2) belief in the present existence of a thing material to the contract which does not exist, or in the past existence of such a thing which has not existed. Civil Code Cal. § 1577.

A *mistake of law* happens when a party, having full knowledge of the facts, comes to an erroneous conclusion as to their legal effect. It is a mistaken opinion or inference, arising from an imperfect or incorrect exercise of the judgment, upon facts as they really are; and, like a correct opinion, which is law, necessarily presupposes that the person forming it is in full possession of them. The facts precede the law, and the true and false opinion alike imply an acquaintance with them. Neither can exist without it. The one is the result of a correct application to them of legal principles, which every man is presumed to know, and is called "law;" the other, the result of a faulty application, and is called a "mistake of law." 12 Wis. 124.

Mutual mistake is where the parties have a common intention, but it is induced by a common or mutual mistake.

MISTERY. A trade or calling. Cowell.

MISTRESS. The proper style of the wife of an esquire or a gentleman in England.

MISTRIAL. An erroneous, invalid, or nugatory trial; a trial of an action which cannot stand in law because of want of jurisdiction, or a wrong drawing of jurors, or disregard of some other fundamental requisite.

MISUSER. Abuse of an office or franchise. 2 Bl. Comm. 153.

MITIGATION. Alleviation; abatement or diminution of a penalty or punishment imposed by law. "Mitigating circumstances" are such as do not constitute a justification or excuse of the offense in question, but which, in fairness and mercy, may be con-

sidered as extenuating or reducing the degree of moral culpability.

MITIGATION OF DAMAGES. A reduction of the amount of damages, not by proof of facts which are a bar to a part of the plaintiff's cause of action, or a justification, nor yet of facts which constitute a cause of action in favor of the defendant, but rather facts which show that the plaintiff's conceded cause of action does not entitle him to so large an amount as the showing on his side would otherwise justify the jury in allowing him. 1 Suth. Dam. 226.

MITIOR SENSUS. Lat. The more favorable acceptance.

Mitius imperanti melius paretur. The more mildly one commands, the better is he obeyed. 3 Inst. 24.

MITOYENNETÉ. In French law. The joint ownership of two neighbors in a wall, ditch, or hedge which separates their estates.

MITTENDO MANUSCRIPTUM PEDIS FINIS. An abolished judicial writ addressed to the treasurer and chamberlain of the exchequer to search for and transmit the foot of a fine acknowledged before justices in eyre into the common pleas. Reg. Orig. 14.

MITTER. L. Fr. To put, to send, or to pass; as, *mitter l'estate*, to pass the estate; *mitter le droit*, to pass a right. These words are used to distinguish different kinds of releases.

MITTER AVANT. L. Fr. In old practice. To put before; to present before a court; to produce in court.

MITTIMUS. In English law. A writ used in sending a record or its tenor from one court to another. Thus, where a *nul tiel record* is pleaded in one court to the record of another court of equal or superior jurisdiction, the tenor of the record is brought into chancery by a *certiorari*, (*q. v.*) and thence sent by *mittimus* into the court where the action is. Tidd, Pr. 745.

In criminal practice. The name of a precept in writing, issuing from a court or magistrate, directed to the sheriff or other officer, commanding him to convey to the prison the person named therein, and to the jailer, commanding him to receive and safely keep such person until he shall be delivered by due course of law. Pub. St. Mass. 1882, p. 1293.

MIXED ACTION. An action partaking of the twofold nature of real and personal actions, having for its object the demand and restitution of real property and also personal damages for a wrong sustained. 3 Bl. Comm. 118.

Mixed actions are those which are brought for the specific recovery of lands, like real actions, but comprise, joined with this claim, one for damages in respect of such property; such as the action of waste, where, in addition to the recovery of the place wasted, the demandant claims damages; the writ of entry, in which, by statute, a demand of mesne profits may be joined; and dower, in which a claim for detention may be included. 48 Me. 255.

In the civil law. An action in which some specific thing was demanded, and also some personal obligation claimed to be performed; or, in other words, an action which proceeded both *in rem* and *in personam*. Inst. 4, 6, 20.

MIXED CONTRACT. In the civil law. A contract in which one of the parties confers a benefit on the other, and requires of the latter something of less value than what he has given; as a donation subject to a charge. Poth. Obl. no. 12.

MIXED GOVERNMENT. A form of government combining some of the features of two or all of the three primary forms, viz., monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy.

MIXED JURY. A bilingual jury; a jury of the half-tongue. See *DE MEDIETATE LINGUÆ*.

Also a jury composed partly of negroes and partly of white men.

MIXED LARCENY. Otherwise called "compound" or "complicated larceny;" that which is attended with circumstances of aggravation or violence to the person, or taking from a house.

MIXED LAWS. A name sometimes given to those which concern both persons and property.

MIXED MARRIAGE. A marriage between persons of different nationalities; or, more particularly, between persons of different racial origin; as between a white person and a negro or an Indian.

MIXED PERSONALTY. Impure personalty.

MIXED POLICY. A policy of marine insurance in which not only the time is specified for which the risk is limited, but the voyage also is described by its local termini;

as opposed to policies of insurance for a particular voyage, without any limits as to time, and also to purely time policies, in which there is no designation of local terminat all. Mozley & Whitley.

MIXED PRESUMPTIONS. Presumptions partaking of the nature both of presumptions of law and presumptions of fact; *i. e.*, presumptions of fact recognized by law.

MIXED PROPERTY. Property which is personal in its essential nature, but is invested by the law with certain of the characteristics and features of real property. Heirlooms, tombstones, monuments in a church, and title-deeds to an estate are of this nature. 2 Bl. Comm. 428; 3 Barn. & Adol. 174; 4 Bing. 106.

MIXED QUESTIONS. This phrase may mean either those which arise from the conflict of foreign and domestic laws, or questions arising on a trial involving both law and fact.

MIXED SUBJECTS OF PROPERTY. Such as fall within the definition of things real, but which are attended, nevertheless, with some of the legal qualities of things personal, as emblements, fixtures, and shares in public undertakings, connected with land. Besides these, there are others which, though things personal in point of definition, are, in respect of some of their legal qualities, of the nature of things real; such are animals *feræ naturæ*, charters and deeds, court rolls, and other evidences of the land, together with the chests in which they are contained, ancient family pictures, ornaments, tombstones, coats of armor, with pennons and other ensigns, and especially heir-looms. Whar-ton.

MIXED TITHES. In ecclesiastical law. Those which arise not immediately from the ground, but from those things which are nourished by the ground, *e. g.*, colts, chickens, calves, milk, eggs, etc. 3 Burn, Ecc. Law. 380; 2 Bl. Comm. 24.

MIXED WAR. A mixed war is one which is made on one side by public authority, and on the other by mere private persons. 1 Hill, 377, 415.

MIXTION. The mixture or confusion of goods or chattels belonging severally to different owners, in such a way that they can no longer be separated or distinguished; as where two measures of wine belonging

to different persons are poured together into the same cask.

MIXTUM IMPERIUM. Lat. In old English law. Mixed authority; a kind of civil power. A term applied by Lord Hale to the "power" of certain subordinate civil magistrates as distinct from "jurisdiction." Hale, Anal. § 11.

MOB. An assemblage of many people, acting in a violent and disorderly manner, defying the law, and committing, or threatening to commit, depredations upon property or violence to persons.

The word, in legal use, is practically synonymous with "riot," but the latter is the more correct term.

MOBBING AND RIOTING. In Scotch law. A general term including all those convocations of the lieges for violent and unlawful purposes, which are attended with injury to the persons or property of the lieges, or terror and alarm to the neighborhood in which it takes place. The two phrases are usually placed together; but, nevertheless, they have distinct meanings, and are sometimes used separately in legal language, the word "mobbing" being peculiarly applicable to the unlawful assemblage and violence of a number of persons, and that of "rioting" to the outrageous behavior of a single individual. Alis. Crim. Law, c. 23, p. 509.

MOBILIA. Lat. Movables; movable things; otherwise called "*res mobiles*."

Mobilia non habent situm. Movables have no *situs* or local habitation. 4 Johns. Ch. 472.

Mobilia sequuntur personam. Movables follow the [law of the] person. Story, Conf. Law, § 378; Broom, Max. 522.

MOCKADOES. A kind of cloth made in England, mentioned in St. 23 Eliz. c. 9.

MODEL. A pattern or representation of something to be made. *A fac simile* of something invented, made on a reduced scale, in compliance with the patent laws.

MODERAMEN INCULPATE TUTELE. Lat. In Roman law. The regulation of justifiable defense. A term used to express that degree of force in defense of the person or property which a person might safely use, although it should occasion the death of the aggressor. Calvin.; Bell.

MODERATA MISERICORDIA. A writ founded on *Magna Charta*, which lies

for him who is amerced in a court, not of record, for any transgression beyond the quality or quantity of the offense. It is addressed to the lord of the court, or his bailiff, commanding him to take a moderate amercement of the parties. New Nat. Brev. 167; Fitzh. Nat. Brev. 76.

MODERATE CASTIGAVIT. Lat. In pleading. He moderately chastised. The name of a plea in trespass which justifies an alleged battery on the ground that it consisted in a moderate chastisement of the plaintiff by the defendant, which, from their relations, the latter had a legal right to inflict.

MODERATE SPEED. In admiralty law. As applied to a steam-vessel, "such speed only is moderate as will permit the steamer reasonably and effectually to avoid a collision by slackening speed, or by stopping and reversing, within the distance at which an approaching vessel can be seen." 35 Fed. Rep. 609; 39 Fed. Rep. 480.

MODERATOR. A chairman or president of an assembly. A person appointed to preside at a popular meeting. The presiding officer of town-meetings in New England is so called.

MODIATIO. In old English law. A certain duty paid for every tierce of wine.

Modica circumstantia facti jus mutat. A small circumstance attending an act may change the law.

MODIFICATION. A change; an alteration which introduces new elements into the details, or cancels some of them, but leaves the general purpose and effect of the subject-matter intact.

"Modification" is not exactly synonymous with "amendment," for the former term denotes some minor change in the substance of the thing, without reference to its improvement or deterioration thereby, while the latter word imports an amelioration of the thing (as by changing the phraseology of an instrument, so as to make it more distinct or specific) without involving the idea of any change in substance or essence.

In Scotch law. The term usually applied to the decree of the teind court, awarding a suitable stipend to the minister of a parish. Bell.

MODIFY. To alter; to change in incidental or subordinate features.

MODIUS. A measure, usually a bushel.

MODIUS TERRÆ VEL AGRI. In old English law. A quantity of ground containing in length and breadth 100 feet.

MODO ET FORMA. In manner and form. Words used in the old Latin forms of pleadings by way of traverse, and literally translated in the modern precedents, importing that the party traversing denies the allegation of the other party, not only in its general effect, but in the exact *manner and form* in which it is made. Steph. Pl. 189, 190.

MODUS. Lat. In the civil law. Manner; means; way.

In old conveyancing. Mode; manner; the arrangement or expression of the terms of a contract or conveyance.

Also a consideration; the consideration of a conveyance, technically expressed by the word "*ut.*"

A qualification, involving the idea of variance or departure from some general rule or form, either by way of restriction or enlargement, according to the circumstances of a particular case, the will of a donor, the particular agreement of parties, and the like. Burrill.

In criminal pleading. The *modus* of an indictment is that part of it which contains the narrative of the commission of the crime; the statement of the mode or manner in which the offense was committed. Tray. Lat. Max.

In ecclesiastical law. A peculiar manner of tithing, growing out of custom.

MODUS DE NON DECIMANDO. In ecclesiastical law. A custom or prescription of entire exemption from the payment of tithes; this is not valid, unless in the case of abbey-lands.

Modus de non decimando non valet. A *modus* (prescription) not to pay tithes is void. Lofft, 427; Cro. Eliz. 511; 2 Shars. Bl. Comm. 31.

MODUS DECIMANDI. In ecclesiastical law. A manner of tithing; a partial exemption from tithes, or a pecuniary composition prescribed by immemorial usage, and of reasonable amount; for it will be invalid as a *rank modus* if greater than the value of the tithes in the time of Richard I. Stim. Law Gloss.

Modus et conventio vincunt legem. Custom and agreement overrule law. This maxim forms one of the first principles relative to the law of contracts. The exceptions to the rule here laid down are in cases

against public policy, morality, etc. 2 Coke, 73; Broom, Max. 689, 691-695.

MODUS HABILIS. A valid manner.

Modus legem dat donationi. Custom gives law to the gift. Co. Litt. 19; Broom, Max. 459.

MODUS LEVANDI FINES. The manner of levying fines. The title of a short statute in French passed in the eighteenth year of Edward I. 2 Inst. 510; 2 Bl. Comm. 349.

MODUS TENENDI. The manner of holding; *i. e.*, the different species of tenures by which estates are held.

MODUS TRANSFERRENDI. The manner of transferring.

MODUS VACANDI. The manner of vacating. How and why an estate has been relinquished or surrendered by a vassal to his lord might well be referred to by this phrase. See Tray. Lat. Max. *s. v.*

MOEBLE. L. Fr. Movable. *Biens meubles*, movable goods. Britt. c. 11.

MOERDA. The secret killing of another; murder. 4 Bl. Comm. 194.

MOF'USSIL. In Hindu law. Separated; particularized; the subordinate divisions of a district in contradistinction to *Sadder* or *Sudder*, which implies the chief seat of government. Wharton.

MOHAMMEDAN LAW. A system of native law prevailing among the Mohammedans in India, and administered there by the British government.

MOHATRA. In French law. A transaction covering a fraudulent device to evade the laws against usury.

It takes place where an individual buys merchandise from another on a credit at a high price, to sell it immediately to the first seller, or to a third person who acts as his agent, at a much less price for cash. 16 Toullier, no. 44.

MOIDORE. A gold coin of Portugal, valued at twenty-seven English shillings.

MOIETY. The half of anything. Joint tenants are said to hold by moieties. Litt. 125; 3 C. B. 274, 283.

MOLENDINUM. In old records. A mill.

MOLENDUM. A grist; a certain quantity of corn sent to a mill to be ground.

MOLESTATION. In Scotch law. A possessory action calculated for continuing proprietors of landed estates in the lawful possession of them till the point of right be determined against all who shall attempt to disturb their possession. It is chiefly used in questions of commonry or of controverted marches. Ersk. Inst. 4, 1, 48.

MOLITURA. The toll or multure paid for grinding corn at a mill. Jacob.

MOLITURA LIBERA. Free grinding; a liberty to have a mill without paying tolls to the lord. Jacob.

MOLLITER MANUS IMPOSUIT. Lat. He gently laid hands upon. Formal words in the old Latin pleas in actions of trespass and assault where a defendant justified laying hands upon the plaintiff, as where it was done to keep the peace, etc. The phrase is literally translated in the modern precedents, and the original is retained as the name of the plea in such cases. 3 Bl. Comm. 21; 1 Chit. Pl. 501, 502; Id. 1071.

MOLMUTIAN LAWS. The laws of Dunvallo Molmutius, a legendary or mythical king of the Britons, who is supposed to have begun his reign about 400 B. C. These laws were famous in the land till the Conquest. Tomlins; Mozley & Whitley.

MOMENTUM. In the civil law. An instant; an indivisible portion of time. Calvin.

A portion of time that might be measured; a division or subdivision of an hour; answering in some degree to the modern *minute*, but of longer duration. Calvin.

MONACHISM. The state of monks.

MONARCHY. A government in which the supreme power is vested in a single person. Where a monarch is invested with absolute power, the monarchy is termed "despotic;" where the supreme power is virtually in the laws, though the majesty of government and the administration are vested in a single person, it is a "limited" or "constitutional" monarchy. It is hereditary where the regal power descends immediately from the possessor to the next heir by blood, as in England; or elective, as was formerly the case in Poland. Wharton.

MONASTERIUM. A monastery; a church. Spelman.

MONASTICON. A book giving an account of monasteries, convents, and religious houses.

MONETA. Money, (*q. v.*)

Moneta est justum medium et mensura rerum commutabilium, nam per medium monetæ fit omnium rerum conveniens et justa æstimatio. Dav. Ir. K. B. 18. Money is the just medium and measure of commutable things, for by the medium of money a convenient and just estimation of all things is made.

MONETAGIUM. Mintage, or the right of coining money. Cowell. Hence, anciently, a tribute payable to a lord who had the prerogative of coining money, by his tenants, in consideration of his refraining from changing the coinage.

Monetandi jus comprehenditur in regalibus quæ nunquam a regio sceptro abdicantur. The right of coining money is comprehended among those royal prerogatives which are never relinquished by the royal scepter. Dav. Ir. K. B. 18.

MONEY. A general, indefinite term for the measure and representative of value; currency; the circulating medium; cash.

"Money" is a generic term, and embraces every description of coin or bank-notes recognized by common consent as a representative of value in effecting exchanges of property or payment of debts. 5 Humph. 140.

Money is used in a specific and also in a general and more comprehensive sense. In its specific sense, it means what is coined or stamped by public authority, and has its determinate value fixed by governments. In its more comprehensive and general sense, it means wealth,—the representative of commodities of all kinds, of lands, and of everything that can be transferred in commerce. 31 Tex. 10.

In its strict technical sense, "money" means coined metal, usually gold or silver, upon which the government stamp has been impressed to indicate its value. In its more popular sense, "money" means any currency, tokens, bank-notes, or other circulating medium in general use as the representative of value. 45 Tex. 305.

The term "moneys" is not of more extensive signification than "money," and means only cash, and not things in action. 14 Johns. 1; 1 Johns. Ch. 231.

MONEY-BILL. In parliamentary language, an act by which revenue is directed to be raised, for any purpose or in any shape whatsoever, either for governmental purposes, and collected from the whole people generally, or for the benefit of a particular district, and collected in that district, or for making appropriations.

MONEY-BROKER. A money-changer; a scrivener or jobber; one who lends or raises money to or for others.

MONEY CLAIMS. In English practice. Under the judicature act of 1875, claims for the price of goods sold, for money lent, for arrears of rent, etc., and other claims where money is directly payable on a contract express or implied, as opposed to the cases where money is claimed by way of damages for some independent wrong, whether by breach of contract or otherwise. These "money claims" correspond very nearly to the "money counts" hitherto in use. Mozley & Whitley.

MONEY COUNTS. In pleading. A species of common counts, so called from the subject-matter of them; embracing the *indebitatus assumpsit* count for money lent and advanced, for money paid and expended, and for money had and received, together with the *insimul computassent* count, or count for money due on an account stated. 1 Burrill, Pr. 132.

MONEY DEMAND. A claim for a fixed and liquidated amount of money, or for a sum which can be ascertained by mere calculation; in this sense, distinguished from a claim which must be passed upon and liquidated by a jury, called "damages."

MONEY HAD AND RECEIVED. In pleading. The technical designation of a form of declaration in *assumpsit*, wherein the plaintiff declares that the defendant *had and received* certain money, etc.

MONEY JUDGMENT. One which adjudges the payment of a sum of money, as distinguished from one directing an act to be done or property to be restored or transferred.

MONEY LAND. A phrase descriptive of money which is held upon a trust to convert it into land.

MONEY LENT. In pleading. The technical name of a declaration in an action of *assumpsit* for that the defendant promised to pay the plaintiff for money lent.

MONEY MADE. The return made by a sheriff to a writ of execution, signifying that he has collected the sum of money required by the writ.

MONEY OF ADIEU. In French law. Earnest money; so called because given at parting in completion of the bargain. *Arrhes* is the usual French word for earnest money. "money of adieu" is a provincialism found in the province of Orleans. Poth. Cont. 507;

MONEY ORDER. Under the postal regulations of the United States, a money

order is a species of draft drawn by one post-office upon another for an amount of money deposited at the first office by the person purchasing the money order, and payable at the second office to a payee named in the order.

MONEY-ORDER OFFICE. One of the post-offices authorized to draw or pay money orders.

MONEY PAID. In pleading. The technical name of a declaration in *assumpsit*, in which the plaintiff declares for money paid for the use of the defendant.

MONEYED CAPITAL. This term has a more limited meaning than the term "personal property," and applies to such capital as is readily solvable in money. 28 Fed. Rep. 776.

MONEYED CORPORATION. A corporation having the power to make loans upon pledges or deposits, or authorized by law to make insurance. 2 Rev. St. N. Y. (7th Ed.) 1371.

MONGER. A dealer or seller. It is seldom or never used alone, or otherwise than after the name of any commodity, to express a seller of such commodity.

MONIERS, or MONEYEERS. Ministers of the mint; also bankers. Cowell.

MONIMENT. A memorial, superscription, or record.

MONITION. In practice. A monition is a formal order of the court commanding something to be done by the person to whom it is directed, and who is called the "person monished." Thus, when money is decreed to be paid, a monition may be obtained commanding its payment. In ecclesiastical procedure, a monition is an order monishing or warning the party complained against to do or not to do a certain act "under pain of the law and contempt thereof." A monition may also be appended to a sentence inflicting a punishment for a past offense; in that case the monition forbids the repetition of the offense. Sweet.

In admiralty practice. The summons to appear and answer, issued on filing the libel; which is either a simple monition *in personam* or an attachment and monition *in rem*. Ben. Adm. 228, 239. It is sometimes termed "monition *vits et modis*," and has been supposed to be derived from the old Roman practice of summoning a defendant. 10 Wheat. 490.

The monition, in American admiralty practice, is, in effect, a summons, citation, or notice, though in form a command to the marshal to cite and admonish the defendant to appear and answer, and not a summons addressed to the party. 2 Conk. Adm. (2d Ed.) 147.

MONITORY LETTERS. Communications of warning and admonition sent from an ecclesiastical judge, upon information of scandal and abuses within the cognizance of his court.

MONOCRACY. A government by one person.

MONOCRAT. A monarch who governs alone; an absolute governor.

MONOGAMY. The marriage of one wife only, or the state of such as are restrained to a single wife. Webster.

A marriage contracted between one man and one woman, in exclusion of all the rest of mankind. The term is used in opposition to "bigamy" and "polygamy." Wolff, Dr. de la Nat. § 857.

MONOGRAM. A character or cipher composed of one or more letters interwoven, being an abbreviation of a name.

MONOGRAPH. A special treatise upon a particular subject of limited range; a treatise or commentary upon a particular branch or division of a general subject.

MONOMACHY. A duel; a single combat.

It was anciently allowed by law for the trial or proof of crimes. It was even permitted in pecuniary causes, but it is now forbidden both by the civil law and canon laws.

MONOMANIA. In medical jurisprudence. Derangement of a single faculty of the mind, or with regard to a particular subject, the other faculties being in regular exercise.

Monopolia dicitur, cum unus solus aliquod genus mercaturæ universum emit, pretium ad suum libitum statuens. 11 Coke, 86. It is said to be a monopoly when one person alone buys up the whole of one kind of commodity, fixing a price at his own pleasure.

MONOPOLIUM. The sole power, right, or privilege of sale; monopoly; a monopoly. Calvin.

MONOPOLY. In commercial law. A privilege or peculiar advantage vested in one or more persons or companies, consisting in the exclusive right (or power) to carry on a

particular business or trade, manufacture a particular article, or control the sale of the whole supply of a particular commodity.

Defined in English law to be "a license or privilege allowed by the king for the sole buying and selling, making, working, or using, of anything whatsoever; whereby the subject in general is restrained from that liberty of manufacturing or trading which he had before." 4 Bl. Comm. 159; 4 Steph. Comm. 291.

MONSTER. A prodigious birth; a human birth or offspring not having the shape of mankind; which cannot be heir to any land, albeit it be brought forth in marriage. Bract. fol. 5; Co. Litt. 7, 8; 2 Bl. Comm. 246.

MONSTRANS DE DROIT. L. Fr. In English law. A showing or manifestation of right; one of the common law methods of obtaining possession or restitution from the crown, of either real or personal property. It is the proper proceeding when the right of the party, as well as the right of the crown, appears upon record, and consists in putting in a claim of right grounded on facts already acknowledged and established, and praying the judgment of the court whether upon these facts the king or the subject has the right. 3 Bl. Comm. 256; 4 Coke, 54b.

MONSTRANS DE FAITS. L. Fr. In old English practice. A showing of deeds; a species of profert. Cowell.

MONSTRAVERUNT, WRIT OF. In English law. A writ which lies for the tenants of ancient demesne who hold by free charter, and not for those tenants who hold by copy of court roll, or by the rod, according to the custom of the manor. Fitzh. Nat. Brev. 14.

MONSTRUM. A box in which relics are kept; also a muster of soldiers. Cowell.

MONTES. In Spanish law. Forests or woods. White, New Recop. b. 2, tit. 1, c. 6, § 1.

MONTES PIETATIS. Public pawnbroking establishments; institutions established by government, in some European countries, for lending small sums of money on pledges of personal property. In France they are called "*monts de piété*."

MONTH. One of the divisions of a year. The space of time denoted by this term varies

according as one or another of the following varieties of months is intended:

Astronomical, containing one-twelfth of the time occupied by the sun in passing through the entire zodiac.

Calendar, civil, or solar, which is one of the months in the Gregorian calendar,—January, February, March, etc.,—which are of unequal length.

Lunar, being the period of one revolution of the moon, or twenty-eight days.

MONUMENT. Anything by which the memory of a person or an event is preserved or perpetuated. A tomb where a dead body has been deposited.

Monumenta quæ nos recorda vocamus sunt veritatis et vetustatis vestigia. Co. Litt. 118. Monuments, which we call "records," are the vestiges of truth and antiquity.

MONUMENTS. Permanent landmarks established for the purpose of indicating boundaries.

MONYA. In Norman law. Moneyage. A tax or tribute of one shilling on every hearth, payable to the duke every three years, in consideration that he should not alter the coin. Hale, Com. Law, 148, and note.

MOOKTAR. In Hindu law. An agent or attorney.

MOOKTARNAMA. In Hindu law. A written authority constituting an agent; a power of attorney.

MOOR. An officer in the Isle of Man, who summons the courts for the several sheadings. The office is similar to the English bailiff of a hundred.

MOORAGE. A sum due by law or usage for mooring or fastening of ships to trees or posts at the shore, or to a wharf. 3 Bland, 373.

MOORING. In maritime law. Anchoring or making fast to the shore or dock; the securing or confining a vessel in a particular station, as by cables and anchors or by a line or chain run to the wharf. A vessel is "moored in safety," within the meaning of a policy of marine insurance, when she is thus moored to a wharf or dock, free from any immediate danger from any of the perils insured against. See 1 Phil. Ins. 968.

MOOT, adj. A subject for argument; unsettled; undecided. As a *moot case*, a *moot point*.

MOOT, n. In English law. Moots are exercises in pleading, and in arguing doubtful cases and questions, by the students of an inn of court before the benchers of the inn. Sweet.

MOOT COURT. A court held for the arguing of moot cases or questions.

MOOT HALL. The place where moot cases were argued. Also a council-chamber, hall of judgment, or town-hall.

MOOT HILL. Hill of meeting, (*gemot*), on which the Britons used to hold their courts, the judge sitting on the eminence; the parties, etc., on an elevated platform below. Enc. Lond.

MOOT MAN. One of those who used to argue the reader's cases in the inns of court.

MOOTA CANUM. A pack of dogs. Cowell.

MOOTING. The exercise of arguing questions of law or equity, raised for the purpose. See MOOT.

MORA. Lat. In the civil law. Delay; default; neglect; culpable delay or default. Calvin.

MORA. Sax. A moor; barren or unprofitable ground; marsh; a heath; a watery bog or moor. Co. Litt. 5; Fleta, l. 2, c. 71.

MORA MUSSA. A watery or boggy moor; a morass.

Mora reprobatur in lege. Delay is reprobated in law. Jenk. Cent. p. 51, case 97.

MORAL ACTIONS. Those only in which men have knowledge to guide them, and a will to choose for themselves. Ruth. Inst. lib. 1. c. i.

MORAL CERTAINTY. In the law of criminal evidence. That degree of assurance which induces a man of sound mind to act, without doubt, upon the conclusions to which it leads. Wills, Circ. Ev. 7.

A certainty that convinces and directs the understanding and satisfies the reason and judgment of those who are bound to act conscientiously upon it.

A high degree of impression of the truth of a fact, falling short of absolute certainty, but sufficient to justify a verdict of guilty, even in a capital case. See Burrill, Circ. Ev. 198-200.

The phrase "moral certainty" has been introduced into our jurisprudence from the publicists and metaphysicians, and signifies only a very high degree of probability. It was observed by Pufen-

dorf that, "when we declare such a thing to be morally certain, because it has been confirmed by credible witnesses, this moral certitude is nothing else but a strong presumption grounded on probable reasons, and which very seldom fails and deceives us." "Probable evidence," says Bishop Butler, in the opening sentence of his Analogy, "is essentially distinguished from demonstrative by this: that it admits of degrees, and of all variety of them, from the highest moral certainty to the very lowest presumption." 118 Mass. 23.

MORAL EVIDENCE. As opposed to "mathematical" or "demonstrative" evidence, this term denotes that kind of evidence which, without developing an absolute and necessary certainty, generates a high degree of probability or persuasive force. It is founded upon analogy or induction, experience of the ordinary course of nature or the sequence of events, and the testimony of men.

MORAL FRAUD. This phrase is one of the less usual designations of "actual" or "positive" fraud or "fraud in fact," as distinguished from "constructive" fraud or "fraud in law." It means fraud which involves actual guilt, a wrongful purpose, or moral obliquity.

MORAL INSANITY. In medical jurisprudence. A derangement of the moral system; a morbid condition, in which the passions, appetites, inclinations, and moral dispositions have escaped from the control of the will and the conscience, and are perverted to immoral acts or uses, although the faculties of perception, reason, and judgment remain normal, or nearly so, and there is no especial hallucination or illusion. Kleptomania is an example of this condition.

Incapacity, from disease, to control one's conduct according to one's knowledge; uncontrollable morbid impulse; disability of the will to refrain from what one knows is wrong and punishable; a morbid perversion of the affections, inclinations, and temper, independent of any disease or delusion operating directly on the intellect. Abbott.

MORAL OBLIGATION. A duty which is valid and binding in the forum of the conscience, but is not recognized by the law as adequate to set in motion the machinery of justice; that is, one which rests upon ethical considerations alone, and is not imposed or enforced by positive law.

MORANDÆ SOLUTIONIS CAUSA. Lat. For the purpose of delaying or postponing payment or performance.

MORATUR IN LEGE. Lat. He delays in law. The phrase describes the action of one who demurs, because the party

does not proceed in pleading, but rests or abides upon the judgment of the court on a certain point, as to the legal sufficiency of his opponent's pleading. The court deliberate and determine thereupon.

MORAVIANS. Otherwise called "Herrnhutters" or "United Brethren." A sect of Christians whose social polity is particular and conspicuous. It sprung up in Moravia and Bohemia, on the opening of that reformation which stripped the chair of St. Peter of so many votaries, and gave birth to so many denominations of Christians. They give evidence on their solemn affirmation. 2Steph. Comm. 338n.

MORBUS SONTICUS. Lat. In the civil law. A sickness which rendered a man incapable of attending to business.

MORE COLONICO. Lat. In old pleading. In husband-like manner. Townsh. Pl. 198.

MORE OR LESS. This phrase, inserted in a conveyance of land immediately after the statement of the quantity of land conveyed, means that such statement is not to be taken as a warranty of the quantity, but only an approximate estimate, and that the tract or parcel described is to pass, without regard to an excess or deficiency in the quantity it actually contains.

MORGANATIC MARRIAGE. The lawful and inseparable conjunction of a man, of noble or illustrious birth, with a woman of inferior station, upon condition that neither the wife nor her children shall partake of the titles, arms, or dignity of the husband, or succeed to his inheritance, but be contented with a certain allowed rank assigned to them by the morganatic contract. But since these restrictions relate only to the rank of the parties and succession to property, without affecting the nature of a matrimonial engagement, it must be considered as a just marriage. The marriage ceremony was regularly performed; the union was indissoluble; the children legitimate. Wharton.

MORGANGINA, or MORGANGIVA. A gift on the morning after the wedding; dowry; the husband's gift to his wife on the day after the wedding. Du Cange; Cowell.

MORGEN. Anglo-Dutch. In old New York law. A measure of land, equal to about two acres.

MORGUE. A place where the bodies of persons found dead are kept for a limited

time and exposed to view, to the end that their friends may identify them.

MORMONISM. A social and religious system prevailing in the territory of Utah, a distinctive feature of which is the practice of polygamy. These plural marriages are not recognized by law, but are indictable offenses under the statutes of the United States and of Utah.

MORS. Lat. Death.

Mors dicitur ultimum supplicium. Death is called the "last punishment," the "extremity of punishment." 3 Inst. 212.

Mors omnia solvit. Death dissolves all things. Jenk. Cent. p. 160, case 2. Applied to the case of the death of a party to an action.

MORSELLUM, or MORSELLUS, TERRÆ. In old English law. A small parcel or bit of land.

MORT CIVILE. In French law. Civil death, as upon conviction for felony. It was nominally abolished by a law of the 31st of May, 1854, but something very similar to it, in effect at least, still remains. Thus, the property of the condemned, possessed by him at the date of his conviction, goes and belongs to his successors, (*héritiers*), as in case of an intestacy; and his future acquired property goes to the state by right of its prerogative, (*par droit de déshérence*), but the state may, as a matter of grace, make it over in whole or in part to the widow and children. Brown.

MORT D'ANCESTOR. An ancient and now almost obsolete remedy in the English law. An assize of *mort d'ancestor* was a writ which lay for a person whose ancestor died seised of lands in fee-simple, and after his death a stranger abated; and this writ directed the sheriff to summon a jury or assize, who should view the land in question and recognize whether such ancestor were seised thereof on the day of his death, and whether the demandant were the next heir.

MORTALITY. This word, in its ordinary sense, never means violent death, but death arising from natural causes. 5 Barn. & Ald. 110; 3 Barn. & C. 793.

MORTGAGE. An estate created by a conveyance absolute in its form, but intended to secure the performance of some act, such as the payment of money, and the like, by the grantor or some other person, and to become void if the act is performed agreeably to the

terms prescribed at the time of making such conveyance. 1 Washb. Real Prop. *475.

A conditional conveyance of land, designed as a security for the payment of money, the fulfillment of some contract, or the performance of some act, and to be void upon such payment, fulfillment, or performance. 44 Me. 299.

A debt by specialty, secured by a pledge of lands, of which the legal ownership is vested in the creditor, but of which, in equity, the debtor and those claiming under him remain the actual owners, until debarred by judicial sentence or their own laches. Coote, Mortg. 1.

Mortgage is a right granted to the creditor over the property of the debtor for the security of his debt, and gives him the power of having the property seized and sold in default of payment. Civil Code La. art. 3278.

Mortgage is a contract by which specific property is hypothecated for the performance of an act, without the necessity of a change of possession. Civil Code Cal. § 2920.

In the law of Louisiana. The *conventional* mortgage is a contract by which a person binds the whole of his property, or a portion of it only, in favor of another, to secure the execution of some engagement, but without divesting himself of the possession. Civil Code La. art. 3290.

The *judicial* mortgage is that resulting from judgments (whether these be rendered on contested cases or by default, or whether they be final or provisional) in favor of the person obtaining them. Civil Code La. art. 3321.

The law alone in certain cases gives to the creditor a mortgage on the property of his debtor, without it being requisite that the parties should stipulate it. This is called "legal mortgage." It is called also "tacit mortgage," because it is established by the law without the aid of any agreement. Civil Code La. art. 3311.

MORTGAGE OF GOODS. A conveyance of goods in gage or mortgage by which the whole legal title passes conditionally to the mortgagee; and, if the goods are not redeemed at the time stipulated, the title becomes absolute in law, although equity will interfere to compel a redemption. It is distinguished from a "pledge" by the circumstance that possession by the mortgagee is not or may not be essential to create or to support the title. Story, Bailm. § 287.

MORTGAGEE. He that takes or receives a mortgage.

MORTGAGOR. He that gives a mortgage.

MORTH. Sax. Murder, answering exactly to the French "*assassinat*" or "*meurtre de guet-apens*."

MORTHLAGA. A murderer. Cowell.

MORTHLAGE. Murder. Cowell.

MORTIFICATION. In Scotch law. A term nearly synonymous with "mortmain." Bell. Lands are said to be *mortified* for a charitable purpose.

MORTIS CAUSA. Lat. By reason of death; in contemplation of death. Thus used in the phrase "*Donatio mortis causa*," (q. v.)

Mortis momentum est ultimum vite momentum. The last moment of life is the moment of death. 4 Braaf. 245, 250.

MORTMAIN. A term applied to denote the alienation of lands or tenements to any corporation, sole or aggregate, ecclesiastical or temporal. These purchases having been chiefly made by religious houses, in consequence of which lands became perpetually inherent in one dead hand, this has occasioned the general appellation of "mortmain" to be applied to such alienations. 2 Bl. Comm. 268; Co. Litt. 2b.

MORTMAIN ACTS. These acts had for their object to prevent lands getting into the possession or control of religious corporations, or, as the name indicates, *in mortua manu*. After numerous prior acts dating from the reign of Edward I., it was enacted by the statute 9 Geo. II. c. 36, (called the "Mortmain Act" *par excellence*,) that no lands should be given to charities unless certain requisites should be observed. Brown.

MORTUARY. In ecclesiastical law. A burial-place. A kind of ecclesiastical heriot, being a customary gift of the second best living animal belonging to the deceased, claimed by and due to the minister in many parishes, on the death of his parishioners, whether buried in the church-yard or not. 2 Bl. Comm. 425.

It has been sometimes used in a civil as well as in an ecclesiastical sense, and applied to a payment to the lord of the fee. Paroch. Antiq. 470.

MORTUARY TABLES. Tables for estimating the probable duration of the life of a party at a given age. 67 Cal. 16, 6 Pac. Rep. 371.

MORTUUM VADIUM. A dead pledge; a mortgage, (*q. v.*;) a pledge where the profits or rents of the thing pledged are not applied to the payment of the debt.

MORTUUS. Dead. So in sheriff's return, *mortuus est*, he is dead.

Mortuus exitus non est exitus. A dead issue is no issue. Co. Litt. 29. A child born dead is not considered as issue.

Mos retinendus est fidelissimæ vetustatis. 4 Coke, 78. A custom of the truest antiquity is to be retained.

MOSTRENCOS. In Spanish law. Strayed goods; estrays. White, New Recop. b. 2, tit. 2, c. 6.

MOTE. Sax. A meeting; an assembly. Used in composition, as *burgmote*, *folkmete*, etc.

MOTE-BELL. The bell which was used by the Saxons to summon people to the court. Cowell.

MOTEER. A customary service or payment at the mote or court of the lord, from which some were exempted by charter or privilege. Cowell.

MOTHER. A woman who has borne a child; a female parent; correlative to "son" or "daughter."

MOTHER-IN-LAW. The mother of one's wife or of one's husband.

MOTION. In practice. An occasional application to a court by the parties or their counsel, in order to obtain some rule or order, which becomes necessary either in the progress of a cause, or summarily and wholly unconnected with plenary proceedings.

A motion is a written application for an order addressed to the court or to a judge in vacation by any party to a suit or proceeding, or by any one interested therein. Rev. Code Iowa 1880, § 2911; Code N. Y. § 401.

In parliamentary law. The formal mode in which a member submits a proposed measure or resolve for the consideration and action of the meeting.

MOTION FOR DECREE. Under the chancery practice, the most usual mode of bringing on a suit for hearing when the defendant has answered is by motion for decree. To do this the plaintiff serves on the defendant a notice of his intention to move for a decree. Hunter, Suit Eq. 59; Daniell, Ch. Pr. 722.

MOTION FOR JUDGMENT. In English practice. A proceeding whereby a party to an action moves for the judgment of the court in his favor. See Sup. Ct. Rules 1883, ord. 40.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE JUDGMENT. This is a step taken by a party in an action who is dissatisfied with the judgment directed to be entered at the trial of the action.

MOTIVE. The inducement, cause, or reason why a thing is done. An act legal in itself, and which violates no right, is not actionable on account of the motive which actuated it. 5 Amer. Law Reg. (O. S.) 528.

MOTU PROPRIO. Lat. Of his own motion. The commencing words of a certain kind of papal rescript.

MOURNING. The dress or apparel worn by mourners at a funeral and for a time afterwards. Also the expenses paid for such apparel.

MOVABLE. That which can be changed in place, as movable property; or in time, as movable feasts or terms of court.

MOVABLES. Things movable; movable or personal chattels, which may be annexed to or attendant on the person of the owner, and carried about with him from one part of the world to another. 2 Bl. Comm. 387. *Movables* consist—*First*, of inanimate things, as goods, plate, money, jewels, implements of war, garments, and the like, or vegetable productions, as the fruit or other parts of a plant when severed from the body of it, or the whole plant itself when severed from the ground; *secondly*, of animals, which have in themselves a principle and power of motion. 2 Steph. Comm. 67.

In the civil law. *Movables* (*mobilia*), properly denoted inanimate things; animals being distinguished as *moventia*, things moving. Calvin.

In Scotch law. "Movables" are opposed to "heritage." So that every species of property, and every right a man can hold, is by that law either heritable or movable. Bell.

MOVE. 1. To make an application to a court for a rule or order.

2. To propose a resolution, or recommend action in a deliberative body.

3. To pass over; to be transferred; as when the consideration of a contract is said to "move" from one party to the other.

4. To occasion; to contribute to; to tend to

lead to. The forewheel of a wagon was said "to *move* to the death of a man." Sayer, 249.

MOVENT. One who moves; one who makes a motion before a court; the applicant for a rule or order.

MOVING FOR AN ARGUMENT. Making a motion on a day which is not motion day, in virtue of having argued a special case; used in the exchequer after it became obsolete in the queen's bench. Wharton.

MUEBLES. In Spanish law. Movable; all sorts of personal property. White, New Recop. b. 1, tit. 3, c. 1, § 2.

MUIRBURN. In Scotch law. The offense of setting fire to a muir or moor. 1 Brown, Ch. 78, 116.

MULATTO. A mulatto is defined to be "a person that is the offspring of a negress by a white man, or of a white woman by a negro." 18 Ala. 276.

MULCT. A penalty or punishment imposed on a person guilty of some offense, tort, or misdemeanor, usually a pecuniary fine or condemnation in damages.

Mulcta damnum famæ non irrogat. Cod. 1, 54. A fine does not involve loss of character.

MULIER. Lat. (1) A woman; (2) a virgin; (3) a wife; (4) a legitimate child. 1 Inst. 243.

MULIER PUISNÉ. L. Fr. When a man has a bastard son, and afterwards marries the mother, and by her has also a legitimate son, the elder son is *bastard eigné*, and the younger son is *mulier puisné*.

MULIERATUS. A legitimate son. Flanvil.

MULIERTY. In old English law. The state or condition of a *mulier*, or lawful issue. Co. Litt. 352b. The opposite of *bastardy*. Blount.

Multa conceduntur per obliquum quæ non conceduntur de directo. Many things are allowed indirectly which are not allowed directly. 6 Coke, 47.

MULTA, or MULTURA EPISCOPI. A fine or final satisfaction, anciently given to the king by the bishops, that they might have power to make their wills, and that they might have the probate of other men's wills, and the granting of administration. 2 Inst. 291.

Multa fidem promissa levant. Many promises lessen confidence. 11 Cush. 350.

Multa ignoramus quæ nobis non latent si veterum lectio nobis fuit familiaris. 10 Coke, 73. We are ignorant of many things which would not be hidden from us if the reading of old authors was familiar to us.

Multa in jure communi contra rationem disputandi, pro communi utilitate introducta sunt. Many things have been introduced into the common law, with a view to the public good, which are inconsistent with sound reason. Co. Litt. 70b; Broom, Max. 158.

Multa multo exercitatione facilius quam regulis percipies. 4 Inst. 50. You will perceive many things much more easily by practice than by rules.

Multa non vetat lex, quæ tamen tacite damnavit. The law forbids not many things which yet it has silently condemned.

Multa transeunt cum universitate quæ non per se transeunt. Many things pass with the whole which do not pass separately. Co. Litt. 12a.

Multi multa, nemo omnia novit. 4 Inst. 348. Many men have known many things; no one has known everything.

MULTIFARIOUSNESS. In equity pleading. The fault of improperly joining in one bill distinct and independent matters, and thereby confounding them; as, for example, the uniting in one bill of several matters perfectly distinct and unconnected against one defendant, or the demand of several matters of a distinct and independent nature against several defendants, in the same bill. Story, Eq. Pl. § 271.

MULTIPARTITE. Divided into many or several parts.

MULTIPLE POINDING. In Scotch law. Double distress; a name given to an action, corresponding to proceedings by way of interpleader, which may be brought by a person in possession of goods claimed by different persons pretending a right thereto, calling the claimants and all others to settle their claims, so that the party who sues may be liable only "in once and single payment." Bell.

Multiplex et indistinctum parit confusionem; et quæstiones, quo simpliciores, eo lucidiores. Hob. 335. Multi-

plicity and indistinctness produce confusion; and questions, the more simple they are, the more lucid.

Multiplicata transgressione crescat pœnæ inflictio. As transgression is multiplied, the infliction of punishment should increase. 2 Inst. 479.

MULTIPLICITY. A state of being many. That quality of a pleading which involves a variety of matters or particulars; undue variety. 2 Saund. 410. A multiplying or increasing. Story, Eq. Pl. § 287.

MULTIPLICITY OF ACTIONS. A phrase descriptive of the state of affairs where several different suits or actions are brought upon the same issue. It is obviated in equity by a bill of peace; in courts of law, by a rule of court for the consolidation of different actions.

MULTITUDE. An assemblage of many people. According to Coke it is not a word of very precise meaning; for some authorities hold that there must be at least ten persons to make a multitude, while others maintain that no definite number is fixed by law. Co. Litt. 257.

Multitudinem decem faciunt. Co. Litt. 257. Ten make a multitude.

Multitudo errantium non parit errori patrocini. The multitude of those who err furnishes no countenance or excuse for error. 11 Coke, 75a. It is no excuse for error that it is entertained by numbers.

Multitudo imperitorum perdit curiam. The great number of unskillful practitioners ruins a court. 2 Inst. 219.

MULTO. In old records. A wether sheep.

Multo utilius est pauca idonea effundere quam multis inutilibus homines gravari. 4 Coke, 20. It is more useful to pour forth a few useful things than to oppress men with many useless things.

MULTURE. In Scotch law. The quantity of grain or meal payable to the proprietor of a mill, or to the multurer, his tacksmen, for manufacturing the corns. Ersk. Inst. 2, 9, 19.

MUMMIFICATION. In medical jurisprudence. A term applied to the complete drying up of the body. It is the result of burial in a dry, hot soil, or the exposure of

the body to a continuously cold and dry atmosphere. 15 Amer. & Eng. Enc. Law, 261.

MUMMING. Antic diversions in the Christmas holidays, suppressed in Queen Anne's time.

MUND. In old English law. Peace; whence *mundbryc*, a breach of the peace.

MUNDBYRD, MUNDEBURDE. A receiving into favor and protection. Cowell.

MUNDIUM. In old French law. A tribute paid by a church or monastery to their seignorial *avoués* and *vidames*, as the price of protecting them. Steph. Lect. 236.

MUNERA. In the early ages of the feudal law, this was the name given to the grants of land made by a king or chieftain to his followers, which were held by no certain tenure, but merely at the will of the lord. Afterwards they became life-estates, and then hereditary, and were called first "benefices," and then "feuds." See Wright, Ten. 19.

MUNICEPS. In Roman law. A provincial person; a countryman. This was the designation of one born in the provinces or in a city politically connected with Rome, and who, having become a Roman citizen, was entitled to hold any offices at Rome except some of the highest. In the provinces the term seems to have been applied to the freemen of any city who were eligible to the municipal offices. Calvin.

MUNICIPAL. "Municipal" signifies that which belongs to a corporation or a city. The term includes the rules or laws by which a particular district, community, or nation is governed. It may also mean local, particular, independent. 43 Ala. 598.

"Municipal," in one of its meanings, is used in opposition to "international," and denotes that which pertains or belongs properly to an individual state or separate community, as distinguished from that which is common to, or observed between, all nations. Thus, piracy is an "international offense," and is denounced by "international law," but smuggling is a "municipal offense," and cognizable by "municipal law."

MUNICIPAL AID. A contribution or assistance granted by a municipal corporation towards the execution or progress of some enterprise, undertaken by private parties, but likely to be of benefit to the municipality; *e. g.*, a railroad.

MUNICIPAL BONDS. Negotiable bonds issued by a municipal corporation, to secure its indebtedness.

MUNICIPAL CLAIMS. In Pennsylvania law. Claims filed by a city against property owners therein, for taxes, rates, levies, or assessments for local improvements, such as the cost of grading, paving, or curbing the streets, or removing nuisances.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. A public corporation, created by government for political purposes, and having subordinate and local powers of legislation; *e. g.*, a county, town, city, etc. 2 Kent, Comm. 275.

An incorporation of persons, inhabitants of a particular place, or connected with a particular district, enabling them to conduct its local civil government. *Glov. Mun. Corp.* 1.

In English law. A body of persons in a town having the powers of acting as one person, of holding and transmitting property, and of regulating the government of the town. Such corporations existed in the chief towns of England (as of other countries) from very early times, deriving their authority from "incorporating" charters granted by the crown. Wharton.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ACT. In English law. A general statute, (5 & 6 Wm. IV. c. 76,) passed in 1835, prescribing general regulations for the incorporation and government of boroughs.

MUNICIPAL COURTS. In the judicial organization of several states, courts are established under this name, whose territorial authority is confined to the city or community in which they are erected. Such courts usually have a criminal jurisdiction corresponding to that of a police court, and, in some cases, possess civil jurisdiction in small causes.

MUNICIPAL LAW, in contradistinction to international law, is the law of an individual state or nation. It is the rule or law by which a particular district, community, or nation is governed. 1 Bl. Comm. 44.

That which pertains solely to the citizens and inhabitants of a state, and is thus distinguished from political law, commercial law, and the law of nations. Wharton.

MUNICIPAL LIEN. A lien or claim existing in favor of a municipal corporation against a property owner for his proportionate share of a public improvement, made by the municipality, whereby his property is specially and individually benefited.

MUNICIPAL OFFICER. An officer belonging to a municipality; that is, a city, town, or borough.

MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE. A law, rule, or ordinance enacted or adopted by a municipal corporation.

MUNICIPAL SECURITIES. The evidences of indebtedness issued by cities, towns, counties, townships, school-districts, and other such territorial divisions of a state. They are of two general classes: (1) Municipal warrants, orders, or certificates; (2) municipal negotiable bonds. 15 Amer. & Eng. Enc. Law, 1206.

MUNICIPAL WARRANTS. A municipal warrant or order is an instrument, generally in the form of a bill of exchange, drawn by an officer of a municipality upon its treasurer, directing him to pay an amount of money specified therein to the person named or his order, or to bearer. 15 Amer. & Eng. Enc. Law, 1206.

MUNICIPALITY. A municipal corporation; a city, town, borough, or incorporated village. Also the body of officers, taken collectively, belonging to a city.

MUNICIPIUM. In Roman law. A foreign town to which the freedom of the city of Rome was granted, and whose inhabitants had the privilege of enjoying offices and honors there; a free town. Adams, Rom. Ant. 47, 77.

MUNIMENTS. The instruments of writing and written evidences which the owner of lands, possessions, or inheritances has, by which he is enabled to defend the title of his estate. *Termes de la Ley*; 3 Inst. 170.

MUNIMENT-HOUSE, or MUNIMENT-ROOM. A house or room of strength, in cathedrals, collegiate churches, castles, colleges, public buildings, etc., purposely made for keeping deeds, charters, writings, etc. 3 Inst. 170.

MUNUS. Lat. A gift; an office; a benefice or feud. A gladiatorial show or spectacle. Calvin.; Du Cange.

MURAGE. A toll formerly levied in England for repairing or building public walls.

MURDER. In criminal law. The willful killing of any subject whatever, with malice aforethought, whether the person slain shall be an Englishman or a foreigner. Hawk. P. C. b. 1, c. 13, § 3. The killing of any person under the king's peace, with malice prepense or aforethought, either express, or

implied by law. 1 Russ. Crimes, 421; 5 Cush. 304. When a person of sound mind and discretion unlawfully killeth any reasonable creature in being, and under the king's peace, with malice aforethought, either express or implied. 3 Inst. 47.

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, with malice aforethought. Pen. Code Cal. § 187.

Whoever kills any human being with malice aforethought, either express or implied, is guilty of murder. Rev. Code Iowa 1880, § 3848.

Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being, in the peace of the state, by a person of sound memory and discretion, with malice aforethought, either express or implied. Code Ga. 1882, § 4320.

The killing of a human being, without the authority of law, by any means, or in any manner, shall be murder in the following cases: When done with deliberate design to effect the death of the person killed, or of any human being; when done in the commission of an act eminently dangerous to others, and evincing a depraved heart, regardless of human life, although without any premeditated design to effect the death of any particular individual; when done without any design to effect death, by any person engaged in the commission of the crime of rape, burglary, arson, or robbery, or in any attempt to commit such felonies. Rev. Code Miss. 1880, § 2875.

Every homicide, perpetrated by poison, lying in wait, or any other kind of willful, deliberate, malicious, and premeditated killing; or committed in the perpetration of, or the attempt to perpetrate, any arson, rape, robbery, or burglary; or perpetrated from a premeditated design unlawfully and maliciously to effect the death of any human being other than him who is killed; or perpetrated by any act greatly dangerous to the lives of others, and evidencing a depraved mind, regardless of human life, although without any pre-conceived purpose to deprive any particular person of life,—is murder in the first degree; and every other homicide committed under such circumstances as would have constituted murder at common law is murder in the second degree. Code Ala. 1886, § 3725.

MURDRUM. In old English law. The killing of a man in a secret manner.

MURORUM OPERATIO. The service of work and labor done by inhabitants and adjoining tenants in building or repairing

the walls of a city or castle; their personal service was commuted into *mura*ge, (q. v.) Cowell.

MURTHRUM. In old Scotch law. Murder or murder. Skene.

MUSEUM. A building or institution for the cultivation of science or the exhibition of curiosities or works of art.

The term "museum" embraces not only collections of curiosities for the entertainment of the sight, but also such as would interest, amuse, and instruct the mind. 5 Stew. & P. 109.

MUSSA. In old English law. A moss or marsh ground, or a place where sedges grow; a place overrun with moss. Cowell.

MUSTER. To assemble together troops and their arms, whether for inspection, drill, or service in the field. To take recruits into the service in the army and inscribe their names on the muster-roll or official record. See 8 Allen, 498.

MUSTER-BOOK. A book in which the forces are registered. Termes de la Ley.

MUSTER-MASTER. One who superintended the muster to prevent frauds. St. 35 Eliz. c. 4.

MUSTER-ROLL. In maritime law. A list or account of a ship's company, required to be kept by the master or other person having care of the ship, containing the name, age, national character, and quality of every person employed in the ship. Abb. Shipp. 191, 192; Jac. Sea Laws, 161.

MUSTIZO. A name given to the issue of an Indian and a negro. Dud. (S. C.) 174.

MUTA-CANUM. A kennel of bounds; one of the mortuaries to which the crown was entitled at a bishop's or abbot's decease. 2 Bl. Comm. 426.

MUTATIO NOMINIS. Lat. In the civil law. Change of name. Cod. 9, 25.

MUTATION. In French law. This term is synonymous with "change," and is especially applied to designate the change which takes place in the property of a thing in its transmission from one person to another. Mutation, therefore, happens when the owner of the thing sells, exchanges, or gives it. Merl. Répert.

MUTATION OF LIBEL. In practice. An amendment allowed to a libel, by which

there is an alteration of the substance of the libel, as by propounding a new cause of action, or asking one thing instead of another. *Dunl. Adm. Pr.* 213.

MUTATIS MUTANDIS. Lat. With the necessary changes in points of detail.

MUTE. Speechless; dumb; that cannot or will not speak. In English criminal law, a prisoner is said to *stand mute* when, being arraigned for treason or felony, he either makes no answer at all, or answers foreign to the purpose or with such matter as is not allowable, and will not answer otherwise, or, upon having pleaded not guilty, refuses to put himself upon the country. *4 Bl. Comm.* 324.

MUTILATION. In criminal law. The depriving a man of the use of any of those limbs which may be useful to him in fight, the loss of which amounts to *mayhem*. *1 Bl. Comm.* 130.

MUTINOUS. Insubordinate; disposed to mutiny; tending to incite or encourage mutiny.

MUTINY. In criminal law. An insurrection of soldiers or seamen against the authority of their commanders; a sedition or revolt in the army or navy.

MUTINY ACT. In English law. An act of parliament annually passed to punish mutiny and desertion. *1 Bl. Comm.* 415.

MUTUAL. Interchangeable; reciprocal; each acting in return or correspondence to the other; given and received; spoken of an engagement or relation in which like duties and obligations are exchanged.

"Mutual" is not synonymous with "common." The latter word, in one of its meanings, denotes that which is shared, in the same or different degrees, by two or more persons; but the former implies reciprocal action or interdependent connection.

MUTUAL ACCOUNTS. Accounts comprising mutual credits between the parties; or an existing credit on one side which constitutes a ground for credit on the other, or where there is an understanding that mutual debts shall be a satisfaction or set-off *pro tanto* between the parties. *27 Ark.* 343.

MUTUAL CREDITS. In bankrupt law. Credits which must, from their nature, terminate in debts; as where a debt is due from one party, and credit given by him to the other for a sum of money payable at a future

day, and which will then become a debt; or where there is a debt on one side, and a delivery of property with directions to turn it into money on the other. *8 Taunt.* 499; *2 Smith, Lead. Cas.* 179.

By this phrase, in the rule under which courts of equity allow set-off in cases of mutual credit, we are to understand a knowledge on both sides of an existing debt due to one party, and a credit by the other party, founded on and trusting to such debt, as a means of discharging it. *9 N. J. Eq.* 44.

Credits given by two persons mutually; *i. e.*, each giving credit to the other. It is a more extensive phrase than "mutual debts." Thus, the sum credited by one may be due at once, that by the other payable *infuturo*; yet the credits are mutual, though the transaction would not come within the meaning of "mutual debts." *1 Atk.* 230; *7 Term R.* 378.

MUTUAL DEBTS. Money due on both sides between two persons.

MUTUAL INSURANCE. That form of insurance in which each person insured becomes a member of the company, and the members reciprocally engage to indemnify each other against losses, any loss being met by an assessment laid upon all the members.

MUTUAL MISTAKE. See **MISTAKE.**

MUTUAL PROMISES. Promises simultaneously made by and between two parties; each being the consideration for the other.

MUTUAL TESTAMENTS. Wills made by two persons who leave their effects reciprocally to the survivor.

MUTUALITY. Reciprocation; interchange. An acting by each of two parties; an acting in return.

In every agreement the parties must, as regards the principal or essential part of the transaction, intend the same thing; *i. e.*, each must know what the other is to do. This is called "mutuality of assent." *Chit. Cont.* 13.

In a simple contract arising from agreement, it is sometimes the essence of the transaction that each party should be bound to do something under it. This requirement is called "mutuality." *Sweet.*

Mutuality of a contract means an obligation on each to do, or permit to be done, something in consideration of the act or promise of the other. *28 Md.* 37.

MUTUANT. The person who lends chattels in the contract of *mutuum*, (*q. v.*)

MUTUARI. To borrow; *mutuatus*, a borrowing. *2 Arch. Pr.* 25.

MUTUARY. A person who borrows personal chattels to be consumed by him and re-

turned to the lender in kind and quantity; the borrower in a contract of *mutuum*.

MUTUS ET SURDUS. Lat. In civil and old English law. Dumb and deaf.

MUTUUM. Lat. In the law of bailments. A loan for consumption; a loan of chattels, upon an agreement that the borrower may consume them, returning to the lender an equivalent in kind and quantity. Story, Bailm. § 228.

MYNSTER-HAM. Monastic habitation; perhaps the part of a monastery set apart for purposes of hospitality, or as a sanctuary for criminals. Anc. Inst. Eng.

MYSTERY. A trade, art, or occupation. 2 Inst. 668. Masters frequently bind themselves in the indentures with their appren-

tices to teach them their art, trade, and *mystery*.

MYSTIC TESTAMENT. In the law of Louisiana. A sealed testament.

The mystic or secret testament, otherwise called the "closed testament," is made in the following manner: The testator must sign his dispositions, whether he has written them himself or has caused them to be written by another person. The paper containing those dispositions, or the paper serving as their envelope, must be closed and sealed. The testator shall present it thus closed and sealed to the notary and to seven witnesses, or he shall cause it to be closed and sealed in their presence. Then he shall declare to the notary, in presence of the witnesses, that that paper contains his testament written by himself, or by another by his direction, and signed by him, the testator. The notary shall then draw up the act of superscription, which shall be written on that paper, or on the sheet that serves as its envelope, and that act shall be signed by the testator, and by the notary and the witnesses. Civil Code La. art. 1584.