

income in alms to the poor, and all bishops were obliged to keep an almoner. This title is sometimes given to a chaplain; as, the *almoner* of a ship or regiment.

The *Lord Almoner*, or *Lord High Almoner*, in England, is an ecclesiastical officer, generally a bishop, who has the forfeiture of all deadbeats, and the goods of self-murderers, which he is to distribute to the poor.

The *Grand Almoner*, in France, is the first ecclesiastical dignitary, and has the superintendence of hospitals. *Encyc.*

ALMONRY, *n.* [Corrupted into *ambry*, *aumbry*, or *aumery*.]

The place where the almoner resides, or where the alms are distributed.

ALMOST, *adv.* [all and most. The Saxon order of writing was thus: "all most who were present." Sax. Chron. p. 225. We now use a duplication, *almost* all who were present.]

Nearly; well nigh; for the greatest part.

Almost thou persuaded me to be a christian. Acts xxvi.

ALMS, *n.* *imz.* [Sax. *almes*; old Eng. *almesse*; *Norm.* *almoignes*; Fr. *aumônes*; D. *aalmoes*; Sw. *almosa*; Dan. *almisse*; G. *almosen*; L. *eleemosyna*; Gr. *ἐλεημοσύνη*. The first syllables appear to be from *almos*, to pity.]

Any thing given gratuitously to relieve the poor, as money, food, or clothing, otherwise called charity.

A lame man was laid daily to ask an *alm*.

Cornelius gave much *alms* to the people. Acts x.

Tenure by free alms, or *frank-almoign*, in

England, is that by which the possessor is bound to pray for the soul of the donor, whether dead or alive; a tenure by which most of the ancient monasteries and religious houses in England held their lands, as do the parochial clergy, and many ecclesiastical and eleemosynary establishments at this day. Land thus held was free from all rent or other service.

Blackstone.
ALMS-BASKET; ALMS-BOX; ALMS-CHEST; vessels appropriated to receive alms.

ALMS-DEED, *n.* An act of charity; a charitable gift.

ALMS-FOLK, *n.* Persons supporting others by alms. [Not used.]

ALMS-GIVER, *n.* One who gives to the poor. *Bacon.*

ALMS-GIVING, *n.* The bestowment of charity.

ALMS-HOUSE, *n.* A house appropriated for the use of the poor, who are supported by the public.

ALMS-MEN, } *n.* Persons supported

ALMS-PEOPLE, } by charity or by public provision.

ALMUCANTAR, *n.* [Arabic.] A series of circles of the sphere passing through the center of the sun, or of a star, parallel to the horizon. It is synonymous with a parallel of altitude, whose common zenith is the vertical point.

Bailey. Encyc. Johnson.

ALMUCANTAR'S STAFF. An instrument of box or pear-tree, having an arch of fil-

teen degrees, used to take observations of the sun, about the time of its rising or setting, to find the amplitude and the variations of the compass. *Encyc. Chambers.*

ALMUDE, *n.* A wine measure in Portugal, of which twenty-six make a pipe.

Port. Dict.

ALMUG, } *n.* In scripture, a tree or wood

ALGUM, } about which the learned are not agreed. The most probable conjecture is that the word denotes gummy or resinous wood in general.

The Vulgate translates it *higna thyina*, and the Septuagint, *wrought-wood*; others, ebony, *bravil* or pine, and the Rabbins render it *coral*. It was used for musical instruments, stair cases, &c.

The *thyina* is the citron tree, from Mauritania, much esteemed by the ancients for its fragrance and beauty. The *almug*, *algaugin*, or *algaumin*, or simply *gummin*, is most probably a gummy wood, and perhaps may be the *Shittim*, often mentioned in Scripture. See 1 Kings, x. 11.

Cabmet. Encyc.

ALNAGE, *n.* [Fr. *alnage*, now softened into *alnage*; L. *alna*; Gr. *αλναι*, an arm, a cubit; W. *elin*; Ir. *ulen*, uile, or *uilean*, an elbow, a nook, or corner. See *Ell.*]

A measuring by the ell.

ALNAGER, or ALNAGAR, *n.* A measurer by the ell; a sworn officer, whose duty was to inspect and measure woollen cloth, and fix upon it a seal. This office was abolished by Statute, 11. and 12. Will. 3. No duty or office of this kind exists in the United States.

ALNIGHT, *n.* A cake of wax with the wick in the midst. *Bacon.*

ALOE, *n.* *al'o*, plu. *aloes*, pronounced *alaze*, and popularly *al'oez*, in three syllables, according to the Latin. [L. *aloe*; Gr. *αλωε*; Sp. Port. It. Fr. *aloe*; Heb. plur. *אלוה* *aloe-trees*.]

In botany, a genus of monogynian hexanders, of many species; all natives of warm climates, and most of them, of the southern part of Africa.

Among the Mohammedans, the aloe is a symbolic plant, especially in Egypt; and every one who returns from a pilgrimage to Mecca, hangs it over his street door, as a token that he has performed the journey.

In Africa, the leaves of the Guinea aloe are made into durable ropes. Of one species are made fishing lines, bow strings, stockings and hammocks. The leaves of another species hold rain water.

ALOE, in medicine, is the inspissated juice of the aloe. The juice is collected from the leaves, which are cut and put in a tub, and when a large quantity is procured, it is boiled to a suitable consistence; or it is exposed to the sun, till all the fluid part is exhausted. There are several kinds sold in the shops; as the socotrine aloes from Socotora, an isle in the Indian ocean; the hepatic or common Barbadoes aloes; and the feld or caballine aloes.

Aloes is a stimulating stomachic purgative; when taken in small doses, it is useful for people of a lax habit and sedentary life.

Encyc.

AL/OES-WOOD, *n.* [See *Agallochum*.]

ALOETIC, } *a.* Pertaining to aloe or

ALOETICAL, } aloes; partaking of the qualities of aloes.

ALOETIC, *n.* A medicine consisting chiefly of aloes. *Quincy.*

ALOFT, *adv.* [a and loft. See *Loft* and *Loft*.]

1. On high; in the air; high above the ground; as, the eagle soars aloft.

2. In *seamen's language*, in the top; at the mast head; or on the higher yards or rigging. Hence on the upper part, as of a building.

ALOGLANS, *n.* [a neg. and *λογος*, word.]

In church history, a sect of ancient heretics, who denied Jesus Christ to be the *Logos*, and consequently rejected the gospel of St. John. *Buck. Encyc.*

ALOGOTROPHY, *n.* [Gr. *αλογος*, unreasonable, and *τροφη*, nutrition.]

A disproportionate nutrition of the parts of the body, as when one part receives more or less nourishment and growth than another. *Bailey.*

ALOGY, *n.* [Gr. a and *λογος*.]

Unreasonableness; absurdity. *Obs. Brown.*

ALONE, *a.* [all and one; Germ. *allein*; D. *alleen*; Sw. *allena*; Dan. *allene*.]

1. Single; solitary; without the presence of another; applied to a person or thing.

It is not good that man should be alone. Gen. ii.

[This adjective follows its noun.]

2. It is applied to two or more persons or things, when separate from others, in a place or condition by themselves; without company.

And when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples. Mark, iv.

3. Only.

Thou whose name alone is Jehovah. Ps. lxxxiii.

This sense at first appears to be adverbial, but really is not; whose name *single, solitary, without another*, is Jehovah. To let alone is to suffer to rest; to forbear molesting or meddling with; to suffer to remain in its present state. *Alone*, in this phrase, is an adjective, the word to which it refers being omitted; let me alone; let them alone; let it alone; that is, suffer it to be unmolested, or to remain as it is, or let it remain by itself.

ALONE, *adv.* Separately; by itself.

ALONELY, *a.* or *adv.* Only; merely; singly. [Not used.] *Gower.*

ALONENESS, *n.* That state which belongs to no other. [Not used.] *Montague.*

ALONG, *adv.* [Sax. *and-lang* or *ond-lang*; Fr. *au long*, *le long*. See *Long*. The Saxons always prefixed *and* or *ond*, and the sense seems to be, by the length, or opposite the length, or in the direction of the length.]

1. By the length; lengthwise; in a line with the length; as, the troops marched along the bank of the river, or along the highway. 1 Sam. vi.

2. Onward; in a line, or with a progressive motion; as, a meteor glides along the sky; let us walk along.

Along signifies the whole length; through the whole distance; in the whole way or length.