

2. That which fortifies and defends from assault; that which secures safety.

RAMPART, *v. t.* To fortify with ramparts. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

RAMPION, *n.* [from *ramp*.] The name of several plants; as the common *esculent rampion*, a species of *Campanula*; the *crested rampion*, a species of *Lobelia*; the *horned rampion*, a species of *Phytolacca*.

*Fam. of Plants.*

RAMP'IRE, *n.* The same as *rampart*; but obsolete.

RAMP'IONS, *n.* A plant, a species of *Allium*.

*Fam. of Plants.*

RAN, the *prct.* of *run*. In old writers, open robbery.

*Lambard.*

RANCES'CENT, *a.* [L. *ranco*, to be rank.] Becoming rancid or sour.

*Encyc.*

RANCH, *v. t.* [corrupted from *wrench*.] To sprain; to injure by violent straining or contortion. [Not used.]

*Dryden. Garth.*

RAN'CID, *a.* [L. *rancidus*, from *ranco*, to be rank. This is the Eng. *rank*, luxuriant in growth.]

Having a rank smell; strong scented; sour; musty; as *rancid oil*.

*Arbutnot.*

RANCIDITY, *n.* The quality of being RANCIDNESS, *n.* rancid; a strong, sour scent, as of old oil.

The *rancidity* of oils may be analogous to the oxydation of metals.

*Ure.*

RAN'COR, *n.* [L. from *ranco*, to be rank.]

1. The deepest malignity or spite; deep seated and implacable malice; inveterate enmity. [This is the strongest term for enmity which the English language supplies.]

It issues from the *rancor* of a villain.

*Shak.*

2. Virulence; corruption.

*Shak.*

RAN'COUS, *a.* Deeply malignant; implacably spiteful or malicious; intensely virulent.

So flam'd his eyes with rage and *ran'cous* ire.

*Spenser.*

*Rancorous* opposition to the gospel of Christ.

*West.*

RAN'COUSLY, *adv.* With deep malignity or spiteful malice.

RAND, *n.* [G. D. Dan. *rand*, a border, edge, margin, brink; from shooting out, extending.]

A border; edge; margin; as the *rand* of a shoe.

RAN'DOM, *n.* [Norm. Sax. *randun*; Fr. *randonnée*, a rapid course of water; *randon*, a gushing.]

1. A roving motion or course without direction; hence, want of direction, rule or method; hazard; chance; used in the phrase, *at random*, that is, without a settled point of direction; at hazard.

2. Course; motion; progression; distance of a body thrown; as the furthest *random* of a missile weapon.

*Digby.*

RAN'DOM, *a.* Done at hazard or without settled aim or purpose; left to chance; as a *random* blow.

2. Uttered or done without previous calculation; as a *random* guess.

RAN'DOM-SHOT, *n.* A shot not directed to a point, or a shot with the muzzle of the gun elevated above a horizontal line.

*Mar. Dict.*

RAN'DY, *a.* Disorderly; riotous. [Not used or local.]

*Grose.*

RANE, } *n.* [Sax. *hrana*; Fr. *renne*; RANEDEER, } *D. rendier*; G. *renthier*; Basque, *oreña* or *orina*; so named probably from *running*. The true spelling is *rane*.]

A species of deer found in the northern parts of Europe and Asia. He has large branched palmated horns, and travels with great speed. Among the Laplanders, he is a substitute for the horse, the cow, the goat and the sheep, as he furnishes food, clothing and the means of conveyance. This animal will draw a sled on the snow more than a hundred miles in a day.

*Encyc.*

RAN'FORCE, *n.* The ring of a gun next to the vent.

*Bailey.*

[I do not find this word in modern books.]

RANG, the old *prct.* of *ring*. [Nearly obsolete.]

RANGE, *v. t.* [Fr. *ranger*; Arm. *renequ*, *rangein*; W. *rhenciau*, from *rhenc*, *reng*, rank, which see.]

1. To set in a row or in rows; to place in a regular line, lines or ranks; to dispose in the proper order; as, to *range* troops in a body; to *range* men or ships in the order of battle.

2. To dispose in proper classes, orders or divisions; as, to *range* plants and animals in genera and species.

3. To dispose in a proper manner; to place in regular method; in a *general sense*. *Range* and *arrange* are used indifferently in the same sense.

4. To rove over; to pass over.

Teach him to *range* the ditch and force the brake.

*Gay.*

[This use is elliptical, *over* being omitted.]

5. To sail or pass in a direction parallel to or near; as, to *range* the coast, that is, along the coast.

RANGE, *v. i.* To rove at large; to wander without restraint or direction.

As a roaring lion and a *-ranging* bear. Prov. xxviii.

2. To be placed in order; to be ranked.

'Tis better to be lowly born, And *range* with humble livers in content—

*Shak.*

[In this sense, *rank* is now used.]

3. To lie in a particular direction.

Which way thy forests *range*—

*Dryden.*

We say, the front of a house *ranges* with the line of the street.

4. To sail or pass near or in the direction of; as, to *range* along the coast.

RANGE, *n.* [Fr. *rangée*. See *Rank*.] A row; a rank; things in a line; as a *range* of buildings; a *range* of mountains; *ranges* of colors.

*Newton.*

2. A class; an order.

The next *range* of beings above him are the immaterial intelligences—

*Hale.*

3. A wandering or roving; excursion.

He may take a *range* all the world over.

*South.*

4. Space or room for excursion.

A man has not enough *range* of thought—

*Addison.*

5. Compass or extent of excursion; space taken in by any thing extended or ranked in order; as the *range* of Newton's thought. No philosopher has embraced a wider *range*.

Far as creation's ample *range* extends.

*Pope.*

6. The step of a ladder. [Corrupted in popular language to *rang*.]

*Clarendon.*

7. A kitchen grate.

*Bacon. Wotton.*

8. A bolting sieve to sift meal.

9. In *gunnery*, the path of a bullet or bomb, or the line it describes from the mouth of the piece to the point where it lodges; or the whole distance which it passes. When a cannon lies horizontally, it is called the right level, or point blank *range*; when the muzzle is elevated to 45 degrees, it is called the utmost *range*. To this may be added the ricochet, the rolling or bounding shot, with the piece elevated from three to six degrees.

*Encyc. Mar. Dict.*

RANG'ED, *pp.* Disposed in a row or line; placed in order; passed in roving; placed in a particular direction.

RANG'ER, *n.* One that ranges; a rover; a robber. [Now little used.]

*Spenser.*

2. A dog that beats the ground.

*Gay.*

3. In *England*, a sworn officer of a forest, appointed by the king's letters patent, whose business is to walk through the forest, watch the deer, present trespasses, &c.

*Encyc.*

RANGERSHIP, *n.* The office of the keeper of a forest or park.

RANG'ING, *ppr.* Placing in a row or line; disposing in order, method or classes; roving; passing near and in the direction of.

RANG'ING, *n.* The act of placing in lines or in order; a roving, &c.

RANK, *n.* [Fr. *ranc*; W. *rhenc*; Arm. *renequ*; Fr. *rang*, a row or line; It.  *rango*, rank, condition; Port. Sp. *rancho*, a mess or set of persons; D. Dan. G. *rang*. In these

words, *n* is probably casual; Ar. ر (Ra) to set in order; Heb. Ch. ירך id. Class

Rg. No. 13. 47. See also No. 18. 20. 21. 27. 46. The primary sense is probably to

*reach*, to *stretch*, or to pass, to stretch along. Hence *rank* and *grade* are often synonymous.]

1. A row or line, applied to troops; a line of men standing abreast or side by side, and as opposed to *file*, a line running the length of a company, battalion or regiment. Keep your *ranks*; dress your

*ranks*.

Fierce fiery warriors fight upon the clouds In *ranks* and squadrons and right form of war.

*Shak.*

2. *Ranks*, in the plural, the order of common soldiers; as, to reduce an officer to the *ranks*.

3. A row; a line of things, or things in a line; as a *rank* of osiers.

*Shak.*

4. Degree; grade; in *military affairs*; as the *rank* of captain, colonel or general; the *rank* of vice-admiral.

5. Degree of elevation in civil life or station; the order of elevation or of subordination.

We say, all *ranks* and orders of men; every man's dress and behavior should correspond with his *rank*; the highest and the lowest *ranks* of men or of other intelligent beings.

6. Class; order; division; any portion or number of things to which place, degree or order is assigned. Profligate men, by