

CHAMPA/GNE, *n.* A kind of brisk, sparkling wine, from Champagne in France.

CHAMPA/IGN, *n.* [from *camp* or the *CHAMPA/IN*, *n.* same root.] A flat open country. *Bacon. Milton.*

CHAMPA/IN, *n.* In heraldry, champion or point champion, is a mark of dishonor in the coat of arms of him who has killed a prisoner of war after he has asked for quarter. *Encyc.*

CHAMP'ED, *pp.* Bitten; chewed.

CHAMP'ER, *n.* One that champs or bites.

CHAMP'ERTOR, *n.* [See *Champerty*.] In law, one who is guilty of champerty, which see.

CHAMP'ERTY, *n.* [Fr. *champart*, field-rent; *champ*, L. *campus*, a field, and *part*, a share, or *partir*, to divide, *campum partire*.]

A species of maintenance, being a bargain with a plaintiff or defendant, to divide the land or other matter in suit, between them, if they prevail; whereupon the champertor is to carry on the party's suit at his own expense. The purchase of a suit, or of the right of suing. *Blackstone.*

CHAMPIGNON, *n.* *champin/yon*. [Fr.] A kind of mushroom.

CHAMP'ING, *pp.* Biting with repeated action.

CHAMP'ION, *n.* [Fr. *champion*; Arm. *campyon*; Sp. *campeon*; Port. *campeum*, or *campian*; It. *campione*; D. *kamper*, or *kampveger*; G. *kamfer*. In all the Teutonic dialects, *camp* or *kamp* signifies a combat, and in some of them, a *camp*; Sax. *campa*, a camp and a combat; *campa*, a soldier, warrior or gladiator; W. *camp*, a game, a feat; *campiau*, to contend in a game. Here we have the origin of the Latin *campus*. It was originally the plain or open place appropriated to games, sports and athletic exercises.]

1. A man who undertakes a combat in the place or cause of another. *Bacon.*

2. A man who fights in his own cause: a duelist.

3. A hero; a brave warrior. Hence, one who is bold in contest; as a *champion* for the truth.

CHAM'PION, *v. t.* To challenge to a combat. *Shak.*

CHAM'PIONESS, *a.* A female champion. *Fairfax.*

CH'ANCE, *n.* [Fr. *chance*; Norm. *cheunce*; Arm. *chance*; D. *kans*; G. *schanze*. This seems to be from the participle of the French verb *choir*, to fall, Sp. *caer*, from the L. *cado*, or directly from the Latin *cadens*, *cadentia*.]

1. An event that happens, falls out or takes place, without being contrived, intended, expected or foreseen; the effect of an unknown cause, or the unusual or unexpected effect of a known cause; accident; casualty; fortuitous event; as, time and chance happen to all.

By chance a priest came down that way. *Luke x.*

2. Fortune; what fortune may bring; as, they must take their chance.

3. An event, good or evil; success or misfortune; luck. *Shak.*

4. Possibility of an occurrence; opportunity.

Your ladyship may have a chance to escape this address. *Swift.*

CH'ANCE, *v. i.* To happen; to fall out; to come or arrive without design, or expectation.

If a bird's nest chance to be before thee.

Deut. xxii.

Ah, Casca, tell us what hath chanced to day.

CH'ANCE, *a.* Happening by chance; casual; as a chance comer.

CH'ANCEABLE, *a.* Accidental; casual; fortuitous. *Sidney.*

CH'ANCE-COMER, *n.* One who comes unexpectedly. *Addison.*

CH'ANCEFUL, *a.* Hazardous. *Spenser.*

CH'ANCE-MEDLEY, *n.* [chance and medley, a mixture.]

In law, the killing of a person by chance, when the killer is doing a lawful act; for if he is doing an unlawful act, it is felony. As if a man, when throwing bricks from a house into a street where people are continually passing, after giving warning to passengers to take care, should kill a person, this is chance-medley. But if he gives no warning, and kills a man, it is manslaughter.

CH'ANCELL, *n.* [Fr. *chancel* or *chancelier*; L. *cancelli*, lattices or cross bars, inclosing the place; Sp. *cancel*, *cancilla*, a wooden screen, a wicker gate; It. *cancello*, balustrades; Gr. *καγκελι*; Ch. *קנקל* *kankel* or *kaukuli*, net work; Syr. *id.* See *Cancell*.] That part of the choir of a church, between the altar or communion table and the balustrade or railing that incloses it, or that part where the altar is placed; formerly inclosed with lattices or cross bars, as now with rails. *Encyc. Johnson.*

CH'ANCELLOR, *n.* [Fr. *chancelier*; Arm. *chanciller*, or *cancellor*; Sp. *canciller*; Port. *chancellor*; It. *cancelliere*; D. *kanselier*; G. *kanzler*; Sw. *kansler*; Dan. *kansler* or *cansler*; L. *cancellarius*, a scribe, secretary, notary, or chancellor; from *cancelli*, to make lattice work, to cancel, or blot out by crossing the lines; or from *cancelli*, lattices, because the secretary sat behind lattices.]

Originally, a chief notary or scribe, under the Roman Emperors; but in England, in later times, an officer invested with judicial powers, and particularly with the superintendence of all charters, letters and other official writings of the crown, that required to be solemnly authenticated. Hence this officer became the keeper of the great seal. From the Roman Empire, this office passed to the church, and hence every bishop has his chancellor.

The Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, or *Keeper of the Great Seal*, is the highest officer of the crown. He is a privy counselor by his office, and prolocutor of the house of lords by prescription. To him belongs the appointment of all justices of the peace; he is keeper of the king's conscience, visitor of all hospitals and colleges founded by the king, guardian of all charitable uses, and judge of the high court of chancery.

Chancellor of an Ecclesiastical Court, is the bishop's lawyer, versed in the civil and canon law, to direct the bishop in causes of the church, civil and criminal.

Chancellor of a Cathedral, is an officer who hears lessons and lectures in the church, by himself or his vicar, inspects schools, hears causes, applies the seal, writes and dispatches letters of the chapter, keeps the books, &c.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, is an officer who presides in that court, and takes care of the interest of the crown. He has power, with the lord treasurer, to lease the crown lands, and with others, to compound for forfeitures on penal statutes. He has a great authority in managing the royal revenues, and in matters relating to the first fruits.

Chancellor of a University, is an officer who seals the diplomas, or letters of degree, &c. The chancellor of Oxford is usually one of the prime nobility, elected by the students in convocation, and he holds the office for life. He is the chief magistrate in the government of the university. The chancellor of Cambridge is also elected from among the prime nobility; he does not hold his office for life, but may be elected every three years.

Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, and other military orders, is an officer who seals the commissions and mandates of the chapter and assembly of the knights, keeps the register of their proceedings, and delivers their acts under the seal of their order. *Johnson. Encyc.*

In France, a secretary is, in some cases, called a chancellor.

In the United States, a chancellor is the judge of a court of chancery or equity, established by statute.

In scripture, a master of the decrees, or president of the council. *Ezra iv.*

CH'ANCELLORSHIP, *n.* The office of a chancellor; the time during which one is chancellor.

CH'ANCERY, *n.* [Fr. *chancellerie*; Arm. *chancery*; Sp. *chancilleria*; It. *cancelleria*; L. *cancellaria*, from *cancelli*, lattices, or from the judge, who presided in the court.]

1. In Great Britain, the highest court of justice, next to the parliament, consisting of two distinct tribunals; one ordinary, being a court of common law; the other extraordinary, or a court of equity. The ordinary legal court holds pleas of recognizances acknowledged in the chancery, writs of *scire facias*, for repeal of letters patent, writs of partition, and all personal actions by or against any officer of the court. But if the parties come to issue, in fact, this court cannot try it by a jury; but the record must be delivered to the king's bench. From this court issue all original writs that pass under the great seal, commissions of charitable uses, bankruptcy, idioity, lunoacy, &c.

The extraordinary court, or court of equity, proceeds upon rules of equity and conscience, moderates the rigor of the common law, and gives relief in cases where there is no remedy in the common law courts.

2. In the United States, a court of equity.

CH'ANCRE, *n.* [Fr. *chancre*; Arm. *chaner*. The same as *cancer*, *canker*.] A venereal ulcer.

CH'ANCROUS, *a.* Ulcerous; having the qualities of a chancre.