

mon, with a yellowish scutellum and spotted thorax.

Cyc.

AMBURY, or **ANBURY**, *n.* [Qu. *L. umbo*, the navel; *Gr. apbur*.]

Among *farriers*, a tumor, wart or swelling on a horse, full of blood and soft to the touch.

Encyc.

AMBUSCADE, *n.* [Fr. *embuscade*; Sp. *Port. emboscada*; It. *imboscata*; from It. *imboscare*, Sp. *emboscar*, to lie in bushes, or concealed; in and *bosco*, *bosque*, a wood; Eng. *bush*.]

1. Literally, a lying in a wood, concealed, for the purpose of attacking an enemy by surprise; hence, a lying in wait, and concealed in any situation, for a like purpose.

2. A private station in which troops lie concealed with a view to attack their enemy by surprise; ambush.

AMBUSCADE, *v. t.* To lie in wait for, or to attack from a concealed position.

AMBUSCADED, *pp.* Having an ambush laid against, or attacked from a private station; as, his troops were *ambuscaded*.

AMBUSCADING, *ppr.* Lying in wait for, attacking from a secret station.

AMBUSH, *n.* [Fr. *embûche*, of *in* and *bush*; Dan. *bush*; D. *bosch*; Germ. *busch*; Fr. *bosquet*, *boscage*, *bocage*, *bois*. See *Bush*.]

1. A private or concealed station, where troops lie in wait to attack their enemy by surprise.

2. The state of lying concealed, for the purpose of attacking by surprise; a lying in wait.

3. The troops posted in a concealed place for attacking by surprise.

Lay *the ambush* for the city. Josh. viii.

AMBUSH, *v. t.* To lie in wait for; to surprise, by assailing unexpectedly from a concealed place.

AMBUSH, *v. i.* To lie in wait, for the purpose of attacking by surprise.

Nor saw the snake, that *ambush'd* for his prey.

Trumbull.

AMBUSHED, *pp.* Laid in wait for; suddenly attacked from a concealed station.

AMBUSHING, *ppr.* Lying in wait for; attacking from a concealed station.

AMBUSHMENT, *n.* An ambush; which *see*.

AMBUSTION, *n.* [L. *ambustio*, from *amburo*, to burn or scorch, of *amb*, about, and *uro*, to burn.]

Among *physicians*, a burning; a burn or scorch.

AMEIVA, *n.* A species of lizard, found in Brazil. *Dict. of Nat. Hist.*

AMEL, *n.* [Fr. *email*.] The matter with which metallic bodies are overlaid; but its use is superseded by *enamel*; which *see*.

Boyle.

AMELIORATE, *v. t.* [Fr. *ameliorer*, from *L. melior*, better.]

To make better; to improve; to meliorate.

S. S. Smith. Christ. Obs. Buchanan.

AMELIORATE, *v. i.* To grow better; to meliorate.

AMELIORATION, *n.* A making or becoming better; improvement; melioration.

AMEN' This word, with slight differences of orthography, is in all the dialects of the Assyrian stock. As a *verb*, it signifies to confirm, establish, verify; to trust, or give confidence; as a *noun*, truth, firmness, trust, confidence; as an *adjective*, firm,

stable. In English, after the oriental manner, it is used at the beginning, but more generally at the end of declarations and prayers, in the sense of, *be it firm, be it established*.

And let all the people say *amen*. *Ps. cvi.*

The word is used also as a noun.

"All the promises of God are *amen* in Christ;" that is, firmness, stability, constancy.

AMENABLE, *a.* [It. *menare*; Fr. *menar*, *amener*; Norm. *amesner*, to lead, to bring; Fr. *amener*, It. *ammattare*, in marine language, to strike sail.]

1. In *old law*, easy to be led; governable, as a woman by her husband. [*This sense is obsolete*.]

2. Liable to answer; to be called to account; as, every man is *amenable* to the laws.

We retain this idiom in the popular phrase, *to bring in*, to make answerable; as, a man is *brought in* to pay the debt of another.

AMENAGE, *v. t.* To manage. *Obs. Spenser.*

AMENANCE, *n.* Conduct, behavior. *Obs. Spenser.*

AMEND, *v. t.* [Fr. *amender*; L. *emendo*, of *e neg*, and *mendo*, *mendum*, a fault; W. *munn*, a spot or blemish; Sp. *Port. emendar*; It. *amendare*. See *Mend*.]

1. To correct; to rectify by expunging a mistake; as, to *amend* a law.

2. To reform, by quitting bad habits; to make better in a moral sense; as, to *amend* our ways or our conduct.

3. To correct; to supply a defect; to improve or make better, by some addition of what is wanted, as well as by expunging what is wrong, as to *amend* a bill before a legislature. Hence it is applied to the correction of authors, by restoring passages which had been omitted, or restoring the true reading.

AMEND, *v. i.* To grow or become better, by reformation, or rectifying something wrong in manners or morals. It differs from *improve*, in this, that to *amend* implies something previously wrong; to *improve*, does not.

AMEND, *n.* [Fr.] A pecuniary punishment, or fine. *The amende honorable*, in France, is an infamous punishment inflicted on traitors, parricides and sacrilegious persons. The offender, being led into court with a rope about his neck, begs pardon of his God, the court, &c. These words denote also a recantation in open court, or in presence of the injured person.

Encyc.

AMENDABLE, *a.* That may be amended; capable of correction; as, an *amendable* will or error.

AMENDATORY, *a.* That amends; supplying amendment; corrective.

AMENDED, *pp.* Corrected; rectified; reformed; improved, or altered for the better.

AMENDER, *n.* The person that amends.

AMENDING, *ppr.* Correcting; reforming; altering for the better.

AMENDMENT, *n.* An alteration or change for the better; correction of a fault or faults; reformation of life, by quitting vices.

2. A word, clause or paragraph, added or proposed to be added to a bill before a legislature.

3. In *law*, the correction of an error in a writ or process.

Shakespeare uses it for the recovery of health, but this sense is unusual.

AMENDS, *n. plu.* [Fr. *amende*.]

Compensation for an injury; recompense; satisfaction; equivalent; as, the happiness of a future life will more than make *amends* for the miseries of this.

AMENITY, *n.* [L. *amenitas*; Fr. *aménité*; L. *amoenus*; W. *mygn*, good, kind.]

Pleasantness; agreeableness of situation; that which delights the eye; used of places and prospects.

Brown.

AMENT, *n.* [L. *amentum*, a thong, or strap.]

In *botany*, a species of inflorescence, from a common, chaffy receptacle; or consisting of many scales, ranged along a stalk or slender axis, which is the common receptacle; as in birch, oak, chestnut.

Martyn.

AMENTACEOUS, *a.* Growing into an ament; resembling a thong; as, the chestnut has an *amentaceous* inflorescence.

Martyn.

AMERCE, *v. t.* *amers*. [A verb formed from a for *an* or *at*, and Fr. *merci*, mercy, or from L. *merces*, reward.]

1. To inflict a penalty of *mercy*; to punish by a pecuniary penalty, the amount of which is not fixed by law, but left to the discretion or *mercy* of the court; as, the court *amerced* the criminal in the sum of one hundred dollars.

2. To inflict a pecuniary penalty; to punish in general. Milton uses of *after amerce*; "Millions of spirits *amerced* of heaven;" but this use seems to be a poetic license.

AMERCED, *pp.* Fined at the discretion of a court.

AMERCEMENT, *n.* *amersment*. A pecuniary penalty inflicted on an offender at the discretion of the court. It differs from a *fine*, in that the latter is, or was originally, a fixed and certain sum prescribed by statute for an offense; but an *amercement* is arbitrary. Hence the practice of *aftering*.

[See *After*.] But in America, the word *fine* is now used for a pecuniary penalty which is uncertain; and it is common in statutes, to enact that an offender shall be *fined*, at the discretion of the court. In England also, fines are now usually discretionary. Thus the word *fine* has, in a measure, superseded the use of *amercement*. This word, in old books, is written *amerciement*.

Amercement royal is a penalty imposed on an officer for a misdemeanor in his office.

AMERCE, *n.* One who sets a fine at discretion, upon an offender.

AMERICA, *n.* [from Amerigo Vespucci, a Florentine, who pretended to have first discovered the western continent.]

One of the great continents, first discovered by Sebastian Cabot, June 11, O. S. 1498, and by Columbus, or Christoval Colon, Aug. 1, the same year. It extends from the eightieth degree of North, to the fifty-fourth degree of South Latitude; and from the thirty-fifth to the one hundred and fifty-sixth degree of Longitude West from Greenwich, being about nine thousand miles in length. Its breadth at Darien is narrowed to about forty-five miles, but at the northern extremity is nearly four thousand miles. From Darien