

cities, boroughs and counties, chosen by men possessed of the property or qualifications required by law. This body is called the *House of Commons*. The House of Representatives in North Carolina bears the same name.

3. Common grounds; land possessed or used by two or more persons in common. [See *Common*.]

4. Food provided at a common table, as in colleges, where many persons eat at the same table or in the same hall.

Their *commons*, though but coarse, were nothing scant. Dryden.
Doctors Commons, in London, a college founded by Dr. Harvey, for the professors of the civil law, where the civilians *common* together. The house was consumed in the great fire in 1693, but rebuilt in 1672. To this college belong thirty four proctors.

ENCY.
COMMONTY, *n*. In *Scots* law, land belonging to two or more common proprietors; or a heath or muir, of which there has been a promiscuous possession by pasturage.

ENCY.
COMMONWEALTH, *n*. [See *Weal* and *Wealth*.]

1. An established form of government, or civil polity; or more generally, a state; a body politic, consisting of a certain portion of men united by compact or tacit agreement, under one form of government and system of laws. This term is applied to the government of Great Britain, which is of a mixed character, and to other governments which are considered as free or popular, but rarely or improperly, to an absolute government. A commonwealth is properly a free state; a popular or representative government; a republic; as the *commonwealth* of Massachusetts. The word signifies strictly, the *common good* or *happiness*; and hence, the form of government supposed best to secure the public good.

2. The whole body of people in a state; the public. Shak.

3. The territory of a state; as, all the land within the limits of the *commonwealth*.

Massachusetts.
COMMONWEALTH'S MAN, *n*. One who favors the commonwealth, or a republican government.

COMMORANCE, *n*. [L. *commorans*, *commoror*; *con* and *moror*, to stay or delay.]

A dwelling or ordinary residence in a place; abode; habitation.

Commorancy consists in usually living there. Blackstone.

COMMORANT, *n*. Dwelling; ordinarily residing; inhabiting.

All freeholders within the precinct—and all persons *commorant* therein—are obliged to attend the court-leet. Blackstone.

COMMORIENT, *a*. [L. *commoriens*.] Dying at the same time.

COMMOTHER, *n*. A godmother. [Little used.]

COMMOTION, *n*. [L. *commotio*, *commovo*; *con* and *moveo*.] See *Move*.]

1. Agitation; as the *commotion* of the sea.
2. Tumult of people; disturbance; disorder, which may amount at times to sedition or insurrection; as the *commotions* of a state.

When ye hear of wars and *commotions*, be not terrified. Luke xxi.

3. Agitation; perturbation; disorder of mind; heat; excitement.

He could not debate without *commotion*.

Clarendon.
COMMOTIONER, *n*. One who excites commotion. [Little used.] Bacon.

COMMOLVE, *v. t*. [L. *commovo*. See *Move*.] To put in motion; to disturb; to agitate; to unsettle; a poetic word. Thomson.

COMMUNE, *v. i*. [Fr. *communier*; V. *communis*; Arm. *communa*. The Welsh word is by *Oreu* considered as a compound of *cy*, a prefix equivalent to *co* and *con* in Latin, and *ymun*; *ym*, noting identity, and *unaw*, to unite. If the word is formed from *cy* or *cun* and *unus*, it is radically different from *common*. But the Latin *communio* accords with this word, and with *common*.]

1. To converse; to talk together familiarly; to impart sentiments mutually, in private or familiar discourse; followed by *with* before the person.

And there will I meet and *commune* with thee. Ex. xxv.

2. To have intercourse in contemplation or meditation.

Commune with your own heart on your bed. Ps. iv.

3. To partake of the sacrament or Lord's supper; to receive the communion; a common use of the word in America, as it is in the Welsh.

COMMUNE, *n*. A small territorial district in France—one of the subordinate divisions of the country introduced in the late revolution.

Communibus annis, one year with another; on an average.

Communibus locis, one place with another; on a medium.

COMMUNICABILITY, *n*. [See *Communicate*.] The quality of being communicable; capability of being imparted from one to another. Johnson.

COMMUNICABLE, *a*. [Fr.] That may be communicated; capable of being imparted from one to another; as, knowledge is *communicable* by words.

Lost bliss, to thee no more *communicable*.

Milton.

Eternal life is *communicable* to all. Hooker.

2. That may be recounted. Milton.

3. Communicative; ready to impart. [Not used.] B. Jonson.

COMMUNICANT, *n*. One who communicates at the Lord's table; one who is entitled to partake of the sacrament, at the celebration of the Lord's supper.

Hooker. Atterbury.
COMMUNICATE, *v. t*. [L. *communico*, from *communis*, *common*; [L. *communicare*; Sp. *comunicar*; Fr. *communiquer*.]

1. To impart; to give to another, as a partaker; to confer for joint possession; to bestow, as that which the receiver is to hold, retain, use or enjoy; with *to*.

Where God is worshipped, there he *communicates* his blessings and holy influences. Taylor.

Let him that is taught in the word *communicate* to him that teacheth in all good things. Gal. vi.

2. To impart reciprocally, or mutually; to

have or enjoy a share of; followed by *with*.

Common benefits are to be *communicated* with all, but peculiar benefits with choice. Bacon.

But Diomedes desires my company, And still *communicates* his praise with me. Dryden.

3. To impart, as knowledge; to reveal; to give, as information, either by words, signs or signals; as, to *communicate* intelligence, news, opinions, or facts.

Formerly this verb had *with* before the person receiving; as, "he *communicated* those thoughts only with the Lord Digby." Clarendon. But now it has to only.

4. To deliver, as to *communicate* a message; to give, as to *communicate* motion.

COMMUNICATE, *v. i*. To partake of the Lord's supper. Taylor.

Instead of this, in America, at least in New England, *commune* is generally or always used.

2. To have a communication or passage from one to another; to have the means of passing from one to another; as, two houses *communicate* with each other; a fortress *communicates* with the country; the canals of the body *communicate* with each other. Arbuthnot.

3. To have intercourse; applied to persons.

4. To have, enjoy or suffer reciprocally; to have a share with another.

Ye have done well that ye did *communicate* with my affliction. Phil. iv.

COMMUNICATED, *pp*. Imparted from one to another; bestowed; delivered.

COMMUNICATING, *ppr*. Imparting; giving or bestowing; delivering.

2. Partaking of the sacrament of the Lord's supper.

3. Leading or conducting from place to place, as a passage; connected by a passage or channel, as two lakes *communicating* with each other.

4. Having intercourse by words, letters or messages; corresponding.

COMMUNICATION, *n*. The act of imparting, conferring, or delivering, from one to another; as the *communication* of knowledge, opinions or facts.

2. Intercourse by words, letters or messages; interchange of thoughts or opinions, by conference or other means.

Abner had *communication* with the elders of Israel, saying, Ye sought for David in times past to be king over you. 2 Sam. iii.

Let your *communication* be, yea, yea; nay, nay. Mat. v.

In 1 Cor. xv. 33, "Evil *communications* corrupt good manners," the word may signify conversation, colloquial discourses, or customary association and familiarity.

3. Intercourse; interchange of knowledge; correspondence; good understanding between men.

Secrets may be carried so far as to stop the *communication* necessary among all who have the management of affairs. Swift.

4. Connecting passage; means of passing from place to place; as a strait or channel between seas or lakes, a road between cities or countries, a gallery between apartments in a house, an avenue between streets, &c.

Keep open a *communication* with the besieged place.