

transitively, *confers* to the strength of the union. *Obs.* *Glanville.*

CONFERENCE, *n.* [Fr. *conference*; Sp. *conferencia*; It. *conferenza*. See *Confer*.]

1. The act of conversing on a serious subject; a discoursing between two or more; for the purpose of instruction, consultation, or deliberation; formal discourse; oral discussion.

For they who seemed to be somewhat, in conference added nothing to me. *Gal. ii.*

- The ministers had a conference at Ratisbon.
2. A meeting for consultation, discussion or instruction.

3. Comparison; examination of things by comparison.

The mutual conference of observations. The conference of different passages of scripture.

Hooker.
[This sense is, I believe, now obsolete.]

CONFERRER, *pp.* Given; imparted; bestowed.

CONFERRER, *n.* One who confers; one who converses; one who bestows.

CONFERRING, *pp.* Conversing together; bestowing.

CONFERRING, *n.* The act of bestowing.

CONFESS, *v. t.* [Fr. *confesser*; It. *confessare*; Sp. *confesar*; Port. *confessar*; from *L. confiteor*, *confessus*; *con* and *fiteor*, to own or acknowledge; It. *faiodin*.]

1. To own, acknowledge, or avow, as a crime, a fault, a charge, a debt, or something that is against one's interest, or reputation.

Human faults with human grief confess. *Prior.*

I confess the argument against me is good and not easily retuled.

Let us frankly confess our sins.

"Confess thee freely of thy sins," used by Shakspeare, is not legitimate, unless in the sense of Catholics.

2. In the Catholic Church, to acknowledge sins and faults to a priest; to disclose the state of the conscience to a priest, in private, with a view to absolution; sometimes with the reciprocal pronoun.

The beautiful votary confessed herself to this rebeled father. *Addison.*

3. To own, avow or acknowledge; publicly to declare a belief in and adherence to.

Whoever shall confess me before men. *Math. x.*

4. To own and acknowledge, as true disciples, friends or children.

Him will I confess before my father who is in heaven. *Ihm.*

5. To own; to acknowledge; to declare to be true, or to admit or assent to in words; opposed to deny.

Then will I confess to thee, that thine own right hand can save thee. *Job xl.*

These—confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on earth. *Heb. xi.*

6. To show by the effect; to prove; to attest.

Tall thriving trees confessed the fruitful mold. *Pope.*

7. To hear or receive the confession of another; as, the priest confessed the nuns.

CONFESS, *v. t.* To make confession; to disclose faults, or the state of the conscience; as, this man went to the priest to confess.

CONFESSANT, *n.* One who confesses to a priest. *Bacon.*

CONFESSARY, *n.* One who makes a confession. [Not used.] *Hall.*

CONFESS'ED, *pp.* Owned; acknowledged; declared to be true; admitted in words; avowed; admitted to disclose to a priest.

CONFESS'EDLY, *adv.* By confession, or acknowledgment; avowedly; undeniably. Demosthenes was confessedly the greatest orator in Greece.

2. With avowed purpose; as, his object was confessedly to secure to himself a benefice.

CONFESS'ING, *pp.* Owning; avowing; declaring to be true or real; granting or admitting by assent; receiving disclosure of sins, or the state of the conscience of another.

CONFESS'ION, *n.* The acknowledgment of a crime, fault or something to one's disadvantage; open declaration of guilt, failure, debt, accusation, &c.

With the mouth confession is made to salvation. *Rom. x.*

2. Avowal; the act of acknowledging; profession.

Who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession. *1 Tim. vi.*

3. The act of disclosing sins or faults to a priest; the disburdening of the conscience privately to a confessor; sometimes called auricular confession.

4. A formula in which the articles of faith are comprised; a creed to be assented to or signed, as a preliminary to admission into a church.

5. The acknowledgment of a debt by a debtor before a justice of the peace, &c., on which judgment is entered and execution issued.

CONFESS'IONAL, *n.* The seat where a priest or confessor sits to hear confessions; a confession-chair.

CONFESS'IONARY, *n.* [Sp. *confessionario*.] A confession-chair, as above.

CONFESS'IONARY, *a.* Pertaining to auricular confession.

CONFESS'IONIST, *n.* One who makes a profession of faith. *Mounslague.*

CONFESS'OR, *n.* [Fr. *confesseur*; Sp. *confesor*.]

1. One who confesses; one who acknowledges his sins.

2. One who makes a profession of his faith in the christian religion. The word is appropriately used to denote one who avows his religion in the face of danger, and adheres to it, in defiance of persecution and torture. It was formerly used as synonymous with *martyr*; afterwards it was applied to those who, having been persecuted and tormented, were permitted to die in peace. It was used also for such christians as lived a good life, and died with the reputation of sanctity. *Encyc.*

3. A priest; one who hears the confessions of others, and has power to grant them absolution. *Romish Church.*

CONFEST, *pp.* [for *confessed*.] Owned; open; acknowledged; apparent; not disputed.

CONFEST'LY, *adv.* [for *confessedly*.] Avowedly; indisputably. *[Little used.]*

CONFIDANT, *n.* [See *Confident*.]

CONFID'ED, *v. t.* [*L. confido*; *con* and *fido*, to trust; It. *confidare*; Sp. Port. *confiar*; Fr. *confier*; Arm. *fizyou*. See *Faith*.]

To trust; to rely on, with a persuasion of faithfulness or veracity in the person trusted or of the reality of a fact; to give credit to; to believe in, with assurance; followed by *in*. The prince *confides* in his ministers. The minister *confides* in the strength and resources of the nation. We *confide* in the veracity of the sacred historians. We *confide* in the truth of the report.

CONFIDE, *v. t.* To entrust; to commit to the charge of, with a belief in the fidelity of the person entrusted; to deliver into possession of another, with assurance of safe keeping, or good management; followed by *to*. We *confide* a secret to a friend. The prince *confides* a negotiation to his envoy. The common interests of the United States are *confided* to the Congress.

They would take the property out of the hands of those to whom it was *confided* by the charter. *Hopkinson.*

Congress may, under the constitution, *confide* to the circuit court, jurisdiction of all offenses against the U. States. *Story.*

CONFID'ED, *pp.* Entrusted; committed to the care of, for preservation, or for performance of service.

CONFIDENCE, *n.* [*L. confidentia*; It. *confidenza*; Sp. *confianza*; Fr. *confiance*, *confiance*. See *Confide*.]

1. A trusting, or reliance; an assurance of mind or firm belief in the integrity, stability or veracity of another, or in the truth and reality of a fact.

It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man. *Ps. cxviii.*

I rejoice that I have confidence in you in all things. *2 Cor. vii.*

Mutual confidence is the basis of social happiness.

place confidence in a statement, or in an official report.

2. Trust; reliance; applied to one's own abilities, or fortune; belief in one's own competency.

His times being rather prosperous than calm, had raised his confidence by success. *Bacon.*

3. That in which trust is placed; ground of trust; he or that which supports.

Israel was ashamed of Beth-el their confidence. *Jer. xlviii.*

Jehovah shall be thy confidence. *Prov. xiii.*

4. Safety, or assurance of safety; security.

They shall build houses and plant vineyards; yea, they shall dwell with confidence. *Ezek. xxxviii.*

5. Boldness; courage.

Preaching the kingdom of God with all confidence. *Acts xxviii.*

6. Excessive boldness; assurance, proceeding from vanity or a false opinion of one's own abilities, or excellencies.

Their confidence arieth from too much credit given to their own wits. *Hooker.*

CONFIDENT, *a.* Having full belief; trusting; relying; fully assured.

I am confident that much may be done towards the improvement of philosophy. *Boyle.*

The troops rush on, confident of success.

2. Positive; dogmatical; as a confident talker.

3. Trusting; without suspicion.

Rome, be as just and gracious unto me, as I am confident and kind to thee. *Shak.*

4. Bold to a vice; having an excess of assurance.

The fool rageth and is confident. *Prov. xiv*