

LAUREATE, *v. t.* To honor with a degree in the university, and a present of a wreath of laurel. *Warton.*

LAUREATED, *pp.* Honored with a degree and a laurel wreath.

LAUREATION, *n.* The act of conferring a degree in the university, together with a wreath of laurel; an honor bestowed on those who excelled in writing verse. This was an ancient practice at Oxford, from which probably originated the denomination of *poet laureate*. *Warton.*

LAUREL, *n.* [*L. laurus*; *It. lauro*; *Fr. laurier*; *Sp. laurel*; *Port. laurero*; *W. florysz, floryzen*, laurel wood, from the root of *llaur*, a floor, *llor*, that spreads; *Dan. laur-bær-tree*; *G. lorbeer*, the laurel or bay-berry. *Laur* coincides in elements with *flower, floreo*.]

The bay-tree or *Laurus*, a genus of plants of several species. *Encyc.*

LAURELED, *a.* Crowned or decorated with laurel, or with a laurel wreath; laureate.

LAURIFEROUS, *a.* [*L. laurus* and *fero*, to bear.] Producing or bringing laurel.

LAURUSTIN, *n.* [*L. laurustinus*.] A plant of the genus *Viburnum*, an evergreen shrub or tree, whose flowers are said to continue through the winter.

LAUSKRAUT, *n.* [*G. läusekraut*, louse-plant.] A plant of the genus *Delphinium*.

LAUTU, *n.* A band of cotton, twisted and worn on the head of the Inca of Peru, as a badge of royalty. *J. Barlow.*

LAVA, *n.* [probably from flowing, and from the root of *L. fluo*, or *lavo*; *It. lava*, a stream, now *lava*.]

1. A mass or stream of melted minerals or stony matter which bursts or is thrown from the mouth or sides of a volcano, and is sometimes ejected in such quantities as to overwhelm cities. Catana, at the foot of Etna, has often been destroyed by it, and in 1783, a vast tract of land in Iceland was overspread by an eruption of lava from mount Hecla.

2. The same matter when cool and hardened.

LAVATION, *n.* [*L. lavatio*, from *lavo*.] A washing or cleansing. *Hakevill.*

LAVATORY, *n.* [See *Lave*.] A place for washing.

2. A wash or lotion for a diseased part.

3. A place where gold is obtained by washing. *Encyc.*

LAVE, *v. t.* [*Fr. laver*; *Sp. lavar*; *It. lavare*; *L. lavo*; *Gr. λωω*; *Sans. allava*; probably contracted from *lago* or *laugo*.]

To wash; to bathe; a word used chiefly in poetry or rhetoric. *Milton. Dryden.*

LAVE, *v. i.* To bathe; to wash one's self. *Pope.*

LAVE, *v. t.* [*Fr. lever*.] To throw up or out; to lade out. [Not in use.] *B. Jonson.*

LAVE-EARED, *a.* Having large pendant ears. [Not in use.] *Bp. Hall.*

LAVEER, *v. t.* [*Fr. louveroy* or *louver*; *D. lavecen*.] In seamen's language, to tack; to sail back and forth. [I believe this word is not in common use.]

LAVENDER, *n.* [*L. lavendula*.] A plant, or a genus of aromatic plants, *Lavandula*.

LAVÉR, *n.* [*Fr. lavoir*, from *laver*, to lave.] A vessel for washing; a large basin; in

scripture history, a bason placed in the court of the Jewish tabernacle, where the officiating priests washed their hands and feet and the entrails of victims. *Encyc.*

LAVEROCK. [See *Lark*.]

LA'VING, *ppr.* Washing; bathing.

LAVISH, *a.* [I know not from what source we have received this word. It coincides in elements with *L. liber*, free, liberal, and *L. lavo*, to wash.]

1. Prodigal; expending or bestowing with profusion; profuse. He was lavish of expense; lavish of praise; lavish of encomiums; lavish of censure; lavish of blood and treasure.

2. Wasteful; expending without necessity; liberal to a fault. *Dryden.*

3. Wild; unrestrained.

Curbing his lavish spirit. *Shak.*

LAVISH, *v. t.* To expend or bestow with profusion; as, to lavish praise or encomiums.

2. To waste; to expend without necessity or use; to squander; as, to lavish money on vices and amusements.

LAVISHED, *pp.* Expended profusely; wasted.

LAVISHER, *n.* A prodigal; a profuse person.

LAVISHING, *ppr.* Expending or laying out with profusion; wasting.

LAVISHLY, *adv.* With profuse expense; prodigally; wastefully. *Dryden. Pope.*

LAVISHNESS, *n.* Profusion; prodigality. *Spenser.*

LAVOLTA, *n.* [*It. la volta*, the turn.] An old dance in which was much turning and capering. *Shak.*

LAW, *n.* [*Sax. laga*, *lage*, *lag*, or *lah*; *Sw. lag*; *Dan. lov*; *It. legge*; *Sp. ley*; *Fr. loi*; *L. lex*; from the root of *lay*, *Sax. leggan*, *Goth. lagjan*. See *Lay*.] A law is that which is laid, set or fixed, like statute, constitution, from *L. statuo*.]

1. A rule, particularly an established or permanent rule, prescribed by the supreme power of a state to its subjects, for regulating their actions, particularly their social actions. Laws are imperative or mandatory, commanding what shall be done; prohibitory, restraining from what is to be forbore; or permissive, declaring what may be done without incurring a penalty. The laws which enjoin the duties of piety and morality, are prescribed by God and found in the Scriptures.

Law is beneficence acting by rule. *Burke.*

2. Municipal law, is a rule of civil conduct prescribed by the supreme power of a state, commanding what its subjects are to do, and prohibiting what they are to forbear; a statute.

Municipal or civil laws are established by the decrees, edicts or ordinances of absolute princes, as emperors and kings, or by the formal acts of the legislatures of free states. Law therefore is sometimes equivalent to decree, edict, or ordinance.

3. Law of nature, is a rule of conduct arising out of the natural relations of human beings established by the Creator, and existing prior to any positive precept. Thus it is a law of nature, that one man should not injure another, and murder and fraud would be crimes, independent of any prohibition from a supreme power.

4. Laws of animal nature, the inherent principles by which the economy and functions of animal bodies are performed, such as respiration, the circulation of the blood, digestion, nutrition, various secretions, &c.

5. Laws of vegetation, the principles by which plants are produced, and their growth carried on till they arrive to perfection.

6. Physical laws, or laws of nature. The inviolable tendency or determination of any species of matter to a particular form with definite properties, and the determination of a body to certain motions, changes, and relations, which uniformly take place in the same circumstances, is called a physical law. These tendencies or determinations, whether called laws or affections of matter, have been established by the Creator, and are, with a peculiar felicity of expression, denominated in Scripture, ordinances of heaven.

7. Laws of nations, the rules that regulate the mutual intercourse of nations or states. These rules depend on natural law, or the principles of justice which spring from the social state; or they are founded on customs, compacts, treaties, leagues and agreements between independent communities.

By the law of nations, we are to understand that code of public instruction, which defines the rights and prescribes the duties of nations, in their intercourse with each other. *Kent.*

8. Moral law, a law which prescribes to men their religious and social duties, in other words, their duties to God and to each other. The moral law is summarily contained in the decalogue or ten commandments, written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, and delivered to Moses on mount Sinai. Ex. xx.

9. Ecclesiastical law, a rule of action prescribed for the government of a church; otherwise called canon law.

10. Written law, a law or rule of action prescribed or enacted by a sovereign, and promulgated and recorded in writing; a written statute, ordinance, edict or decree.

11. Unwritten or common law, a rule of action which derives its authority from long usage, or established custom, which has been immemorially received and recognized by judicial tribunals. As this law can be traced to no positive statutes, its rules or principles are to be found only in the records of courts, and in the reports of judicial decisions.

12. By-law, a law of a city, town or private corporation. [See *By*.]

13. Mosaic law, the institutions of Moses, or the code of laws prescribed to the Jews, as distinguished from the gospel.

14. Ceremonial law, the Mosaic institutions which prescribe the external rites and ceremonies to be observed by the Jews, as distinct from the moral precepts, which are of perpetual obligation.

15. A rule of direction; a directory; as reason and natural conscience.

These, having not the law, are a law to themselves. Rom. ii.