called because regulated by the usage and custom of the places on which they are drawn.

USE, in *Law,* the profit or benefit of lands and tene­ments, or a trust and confidence reposed in a person for the holding of lands, &c., that he to whose use the trust is made shall receive the profits.

USHANT, an island on the coast of France, in the de­partment of Finisterre and arrondissement of Brest. It is a lofty district, surrounded with steep rocks, but to navi­gators is an important point when approaching from the west. It is about eighteen miles in compass. It contains, besides the garrison, 1650 inhabitants, subsisting by agri­culture and fishing. There is a light-house on the island. Long. 5. 9. 11. W. Lat. 48. 23. 8. N.

Ushant, or *Ouessant,* a small island in the Pacific Ocean, discovered in 1768, by M. Bougainville, near the coast of New Guinea. Long. 146. 33. E. Lat. 11. 5. S.

USHER, an officer or servant who has the care and di­rection of the door of a court, hall, chamber, or the like.

Usher *of the Black Bod,* the eldest of the gentlemen ushers, daily waiters at court, whose duty is to bear the rod before the queen at the feast of St George, and other solemnities.

USIDSCHA. or Usicza, a city of Turkey in Europe, in the province of Semendria. It is situated in a beautiful valley, watered by a small river, which divides it into two parts. It is surrounded by walls, has several Greek churches, and 6000 inhabitants, mostly of that nation, who carry on considerable trade.

USK, a market-town in the hundred of the same name, in the county of Monmouth, 144 miles from London. It takes the name of the river on which it is built. On a hill near it are the ruins of its ancient castle. The church is of Norman construction, built in the form of a cathe­dral. The priory, to which it appertained, is now in ruins. Usk is a borough, and, in conjunction with Monmouth and Newport, returns one member to the House of Commons. A market is held on Monday. The population amounted in 1821 to 989, and in 1831 to 1160.

Usk, a river of Wales, which rises on the west of Breck­nockshire, and runs south-east through that county and Monmouthshire, falling into the mouth of the Severn.

USMAN, a circle of the Russian government of Tarnbow, extending in north latitude from 51° 58' to 52° 23', and in east longitude from 89° 14' to 41° 24'. It is water­ed by the rivers Usman and Woronesh, is 1804 square miles in extent, and contains 54,600 inhabitants. Numer­ous herds of horned cattle are depastured in its rich mea­dows, and the attendance on them is the chief occupation. The capital is a city of the same name, situated at the junction of the two rivers before mentioned. It has four churches, 474 houses, and 3140 inhabitants. It is 778 miles distant from St Petersburg. Long. 39. 40. E. Lat. 53. 5. N.

USTEE, a town of Hindustan, belonging to the Nag­poor Mahrattas, in the province of Berar, fifty miles east from Ellichpoor. Long. 75. 52. E. Lat. 21. 18. N.

USTICA, one of the Lipari group of islands, in the Tyr­rhenian Sea, belonging to the kingdom of Naples. It is the Ostcodes, or Island of Bones, of the ancients, and is about forty miles north by west from Palermo. It has in it the town of Santa Maria, with a haven of sufficient capacity for the feluccas that trade to it. The inhabitants amount to about 1790, exclusive of the garrison. They are more civilized than the people of the other islands of the group, from having direct weekly intercourse with the ca­pital. The island is composed of volcanic substances, de­rived from hornstone base. The soil is an aggregate of decomposed scoriae, tufa, sand, and ashes. It is extremely fertile, but liable to be washed away, especially from the sides of the hill, by heavy rains. From the nature of these

materials, there are no springs ; rain-water is therefore kept in capacious cisterns. As heavy dews fall, the trees bear abundance of fruit ; and the whole ground is well cultivated, and yields very good wine. Charcoal and fire­wood are supplied, chiefly from the roots of the olive tree, from Cefaln and Palermo.

USTJUG-WELIKI, a circle of the Russian province Wologda, extending in north latitude from 59° 40' to 64° 40,, and in east longitude from 43° 19' to 48° 40'. It is bounded on the north by Solwytschegodsk, on the east by Ustsysolsk, on the south-east by Wiatka, on the south by Nikolsk, and on the west by Totma and Welsk. It comprehends 8338 square miles, and contains 68,350 in­habitants. It is chiefly an elevated plain, the source of most of those streams which unite to form the river Dwina. The climate is raw and the soil poor. It produces flax and hemp, some barley, but the chief products are timber, tar, and pitch. The capital is the city of the same name, si­tuated on the river Suchona, at its junction with the Jug. It is a large place, built after the old Russian fashion, contain­ing five monasteries, twenty-three churches, 2000 houses, and 11,500 inhabitants, employed in coarse manufactures of linen and cloth. It is 1076 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 45. 43. E. Lat. 60. 10. N.

USTJUSHNA, a circle of the Russian government of Novogorod. It extends in north latitude from 58° 28' to 59° 55', and in east longitude from 34° 11' to 37° 15'. Only one tenth of the surface is used for agriculture and pasture ; about three tenths consist of wood, and the rest is quite waste. It contains a city, a market-town, 550 vil­lages or hamlets, and 45,300 inhabitants. The capital is a city of the same name, situated on the river Wolga, in a district where are some rich mines of iron. It contains 460 houses, with 3130 inhabitants, who trade on the river, and carry on fisheries. It is 372 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 36. 26. E. Lat. 58. 53. N.

USTSYSOLSK, a circle of the Russian province of Wologda, extending in north latitude from 59° 30' to 64° 56’, and in east longitude from 47° 19' to 57° 34'. It comprehends the vast space of 66,814 square miles, with not more than 36,000 inhabitants. The soil is very sterile, yielding no other corn than a little barley. The chief pro­ductions are those of the forests, and the only part of them that will bear the cost of conveyance consists of pitch, tar, and the furs of wild animals. The capital is the city of the same name, situated on the river Sysolka, and contain­ing 360 houses, with 1940 inhabitants, who trade chiefly in peltry. It is 1345 miles from St Petersburg. Long. 49. 16. E. Lat. 60. 37. N.

USUFRUCT, in the *civil Law,* the use or enjoyment of any lands or tenements, or the right of receiving the fruits and profits of an inheritance, or other thing, without a power of alienating or changing the property of it.

USURER, a person charged with a habit or act of usury.

USURPATION, in *Law,* is an injurious using or en­joyment of a thing for continuance of time, that belongs of right to another.

USURY, an unlawful contract upon the loan of money, to receive the same again with exorbitant increase. By statute 37 Hen. VIII. c. 9, the rate of interest was fixed at ten per cent. per annum; which the statute 13 Eliz. c. 8, confirms, and ordains that all brokers shall be guilty of a *proemunire* who transact any contracts for more, and the securities themselves shall be void. The statute 21 Jac. I. c. 17, reduced interest to eight per cent. ; and it having been lowered in 1650, during the usurpation, to six per cent., the same reduction was re-enacted after the resto­ration by statute 12 Car. II. c. 13; and the statute 12 Annæ, st. 2, c. 16, reduced it to five per cent. Not only all contracts for taking more were in themselves utterly void, but also the lender was to forfeit treble the sum of money