Rope, n. [A.S. rop; Du. roop; Irish rop; Icel. rop; Gr. ref.]—A large, stout, twisted cord of hemp, of not less, generally, than an inch in circumference. A certain proportion of hemp twisted together forms a yarn, and a number of yarns form a strand. Three strands twisted together form a rope. Rope is either white or tarred; the latter being the best if liable to exposure to wet, the former if not exposed. The strength of tarred rope is, however, only about three-quarters that of white rope, and its loss of strength increases with time. Rope is designated by its circumference, expressed in inches, and is issued in coils of 112 fathoms each; marline and hamboline in fathoms spun-yarn in pounds; the latter is made from old rope (junk). Government rope is distinguished by a colored thread,—red, blue, or yellow,—which runs through it. Rope used in the artillery service is coiled with the winch, i.e., from left to right, in which direction the yarns are twisted so as to avoid binding. The strength of white hemp rope may be approximately calculated by the following rule, viz.: square the circumference, and divide by five for the number of tons dead-weight that the rope will bear. The strain, however, caused by a sharp jerk upon a rope is very much greater than that of a dead-weight. It is stated, in this respect, that the strain upon a rope loaded with a weight of 500 pounds, and carefully checked after a fall of 8 feet, is nearly equal to that which is caused by a dead-weight of 2 tons. Other materials besides hemp are used in the manufacture of rope, but to a smaller extent.—Gun-ropes, which comes from Ceylon and the Maldives Islands, is made from the furious trunk of the cocoanut; Manila-ropes from the fibre of a species of wild banana. Wire-ropes both iron and steel, is also employed; on ship-board, particularly, to a considerable extent. — See Cane, and Cordeau.