

BUCKRAM (a word common, in various early forms, to many European languages, as in the Fr. *bouqueran* or Ital. *bucherame*, the derivation of which is unknown), in early usage the name of a fine linen or cotton cloth, but now only of a coarse fabric of linen or cotton stiffened with glue or other substances, used for linings of clothes and in bookbinding. Falstaff's "men in buckram" (Shakespeare, *Henry IV.*, pt. i. II. 4) has become a proverbial phrase for any imaginary persons.