

PREFACE TO PART I.

THE following pages present the first instalment of a work for which preparations were commenced more than a quarter of a century ago. The story of its origin and progress has been told at length in various literary journals and magazines*, and is familiar to most persons interested in the study of the English language. For the present, it is sufficient to say that the scheme originated in a resolution of the Philological Society, passed in 1857, at the suggestion of the present Archbishop of Dublin (Dr. Trench). It was proposed that materials should be collected for a new English Dictionary, which, by the completeness of its vocabulary, and by the application of the historical method to the life and use of words, might be worthy of the English language and of English scholarship. With this view it was resolved to begin at the beginning, and extract anew typical quotations for the use of words, from all the great English writers of all ages, and from all the writers on special subjects whose works might illustrate the history of words employed in special senses; from all writers whatever before the 16th century, and from as many as possible of the more important writers of later times. Several hundred readers accordingly entered on the task of selecting and transcribing these quotations, and many eminent scholars undertook to arrange the materials so gathered. Among those who in various capacities lent their services to the work, may be mentioned:—Dr. Trench himself; the late Mr. Herbert Coleridge, the first general editor (who died while arranging for the press specimens of his proposed treatment of some early words); Mr. F. J. Furnivall, M.A., his joint-editor and successor; the late Dr. Guest; Mr. Hensleigh Wedgwood, M.A.; the late Professor Malden; the late Professor T. H. Key; the late Lord Lyttelton; the late Mr. Thomas Watts, of the British Museum; Mr. Fitzedward Hall, D.C.L.; Miss C. M. Yonge; Professor E. Dowden, M.A.; Mr. Henry Hucks Gibbs, M.A.; Mr. W. M. Rossetti; the Rev. Professor W. W. Skeat, M.A.; the late Sir John Richardson, K.C.B.; the late Miss Harriet Martineau; the late Hon. G. P. Marsh; Mr. R. Grant White. The time requisite to complete even this preliminary labour of reading books and collecting quotations proved so long, that several promoters of the undertaking died, and many became absorbed in other duties, before it was possible to take in hand the actual preparation of the intended Dictionary; but the materials continued to accumulate till upwards of two million quotations had been amassed, portions of which were also provisionally arranged, and made more or less ready for use.

For several years no further steps were taken; but, in 1878, specimens which had been prepared by me, on behalf of the Council of the Philological Society, from some of these materials, were submitted to the Delegates of the Clarendon Press. They consented, upon certain conditions, to bear the expense of printing and publishing the Dictionary, the preparation of which in its present form I commenced in 1879. Careful examination of the quotations and other materials, now for the first time collected in one place, and

* Among these may be mentioned *Fraser's Magazine*, Sept. 1852; the *Cornhill Magazine*, June 1881; *Temple Bar*, Feb. 1882; the *Leisure Hour*, June 1883; the *Athenæum*, April 26 and Sept. 13, 1879; the *Academy*, May 3 and Sept. 13, 1879, and Jan. 6, 1883; the *Times*, Jan. 31, 1882; the *New York Nation*, Sept. 4, 1879; the *Globe*, August 11, 1883, &c.

arranged in a continuous alphabetical series, showed that much still remained to be done in order to make them adequate for the purpose. Accordingly a new appeal was made to volunteers to collect additional quotations from specified books, of which lists were from time to time issued. More than 800 readers responded to this appeal, the majority of them in Great Britain, but also a large number in the United States (of whose work Prof. F. A. March, of Lafayette College, Pennsylvania, most kindly undertook the organization and superintendence), and not a few in various British Colonies and Foreign Countries. In the course of three years a million additional quotations were furnished, raising the total number to about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions, selected by about 1300 readers, from the works of more than 5000 authors of all periods. About thirty sub-editors (including a few who had never ceased to work for the Dictionary) offered their gratuitous services in arranging quotations, preparing definitions, and otherwise contributing to the execution of the work. Without the generous aid of these various contributors and fellow-labourers, so great a task could never have been undertaken. The names of the Sub-Editors are given below*, and their respective contributions towards the completion of parts of the work will be indicated as these are reached; the Reference-List of Books read, to be hereafter given, will also commemorate the names of the Readers†. In the preparation of the present part I have been aided only by my official assistants at Mill Hill (with the help, on special points, of the distinguished scholars named on the opposite page).

The aim of this Dictionary is to furnish an adequate account of the meaning, origin, and history of English words now in general use, or known to have been in use at any time during the last seven hundred years. It endeavours (1) to show, with regard to each individual word, when, how, in what shape, and with what signification, it became English; what development of form and meaning it has since received; which of its uses have, in the course of time, become obsolete, and which still survive; what new uses have since

* The following have sub-edited parts of the materials:-

W. J. Anderson, Esq., Markinch; G. L. Apperson, Esq., Wimbledon; the Rev. G. B. R. Bousfield, B.A., London; E. L. Brandreth, Esq., London; J. Brown, Esq., Kendal; Miss J. E. A. Brown, Cirencester; F. T. Elworthy, Esq., Wellington, Som.; A. Erlebach, Esq., B.A., Mill Hill; the Rev. A. P. Fayers, Yeadon; H. H. Gibbs, Esq., M.A., Aldenham (in former years); the Rev. W. Gregor, M.A., Pitsligo; T. Henderson, Esq., M.A., Bedford; P. Jacob, Esq., Guildford; R. J. Lloyd, Esq., Liverpool; the Rev. W. J. Löwenberg, M.A., Bury, Lanc.; the Rev. C. B. Mount, M.A., Oxford; the Rev. A. S. Palmer, M.A., Staines (in former years); Mrs. Pope, Clifton; the Rev. C. Y. Potts, Ledbury (in former years); W. M. Rossetti, Esq., London (in former years); G. A. Schruppf, Esq., Tettenhall; the Rev. T. Sheppard, B.D., Oxford; the Rev. Prof. Skeat, M.A., Cambridge (in former years); the Rev. J. Smallpeice, M.A., St. Bees; the Rev. J. J. Smith, M.A., Tenbury; the late Rev. G. Wheelwright, Crowhurst (in former years); G. H. White, Esq., Torquay (in former years); the Rev. W. B. R. Wilson, M.A., Dollar; Miss C. M. Yonge, Otterbourne (in former years).

The following have also undertaken to sub-edit parts:-

The Rev. W. H. Beckett, Chelmsford; J. Britten, Esq., F.L.S., Isleworth; the Rev. C. G. Duffield, Cranleigh; H. M. Fitz-Gibbon, Esq., Dublin; Miss M. Haig, Blairhill; A. Lyall, Esq., Manchester; the Rev. T. D. Morris, M.A., Tottington; the Rev. W. E. Smith, Harpenden; A. Sweeting, Esq., Birkenhead; H. S. Tabor, Esq., London; J. W. W. Tyndale, Esq., Evercreech; T. Wilson, Esq., Harpenden; E. Warner, Esq., Hornsey.

The following have arranged materials for sub-editing:-

Walter Browne, Esq., London; C. Gray, Esq., Wimbledon; A. W. Longden, Esq., Stockport; S. Taylor, Esq., Chapel-en-le-Frith; Mrs. L. J. Walkey, Chipping Norton; W. Welch, Esq., Cranleigh; Miss M. Westmacott, London.

† It seems only right, nevertheless, to mention here the names of those recent readers who have given the largest amount of assistance. T. Austin, Esq., jun., Hornsey, stands first, with a total of 100,000 quotations; the Rev. J. Pierson, D.D., Ionia, Michigan, U.S.A., has sent 36,000; W. Douglas, Esq., London, 33,000; Dr. T. N. Brushfield, Budleigh Salterton, 23,000; Dr. R. H. Helwich, Vienna, 20,000. Upwards of 10,000 quotations have been contributed by:-G. L. Apperson, Esq., Wimbledon; the Rev. G. B. R. Bousfield, B.A., London; F. T. Elworthy, Esq., Wellington, Som.; Miss Foxall, Edgbaston; C. Gray, Esq., Wimbledon; T. Henderson, Esq., M.A., Bedford; Miss Jennett Humphreys, Cricklewood; E. S. Jackson, Esq., M.A., Plymouth; the Rev. W. Lees, M.A., Sidlow; Prof. G. M. Philips, West Chester, Pa., U.S.A.; H. Phillips, Esq., jun., Ph.D., Philadelphia, U.S.A.; Misses E. and G. Saunders, Addlestone; G. H. White, Esq., Torquay. Upwards of 5000 quotations have been contributed by:-Col. Ardagh, London; Mrs. M. Bathoe, London; A. Beazeley, Esq., C.E., Thornton Heath; the Rev. S. J. Bowles, M.A., Beaconsfield; Mrs. Brooks, Birmingham; Misses J. E. A. and E. A. Brown, Cirencester; Mrs. W. Browne, London; the late Rev. T. Burdett, Rawdon; Miss E. F. Burton, Carlisle; Miss Eisdell, Colchester; E. C. Hulme, Esq., London; J. B. Johnston, Esq., M.A., Edinburgh; R. J. Lloyd, Esq., Liverpool; A. Lyall, Esq., Manchester; the Rev. C. B. Mount, M.A., Oxford; C. Paine, Esq., Brighton; A. Scott, Esq., Blackstone, Mass., U.S.A.; G. A. Schruppf, Esq., Tettenhall; the Rev. B. Talbot, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.; Joseph Thompson, Esq., Manchester; Paget Toynbee, Esq., London; J. L. Ward, Esq., Burnley; R. J. Whitwell, Esq., Kendal; Misses Wilkinson and Gunning, Cambridge.

Moreover, extensive and valuable collections of quotations for words not recorded in existing dictionaries, which had been formed, in some cases, with the intention of separate publication, have been generously presented, as contributions to this work, by Prof. G. Stephens of Copenhagen, by the Rev. Addison Crofton, Stockport (collected by his late father-in-law), and the Rev. Kirby Trimmer, Norwich; and smaller collections of the same important character by other scholars both at home and abroad.

arisen, by what processes, and when: (2) to illustrate these facts by a series of quotations ranging from the first known occurrence of the word to the latest, or down to the present day; the word being thus made to exhibit its own history and meaning: and (3) to treat the etymology of each word on the basis of historical fact, and in accordance with the methods and results of modern philological science.

In order to facilitate reference, great pains have been taken to render the page eloquent to the eye, by the employment of different sizes and styles of type, by the arrangement of the paragraphs, and by the prominence given to the dates of quotations. Since the original scheme of the Philological Society was projected, the great French Dictionary of M. Littré has been given to the world, and has been made use of in determining some of the features of the present work. The size of page adopted is the same as that of Littré; but the breaking up of the articles into paragraphs, the typographical distinction between explanations and quotations, and other differences, will, it is hoped, be recognized as improvements.

The compass of the Vocabulary, and the general features of the work, are explained in the following pages. The Vocabulary will be found to be, even in its modern words, much more extensive than that of any existing Dictionary. And it will be observed that this fullness is not due to a large inclusion of words strictly foreign, or of the Latin or Latinized generic names of Natural History, which are here inserted only when found to be used, more or less, as English words*.

In connexion with this, it has to be borne in mind, that a Dictionary of the English Language is not a Cyclopædia: the Cyclopædia *describes things*, the Dictionary *explains words*, and deals with the description of things only so far as is necessary in order to fix the exact signification and use of words. This involves, however, some acquaintance with the things to which words refer. The meaning of technical words, for example, or of words used in Natural History, cannot be clearly apprehended or explained by one who is wholly unacquainted with the processes, or has never seen the objects, which they describe.

Neither in furnishing such explanations, nor in many other respects, could this work have been undertaken or executed without much external aid. Independently of the Readers and Sub-editors already mentioned, I have had constantly to seek advice and assistance on various points, literary, critical, philological, phonological, bibliographical, historical, scientific, and technical. Such advice and assistance has been most liberally given, often by men whose time is much occupied, but whose interest in this undertaking has led them willingly to place some of it at the Editor's service. To the following, among many others, acknowledgements are specially made:—F. J. Furnivall, Esq., M.A., Henry Hucks Gibbs, Esq., M.A., and Fitzedward Hall, Esq., D.C.L. (who have given general help in every direction: Mr. Furnivall has especially assisted in solving bibliographical difficulties, and in completing the literary history of words; Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Hall have read all but the earliest proof-sheets, supplied deficiencies, and given valuable literary criticism:—it would be impossible to tell how much the Dictionary owes to the devotion of Mr. Gibbs, or to the contributions made by the learned author of 'Modern English' from the spoils of his annotations upon the characteristic words and idioms of thousands of English writers); Prof. Eduard Sievers, of Tübingen (Old Teutonic Philology); Prof. Paul Meyer, Member of the Institute of France (Old French Philology); James Britten, Esq., F.L.S. (Botanical words); Miss Edith Thompson (Historical terms and phrases); Prof. F. Pollock, LL.D. (Legal terms); A. J. Ellis, Esq., F.R.S. (Phonology); Dr. P. H. Pye-Smith (Medical and Biological words); H. Watts, Esq., F.R.S., Editor of the Dictionary of Chemistry, Prof. H. Roscoe, F.R.S. (Chemical words); Prof. Ch. Rieu, Ph.D. (Arabic and Oriental Philology); Col. H. Yule (East Indian words); the Rev. E. A. Abbott, D.D.; Prof. Edward Arber; Prof. F. Jeffery Bell, M.A.; Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte; Henry Bradshaw, Esq., M.A., University Librarian, Cambridge; E. L. Brandreth, Esq., M.A.; G. B. Buckton, Esq., F.L.S.; I. Bywater, Esq., M.A., Exeter Coll., Oxford; William Chappell, Esq., F.S.A.;

* The actual number of words dealt with in this part is 8365. The *Main Words*, treated each in a separate article, are 6797; the *Combinations*, or Compounds, explained in connexion with these, are 570; the *Subordinate Words*, with explanation, or with cross-reference and explanatory synonym, 998. These figures do not include the obsolete forms exhibited under the Main Words, nor the simpler Combinations classified and illustrated at the end of the main articles, but not individually explained. Of the 6797 Main Words, 1998 (or 29 per cent.) are marked (+) as obsolete; and only 321 (||) as foreign or imperfectly naturalized. The latter comprise all the Latin terms of Natural History, etc., that have been admitted, as well as the modern French, Italian, East Indian, and other words, that are more or less in English use.

G. E. Cokayne, Esq., M.A., Norroy King of Arms ; C. E. Doble, Esq., M.A., Worcester Coll., Oxford ; Prof. E. Dowden, M.A., Dublin ; the Rev. Prof. Gandell, M.A., Hertford Coll., Oxford ; Dr. J. Hall Gladstone F.R.S. ; Dr. W. A. Greenhill, Hastings ; the Rev. R. Harley, F.R.S., Huddersfield College ; Dr. R. H. Helwich, Vienna ; J. H. Hessels, Esq., Cambridge ; H. Jenner, Esq. ; C. F. Keary, Esq., Brit. Mus. ; the Very Rev. H. G. Liddell, D.D., Dean of Christ Church, Oxford ; the Hon. J. Russell Lowell ; F. Madan, Esq., M.A., the Bodleian Library ; Prof. F. A. March, M.A., Lafayette Coll., Pennsylvania ; Russell Martineau, Esq., M.A., Brit. Mus. ; the Rev. R. Morris, LL.D. ; Prof. F. Max Müller ; Prof. Newton, M.A., Magdalene Coll., Cambridge ; E. W. B. Nicholson, Esq., M.A., Bodley's Librarian ; the late Henry Nicol, Esq. ; Henry Phillips, junr., Esq., Ph.D., &c., Philadelphia ; Isaac Pitman, Esq., Bath ; James Platt, junr., Esq. ; Prof. J. P. Postgate, M.A., Trinity Coll., Cambridge ; H. Power, Esq., M.B. (Joint-Editor of the Sydenham Society's Lexicon) ; Dr. R. C. A. Prior (author of 'Plant Names') ; Prof. J. Rhÿs, Jesus Coll., Oxford ; Prof. Sayce, M.A., Queen's Coll., Oxford ; P. L. Sclater, Esq., F.R.S., Sec. of the Zoological Society ; the Rev. Prof. Skeat, M.A., Cambridge ; Miss L. Toulmin Smith ; Prof. Geo. Stephens, Copenhagen ; the Rev. Prof. Stubbs, D.D., Oxford ; Henry Sweet, Esq., M.A. ; W. H. Wesley, Esq., Royal Astronomical Soc. ; Dr. R. F. Weymouth, Mill Hill ; W. White, Esq., Royal Society ; W. Aldis Wright, Esq., LL.D, Cambridge, &c. It has not, as a rule, been possible to submit to contributors or advisers the articles for which their assistance was asked : it will, therefore, be understood that none of these are responsible for the use made of their help in the Dictionary. If they have been misunderstood or misrepresented, the Editor alone must bear the blame.

Thanks are offered to the Council of the Royal Society for various assistance, especially for the use of a set of the early volumes of the *Philosophical Transactions* to aid in determining the first use of scientific terms ; to the Council of the Linnæan Society for their recommendation to the Fellows, Associates, and Members to render assistance to the Dictionary, to the exposition of the plan of which they devoted two pages of the *Journal* for March, 1880 ; to the Council of the Society of Antiquaries for practical aid ; and to many other of the learned Societies, which have called upon their members to help in the work, and have offered the Editor assistance in completing the history of words connected with their special subjects. Finally, thanks are due to the literary Journals, both of England and of the United States, which have manifested so deep an interest in the success of this undertaking, and, by keeping its objects before the public, have procured for it much of the co-operation and support here acknowledged.

Mention must also be made of my own immediate assistants who have been engaged with me in the preparation of the work and in passing the sheets through the press ; especially of the invaluable labours of Mr. Alfred Erlebach, B.A., who has aided me in the treatment of almost every word : his services, as well as those of Mr. John Mitchell, Mr. H. F. P. Ruthven, and Mr. J. B. Johnston, M.A., are gratefully acknowledged.

JAMES A. H. MURRAY.

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