

## PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS Part contains 5215 Main words, 708 special Combinations requiring separate explanation, 985 Subordinate words and forms: total, 6908. Of the Main words, 1281 (=24½ per cent.) are marked † as obsolete, and 167 (=3½ per cent.) || as alien or imperfectly naturalized. It deals with a further section of the great letter C—one of the three letters which, together, begin nearly a third of all English words—and extends from the beginning of CLO- to the word CONSIGNER. Part VII. will contain the rest of C, with the first part of D.

Three fourths of the present part are occupied with the vast mass of words beginning with the Latin prefix *col-*, *com-*, *con-*, without, however, reaching the end of the *con-* words. Hence, while the earlier pages contain many words of Old English origin, including the important verb COME—which takes up 23 columns, the largest space yet claimed by any word in the Dictionary—there follow 200 pages of words exclusively Romanic, amidst which the verb *con* and its few derivatives are the sole representatives of the original stock of our language.

The words thus derived from Latin (directly, or through French) are, mainly, verbs and their derivatives, expressing some of the most important general and abstract notions of the language. Of these the etymology and form-history offer, in general, little difficulty, though the exact circumstances in which the words entered English are not always evident; but the sense-history is often extremely difficult to trace: from the beginning, the English 'grip' of many of these words has lacked firmness and precision, and this has led to their employment in an immense variety of vaguely defined shades of meaning and use. This will be evident, on the examination of such verbs as *collect*, *combine*, *command*, *commend*, *commence*, *commit*, *commune*, *compare*, *compete*, *complete*, *comply*, *compose*, *compound*, *comprehend*, *comprise*, *conceive*, *concern*, *conclude*, *concur*, *condemn*, *condescend*, *confer*, *confess*, *confine*, *confirm*, *conform*, *confound*, *confuse*, *congratulate*, *connect*, *connive*, *connote*, *conquer*, *consent*, *consider*, *consign*, and their derivatives. The importance of some of the latter in Philosophy, Logic, and Theology, may be seen by examining the specific senses of *commutative*, *comprehension*, *concept*, *conception*, *conceptual*, *concrete*, *conjunction*, *connotation*, *connotative*, *consequence*, *conscience*, *consciousness*, *condignity*, *congruity*, *congregation*, and their groups of conjunct words.

Among the words interesting for their derivation and form-history (on which the historical treatment has in many cases thrown new light, or dispelled the errors of unscientific assumption) are COCKATRICE, COCKNEY, CONGEON, CLOSH, CLOUGH, CLOW, COMELY; see also *cloth*, *cloud*, *clout*, *clown*, *clutch*, *coarse*, *cockle*, *coc*, *coke*, *col*, *colin*, *companion*<sup>2</sup>, *compliment*, *comply*, *comrade*, *conacre*, *concern*, *conepatl*, *confidant*. Under COLD will be found a table of affinities of the various derivatives of the Teutonic root *kal-*, showing the relations of *cold*, *cool*, *chill*, *akele*.

Among words interesting on the score of their sense-development are *clock*, *cloth*, *club*, *coal*, *coat*, *cock*, *cock-a-hoop*, *cock-sure*, *codling*, *coffin*, *cog*, *coif*, *coil*, *coin*, *collar*, *collop*, *colour*, *comb*, *committee*, *common* and its many derivatives, *community*, *compass*, *complement* with its off-shoot *compliment*, *comply*, *complexion*, *compromise*, *concoction*, *concrete*, *condign*, *conduct*, *conduit*, *congee*, *conjure*. Special historical interest attaches to certain senses of *collation*, *collect*, *college*, *colony*, *common*, *commoner*, *commons*, *communion*, *compurgation*, *conclave*, *concordat*, *concordatum*, *condone*, *conduct-money*, *confederate* and its kin, *conference*, *congé*, *congregation*, *congregational*, *congress*, *connexion* (Wesleyan), *conqueror*, *conservancy*, *conservation* (of energy), *conservative*, etc.: in the illustration of the origin and development of these, much research has been expended. The same is true with regard to the origin and early history of various words that have entered the language in times more or less recent, e. g. *coach*, *coco*, *cocoa*, *coffee*, *colonel*, *comet*, *communism*, etc., for all of which important early references will be found.

In no previous part of the Vocabulary have the current Dictionaries been found so deficient, or so affected with error. The great number of bogus words, originating in mistakes of many kinds and of many authors, from the early days of English lexicography onward—which have been uncritically copied by one compiler after another, until, in recent compilations, their number has become serious—has decided us to prepare a *List of Spurious Words* found in Dictionaries, to be given at the end of the work, to which list such *verba nihili* are relegated from the text.<sup>1</sup>

Part of the words here treated, to the end of *com-*, were sub-edited for the Philological Society by Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, M.A., in 1860–70; the remainder to the end of C were sub-edited for us in 1881–2 by Mr. E. C. Hulme, 18 Philbeach Gardens, South Kensington. Before being finally taken in hand by the editorial staff in the Scriptorium, they have been re-sub-edited, with incorporation of all subsequent accessions, by Mr. Hulme (*close-closure*), the Rev. C. B. Mount, M.A., Oxford (*clu-cly, coma-coml-, compass, compo-comy, cone-confery, cong-*), Mr. W. Noel Woods, B.A., Ulundi Road, Blackheath (*co-colza, con-concu-, cons-consent*), Mr. G. L. Apperson, 11 Park Road, Wimbledon (*clod-clope, clot-, commi-commu-, confess-confu-*), Mr. John Peto, Ravenswood, Alveyn Park, S.E. (*clo-clock, clove-cloyt, comma-comme-, compla-, comply, cond-*); the Rev. W. B. Robertson Wilson, M.A., Dollar (*conj-conquer*), Mr. A. Hailstone, Cheetham Hill, Manchester (*comp-compar-*). To all these grateful acknowledgement of their co-operation is made; to Mr. Hailstone also for similar help in Part V., of which mention was there inadvertently omitted. The Proofs have been regularly read by Mr. Fitzedward Hall, M.A., D.C.L., who has added hundreds of the most valuable quotations, by Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, M.P., the Rev. J. B. Johnston, M.A., B.D., Monsieur F. J. Amours, and Mr. W. Sykes, M.R.C.S. Valuable help with the etymologies of the Teutonic words in the earlier pages was received from Prof. E. Sievers of Halle; and Prof. Paul Meyer of Paris has kindly looked at the proofs of the more difficult words from French; special help with technical words has been rendered by Mr. R. B. Prosser, formerly of the Patent Office, and with some of the logical terms, by the Rev. T. Fowler, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

J. A. H. M.

THE SCRIPTORIUM, OXFORD, July 1891.

<sup>1</sup> The need of such a list is exemplified by the fact that a recent reviewer in the *Athenæum* refused to accept the direct statement under CHEVISAUNCE<sup>2</sup>, in Part V of this Dictionary, that there is no such word as 'cherisaunce', on the ground that in certain current dictionaries (of no critical or independent value on such a point) he found the *Romaunt of the Rose* quoted for 'cherisaunce' in the sense of 'cherishment'. A reference to the *Romaunt* itself (l. 3337), even without comparison of the French original (ed. Méon, l. 3113, *Que ne soi de moi chevissaunce*), would at once have shown that the pretended 'cherisaunce' was a simple error of transcription for *chevisaunce* 'resource' (CHEVISSANCE<sup>1</sup>, sense 3). 'Cherisaunce' is a typical specimen of a bogus word, and an instructive example of the propagation and multiplication of error under the joint action of sequacious copying and reckless assertion. Having been incautiously included as a real word by Richardson, it has been appropriated from him (without acknowledgement and without examination) by successive compilers. It has imposed upon a writer on Plant Names, who, taken with the fancy that 'cherisaunce' was rather like *Cheiranthus cheiri* the wall-flower, and its alleged meaning 'cherishment, comfort', suggestive of 'heart's ease', in an unguarded moment threw out the conjecture that *chevisaunce*, a genuine plant-name mentioned by Spenser and others, was 'evidently a misprint for "cherisaunce"', and meant the wall-flower. Acting on this rash conjecture, still more recent compilers have extended their definition of the bogus 'cherisaunce' as meaning not only 'cherishment, comfort', assumed from the *Romaunt*, but also as a name of the wall-flower or 'heart's ease'. Thus out of a scribal mistake of *r* for *v* have been evolved 'cherisaunce', 'cherishment', 'heart's ease', and *Cheiranthus cheiri*! And who shall say the evolution is at an end? for errors thus sown broadcast by works laying claim to scholarly editorship, can scarcely ever be eradicated from the popular manuals that follow them. May our *List of Spurious Words* at least render their detection more easy!

#### ADDENDUM.

Under the verb COINCIDE and its derivatives, I unfortunately failed to refer to the scholarly monograph upon these words by H. E. Shepherd in the *American Journal of Philology*, vol. I. pp. 271–280, which may be usefully consulted. Mr. Shepherd traces with much fullness the history of the words in the mediæval Latin of Roger Bacon, and the English writers of the 17th c. For the vb., in sense 3, he gives earlier instances from BERKELEY (1705) *Wks.* IV. 442 and NICHOLAS *Literary History* (1709) I. 201.