

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

DISOBST.—DISTRUSTFUL.

BY

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NOTE.

THIS Section contains 1222 Main words, 30 Combinations explained under these, and 94 Subordinate entries; 1346 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, without separate definition, number 22 more. Of the 1222 Main words, 845 are current and native or fully naturalized, 365 (30%) are marked (+) as *obsolete*, and only 12 as (||) *alien* or not fully naturalized. Comparison with the corresponding portion of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, and of some more recent lexicographical works, shows the following figures:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.'	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard.'	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Disobst-</i> to <i>Distrustful</i>	245	759	654	701	1368
Words illustrated by quotations	203	503	421	105	1242
Number of illustrative quotations	660	961	1179	151	7316

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 970.

The Section continues the words in the prefix *Dis-*, without reaching the end of them. They are interrupted only by a dozen words of Greek derivation (comprising *distich*, and its kin, and a few technical terms), by a couple of alien-words (*diss*, *dissel-boom*) from modern languages, and by the solitary but interesting Old English word *DISTAFF*. The *dis-* words include many of great importance in the language, as *disorder*, *disown*, *disparage*, *disperse*, *display*, *displease*, *dispose*, *dispute*, *dissemble*, *dissipate*, *dissolve*, *distance*, *distant*, *distinguish*, *distinct*, *distract*, *distribute*, *district*, with their related words; of many of these the sense-history is full of interest. Special attention may be called to *dispensation* and *dispense* in the ecclesiastical sense, and to *distribution* (of the predicate) in logic, of both of which terms the history is here for the first time traced; also to the connexion of *disposition* and *distemper* (*distemperance*, etc.) with old notions of physiology; to the legal history attaching to *disseisin*, *dissenter*, *distrain*, and *distress*; and to the manifold uses of *district*. *Dispense with* is shown to occur with two diametrically opposite meanings, 'to do with' and 'do without'. One of the *dis-* words, *disproportionableness*, is reputed to be the longest word (in number of letters) in the language. *DISPATCH* is shown to be, historically and etymologically, the proper spelling of a word, which by some unaccountable mistake was entered in Dr. Johnson's Dictionary as *despatch*, to the disturbance, though, happily, not to the overthrow, of good English usage.