

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

FIELD—FISH.

BY

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NOTE.

THIS Section contains 766 Main words, 553 Combinations explained under these, and 97 Subordinate entries, 1416 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, without individual definition, number 569 more. Of the 766 Main words, 586 are current and native or fully naturalized, 161 (27.4%) are marked (†) as *obsolete*, and 19 (3.2%) as (||) *alien* or not fully naturalized. Comparison with the corresponding part 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.
Total words recorded, <i>Field</i> to <i>Fish</i>	168	808	969	987	1985
„ „ illustrated by quotations	152	284	377	116	1754
„ illustrative quotations	556	584	1138	178	8526

To an even greater extent than former portions of F, the present Section is concerned with words that are among the oldest and the most frequently used in the language. As might be expected, very many of these words, on account of the multiplicity of their senses and applications, have required to be illustrated at much more than average length. Hence the number of Main words here included is, as will be observed, smaller than in any other Section recently published. The total of words recorded is, on the contrary, much larger, owing chiefly to the extraordinary abundance of the Combinations of certain important substantives. Amongst the words exhibiting interesting development of meaning may be mentioned *field*, *fight*, *figure*, *file* (11 distinct words), *fill*, *fillet*, *find*, *fine* (sb., adj., and vb.), *finance*, *fire*, *firm* (sb.), *first*, and *fish*, which, with their compounds and derivatives, occupy more than one half of the 64 pages. The quotations illustrating these words will be found to throw new and often unexpected light on the origin of the senses now current, and on the interpretation of many passages in our older literature. In most instances the derivation of the words treated in this Section has already been satisfactorily ascertained by previous investigators, so that the etymological paragraphs contain little that is strikingly novel; but it has frequently been found possible to present the facts with greater accuracy and completeness of detail than in former Dictionaries.