

A NEW  
ENGLISH DICTIONARY  
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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VOL. IV. PART III. FIELD — FRANKISH.

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BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS Part (FIELD—FRANKISH) contains 4826 Main words, 650 Subordinate entries, 1855 Special Combinations explained under the Main words, and 2087 Obvious Combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations without separate explanation: total, 9418. Of the 4826 Main words 1209 (25%) are marked as *obsolete*, and 93 (2%) as *alien* or not fully naturalized.

By far the greater portion of the space in this Part is occupied with words belonging to the oldest strata of the English vocabulary—words which have come down from Old English and Old Norse, and Romanic words of early introduction. Many of these words have developed a great variety of senses, and have therefore required to be treated in articles of more than average length. The later Latin element is represented by a considerable number of words, but the space necessary for their illustration is in most cases comparatively small. Greek derivatives are, for an obvious reason, entirely absent. The middle pages of the Part are remarkable for the extraordinary abundance of words that are either onomatopœic in origin, or have been modified in sense by the feeling that there is something intrinsically expressive in their sound: such, for example, as *fizz*, *flabby*, *flaff*, *flap*, *flip*, *flop*, *stuff*, etc.

In all the longer articles in the Part, the study of the quotations has brought to light many new and interesting points in the history of the meaning and usage of the words. Amongst the words most remarkable for their sense-development may be mentioned *figure*, *finance*, *find*, *fine* (adj. and sb.), *flee* and *fly*, *flippant*, *flirt*, *flower* (of which *flour* is a mere variant spelling), *foist*, *form* and *formal*, *franchise*, *frank*. An article which has cost much thought is that on the particle *For*. The material collected for this word was very incomplete, and had to be supplemented by a considerable amount of original research. It is hoped that what has here been done for the historical illustration of the uses of this word will often be found helpful in the interpretation of difficult passages in our early writers.

With regard to etymology, new conclusions or suggestions will be found under *flamfew*, *flavour*, *fleech*, *focile*, *fog*, *fogger*, *foggy*, *foist* (vb.); under many other words, e. g. *fit* (7 words), *flamingo*, *flannel*, *flask*, *flee*,

*flounder, follow*, etc., the derivation is discussed more fully or stated more accurately than is done in former Dictionaries. In the case of some words, such as *filch, fon* (whence *fond*), it is to be regretted that the result of investigation has been merely to discredit the commonly accepted view, without putting anything more tenable in its place.

The material for the earlier pages was subedited by two valued friends of the Dictionary, who are no longer living to receive this acknowledgement of their painstaking services: *Fi-* by the Rev. G. B. R. Bousfield, B.A., and *Fl- — Floun-* by Mr. J. Peto. Dr. Fitzedward Hall continues to render invaluable help; and the proofs are still regularly read, and important suggestions frequently made, by Lord Aldenham (President of the Philological Society), the Rev. Dr. J. T. Fowler, and Mr. W. H. Stevenson, M.A. I have also to acknowledge frequent assistance from Profs. Sievers and Napier in Teutonic philology, from M. Paul Meyer in Romanic philology, from Mr. R. B. Prosser in the history and explanation of technical words. The sections dealing with the philosophical uses of *Form* and *Formal* owe much to the careful revision bestowed on them by the late Prof. Wallace, of Oxford. On various specific questions occasional assistance has been received from many of the persons mentioned in the Prefatory Notes to E and the first Part of F: to the names there given I have to add those of Mr. A. Caland, Wageningen, Holland; Prof. J. H. Gallée, Utrecht; Mr. James Hammond, M.A.; Monsieur A. Hatzfeld; the Rev. H. Rashdall, M.A.; and Mr. R. J. Whitwell.

The editorial assistants engaged on this Part have been Mr. G. F. H. Sykes, B.A., Mr. W. Worrall, B.A., Mr. W. J. Lewis, and Mr. H. J. Bayliss; and in the proof-reading I have been assisted by Mr. A. Erlebach, B.A.

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