

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

FISH — FLEXUOSE.

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, M.A.

NOTE.

THIS Section includes the latter part of the article *Fish* (verb) and the words from *Fishable* to *Flexuose*, and contains 956 Main words, 314 Combinations explained under these, and 170 Subordinate entries; 1440 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, without individual definition, number 372 more. Of the 956 Main words, 731 are current and native or fully naturalized, 205 (21.4%) are marked (†) as *obsolete*, and 20 (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.
Words recorded, <i>Fishable</i> to <i>Flexuose</i>	205	715	997	853	1812
Words illustrated by quotations	170	310	458	106	1586
Number of illustrative quotations	543	562	1158	159	8214

The number of illustrative quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 587.

Of the 1812 words contained in this Section, not more than 35 existed in Old English. The most striking characteristic of the portion of the English vocabulary here dealt with is the abundance of words which are of onomatopœic origin, or which have been influenced in their sense-development by their apparently imitative or expressive sound, as *fizz*, *fizzle*, *flab*, *flabbergast*, *flabby*, *flack*, *flacker*, *flaff*, *flap*, *flapdoodle*, *flare*, *flash*, *flasker*, *flaunt*, &c. Amongst the words interesting on account of their variety of meanings (on the development of which new light has in most instances been thrown by our quotations) are *fit* (7 words so spelt), *fix*, *flag* (12 words), *flake* (9 words), *flame*, *flap*, *flare*, *flash* (9 words), *flat*, *flatter*, *flaw*, *fleet* (10 words), *flesh* and its derivatives. The etymological notes on most of these words will be found to contain facts not given in other English dictionaries, or corrections of commonly accepted errors; other articles of etymological interest are *flamfew*, *flamingo*, *flannel*, *flask*, *flavour*, *flee*, *fleech*.