

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SI—SIMPLE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS single section contains 820 Main words, 237 Combinations explained under these, and 178 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, in all 1235. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 343 more, and bring up the total to 1578. Of the Main words, 143 are marked † as obsolete, and 29 are marked ‖ as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures exhibit the result of comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries :—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	127	803	935	829	1578
Words illustrated by quotations	106	221	274	86	1407
Number of quotations	414	365	806	116	8698

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 361.

In this section the native element has a clear preponderance over the foreign, and includes a large proportion of words which go back to Old or early Middle English, and are still in common use, or survive in dialect. Among the more important of these are *sib*, *sick*, *sicker*, *sickle*, *side*, *sieve*, *sift*, *sigh*, *sight*, *silk*, *sill*, *silly*, *silver*, with numerous derivative forms, as *sicken*, *sickly*, *sideling(s)*, *sighless*, *silken*, *silvern*. Those which take up most space are *SIDE sb.*¹ (11 columns) and *SILVER sb.* (8½ columns), and each of these is followed by a long series of derivatives or combinations (occupying 15 and 8½ columns respectively). The obscure words which appear to be of English origin are not numerous; the chief are *siddow*, *sillabub*, and *simmer* (earlier *simper*). The Scandinavian element is very slight, and almost entirely confined to dialect words, as *sile sb.*² and *sb.*³, *sile v.*², *sime*, and *simmon sb.*²; it is doubtful whether *silt* should be reckoned here.

The Romanic words, though occupying less space than the native, are neither few nor unimportant. In addition to the Latin words which have been adopted without change of form, as *siler*, *silex*, *silicula*, *siliqua*, *simia*, *simile*, there are many which have passed through Old French, or have been assimilated to the usual types, as *sibilant*, *siccative*, *sidereal*, *sigil*, *sign*, *significance*, *signify*, *silence*, *silent*, *similar*, *similitude*, *simoniac*, *simony*, and other derivatives from the same bases as these. More distinctively French in origin are *sice* (six), *siecle*, *siege*, *siffle*, *signal*, *signet*, *signory*, *simnel*, and *simple*; the earlier uses of *simple* are difficult to separate clearly. Italian has contributed *sienna*, *signor*, *signora*, *signoria*, and Spanish *sierra*, *siesta*, and *silo*. From Greek, usually through Latin, have come *Sibyl*, *siderite*, *sidero*¹, *sigma* (whence *sigmatic*, *sigmoid*, etc.), *Silen(us)*, *silphium*, *silurus*, and *simosaur(us)*.

Of the words introduced from India, *Sikh* and *simool* are native; *sicca*, *sidi*, and *silladar* are ultimately of Arabic origin, as are also *sief* and *simoom*. *Siamang* is Malay, and *simaruba* has come from Guiana. Names of peoples or places are represented by *Siamese* (with a curious development as adj. and vb.), *Siberian*, *Sicilian*, *Sidonian*, *Silesia(n)*, *Sillery*, and *Silurian*.

Some historical interest attaches to *side-bar*, *side(s)man*, *siege-piece*, *sign-board*, *sign-manual*, *sign-post*, *silhouette*, *silly-how*, *Simeonite*, and *Simon Pure*.