

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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SPEECH—SPRING.

BY

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 1745 Main words, 298 Special Combinations explained under these, 979 Obvious Combinations, and 284 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 3306 words. Of the Main words 374 are marked † as obsolete, and 53 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	230	1196	1719	1522	3306
Words illustrated by quotations	196	443	354	136	3028
Number of quotations	743	693	960	186	16,733

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 601.

This double section contains a further instalment of words beginning with SP-, in which the Teutonic, Romanic, and Greek elements of the English vocabulary are very fully represented. Among the native words (most of them sufficiently recorded from the Old English period onwards) are *speech*, *speed*, *spell*, *spew*, *spider*, *spill*, *spin*, *spindle*, *spit*, *spoke*, *spoon*, *sprawl*, *spread*, and *spring*, which together with their derivatives occupy many columns in all. In addition to these there is a large percentage of words now obsolete, or surviving only in dialect use, for many of which the evidence is very scanty. A number of these, first recorded in Middle English, have corresponding forms in the other Teutonic languages, and some may really have been adopted from the Continent. Among the older words which clearly appear to have a Dutch or Low German origin are *spill* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *spirling*, *splice*, *splint*, *splinter*, and *splut*; during the 19th cent. Dutch has also supplied *spook* and *spoor*. An interesting example of a local form attaining a wide currency in recent years is *spindrifft*. Gaelic is scantily represented by *spleuchan*, *sporrán*, and *spreath* (corruptly *spreagh*).

The French contributions are numerous and important, including *spell* v.<sup>2</sup> (with its older variant *spelder* v.<sup>1</sup>), *spice*, *spicery*, *spinach*, *spine*, *spinel*, *spinet*, *spinney*, *spoil*, *spouse*, etc., and some aphetic forms, as *spence*<sup>1</sup>, *spense*, *spite*, *splay*, and *sport*. Latin stems are largely represented among these words, as well as in such forms as *spicule*, *spike* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *spikenard*, *spinal*, *spinous*, *spiracle*, *spirít* (with many derivatives), *splendid*, *splendour*, *spoliation*, *sponsor*, *spontaneous*, etc. *Spirít* also appears in the disguised form *spright* (whence *sprightly*), and an unusual development from a Latin source is found in *spittle* sb.<sup>1</sup> (hospital).

The Greek element, adopted directly or through Latin, is in this section above the average; in addition to the words beginning with SPH- (which include *sphere*, *spheric*, etc., and *Sphinx*), it comprises *sperm*, *spire* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *splanchnic*, *spleen*, *spondee*, *spondyle*, *sponge*, *sporadic*, *spore*, and a variety of derivatives from some of the stems represented by these.

The precise source of many of the minor words in this section is doubtful, and some of the more important still remain more or less obscure. A few are fanciful formations on ordinary words, as *speechify*, *spellbinder*, *spittoon*, *splendacious*, *spreadation*, while others are probably or certainly due to pure inventiveness, as *spiff*, *spiffy*, *spificate*, *splurge*, *spoff*, *spondulicks*, *spooft*, *spree*. Some which begin with SPL- (e.g. *splash*) are later variants of forms with PL-