

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SL.—ST.)

## STANDARD—STEAD

BY

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### NOTE.

THIS section (64 pages) includes 495 Main words, 273 Special Combinations explained under these, and 74 Subordinate entries; in all 842. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 153, making a total of 995. Of the Main words 65 (13%) are marked † as obsolete, and 22 (4½%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures :—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Standard—Stead</i> vb.	97	43 <sup>1</sup>	537	995
Words illustrated by quotations	82	150	138	917
Number of illustrative quotations	417	285	436	764 <sup>1</sup>

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 304.

In this section the greater part of the space is occupied by a small number of important words, with their compounds and derivatives. Of these words the following are of native English origin: *staple* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *star* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *starch* sb. and vb., *stare* sb.<sup>1</sup> and vb., *stark* adj., *start* sb.<sup>1</sup>, sb.<sup>2</sup> and vb., *starve* vb., *stave* sb.<sup>1</sup> and vb., *stay* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *stead* sb. and vb. Of French or Latin etymology are: *stannary*, *staple* sb.<sup>2</sup> and adj., *state* sb. and vb., *station*, *stationer*, *statistic*, *statue*, *stature*, *status*, *statute*, *staunch* adj., *stay* (two sbs. and three verbs); also *static* (*statical*, *statics*) and *stavesacre*, which are ultimately Greek. The words representing other linguistic elements than Old English, French, or Latin are few and (except the Italian *stanza*) quite unimportant. From Old Norse there are *stang* and *star* sb.<sup>2</sup>; from Greek a few scientific terms, chiefly beginning with *staphylo-*, *stato-*, and *stauro-*. The Slavonic *starosta* and *stchi* are unknown to most English readers. Words from Celtic, and words from Oriental, African, and American languages, are entirely absent.

Most of the words of native and Romanic origin enumerated above are remarkable for the interesting development of senses. In the article *state* sb., the quotations illustrative of obsolete shades of meaning may sometimes be found to supply useful guidance in the interpretation of obscure passages in our early literature. The changes of application in several words, as *statics*, *station*, *stationer*, *statistics*, *statute*, are now for the first time fully exhibited. Words of special historical importance are *staple* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *star-chamber*, *statute*, *statute merchant*. New etymological information is given under *staniel*, *staple* (three sbs.), *starch* sb. and vb., *stark*, *start* vb., *starve* vb., *stay* sbs. and vbs. The current view that *stay* vb.<sup>1</sup>, to bring or come to a stand, to remain, is a developed use of *stay* vb.<sup>2</sup>, to support, has been abandoned for chronological and other reasons, and a different etymology has been proposed. The curious early history of the word *starvation* has before been given in some dictionaries, but an attempt has been made here to state the actual facts more precisely.