A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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STILLATION—STRATUM

BY
HENRY BRADLEY, M.A., HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

This double section includes 1115 Main words, 657 Special Combinations explained under these, and 411 Subordinate entries; in all 2183. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 497, making a total of 2680. Of the Main words 230 (21%) are marked † as obsolete, and 28 (2½%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<tr>
<td>Words recorded, Stillation—Stratum</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1426</td>
<td>2680</td>
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<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>2275</td>
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<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>1233</td>
<td>13955</td>
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The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 569.

About half the space of this section is occupied with words of native English origin. It is true that the list of words actually inherited from Old English is not very long; but it includes several words which, like stint sb.¹ and vb., stir vb., stock sb.¹, stone, stool, stoop, stop vb., storm, straight, strand, strap, either claim extended treatment on account of the multitude of their senses, or have given rise to a large number of compounds and derivatives, many of which have themselves a long and varied history. From Old Norse there is only stilly (with its variant stild). The French element is represented by the important words store, story sb.¹, story sb.² (os story), stout, strain sb.¹ and vb., strait, strange, stranger, strangé; and French is the proximate source of some of the derivatives from Latin and Greek. Latin has furnished several words of considerable importance, as stimulus, stipend, stipulate, solid, stratum (and their derivatives). From Greek (mainly through Latin and French) come stoic, stole sb.¹, stomach, stratagem, strategy, besides a number of scientific terms that have no popular currency, as stoichioiogy, stomatic and the related words. Modern European languages have given stiver, stoep (Du.), stockbridge, stove (Flemish), stoccado, strappado (It.), and the newly-adopted strafe (Ger.). The only Celtic words are the Irish stokagh (Spenser) and the Gaelic strath. Words of Oriental, African, and American Indian origin are altogether absent.

A word remarkable for the extraordinary diversity of its senses (the mutual relation of which can often only be conjectured) is stock sb.¹. Other words showing noteworthy sense-history are still-life, stimulate, stir vb., stole sb.¹ (‘Groom of the Stole’), stomach, stone sb., stoop vb., stop sb. and vb., story sb.¹, straight, strain sb. and vb. A small but not uninteresting fact revealed by our quotations is that the phrase to strain at a gnat does not, as has been often asserted, owe its current form to a misprint in the Bible of 1611.

In etymology, the novelty that will probably attract most attention is that the long-accepted derivation of story sb.² (story) is rejected, and the word shown to be ultimately identical with story sb.¹. Stool-ball and stow-ball, which have hitherto been regarded as one and the same word, are here distinguished as the names of entirely dissimilar games.