

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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## STILLATION — STRATUM

BY

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### 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 :—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopedic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Stillation—Stratum</i>	178	900	1426	2680
Words illustrated by quotations	146	339	373	2275
Number of illustrative quotations	676	535	1033	15395

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.<sup>1</sup> and vb., *stir* vb., *stock* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *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 *stithy* (with its variant *stilh*). The French element is represented by the important words *store*, *story* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *story* sb.<sup>2</sup> (or *storey*), *stout*, *strain* sb.<sup>2</sup> and vb., *strait*, *strange*, *stranger*, *strangle*; 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*, *stolid*, *stratum* (and their derivatives). From Greek (mainly through Latin and French) come *stoic*, *stole* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *stomach*, *stratagem*, *strategy*, besides a number of scientific terms that have no popular currency, as *stoicheiology*, *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 *stokaghe* (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.<sup>1</sup> Other words showing noteworthy sense-history are *still-life*, *stimulate*, *stir* vb., *stole* sb.<sup>2</sup> ('Groom of the Stole'), *stomach*, *stone* sb., *stoop* vb., *stop* sb. and vb., *story* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *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.<sup>2</sup> (*storey*) is rejected, and the word shown to be ultimately identical with *story* sb.<sup>1</sup> *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.