

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME IX. FIRST HALF. SI—ST.)

STRATUS—STYX.

BY

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NOTE.

THIS double section includes 1023 Main words, 343 Special Combinations explained under these, and 522 Subordinate entries; in all 1888. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 407, making a total of 2295. Of the Main words 212 (20%) are marked † as obsolete, and 27 (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 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl.	'Century' Dict. and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Stratus—Styx</i>	175	849	880	2295
Words illustrated by quotations	49	260	195	1780
Number of illustrative quotations	717	530	946	14634

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 553.

An unusually large proportion of the space in this section is occupied by words that have come down from Old English. Not only is the list of primary words of native etymology exceptionally long, but very many of these (e. g. *straw, streak, stream, strength, strike, string, strong, stub*) have either developed a great variety of senses or have given rise to a multitude of derivatives and compounds. The Old French element in the vocabulary is not very strongly represented numerically, but it includes such important words as *stray, stress, strife* and *strive, stubble, stuff, stun, sturdy*. Of words taken from Latin, either directly or through the medium of learned adoptions in French, the number is extraordinarily large; and, though some of these are of rare occurrence or merely technical, many (as *strenuous, strict, structure, student, study, stupefy, stupendous, stupid, style*) are in everyday use. The few Greek derivatives, with one or two exceptions such as *strophe, strophic*, are terms belonging to modern science. There are no words from Celtic or Old Norse. There are a few adoptions from modern European languages; from Italian *stucco, studio*; from Continental Teut. *stripe, stull, stulm, stum*; from Russian two or three words occurring in the writings of travellers or historians. The words from Asiatic, African, and American languages, so abundant in some other portions of this Dictionary, are here wholly wanting.

The longest article in this section is that on the verb *strike* (29 columns). The word presents an extraordinary diversity of meanings, the mutual relation of which cannot always be determined with certainty. One interesting point is that the use of *strike* in the sense 'to refuse to work' is an 18th c. development from the nautical use in 'to strike a mast'. Among other words of remarkable sense-history may be mentioned *stress, stretch, strict, string, stuff* sb. and vb., *style*.

Etymological facts or suggestions not given in other Dictionaries will be found under the words *stray, streak, stride* vb., *strike* vb., *strive, sty*.