

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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T—TEALT.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section forms the first portion of the letter T. It contains 1717 Main words, 629 Combinations explained under these, and 536 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., amounting to 2882. The *obvious combinations* recorded, classified, and illustrated under the Main words, number 609 more, raising the total to 3491. Of the Main words, 1287 (75 %) are now current English, native or naturalized, 280 (or 16.3 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 150 (8.7 %) || alien or not fully naturalized. Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>T</i> to <i>Tealt</i>	220	1288	1708	1830	3491
Words illustrated by quotations	185	366	593	174	2799
Number of illustrative quotations	894	597	1673	235	14,462

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 483.

This double section includes all the TA- words, and some of those in TE-: the next section will begin with TEAM. The words which it comprises are of very diverse origin. Those already in Old English are not numerous: Bosworth-Toller's Anglo-Saxon Dictionary has 90 words in TA-, of which only about 25 are represented by words in TA- in later English. These receive important accessions from Old Norse, and from words which appear first in the Middle English period, and are partly perhaps unrecorded Old English, partly Low German words that have entered English in some way at a later period. Among the words already in OE. are *tail*¹, *tale*, *tall*, *tame* adj. and vb., *tap*¹, *tape*, *tapper*, *tapster*, *tar*, *tari* adj., *taw* vb., *teach*, (?) *teal*. The words from Norse are fifteen or more, among which are *tang*, *tangle*, *tarn*, *tatter*, and pre-eminently the verb TAKE, which has become so important an element of the language, that it here occupies nearly 40 columns, making the longest article as yet in the Dictionary. Its sense-history is itself an instructive chapter in Sematology, showing how the primary sense 'touch' (with the hand) passed into 'lay hands on', 'seize', and was then generalized into the elementary notion that we now associate with the word, a notion which is incapable of further verbal analysis; and how this has then branched out to include all the physical, mental, and figurative ways in which a person, a thing, a notion, may be taken into hand, mouth, mind, intellect, company, care, or custody (see p. 36, col. 3). Among these it is startling to find *take* meaning 'give' (sense 60), 'go' (he *took* across the field), 'do' or 'make' (he *took* a leap, a journey). The sphere of the vb. is enormously increased by its adverbial combinations, corresponding to compound verbs in synthetic languages (e.g. *take away* = *absūmere*, ἀπαίρειν); many of these are themselves equal to large words: *take up* has 52 varieties of meaning. The determination and classification of the senses of *take* has been a long and difficult business; to aid the reader in finding his way in it, a general outline is given at the beginning, and a *phrase-key* at the end of the article.

Words from Old French are numerous and important, including the feudal *tail*² (Sc. *tailyie*) and *tallage*, also *tailor*, *taint*, *talent*, *tally-ho*, *talon*, *tampion*, *tantamount*, *tapestry*, *taste*, *task*, and *tax*. Words directly from Latin are few, though some Latin words, as *tales*, *tandem*, *tanguam*, *tanti*, have been swallowed whole; words from Greek are mainly the compounds of *tachy*- and *tauto*-. But words from Arabic are specially numerous, numbering more than 20, among which are *tabby*, TALC, *talisman*, TAMARIND, *tass*, the *tare* and TARIFF of commerce, the *taraxacum* and *tarragon* of the herbalist, the TARTAR of wine, with its multitudinous chemical *tartaric* family, the members of which jostle, through ten columns, with the progeny of *Tartarus* and *Tartary*. The other sources of the foreign elements are: *European languages*: Irish, Gaelic; Dutch, German, Swedish; modern French, Spanish (and Spanish American), Portuguese, Italian; Russian; Turkish; *Asiatic*: Assyrian, Hebrew; Persian, Urdū, Hindi, Bengālī, Marāthī, Sinhalese; Tamil, Telugū, Canarese; Mishmi; Tartar; Talaing; Chinese; Japanese; *Malaysian and Polynesian*: Malay, Malagasy, Javanese, Tagal, Tongan, Hawaiian, Tahitian, Maori, Tasmanian, Australian languages; *North American*: Mexican, Narragansett, Canadian Indian, etc.; *South American*: Tupi (numerous), Guarani, Galibi, Peruvian, native Colombian, etc.; *African*: Woloff, Bechuana, etc. In this department we have to lament the great loss we have sustained in the death of Mr. James Platt, Junr., who had made the derivation of English words from remote and barbarous languages his special study; he died suddenly on the 5th February last.

The longer articles, after (but a long way after) TAKE, are TABLE, TAIL¹, TALLY, TEA, TEACH. Words interesting from their etymology and history (in which several new points are made), are *taboo*, *tack*, the legal *tail*², TALAPOIN, *talent*, *talon*, TAMMANY, *tamper*, *tangle*, TANSY, *tantamount*, *taper*, *task*, *taste*, TATTOO¹, *tattoo*², *tawdry*, *tea*. Historical interest also attaches to *taberdar*, *tabernacle*, *tackle-house*, *tackle-porter*, *tangent*, *Tantivy*, *tarantula*, *tare* (of the field), *tarpaulin*, the three *tartars* and their derivatives, *task*, *tax*. Among words of obscure origin are *tab*, *tag*, *tangram*, *tantrum*, *tatterdemalion*, and *tatting*.