

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME V.)
I—INPUSHING.

BY
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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS portion of I, forming $\frac{5}{8}$ of the letter, contains 6607 Main words, 894 Subordinate words, 510 special Combinations explained and illustrated under the Main words; total 8011. The *obvious combinations*, entered and illustrated under the Main words, but not requiring individual explanation, make 528 more. Of the 6607 Main words, 4357 are current and native or fully naturalized, 2150 ($32\frac{1}{2}\%$) are marked (†) as *obsolete*, and 100 ($1\frac{1}{2}\%$) || as *alien* or incompletely naturalized. The obsolete and non-naturalized words thus form more than a third of the whole. The Quotations, by which these words are illustrated, number 33,672.

In the matter of words and quotations, comparison with the corresponding pages of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, and of some more recent lexicographical works, shows the following figures:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.'	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard.'	Here.
Total words recorded, <i>I</i> to <i>Inpushing</i>	1318	4067	4541	4752	8539
„ words illustrated by quotations	1070	1759	2480	518	7352
„ number of illustrative quotations	2813	2480	5308	943	33,672
The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary is 4045.					

The salient feature of I as an initial letter in modern English is the extent to which it is of Latin origin. In OE. the number of words beginning with I was comparatively small: in Bosworth-Toller's *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*, I occupies 18 pages as against 90 pages of H; but, in a modern English dictionary, I requires as much space as H, or even more, and in actual number of words far exceeds that letter. This enormous growth of I as an initial is mainly due to accessions from Latin, and particularly to the host of words marshalled under the Latin prefix IN- (with its phonetic variants *il-*, *im-*, *ir-*), and the considerable number under *Infra-*, *Inter-*, *Intra-*, *Intro-*. In Webster's Dict. of 1864 the words from *illabile* to *irruptive* occupy 63 pp. out of the 70 taken up by the whole letter, and more than 60 of these pages are occupied by words from Latin; in the 'Century' Dict. the proportion is 206 out of 244; so that five-sixths of the whole letter I in the modern dictionary are due to these Latin prefixes. This part includes about three-fourths of the IN- words, and affords us means of appreciating the importance of the Latin element in the language. The words of Latin derivation are mostly verbs with their derivative substantives and adjectives; among them may be mentioned *identity*, *ignorant*, *illustration*, *image*, *imagine*, *imagination*, etc., *impeach*, *imperial*, *implement*, *import*, *impression*, *improve*, *incarnation*, *incident*, *incline*, *inconsistent*, *increase*, *indefinite*, *independence*, *-dent*, *indifferent*, *indisposition*, *individual*, *induce*, *indulgence*, *industry*, *inertia*, *infamous*, *infer*, *inference*, *infinitesimal*, *infinite*, *influence* (originally a word of Astrology), with its Italian equivalent *influenza*, *inform*, *ingenious* and *ingenuous*, and the important legal words *indict*, *infamous*, *information*, *inhibition*, *injunction*, and *innuendo*. Of Greek origin are *Idol* and *Icon* with their derivatives, the philosophical *IDEA*, *ideal*, *idealism*, and the numerous words in *ich-* and *idio-*. This part claims no important verb of Old English or Teutonic origin; but it contains the pronoun I, the preposition and adverb IN, the conjunction IF, all small words to the abecedarian, but great words to the lexicographer, demanding ample treatment, as do the substantives ICE and INN, the adjective IDLE, the

adjective and adverb ILL. Interesting words of OE. age, though originally foreign, are IMP and INCH: the sense-development of the former is noteworthy. Other important articles or groups of articles are those connected with *Ind*, *India*, *indigo*, *ink*, and INGOT. On nearly all these the historical method of the dictionary will be found to throw new light, now on the etymology, now on the sense-history, often on both. Attention is also called to the large number of articles on prefixes and suffixes, including *in-* (4 articles), *-in*, *-ine*, *-ic*, *-ical*, *-il*, *-ile*, and, most important of all, the *-ING* of the verbal substantive and present participle. The proportion of obsolete words ($32\frac{1}{2}\%$) is here greater than in any previous part; in H it was only $16\frac{2}{3}\%$. This illustrates the fact that, taking our language as a continuous whole, the elements that have become obsolete since 1200 are not the native Teutonic words, nor to any great extent the Norman-French, but the Latinic formations of the 16th and 17th centuries, many of which were, so to say, only borrowings, never permanently appropriated, and abandoned after a very short living use. But there is one class of OE. words which has almost disappeared since 1200, namely the derivatives in *i-* = OE. *ge-*, Ger. *ge-* (in *gebirge gefallen*, *gesellschaft*, etc.). In Southern English, these survived in large numbers to the 13th and 14th centuries; the few that were retained in the 15th century were usually spelt with *y-*, in which form *y-clad*, *y-clept*, and a few others, have been handed down by the Elizabethan archaists. As this is the form in which the prefix is known to modern readers, it might have seemed proper to relegate all these obsolete compounds to Y, but this would have been unhistorical, since the great majority are found only with *i-*, not having come down to the era of the *y*-spelling. Those that did so survive are treated under Y, and cross-references between the two letters are freely given.

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J. A. H. M.