

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

VOLUME VI: L—N. L—LAP

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NOTE.

THIS Section contains 1038 Main words, 402 Combinations explained under these, and 283 Subordinate entries; in all 1723. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 437 more. Of the 1038 Main words, 700 are current and fully 'English', 283 (27½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 55 (5¼%) are marked †† as 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>L</i> to <i>Lap</i>	176	959	1169	1323	2160
Words illustrated by quotations	139	250	333	106	1783
Number of illustrative quotations	418	376	1037	129	7576

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 411.

The number of words in this Section, and also in the corresponding portions of other recent Dictionaries, is abnormally large, owing to the fact that the words requiring to be treated on an extensive scale are unusually few, while those which need but little illustration are abundant. The group of words which occupies the greatest amount of space in this Section is that composed of *LAND sb.* and *v.*, with their compounds and derivatives, which occupies 9½ pages; *LADY* and the related words fill 4 pages. The main constituent elements in the English vocabulary are all represented in the words here treated; numerically, the words of Latin and Greek derivation preponderate, but this is somewhat deceptive, because a large proportion of the words coming under this head have never been in general use. Among the articles which present points of interest with regard to sense-development are those on *labour*, *lace*, *lack*, *lad*, *lade*, *lady*, *lag*, *lair*, *lake*, *lamp*, *land*, *language*, *lank*, *lap*. In the etymological notes on *lace*, *lack*, *lade vb.*, *lag*, *lair*, *lake*, *lank*, *lanierloo*, *lap*, will be found facts not given in other Dictionaries. Under *lad* the current pseudo-etymological statements are refuted, though the conjecture offered in their place is doubtful.

It is with the profoundest regret that we have to record the death (on Feb. 1, 1901) of Dr. Fitzedward Hall, who has rendered invaluable help in all the portions hitherto published of this Dictionary. The present Section is enriched by many examples from his collection, and by a noteworthy coincidence the latest page which contains his additions is that with which the Section ends.

** On July 1, 1901, a single or double section of the letters J, K (Vol. V) will be published.