PREFACE TO THE LETTER L.

This half-volume, containing the words with initial L, includes 7,049 Main words, 2,342 Special Combinations explained and illustrated under these, 2,669 Subordinate entries, and 2,929 Obvious Combinations; in all 14,989 words. Of the Main words, 1,945 are marked † as obsolete, and 330 are marked || as alien or not completely naturalized*.

In the prefatory note to G it was pointed out that the portion of the English vocabulary under that initial letter was characterized by the entire absence of the words with Greek, Latin, French, and English prefixes, which under nearly all the other letters of the alphabet are abundant, and by the unusually large number of words (chiefly of Old English, Scandinavian, or early French origin) expressing notions of extreme generality, which have branched out into a great variety of special senses. The L portion of the vocabulary is also distinguished by both these characteristics, and the consequence is that the L words, like the G words, have in this work a proportionately much larger space than is allotted to them in dictionaries which do not follow the historical method of treatment.

The proportions in which the component linguistic elements of the English language are represented in the words with initial L are probably not far from the average. The native English element has numerically only the second place; but it comes unquestionably first with regard to the importance of the words belonging to it, and the amount of space which they occupy in the Dictionary. Typical examples of the wide and often interesting ramification of meaning characteristic of this oldest portion of the language may be seen under lady, land, lay vb.†, let vb.†, lie vb.†, life, tight sb. adjective and verb, long look, lord, lose vb.†, lot, love sb.†, vb.†, lust, lusty. The Scandinavian words are perhaps somewhat less numerous than in some other letters, but several of them, as law, leg, loft (whence lofty), loose adj. and verb, low adj., are more than ordinarily frequent in use, and rich in variety of senses and applications. The Romanic and Latin words outnumber those from all other sources together. Many of them, as usual, are of rare occurrence; but the great importance of this element may be seen from such examples as label, labour, language, large, letter, liberty, library, line, liquid, literature, locomotive, lodge—to mention only a few of the most prominent. The Greek derivatives are mainly scientific terms of modern formation; among those of earlier introduction and wider currency are lexicon, lexicography, logarithm, logic. The quasi-suffixes -loger, -logian, -logic, -logical, -logue, -logy, representing the terminal elements in certain Greek compounds of λόγος, and in derivatives of these, are so common in English that it has been found convenient to treat them in special articles. From Dutch or Low German we have the important words luck and litter, besides several others little used or obsolete. The list of Celtic words is even shorter than usual; whether it should include loop sb.† is doubtful; the only other L words of Celtic origin that are at all widely known are loch 1 (lough), leperechann, and lymphad. Of words from extra-European languages there are the Hebrew levithan, Levite, log sb.‡, the Arabic latic, leban, locho, the Indian lac 1, lac 2, langoby, langur, laser, lat, lathe, lingam, loch, loot, loote, lota, lungi, lunkah, the Chinese langshan, it 1, it 2, liang, likin, ling sb.†, litchi, longan, loquat, the Malay lanchara, lata, loriket, lory, the African lamba, leche, thimba, limbo 2, loa, lobola, and the South American llama and lama.

In a very large number of instances the etymology of words will be found to be more correctly stated or more fully discussed than in any previous English dictionary. Attention may be specially called to the etymological notes on lad, larch, lass, laudanum, lavender, law-abiding, law sb.†, lectern, Lenten, leperechann, less, lew, ligure, like adj., lobby, lope, lobster, locomotive, lodge, lose vb.†, love, lozenge, lucern 1, lympha. In the articles on the suffixes -let, -leeve, -like, -ling 1, -ling 2, -ly 1, -ly 2, the history and functions of these formations are explained with greater fullness than has been attempted elsewhere.

The material originally collected for the letter L was laboriously and efficiently sub-edited, about twenty-five years ago, by Mr. W. M. Rossetti, whose work was continued by the Rev. C. V. Potts, of Ledbury. Subsequently the portion from L to Lmus was taken in hand, for the incorporation of the new quotations, by the late Mr. E. C. Hulme, and that from Lnt- to the end of the letter by Mr. E. Warner, of Eltham. The work of these gentlemen was completed in 1885-6, since which time a large mass of additional material has been accumulated.

* The following table illustrates the scale of this work as compared with that of certain other Dictionaries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Johnson</th>
<th>Cassell's (including Supplement 1896)</th>
<th>Century's Diet.</th>
<th>Funk's Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total words recorded in L</td>
<td>1,286</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>3,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>7,049</td>
<td>7,320</td>
<td>7,190</td>
<td>8,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
<td>2,342</td>
<td>2,669</td>
<td>2,502</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of quotations in the L portion of Richardson's Dictionary is 3,327.
PREFACE TO THE LETTER L.

Amongst those who have rendered assistance in the preparation of this half-volume, especial thanks are due to Prof. Sievers, of Leipzig. M. Paul Meyer, of Paris. Prof. Napier, of Oxford. Prof. Kluge, of Freiburg-im-Breisgau, and Prof. Morsbach, of Göttingen, for help in the treatment of etymological questions; to Mr. James Platt, jun., for information relating to the origin and history of words from American and other little-known languages; to Dr. W. Besant, of Cambridge, and Prof. Love, of Oxford, for help with terms of mathematical and physical science; to Prof. J. K. Laughton, for much information on the nautical uses of words; to Prof. J. Cook Wilson, of Oxford, for important suggestions relating to the article Logic; and to Sir Howard Elphinstone, Bart., and Sir W. R. Anson, Bart., M.P., for information on the legal sense of Lien. The verification, in the British Museum Library, of references to books not accessible at Oxford has been done, at no small cost of time and labour, by Mr. E. L. Brandreth. Mr. R. J. Whitwell, of Oxford, has frequently rendered help of various kinds. Dr. Furnivall's multifarious services to the Dictionary have been no less abundant than in the former volumes.

The proofs have been regularly read, and many valuable suggestions furnished, by Lord Aldenham, the Rev. Canon Fowler, of Durham. Dr. W. Sykes, F.S.A., of Exeter, Mr. W. H. Stevenson, M.A., the Rev. Prof. Skeat, the Rev. W. B. R. Wilson, of Dollar, Mr. A. Caland, of Wageningen, Holland, and latterly by Mr. H. Chichester Hart, who has supplied many important additional quotations. The first 64 pages had the advantage of being read in proof by the late Dr. Fitzedward Hall, whose invaluable services have been acknowledged in all the foregoing instalments of the work.

The assistants who have worked with me in the preparation of this half-volume are Mr. G. F. H. Sykes, B.A., Mr. Walter Worrall, B.A., Mr. C. T. Onions, M.A., Mr. W. J. Lewis, Mr. H. J. Bayliss, Miss E. S. Bradley, and (in the later portions) Mr. James Dallas.

OXFORD, JULY, 1893.

HENRY BRADLEY.

ADDITIONS AND EMENDATIONS.


Lieutenant-general 2. Earlier instance:—1839 [T. Cates] Sir F. Drake's W. Ind. Voy. 5 We described another tall ship... upon whom Maister Carrell, the Lieutenant General, being in the Tiger, undertooke the chase. (C. 'commanded the land forces against the Spanish West Indies' (Dicit. Nat. Biol.).)

Lifehood. Delete quot. 1484; synodale is an error in the modern reprint for synode.

Lift, 5.2 Add to the definition:—Also LOCK sb.2 c. For the quotation read as follows:—1823 [see LOCK sb.9 c.]. 1875 in KNIGHT Dict. Mech.

Lighthouse. Earlier instance:—1624 Bacon Hist. Hen. VII. 142 They... were executed... at dinners places upon the Sea-Coast... for Sea-marines or Light-houses, to teach Perkins People to avoid the Coast.

Lock, suffix, in mod. Eng. occurring only in melod, represents OE. -laeg, the second element of numerous compounds (usually nearer: rarely masc.) in which the first element is a sb. OE. had about a dozen of these compounds (those in which -laeg means 'offering,' LAKE sb.3, are not counted); in all these the second element may be rendered 'actions or proceedings, practice,' as brúdlaeg nuptialia, baedilaeg, foehlilaeg, heaðelilaeg, warfare, hærmedlaeg, wifelaeg, carnal intercourse, règeilaeg robbery, wibelaeg pledge-giving, also espousals, nuptials, wibelaeg punishment, wibelaeg calming. The -lae of these compounds should probably be identified with the play, sport, LAKE sb.3, the words meaning 'warfare,' which may have been the earliest examples of this use, may be compared with the synonymous compounds in -lege play. Of the OE. compounds of laeg three (brúdlaeg, foehlilaeg, règeilaeg) survived into early ME., and melod still survives with altered meaning. In ME. the suffix was sometimes assimilated in form to the etymologically equivalent but functionally distinct Scandinavian -laeg. A few examples, not recorded in OE., appear in early ME.: drawenlaeg (Deymerayke), FERELAC, SCHENDELAC, TREWULAC, WOHULAC (the last from a vb-stem, wore to woo); but none of these survived later than the 14th century.

Long standing. The origin of this phrase seems to be illustrated by the following passage:—a 1588 ASCHAM Scholem. L. (Aths.) 54 Except a very few, to whom persantment blood and happle parentage, may perchance purchase a long standing upon the stage.

Look, vb. The synonymous MDw. leken should have been cited as cognate.

Loot, sb.1 See LUTE sb.3, which is etymologically identical.