

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.¹, *let* vb.¹, *lie* vb.¹, *life*, *light* sb., adjs. and vbs., *long* adj., *look*, *lord*, *lose* vb.¹, *lot*, *love* sb.¹, vb.¹, *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 vb., *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 *loiter*, besides several others little used or obsolete. The list of Celtic words is even shorter than usual; whether it should include *loop* sb.¹ is doubtful; the only other L words of Celtic origin that are at all widely known are *loch*¹ (*lough*), *leprechaun*, and *lymphad*. Of words from extra-European languages there are the Hebrew *leviathan*, *Levite*, *log* sb.², the Arabic *latic*, *leban*, *lohoch*, the Indian *lac*¹, *lac*², *langooty*, *langur*, *lascar*, *lat*, *lathee*, *lingam*, *lodh*, *loot*, *lootie*, *lota*, *lungi*, *lunkah*, the Chinese *langshan*, *li*¹, *li*², *liang*, *likin*, *ling* sb.³, *litchi*, *longan*, *loquat*, the Malay *lanchara*, *lata*, *lorikeet*, *lory*, the African *lamba*, *leche*, *liamba*, *limbo*², *loa*, *lobola*, and the South American *llama* and *lucuma*.

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*, *lawen* sb.¹, *lectern*, *Lenten*, *leprechaun*, *less*, *lewd*, *ligure*, *like* adj., *lobby*, *lobe*, *lobster*, *locomotive*, *lodge*, *lose* vb.¹, *louver*, *lozenge*, *lucern*¹, *lymph*. In the articles on the suffixes *-let*, *-lewe*, *-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. Y. Potts, of Ledbury. Subsequently the portion from *L* to *Lusus* was taken in hand, for the incorporation of the new quotations, by the late Mr. E. C. Hulme, and that from *Lut-* 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:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic' (including Sup- plement 1902).	'Century' Diet.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Total words recorded in L	1,286	7,320	7,719	8,017	14,989
Words illustrated by quotations	1,068	2,211	2,503	762	11,469
Number of illustrative quotations	4,017	2,787	6,279	999	65,440

The number of quotations in the L portion of Richardson's Dictionary is 3,321.

PREFACE TO THE LETTER L.

Amongst those who have rendered assistance in the preparation of the articles in 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, 1903.

HENRY BRADLEY.

ADDITIONS AND EMENDATIONS.

Lability. Earlier example:—1554 in *Maitl. Club. Misc.* III. (1855) 65 The labillite and brenitie of tymes maneris and of men in this wale of teiris beand considerit.

Labyrinthine, a. Earlier example:—1632 LITHGOW *Trav.* III. 99 These Laborinthing Seas.

Lachrymous, a. Earlier example:—1490 CAXTON *Eneydos* viii. 35 Lacrymous and playnynge sorowes.

Lake, sb.³ The reference to LETCH *v.* in the etymology should be to LEACH *v.*²

Lamantin. Earlier example:—1666 J. DAVIES tr. *Rochefort's Caribby Isl.* I. xvii. 103 A certain fish by the French called Lamantin, by the Spaniards Namantin and Manaty. *Ibid.* 300 Their not eating of salt, Swines-flesh, Tortoises, and Lamantin.

Lamba. Earlier example:—1729 DRURY *Madagascar, Journal* 234 The Corps being . . wrapped up in a Lamber, or perhaps two Lambers.

Landaulet. Earlier example:—1771 *Patent Specif.* No. 997 The fore part of the head of a landawlet is constructed with a hinge [etc.].

Land-tax. Delete the first quot.

Lantern, v.² Example:—1815 *Paris Chit-Chat* (1816) II. 184 He was himself very near being lanterned in the streets of Paris by a group of the *fauxbourg Saint Antoine*.

Lark, sb.² Phrase, *To make a lark of* = 'to make game of':—1850 THACKERAY *Pendennis* xxxix. (1885) 385 Don't make a lark of me, hang it!

Lathe, sb.⁴ The Ger. *lade* is used in the same sense, and should have been cited as cognate.

Lawn, sb.¹ 3 b. For an explanation of the torture of the 'lawn', see 1569 JEWEL *Expos.* I *Thess.* Wks. 1848 VII. 42-3. (Cf. *linen-ball*, LINEN B 5.)

Ledger, sb. 1 b. Earlier examples:—1401 in Wylie *Hen. IV.* IV. 198 [Items of expenditure] 19 portos, 3 liggers. 1444 in *Dugdale's Mon.* VI. 1427 Duo portiphoria . . alias nuncupata lyggers.

Leetle, a. Earlier example:—1687 PHILLIPS *Don Quixote* 496 The Tylour . . held up five leetle Cloaks.

Legitimate, a. Earlier example of *legitimate drama*:—1821 BYRON *M. Faliero* Pref. 18 *note*, While I was in the sub-committee of Drury Lane Theatre . . we did our best to bring back the legitimate drama.

Let, sb.¹ 2. Earlier instance (*attrib.*):—1819 *Examiner* 7 Feb. in *Hazlitt's Table Talk* (1870) 118 His [Cavanagh the fives-player's] blows were not . . let balls like the Edinburgh Review.

Letlice. See also LITUIT.

Liberty 2 b. Earlier instance of *liberty of conscience*:—a 1572 KNOX *Hist. Ref.* Wks. 1846 I. 364 To suffer euerie man to leaf at libertie of conscience.

Lieutenant-general 2. Earlier example:—1589 [T. CATES] *Sir F. Drake's W. Ind. Voy.* 5 We descried another tall ship . . vpon whom Maister Carleill, the Lieutenant Generall, being in the Tiger, vnderooke the chase. [C. 'commanded the land forces against the Spanish West Indies' (Dict. Nat. Biog.).]

Lifehood. Delete quot. 1484: *lyuehode* is an error in the modern reprint for *lyuelode*.

Lift, sb.² 11. Add to the definition:—Also = LOCK *sb.*² 9 c. For the quotation read as follows:—1825 [see LOCK *sb.*² 9 c]. 1875 in KNIGHT *Dict. Mech.*

Lighthouse. Earlier example:—1622 BACON *Hist. Hen. VII* 142 They . . were executed . . at diuers places vpon the Sea-Coast . . for Sea-markes or Light-houses, to teach Perkins People to auoid the Coast.

-lock, suffix, in mod. Eng. occurring only in *wedlock*, represents OE. *-lác*, the second element of numerous compounds (usually neuter: rarely masc.) in which the first element is a sb. OE. had about a dozen of these compounds (those in which *-lác* means 'offering', LAKE *sb.*¹, are not counted); in all these the second element may be rendered 'actions or proceedings, practice', as *brýdlác* nuptials, *beadolác*, *feohlác*, *headolác*, warfare, *hæmedlác*, *wiflác*, carnal intercourse, *réafác* robbery, *wedlác* pledge-giving, also espousals, nuptials, *witelác* punishment, *worhlác* calumny. The *-lác* of these compounds should probably be identified with *lác* play, sport, LAKE *sb.*²; the words meaning 'warfare', which may have been the earliest examples of this use, may be compared with the synonymous compounds in *-plega* play. Of the OE. compounds of *lác* three (*brýdlác*, *feohlác*, *réafác*) survived into early ME., and *wedlác* still survives with altered meaning. In ME. the suffix was sometimes assimilated in form to the etymologically equivalent but functionally distinct Scandinavian *-laik*. A few examples, not recorded in OE., appear in early ME.: *dweomerlak* (DEMERLAYKE), FERLAC, SCHENDLAC, TREWLAC, WOHLAC (the last from a vb.-stem, *wor-* 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 1568 ASCHAM *Scholem.* I. (Arb.) 34 Except a very fewe, to whom peradventure blood and happie parentage, may perchance purchase a long standing vpon the stage.

Look, v. The synonymous MDu. *loeken* should have been cited as cognate.

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