

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

VOLUME VI: L—N, LAP—LEISURELY.

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NOTE.

THIS double Section contains 1472 Main words, 539 Combinations explained under these, and 539 Subordinate entries; in all 2550. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 675 more. Of the 1472 Main words, 1030 (70 %) are current and fully 'English', 397 (27 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 45 (3 %) are marked || as alien or not completely 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>Lap</i> to <i>Leisurely</i>	314	1303	1587	1622	3225
Words illustrated by quotations	282	435	555	212	2601
Number of illustrative quotations	1058	740	1400	278	16,174

The quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 906.

In the portion of the English vocabulary here treated the Latin and Romanic derivatives are numerically predominant, but the largest amount of space is occupied by the Germanic (native English and Scandinavian) element, which includes most of the words that have required to be dealt with at more than ordinary length. The longest article is that on *lay* vb.¹ (8 pages); others of considerable extent are those on *last* sb.² and sb.⁶, *last* adj., *late*, *latter*, *laugh*, *law*, *lea*, *lead* vb., *leaf*, *lean* adj., *lean* v., *least*, *leave* sb., *leave* vb.¹, *left* adj., *leg*. Most of these words present noteworthy features of sense-development or idiomatic use not previously recognized by lexicographers. Among the words of Romanic and miscellaneous origin which are remarkable on account of their sense-history are *lapse*, *large*, *lash* sbs., adj., and vbs., *latent*, *latitude*, *launch*, *lay fee*, *leash*, *lecture*, *ledger*, *legend*, *leisure*. Some may be interested to observe that the article *Legative* shows that the First Folio text of Shakspeare has in one passage been needlessly altered by all modern editors. Another curiosity is the spurious word *lastery*, which is found in most of the modern Dicts., but is traceable to a misprint in Spenser which was duly corrected in the errata to the original edition, though the correction was ignored in all the subsequent editions before 1751.

Terms of physical science, derived from Greek or Latin, are especially frequent in this instalment of the Dictionary. Many of these have, for convenience and economy of space, been grouped under their first element: see, for example, the articles *Laparo-*, *Larvi-*, *Laryngo-*, *Lateri-*, *Lati-*, *Leio-*.

In the department of Etymology, the most remarkable novelty is perhaps the account given of the origin of the plant-name *lavender*; but the words of which the derivations and formal history have received fuller elucidation than in former Dictionaries are unusually abundant. Among them may be mentioned *larboard*, *larch*, *larrikin*, *lass*, *last* sb. and vb., *latch*, *lath*, *lathe* sb.¹ and sb.³, *latic*, *latten*, *laudanum*, *Laurence*, *lave*, *lavish*, *law*, *law-abiding*, *lawn* sb.¹, *lay* sb.⁴, *lea* adj., *league*¹, *league*², *lean* adj., *lean* vb., *lectern*, *ledge*, *leer* sb.¹, *leet*, *leg*.