

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VI.)
LEISURENESS—LYYN.

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PREFATORY NOTES.

Leisureness—Lief. This contains 862 Main words, 204 Combinations explained under these, and 475 Subordinate entries; in all 1541. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 228 more. Of the 862 Main words, 578 are current and fully 'English', 238 (27½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 46 (5½%) 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>Leisureness</i> to <i>Lief</i>	151	739	935	895	1769
Words illustrated by quotations	135	170	247	100	1265
Number of illustrative quotations	498	314	803	124	7950

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 470.

In this Section the native English element is not numerically large, but, as usual, it includes several words which have required to be treated at considerable length, and which are interesting on account of their sense-history. Among these may be mentioned *lend*, *length*, *Lent*, *Lenten*, *less*, *let* vb.¹ and vb.², *lewd*, *lick*, *lie* vb.¹ and vb.², *lief*. The words of Romanic and Latin origin are numerous and important, among them being *lemon*, *lenity*, *lesson*, *letter*, *lettuce*, *Levant*, *levee*, *level*, *lever*, *levity*, *levy*, *liable*, *libel*, *liberal*, *libertine*, *liberty*, *library*, *licence*, *license*, *licentiate*, *licentious*. The Greek derivatives are somewhat abundant, but (with a few exceptions such as *leopard*, *leper*, *leprosy*, *lethargy*, *lexicon*, *lexicography*, *lichen*) they are scientific terms of little currency, chiefly words beginning with *lepto-*, *lepto-* and *leuco-*. Of Hebrew origin are *leviathan* (which has undergone a noteworthy development of sense in English), and *Levite* and the related words.

Amongst the words of which the etymology is treated more accurately or more fully than in former Dictionaries may be mentioned *lend* sb.¹, *lend* vb.², *Lenten*, *leprechaun* (the only word of Celtic origin, except *lestercock*, in the Section), *less*, *let* vb.¹ and vb.², *lettice*, *lettuce*, *lewd*, *lidgate*. The article on -LET calls attention to some points in the history of this suffix which appear to have been hitherto overlooked.

Lief—Lock sb. This contains 1600 Main words, 597 Combinations explained under these, and 382 Subordinate entries; in all 2579. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 788 more. Of the 1600 Main words, 1086 are current and fully 'English', 428 (26¾%) are marked † as obsolete, and 86 (5½%) 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>Lief</i> to <i>Lock</i> sb.	295	1328	1922	1971	3367
Words illustrated by quotations	253	684	545	163	2461
Number of illustrative quotations	964	363	1527	231	16,145

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 728.

The portion of the English vocabulary here dealt with is remarkable for an unusual abundance of important words of Germanic (Old English and Scandinavian) etymology, such as *life*, *lift* (two sbs. and vb.), *light* (sb., two adjs., and two vbs.), *like* (adj., adv., and vb.), *limb*, *lime* (two sbs. and vb.), *line* (sb. and vb.), *linen*, *linger*, *link* (three sbs. and two vbs.), *lip*, *list* (several words so spelt), *listen*, *lithe*, *lither*, *little*, *live* (adj. and vb.), *liver*, *load*, *loaf*, *loam*, *loan*, *loath*, *loathe*, *lock* (two sbs.). Most of these words, besides having

a great variety of senses and forms which require illustration, have been prolific of derivatives, some of which (as *likely*, *liking*, *lively*, *livelihood*, *living*) have a noteworthy sense-history of their own. Hence in this instalment of the Dictionary the Germanic words not only occupy the largest amount of space (as in most of the previous sections of the letter L), but are also numerically in the majority. The Latin and Romanic words, however, are only slightly less numerous, and many of them are of special importance or interest, as *liege*, *lieutenant*, *lily*, *limbo*, *limit* (and its derivatives), *limn*, *line* (and the related words, *lineal*, *lineage*, etc.), *lion*, *liquid*, *liquor*, *literary*, *literature*, *litter*, *livery*, *lizard*, *lobby*, *local*, *locality*. The words of Greek origin are considerable in number, but, with the exception of *litany* and *liturgy*, they are terms of modern science or technology, or have never been extensively used; hence the proportion of space which they occupy is small. The majority of them are compounds of *lipo-* and *litio-*. Of Celtic words there are only *linn*, *lis*², *listred*, and *loch*. The words from Oriental, African, and American languages, which were comparatively abundant in the former portions of L, are here almost entirely absent; there are the Chinese *likin* and *ling* sb.², and the Zulu *limbo* and *lobola*, the right of which to appear in an English dictionary is perhaps questionable; the Indian *lingam*; the Peruvian *llama*; and *lilac*, which is ultimately Persian, though introduced into English through a Romanic channel.

In all the longer articles (notably in *light* sb., adjs., and vbs., *like* adj. and adv., *limb*, *line* sb.², *literature*, *lithe*, *liher*, *litter*, *live* vb., *local*) the evidence of the quotations will be found to throw valuable light on the sense-history of the words, and on the precise meaning of many hitherto obscure passages in English writers. Etymological facts or suggestions not given in other English Dictionaries will be found under *light* sb. and adj.¹, *ligure*, *like* adj., *limber* sb.², *link*, *lion*, *lip*, *list* sb.¹, *little*, *liver*, *loaf*, *loan*, *lobby*, *lobe*, *lobster*. In the articles on *-like* and *-ling* probably the first attempt has been made to give an adequate account of the history and function of these suffixes.

Lock vb.—**Lyyn**. This section includes 2077 Main words, 600 Special Combinations explained under these, and 990 Subordinate entries; in all 3667. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 801, making a total of 4468. Of the Main words 599 (13½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 98 (2¼%) are marked †† as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopaedic'.*	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Lock</i> vb. to end of L	350	2067	2106	2206	4468
Words illustrated by quotations	259	552	623	181	3359
Number of illustrative quotations	1079	871	1512	237	17,595

* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 806.

The words that occupy the largest amount of space in this instalment of the Dictionary are mainly of native English origin, as *long*, *look*, *lord*, *lose*, *loss*, *lot*, *loud*, *love*, *lust*; a few adoptions from Old Norse, as *loft* (whence *lofty*), *loose*, *low* adj., have required to be treated at considerable length. The adoptions from Dutch or Low German are more numerous than usual, including *loiter*, *Lollard*, *loot* sb.¹ (and *lute* sb.), *lopeskonce*, *lorendriver*, *lyfkie*, and the very important word *luck*, which was probably introduced as a gambling term from the Low Countries. Among the words of undetermined etymology, several of the most conspicuous, as *log*, *lour*, *lug*, *lump*, *lurk*, are doubtless Germanic in origin. On the whole, therefore, the Germanic element is markedly predominant in this portion of the English vocabulary. The Latin derivatives are numerous, and some of them are in common use, as *locomotive*, *logic*, *longitude*, *lucid*, *lucifer*, *ludicrous*, *lunar*, *lunatic*, *luxury*; but they occupy comparatively little space. The Greek element is mainly represented by modern scientific terms compounded of Greek stems. The words from French (excluding learned adoptions from Latin) are few, the most noteworthy being *lodge* (ultimately Germanic), *loin*, and *lustre*. Adoptions from Celtic are even rarer than in other sections: it is possible that *loop* sb.¹ may be from this source, but the only certain instances of Celtic derivation are *lough*, *lurgg*, *lymphad*. The Oriental languages give *log* sb.², *lohoch*, *longan*, *loot* sb.², *lootie*, *loquat*, *lory*, *lota*, *lumberdar*, *lungi*, *lunkah*.

In the department of Etymology, this instalment does not contain any surprising discoveries; but facts or suggestions not given in other Dictionaries will be found under *locomotive*, *lodge*, *long*, *look*, *loon*¹, *loose*, *loosestrife*, *lop* sb. and vb., *lose*, *loss*, *lot*, *loud*, *louder*, *love*, *low*, *lozenge*, *lucern*¹, *luck*, *luff*, *lug*, *luke*, *lum*, *lump*, *lunch*, *luncheon*, *lung*, *lurch*, *lust*, *lye*, *lymph*, *lynx*, *lyth-coop*. Although the origin of the expression *lynch law* (originally *Lynch's law*) has not been determined, its authentic history has, with the assistance of American correspondents, been carried considerably further back than the date of the earliest examples usually quoted.

The words above enumerated as of Old English and Scandinavian origin all present many interesting features of sense-development. Other articles to which attention may be called on this ground are those dealing with the words *locket*, *lodge*, *Lombard*, *lore*, *lour*, *loyal*, *lucifer* (where the term 'lucifer match' is traced to its inventor), *luck*, *ludicrous*, *lunch*, *luncheon*, *lurid*, *luscious*, *lust*, *lusty*, *luxury*. The articles on the suffixes *-ly*¹ and *-ly*² contain a fuller account of the history of these formatives than can be found elsewhere.