A NEW
ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VI. L—N.)

M—MEET.

BY
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PREFATORY NOTES.

M—Mandragon. This includes 1527 Main words, 432 Special Combinations explained under these, and 625 Subordinate entries; in all 2584. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 591, making a total of 3175.

Of the Main words 413 (27%) are marked † as obsolete, and 126 (8%) are marked ‡ as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded, M to Mandragon</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>1441</td>
<td>1817</td>
<td>3175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>2459</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>1088</td>
<td>12855</td>
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* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 628.

The verb make, with its unparalleled variety of shades of meaning and multitude of idiomatic uses, has naturally required to be treated at unusual length; the article occupies about the same space (over 11 pages) as that on the verb go, which has till now been by far the longest in the Dictionary. The cognates and derivatives of make fill 4 pages, and man sb. and vb. together 5 pages.

Mandragora—Matter. This includes 1679 Main words, 561 Special Combinations explained under these, and 1062 Subordinate entries; in all 3302. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 622, making a total of 3924.

Of the Main words 369 (22%) are marked † as obsolete, and 125 (7½%) are marked ‡ as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded, Mandragora to Matter sb.</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>1741</td>
<td>3924</td>
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<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
<td>853</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>1432</td>
<td>14664</td>
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* Including the Supplement of 1902.
PREFATORY NOTES.

The words treated in this installment are mainly of Romanic and Latin origin. Many of them belong to the earliest strata of adoptions from Old French, and rival the native words in the multitude and diversity of their senses: see, for example, the articles on manner, march sbs. and vbs., marked, mass sb., master, matter. Other Romanic words, interesting on account either of etymology (on which in many instances new light has been thrown) or of sense-development, are manganes, manger, mangle vb., mangonel, manipulate, manor, manor, manufacture, manure, map, marble, marcaste, marsh-pan, marmalade, marquis, marriage, marry, marshall, marinet, marlingale, marlet, marvell, mask sb., mason, masquerade, mass sb., mast, mastiff, match sb. There are a few Greek derivatives, chiefly obtained through mediæval Latin, as margarete, martyr, mathematic and its cognates, though a few are modern scientific formations, as manometer, and the words beginning with masto-.

The native English and Scandinavian words, if compounds and derivatives be left out of the account, are not numerous: the most important are man, manifold, many, mar, mare (two sbs.), mark (sb. and vbs., mark, marsh, mass sb., mast (two sbs.), match (sb. and vbs.). The native English masten, like its Romanic homophone mastein, is remarkable for the extraordinary variety of its forms. The Teutonic languages of the continent have furnished mangel-wurzel, mangle (sb. and vbs.), margrave, mart sb. (the history of which is now for the first time correctly traced), mate sb. The only Celtic words are mant (vb. and sb.) and mart sb.

As in the earlier portions of M, words from Oriental, African, and American languages are more than ordinarily abundant. In most instances the etymology of these words will be found to be more accurate or more completely given than in any other dictionary.

**Master—Meet.** This includes 709 Main words, 273 Special Combinations explained under these, and 445 Subordinate entries; in all 1427. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 278, making a total of 1705. Of the Main words 174 (25%) are marked † as obsolete, and 41 (6%) are marked § as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson’s and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:-

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded, Matter to Meet</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>757</td>
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<td>884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of illustrative quotations</td>
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<td>291</td>
<td>826</td>
<td>144</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 468.

Most of the important words in this section are of Romanic or Latin etymology, and some of these, as mauldin, mainent, maxim, measures, meddle, medicine, present interesting features of sense-development. At the same time the native English element is well represented, and includes several words (e.g. may vb., me pronoun, meadow, meat sb., mean vb., meet, meet adj.) that have required to be treated at considerable length. The words of immediate Greek derivation are few and unimportant; but the important group formed by mechanic and the connected words, though proximately from French or Latin, show influence of their ultimate Greek etymology in their English uses. Celtic words are entirely absent.

There are some adoptions from modern Dutch and German, maat, maatsch, massee, meerkat, morschaum; and several words from Asiatic and American languages, as mangroove, maind sb., muckock, mazame, mcats, medine.

This Part contains only 304 pages instead of the usual 320, as two sheets above the regular number were given in the last Part in order to complete the letter L.

ADDITIONS AND EMENDATIONS.

Macutne. The Rev. W. Holman Bentley, writing from the Congo Free State, informs us that macuta is the plural of tekuta, and denotes a bundle of ten mats of palm-fibre, still used as currency north of the Congo near the French frontiers. Elsewhere the word survives only as the name of the Angola ‘penny’ piece or its value. Mr. Bentley says that it is derived from a Congo verb kuta to tie, now obsolete, but preserved in the reversing form bentulla to unite.

Man sb. 15. The view that Christians originated as a corruption of chess-men is untenable, the word for ' (chess-)man' in AF. being regularly hane. Earlier instances of man in this sense are:- 1460 Bercy 1520 The Burgesse seid: ‘comhe none ye shal se 36 man. How he shall be matled, with what man me list!’ He drose, & seyd ‘ chek mate!’ 1460 Essex Rom. xxi. 72 (Harl. MS.). The first man, but gote aore hath not but oo pynt, but whene he gote aide, he takith anoper... The second, seid allphyn, rennethe i pynts both upward and downward.

Mandarin 1b. Earlier example:-1751 Boswell Johnson (ed. Hill) l. 31 From a man so still and so tame... conversation could no more be expected, than from a Chinese mandarin on a chimney-piece.

Mandrake. Add etymology:-Corrupted a F. madrague.

Mandrake 3. Earlier example:-1836 Backwoods of Canada 248 There is a plant in our woods, known by the names of man-dlace, may-apple, and lark's-foot.

† Mastiant. Obs. [Fr. Garément + Sri.] A seer, prophet. 1588 J. Harvey Disc. Probt. l. 84 Without which felicity, neither Persin Magican... nor Athenian Mastiant, i'ler ever passe with me for a prophet.


Maracalbo. Earlier example:-1843 Holzapper Turning I. 94 Maracaybo is a furniture wood of moderate size, as hard as good mahogany, and in appearance between tullip-wood.

Marble 3. Earlier example:-1851 Salmon Syn. Med. III. 47 The reducing of any thing into a fine powder, by grinding it on a Marble.

Margent sb. 2. Additional form and earlier quot.:-1432-50 tr. Higden (Rolls) 1. 41 Y schelle purpelle the mariantes [TREVITA margina... with a double ordre of yeres.

Mariner 1b. See also Master sb. 19. Mariner portage (in Mariner 4): Delete the explanation; see PORTAGE.

Maritime. Add form and quot.:-1654 Earl Morin. tr. Benninghoel’s Wars Flanders 66 One of the most considerable Towns of all the Maretime part.

Mark sb. 11 l. Earlier quot.:-1654 B. Johnson Staphle of News iv. iv. Were he a learned Heral, I would tell him He can give Armes, and markes.

Marriage 8. Earlier example of marriage-rites:-1621 Braithwait Nature’s Embraz, Skiph. Tales Eg. II. 198 For I your patience might wrong. To stand upon these marriage rites too long.—According to modern editors marriage rite or rites should be read in Shaks. Pericles iv. Gower 17, where the first Quarto (1608) has ‘Een right for marriage sight’.

Massy n. 2. The following quot. should have been given:-1652 Mitton Penoniere 158 With antick Pillars mussy proof.

Master-hunt in Master sb. 28. Read ‘master-hunt’ [see Hunt sb. 2], a head huntsman’ and transfer to 29, adding the following earlier instance:- 1369 Chaucer Dothe Blanches 375 (Fairf. MS.) The master-hunte asson fote hote With a gret home blewle thre mote.