A NEW

ENGLISH DICTIONARY

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(Volume VII. O–P.)

PROPHESY — PYXIS.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

This triple section concludes the letter P, and completes Vol. VII, of which it also contains the title-page and preface. It contains 3874 Main words, 442 Combinations explained under these, and 666 Subordinate entries of obsolete forms, etc., amounting to 4982. The *obvious combinations* recorded, classified, and illustrated under the Main words, number 578 more, raising the total to 5560. Of the Main words, 2977 (76·84 %) are now current English, native or naturalized, 562 (14·51 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 335 (8·65 %) ‖ 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, *Prophesy* to *Pyxis*	474	2335	3228	3378	5560
Words illustrated by quotations	385	737	1190	210	4372
Number of illustrative quotations	1395	1069	1580	279	20,404

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 1066.

As in the other sections of P, the words of native origin are very few. Of the 3874 Main words not more than 16 are to be found in an Old English or Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, and of them *provost, psalm, psalter, pumice, punt* sb.[1], *purple,* and *purse* were merely learned borrowings from Latin ; one, *proud,* was from Old French ; of those apparently Teutonic (and there probably onomatopœic), only *puff, pull,* and *put,* are now words of importance. All three were words of rare use and late occurrence in Old English ; and few things in the history of words are more remarkable than the development of the obscure Pull and Put into the much-used and hard-worked words which they have become in modern English. The article on Put indeed is, next to that on Go, the longest as yet in the Dictionary ; and the ramifications of sense and use in the simple verb have made its arrangement a work of enormous difficulty. The sense-development of a word is not confined to a linear order ; not even, like that of a tree, to space of three dimensions ; hence, the best order that can be attained in a dictionary, being merely linear (one line, or a series of variously connected successive lines), can only very imperfectly represent the facts. It is hoped, however, that the arrangement of senses here adopted will help to guide the reader through the maze of uses which *put* is made to serve. As the ground meaning of the verb has become so attenuated, its work is now largely done by combination with adverbs, *put about, put aside, put away, put down, put off, put on,* etc. ; and several of these adverbial combinations themselves form larger articles than many a simple verb : *put out* is used in 23, and *put up* in 35 varieties of sense. Of the other words in this section, the majority are, as usual, from Old French, Latin, and Greek. The words from Old French are particularly numerous in Pur- (*purchase* to *purview*), and include Push, which has largely displaced *put* in its original forcible sense, and become the opposite of *pull.* Those from Greek include all words in Ps- and Pt- (except the absurdly misspelt *ptarmigan*), and extensive families of derivatives in Pseudo- and Pyro-, with groups in *proto-, psammo-, psilo-, psycho-, ptero-, ptilo-, pycno-, pyelo-, pygo-,* and *pyo-.* Among individual words of historical interest are Protestant, Proud, Province, Provost (with *provost-marshal*), Proxy, Psychology, Public (and *public school*), Puck, Pudding, Puffin, Pulpit, Punch sb.[3], Punch sb.[5] (*Punchinello*), Punt, Puritan, Purlieu (and *puralee*), Purple (and *purpur*), Pursuivant, Puttock[2], Pygmy, Pyramid, Python, Pyx. Interest of various kinds also attaches to *prophet, prose, protection, protocol, protonotary, prunella*[3], *Prussian, psychic, puisne, pulley, Pullman, pulse, pumice, pump, pumpkin, pun, puny, pupil, puppet, puppy, purchase, pure, purl, purloin, purpose, purse, purvey, puzzle, pyrite,* and the history of the misused phrase *the psychological moment.* Under many of these, important etymological notes will be found. Words from distant languages are numerous : American tongues have given *puccoon, pudu, puma, puna, pung* ; E. Indian and Persian, *puggree, pundit, punkah, purdah, puttee,* and *pyjama,* with many less known, as *pucka, puckauly, pullicate, pulwar, putchuck* ; from Hawaiian we have *pulu.*

In order to complete the letter P, this triple section extends to twelve pages beyond the regular 192.