

PREFACE TO THE LETTERS Q AND R.

THIS half-volume contains the words which begin with Q and R, the former being few in number in comparison with the latter. When reckoned up according to the system adopted for previous letters, Q is found to include 1633 Main words, 265 Combinations explained under these, and 423 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 2321. The obvious Combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring to be explained, number 408 more. Of the Main words, 389 are marked † as obsolete, and 56 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

On the other hand, R includes 10,434 Main words, 1273 special Combinations, 3579 Subordinate entries, or in all 15,286; there are further 2546 obvious Combinations, making a total of 17,832. Of the Main words 2475 are marked as obsolete, and 258 as alien.*

The words beginning with Q (which in ordinary use is always followed by *u*) may as a whole be divided into three main classes, the native English, the Romanic (chiefly Latin and French), and those adopted from more remote (especially African, Asiatic, and American) languages. Of these classes the second is by far the greatest, and covers rather more than 50 pages out of the total of 80 required by this letter, which from the dictionary point of view is one of the smallest in the alphabet. A considerable number of words have been taken over from Latin without any change of form, as *quære*, *quantum*, *quarto*, *quondam*, *quorum*, etc., while many more have been assimilated to the usual English types. Some of these had their immediate source in Old French, which has also contributed very largely, e. g. *quaint*, *quarrel*, *quarry*, *quarter* (with a remarkable development of special senses, combinations, etc., extending to 19 columns), *quest*, *quit*, *quite*. Under the influence of the French and Latin spelling, *qu-* was substituted for the Old English *cw-*, and this accounts for the appearance here of a certain number of native words, covering, however, no more than 16 pages. The most important of these are *quake*, *quean*, *queen*, *quell*, *quench*, *quick* (which with its derivatives and combinations takes up 18 columns), and *quoth*. There are also some later words not demonstrably of foreign origin, a number of which appear to be imitative and intended to express the idea of shaking or trembling, as *quab*, *quag*, *quap*, *quave*, *quaver*, *quiver*, *quop*. The more alien words are of slight importance in comparison with the rest, but include *quagga*, *quassia*, and *quina* (whence *quinine*, etc.).

The sources of R are more varied than those of Q, the letter being a common initial in many languages, but by far the greater number of the words beginning with it are naturally either Teutonic or Romanic. Greek, however, is the main source of the combination RH-, which extends over 15 pages. Apart from this small portion, the letter falls into two clearly marked divisions. The first of these includes RA- and from RI- to the end, and is marked by a fairly even balance of the Teutonic and Romanic elements, each of which contributes a large number of the commonest and most essential words in the language. As usual, the native English words form the largest body within the Teutonic group, next come the Scandinavian, and last of all the Dutch, Flemish, and Low or High German. The second division is that of words beginning with RE-, which occupy no less than 436 pages, or more than half of the entire letter. By far the greater part of these are formed by means of the Latin prefix RE-, the remarkable development of which in English is traced in the special article on pp. 186-7. The vast stretch of such forms, however, is broken here and there by important Romanic words of different formation, as *real*, *realm*, *reason*, *regal*, *regular*, etc., and by native or Scandinavian words, as *read*, *ready*, *reap*, *reck*, *reckon*, *reed*, *reef*, etc.

Some other features of R may be briefly noted. It includes a remarkable number of groups of monosyllabic words, written and (usually) pronounced alike, but of widely divergent origin and meaning. Examples of these are *race*, *rack*, *rag*, *rail*, *rake*, *rap*, *rape*, *rash*, *rat*, *rate*, *rave*, *ray*, and in the later portion,

* For these letters the comparative scale of this work and some other Dictionaries is shown by the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century'.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Q. Words recorded	245	874	1058	971	2729
Words illustrated by quotations	182	349	461	108	2253
Number of quotations	611	561	1316	156	9480
R. Words recorded	1881	8400	9486	8480	17832
Words illustrated by quotations	1549	3370	3755	977	17713
Number of quotations	5002	5451	11670	1310	110269

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 531 for Q and 5765 for R.

rout, rove, row, ruck, ruff. Very long articles are not numerous, but the verb RUN covers 37 columns, and the words derived from it occupy a good many more. The groups RIGHT and ROUND are also extensive, and the adjective RED has developed a surprising number of special collocations. Many words in R have considerable historical interest, such as *ragman*², *railroad* and *railway*, *reader*, *receiver*, *recorder*, *rector*, *reformation*, *register*, *regrater*, *veredos*, etc., and the treatment of these has frequently required special investigation and outside advice.

The material originally collected for Q was subedited for the Philological Society by Mr. H. Hucks Gibbs, afterwards Lord Aldenham, whose work on it was of important service, although much new material had accumulated before the final editing began. Part of the original material for R (down to *Reb-*) was very carefully subedited about the same time by the Rev. Prof. Skeat, while at a later date (1885-6) *Rec-* to *Rig-* was done by Mr. P. W. Jacob, and from 1893 to 1895 the remaining portion was worked over by Mr. J. Bartlett. Further work on the earlier part of the letter (down to *Rashness*) was also done from 1894 to 1897 by the Rev. G. B. R. Bousfield. Here also much additional material had been collected during the intervening years.

The whole of the proofs of Q and R were read by Mr. A. Caland of Wageningen, whose death on Feb. 18 of this year has deprived the Dictionary of one of its most devoted and helpful voluntary workers. For the earlier sections they were also read by the late Lord Aldenham (as far as *Reserve*) and the Rev. J. A. Milne (latterly of Cramond, Midlothian). Mr. H. Chichester Hart read those of R down to the time of his death in 1908, and the Rev. Canon Fowler of Durham has helped with the later sections of the letter.

In the etymologies of all words adopted from languages not generally studied constant help was received from the late Mr. James Platt, Jun., who had made this branch of study particularly his own, and continually anticipated the needs of the Dictionary in respect of such words. For help readily given on other points acknowledgements are due to many persons, of whom the following require to be specially mentioned: Dr. Bywater, Prof. Cook Wilson, the Provost of Oriel, Mr. H. T. Gerrans, the Controller of the University Press, and the Librarian of the Indian Institute; the Rev. Prof. Skeat, Dr. Furnivall, Prof. Toller, the Rev. Prof. Hogg, Manchester, and Prof. Latta, Glasgow; the former and the present Keeper of the Advocates Library, Edinburgh, the late Dr. T. G. Law of the Signet Library, Dr. D. Hay Fleming, and Mr. Maitland Anderson of the University Library, St. Andrews. Dr. A. McKenzie of the Birkbeck Institute has assisted with chemical terms, and Mr. C. Davies Sherborne supplied a number of references for words belonging to the physical sciences. The numerous contributions of Mr. R. J. Whitwell have, as always, been of the greatest service for the treatment of legal and historical terms. In addition to these, many persons, in some cases on behalf of business firms, have readily given useful information relating to the origin, history, or some particular application of a single word.

The important work of verification at the British Museum Library, without which many matters would remain doubtful, was voluntarily performed by Mr. E. L. Brandreth until his death in Dec. 1907, and since then has been generously undertaken by Mr. W. W. Jenkinson.

The assistants who have taken a leading share in the preparation of Q and R, either during the whole or a considerable part of the time, have been Messrs. E. J. Thomas, J. M. Ramsay, L. F. Powell, F. R. Ray, R. Girvan, J. H. Smithwhite, G. Watson, H. E. G. Rope, and Mrs. L. F. Powell. The words beginning with RH- were separately prepared by Mr. C. T. Onions.

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