

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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REE — RIBALDOUSLY.

BY

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## PREFATORY NOTES.

**Ree—Reign.** This section contains 820 Main words, 70 Combinations explained under these, and 421 Subordinate entries, or 1311 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations amount to 185, making a total of 1496. Of the Main words, 244 are marked † as obsolete, and 13 are distinguished by || as alien or not fully naturalized.

The following figures show the result of comparison with Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Ree</i> to <i>Reign</i>	172	619	652	547	1496
Words illustrated by quotations	146	319	321	58	1312
Number of illustrative quotations	412	440	844	79	7848

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 531.

In the present section, as in the preceding, the native words are largely outnumbered by those of Latin and French origin. A few, however, are of some importance or interest, as REED *sb.*<sup>1</sup>, REEK *sb.* and *v.*, REEST (of a plough), REEVE *sb.*<sup>1</sup>, and REIF. A native origin is also probable for the widespread verb REE (to sift), REEL *sb.* and *v.*, and REEVE *sb.*<sup>2</sup>. The cognate languages have contributed very little, but REEF in both senses is ultimately of Scandinavian origin.

In the numerous adoptions from Latin or Romance, and formations based on these, those having the prefix *re-* still hold the foremost place, and include a large number of words in constant use, as *refer*, *refine*, *reflect*, *reform*, *refrain*, *refresh*, *refuge*, *refuse*, *regard*, *regret*, *rehearse*, &c. Many of these have a great variety of obsolete as well as current senses, and some words of this class formerly common are now either rare or have quite disappeared: a notable instance of this is *refel*. Among those to which some historical, legal, or general interest is attached, special mention may be made of *referee*, *reformado*, *reformation*, *refugee*, *regard* (sense 3), *register*, *registrar*, and *regater*. Of Latin words which are not compounds of *re-* the most noteworthy are *regal* and its derivatives, *regent*, *regiment*, *region*, and *regular*.

There are comparatively few important words in the section which have remoter sources than the above, or of which the etymology is altogether obscure.

**Reign—Reserve.** This section contains 1682 Main words, 25 Combinations explained under these, and 972 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, etc., making 2679 in all. The obvious combinations, recorded and

illustrated by quotations, number 139, giving a total of 2818. Of the Main words, 579 are marked † as obsolete, and 25 are marked †† as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Reign to Reserve</i>	358	1165	1196	1164	2818
Words illustrated by quotations	301	660	662	175	2303
Number of illustrative quotations	978	1034	1930	219	15934

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 1139.

The number of native words in this part of R is extremely small, the only ones in common use at the present day being the verb REND with its derivative noun RENT, and RENNET *sb.*<sup>1</sup> The few others which occur are now obsolete or confined to dialect use, as *rekels, reken, reme, verd(e), rese*. Adoptions from the other Teutonic languages are also rare, the most interesting being REINDEER.

Of Romanic words which are not formed by means of the prefix RE- the most prominent are REIN *sb.*<sup>1</sup>, REINS, RENABLE, RENNET *sb.*<sup>2</sup> and REPUBLIC. Some historical interest attaches to RERE-SUPPER and REREDOS; the latter, as the evidence shows, was practically obsolete, and has only been revived since about 1850.

With the exception of these words, and a very few of more remote origin (as REIS<sup>1</sup>, REIS<sup>2</sup>, and RESALGAR), the section consists entirely of compounds of RE-, though in some cases, as RENDER and RENT *sb.*<sup>1</sup>, the presence of the prefix is not obvious in the form of the word. As a rule the etymology of these words presents no difficulty, but in a few instances (as *rejoin, remene, repine*) the precise import of the formation is not clear. In many cases the history of the senses is of considerable interest, and the number of obsolete uses, especially in the 16th and 17th centuries, is sometimes very remarkable; *resent* and *resentment* are striking examples of this feature. Among those words which for various reasons deserve special notice may be mentioned *relation, relative, relay, reliable, relic, relief, religion, relish, rely, remonstrance, remord* (obs.), *renaissance, renegade, replevin, reprieve, request, rescue*. In most of these, and in many other cases, new light has been thrown on the history of the word by the copious materials collected for this dictionary.

**Reserve—Ribaldously.** This section contains 1601 Main words, 56 Combinations explained under these, and 880 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, etc., making 2537 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations number 226, and bring up the total number of entries to 2763. Of the Main words 413 are marked † as obsolete, and 72 are marked †† as alien or not completely naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Reserve to Ribaldously</i>	317	1412	1658	1509	2763
Words illustrated by quotations	260	550	612	171	2385
Number of quotations	948	911	1835	226	15983

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 947.

In this section the native English element is no more extensive than in the two preceding ones, the only words of importance which belong to it being REST *sb.*<sup>1</sup> and *v.*<sup>1</sup> (with some derivatives such as RESTFUL *a.*, RESTLESS *a.*), RETCH *v.*<sup>2</sup>, and RIB *sb.*<sup>1</sup> and *v.*<sup>1</sup> Along with these may be mentioned the obs. or dial. RETCH *v.*<sup>1</sup>, RETHE *a.*, REW *sb.*<sup>1</sup>, and the local RHINE<sup>1</sup>. The technical terms RET *v.*<sup>2</sup>, RIB *sb.*<sup>3</sup> and *v.*<sup>2</sup>, were probably adopted from one of the cognate languages.

Of the Latin or Romance words which form the bulk of the section, the great majority are compounds of RE-, and many of these have a long and interesting history in English. As usual, a large number of them were adopted from older French, such as *reset, respite, restore, restrain, retail, retinue, retire, retour, retreat, retrieval, return, reward*, etc. Later adoptions from French are REVEILLE, REVERSI, REVÊTE(MENT). In a few cases the presence of the prefix is not apparent at first sight, as in REST *sb.*<sup>2</sup> and *v.*<sup>2</sup>, REST *sb.*<sup>3</sup> and *v.*<sup>3</sup>, RESTIFF or RESTIVE *a.*, RET *v.*<sup>1</sup>, REVEL *sb.*<sup>1</sup> and *v.*<sup>1</sup>

Another group of Latin formations is made up of words with the prefix *retro-*, of which the earliest to appear in English is RETROGRADE. Latin is also the ultimate source of RESIN, and has directly contributed RETE, RETIARIUS, RETICULUM, RETINA, RETINACULUM; Anglicized derivatives from L. *rête* appear in *retinary, reticle, reticular, reticulation*, etc. Of French words not formed with *re-* the most important are REYNARD, RIAL, RIAnt, and RIBALD.

The words beginning with RH- (which have been separately prepared by Mr. C. T. Onions, M.A.) are for the most part ultimately of Greek origin; among the exceptions to this are RHATANY, RHEIM, RHEMISH, RHENISH, RHINE, RHINO, and (partly) RHUBARB. Those which were adopted in Middle English appear at first with *r-* only (as *rethor* RHETOR, *reume* RHEUM<sup>1</sup>), the restoration of *rh-* being a result of the classical influence prevalent in the 16th cent. One of the most interesting examples of this is the change of the older *rime, ryme* to RHYTHM and RHYME.