

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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RIBALDRIC—ROMANITE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Ribaldric—Romanite. This double section contains 1175 Main words, 539 Combinations explained under these, and 740 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms, etc., making 2454 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated by quotations number 707, and bring up the total number of entries to 3161. Of the Main words 319 are marked † as obsolete, and 47 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>Ribaldric to Romanite</i>	216	1223	1366	1323	3161
Words illustrated by quotations	164	406	500	154	2747
Number of quotations	764	667	1664	205	17677

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 664.

The present instalment of R forms in some respects a strong contrast to the sections which have preceded it. The Romanic element, while still large and important, does not preponderate over the native English, and many even of the Romanic words have become so English in form and use that their foreign origin is not obvious at first sight. Among the many words which can be traced from Old English onwards, it will be sufficient to mention such instances as *rich*, *riddle*, *ride*, *ridge*, *right*, *rim*, *ring*, *ripe*, *rise*, *road*, *roar*, *rock* (v.), *rod*, *roe*, to show how important this section of the vocabulary is. The contributions from the other Teutonic languages are fairly numerous, but do not include many words in general use; among those of Scandinavian origin the chief are *rid*, *riding* (of a county), *rift*, and *rive*, but some others have considerable currency in the older language or in modern dialects.

The earlier adoptions from French rank next in number and importance to the native words; among them are *riband* or *ribbon*, *rice*², *riches*, *rifle*, *rime* (= rhyme), *rinse*, *riot*, *river*, *rivet*, *roach*, *roan*, *roast*, *rob*, *robe*, *rock* (sb.), *rocket*, *roll*, *romance*. Of later words from the same source the most important is *risk* (originally *risque*).

Direct adoption of Latin forms occurs in *ribes*, *rietus*, *rigor*, and a few others. Assimilation to the usual English types, partly through French, appears in *ridicule*, *rigid*, *rite*, *ritual*, *rival*, *roborate*, *robust*, *rodent*, *rogation*, *Roman*, and in many derivatives from these.

In addition to the above, the following words may be mentioned as having some interest in respect of etymology or history: *rick* sb.¹, *rickets*, *rifle* sb.³, *rigmarole*, *roam*, *roar* sb.², *Roberdsmen*, *Robin Goodfellow*, *Robin Hood*, *roc*, *rodomontade*, *Roger's blast*, and *rogue*.