

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VIII. Q-SH.)

SEVERAL — SHASTER.

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NOTE.

THIS section (72 pages) includes 636 Main words, 211 Special Combinations explained under these, and 340 Subordinate entries; in all 1187. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 227, making a total of 1414. Of the Main words 122 (19%) are marked † as obsolete, and 30 (4¾%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic',*	'Century' Dict.†	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded <i>Several to Shaster</i>	110	500	725	576	1414
Words illustrated by quotations	83	180	245	64	1131
Number of illustrative quotations	461	342	753	96	8736

* Including Supplement.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 341.

The section consists of two parts, markedly different in etymological character. The first fourteen pages contain hardly any words that are not of Latin or Romanic origin, the only important survival from Old English being the verb *sew*. The words beginning with SH, which occupy four-fifths of the space, are in overwhelming proportion Teutonic. Direct Latin derivatives, for an obvious reason, do not occur at all, and of adoptions from French there are only two or three. The Celtic element is represented by *shamrock* and two or three Gaelic words adopted in Scottish dialects. There are a few Oriental words, of which only *shah* and *shampoo* are in general use. The longest article in the section is that on the verb *shall* (and its past tense *should*) which extends to six pages. Although the treatment of this verb is far from being exhaustive, it is hoped that the examples collected may contribute materially to a clearer understanding of the development of its meaning and uses. Other words of interesting sense-history are *severe*, *sex*, *shade* and *shadow* (sbs. and vbs.), *shaft*, *shake* sb. and vb., *sham*, *shame*, *shank*, *shape* sb. and vb., *share* sb. and vb., *sharp*. The interpretation here given to Shakspeare's *shard-borne* is not new, but has received little countenance from the Commentators. The evidence afforded by the history of *shard* sb.² and sb.⁴, and by the Shaksperian examples quoted under *shard* sb.² and *sharded*², seems, however, to be decisive in its favour. Among the articles which contain etymological facts or discussions not found in earlier dictionaries are *sew* vb., *sewer* sb.¹, *shackle*, *shanty*, *shape* vb., *shark* sb.¹ and sb.²

The remaining words with initial SH will occupy a double section, which will be issued on April 1, 1914. Contemporaneously with that section a Part will be issued, extending from *Sea-egg* to the end of SH. This will complete Vol. VIII.