A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

VERIFICATORY—VISOR.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 1580 Main words, 145 Special Combinations explained under these, 776 Obvious Combinations, and 501 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 3002 words. Of the Main words 415 are marked † as obsolete, and 94 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>1339</td>
<td>1106</td>
<td>3002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>2512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of quotations</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>1182</td>
<td>265</td>
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In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 724.

In respect of vocabulary this section presents no material difference of character from that containing the earlier portion of V, the great majority of the words being either directly or indirectly of Latin origin. Large portions are occupied by derivatives of the usual types from such Latin words or stems as vérus, vermis, verna, vers-, vert-, verité, vestis, etc. Both in the earlier and later periods French influence is also prominent; in addition to many substantives and verbs, this has supplied the common adj. and adv. Véry, which occupies one of the longest articles in the section. The prefix vis-, vi-, originally introduced from French, subsequently assumed the Latin form Vice-, but has survived unaltered in Viscound and its derivatives. Other Romanic languages are represented by the Italian vermicelli, viola, violin, violoncello, virtu, virtuoso, the Spanish verruga, and the Portuguese vinçem. The few contributions from other sources include the Russian vers, the Scandinavian víking, and the South American vicuña and viscacha.

Words of similar form, but of different origin and meaning, are rare; there are however seven substantives with the spelling vice. The variety of spelling possible in older English is well illustrated in the forms of verjuice, vïactual, and vinegar, and the uncertainty in the pronunciation of some Latin words is exemplified in vertigo and viddicate.

The historical interest of many words in this section is considerable. A number of these have ecclesiastical or religious associations, as vernicle, veronica, versicle, vestor, vestiary, vestry, vaticum, vicar, vicarage, victim (introduced by the Rhemish translators of the Bible), vigil, virgin, virtue, vision, viol, visitation, etc. Others are of importance for social, political, or legal history, as vice-chancellor, viceregent, victualler, vice, visour, vill, village, villein, villeinage, virgate, while the arts and sciences are represented by such words as vernier, verse, vestiure, vignette (with the earlier form vint), villa, viol, violin, etc.