

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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VISOR—VYWER.

BY  
W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A., LL.D.

## PREFATORY NOTE.

IN this section of the Dictionary there are 917 Main words, 45 Special Combinations explained under these, 139 Obvious Combinations, and 470 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1571 words. Of the Main words 222 are marked † as obsolete, and 65 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	149	590	799	710	1571
Words illustrated by quotations	127	265	344	90	920
Number of quotations	371	412	801	116	886

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 387.

In this concluding section of V the vocabulary continues to be predominantly of Romanic origin, and consists largely of adoptions of, or formations on, common Latin words and stems. Many of these are found, with little change of form, in all the modern Romanic languages. Of more distinctive forms the majority have, as usual, been adopted from French, as *vogue*, *voice*, *void*, *volley*, *vouch*, *vow*, *vowel*, *voyage*, etc. Italian has contributed a few words, including *vista*, *viva*, and *volcano*. The native English element is represented by only one important word, *vixen*, and very few have been adopted from the other Germanic languages, only the Scand. *voe* and *vole*, and the Dutch *vlei* and *vrouw*, calling for any special notice. Of words from more remote sources, the most important are the Slavonic *Vlach*, *vodka*, and *voivode*, the Arabic *vizier*, and the American negro *voodoo*.

Although the section includes many important words, there are comparatively few which present any striking features in their history or the development of their senses. The most interesting in this respect are *vocable*, *vogue*, *volley*, *volume*, *volunteer*, *vortex*, *vote* (before 1600 almost exclusively in Scottish use), *vouch*, *voyage*, and *vulgar*. Among older words of historical interest are *Vitry*, *voidee*, *voider*, *voluper*, *volvelle*, *vouchee*, and *voucher*. The lack of obvious meaning in *vouchsafe* was no doubt the main cause of the extraordinary variety of forms and spellings in which it appears down to the 16th century.