

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

W — WASH.

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NOTE.

THIS double section includes 983 Main words, 368 Special Combinations explained under these, and 692 Subordinate entries; in all 2043. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 516, making a total of 2559. Of the Main words 299 (30½%) are marked † as obsolete, and 15 (1½%) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Casell's 'Encyclopædic', and Suppl.	'Century' Dict., and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>W-Wash</i>	169	734	1074	2559
Words illustrated by quotations	129	400	383	1900
Number of illustrative quotations	633	553	1155	14787

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 652.

The *W* portion of the English vocabulary is remarkable for the entire absence of Greek and Latin derivatives, which under every other letter except *Y* form a large proportion of the whole. It consists mainly of words belonging to the oldest strata of the language—words inherited from Old English, and early adoptions from Scandinavian and Old French. As most of these words of long history have developed a great variety of senses and forms, the average length of the articles in this part of the Dictionary is larger than usual.

In the present instalment the words of Old English origin include *wade*, *wadset*, *wain*, *waist*, *wake* sb.¹ and vb., *waken*, *wale*, *walk*, *wall*, *wallow*, *wallwort*, *walnut*, *wan*, *wander*, *wane*, *wanhope*, *wanton*, *ward*, *ware*, *warlock*, *warm*, *warmth*, *warn*, *warp*, *wart*, *wary*, *wash*. Of Scandinavian origin are *wadmal*, *wail*, *wake* sb.², *wall-eye*, *wall-knot* (?), *wand*, *wandreth*, *want*, *wapentake*. The words from Old French are not much less numerous than the native words; most of them are still in everyday use, as *wafer*, *wage*, *wager*, *waif*, *wait*, *waive*, *wallop*, *war*, *warble*, *warden*, *warder*, *wardrobe*, *warrant*, *warranty*, *warren*, *warrior*; a few are obsolete, as *wardecorps*, *warish*, *warison*. These words come from the north-eastern dialect of Old French, and are ultimately of Teutonic origin. The initial *w* preserved in north-eastern Old French is represented in the other Old French dialects and in modern standard French by *g(u)*; hence in modern French and Old French dictionaries the words above quoted are found as *gaufre*, *gage*, *gageure*, † *gaif*, *guetter*, † *gaiver*, *galopper*, *guerre*, etc.; and some of them have come into English in two forms, one with *w* and the other with *gu* or *g*: thus we have *wage* and *gage*, *wallop* and *gallop*, *warden* and *guardian*, *warranty* and *guaranty*, *warish* and *guarish*, *warison* and *garrison*. The other etymological sources are very sparingly represented. From Dutch and Low German we have *waffle*, *waft*, *wagenboom*, *wagon*, *wainscot*, *walrus*; from modern High German *wacke*, *waldflute*, *waldgrave*, *waldhorn*, *waltz*. The languages of India have contributed only *wallah* and *wanderoo*. From Arabic there are *wadi*, *Wahabi*, *wali*. There are a few words belonging to the aboriginal languages of Australia—*waddy*, *wallaby*, *wallaroo*, *waratah*, *warrigal*; but these, though familiar English in colonial use, are otherwise little known. Of the American Indian words, *wampum* (*wampumpeag*) and *wapiti* are perhaps generally known; the others, *wahoo*, *wakon*, *wallaba*, *wangun*, *wankapin*, *wapacut*, *warracoori*, *warree*, occur only in works treating of natural history or anthropology. One Chinese word appears, *wampee*, and one Japanese, *wacadash*, represented by a few quotations of the beginning of the 17th century.

Among the words presenting interesting sense-development may be mentioned *waft* vb.¹, *wait* sb. and vb.¹, *walk* sb. and vb., *wallop*, *wan*, *wane*, *waniand* (*wanion*), *wanton*, *ward*, *warlock*, *warm*, *warp* sb. and vb., *warrant*, *wash* sb. and vb. Etymological facts or suggestions not given in other dictionaries will be found under *waft* vb.¹, *wafter*, *wait* vb.², *wallwort*, *walnut*, *walrus*, *wampum*, *war*, *warble*, *warder* sb.², *warrior*. Attention may be called to the articles on the prefix *wan-* and the suffixes *-ward*, *-wards*, the origin and functions of which are treated with a fullness not hitherto attempted.