

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

WASH — WAVY.

BY

HENRY BRADLEY, M.A., HON. D.LITT.

NOTE.

THIS section includes 488 Main words, 468 Special Combinations explained under these, and 149 Subordinate entries; in all 1105. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 459, making a total of 1564. Of the Main words 75 (15%) are marked † as obsolete, and only 2 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' and Suppl.	'Century' Dict. and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Watch</i> to <i>Wavy</i>	68	628	982	1564
Words illustrated by quotations	54	182	262	1415
Number of illustrative quotations	293	282	615	7535

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 236.

Thirty of the sixty-four pages of this section are occupied with the word *water* and its compounds; and about the same number by *wash*, *waste*, *watch*, and *wave*, with their connexions. In consequence, the number of primary words included is extremely small. Nearly all of them are of native English origin; *wassail* and *wath* are from Old Norse; *waste* (sb., adj., vb.), *wastel*, *wastine*, *watchet*, are from Old French. Of words from non-European languages there are only *wat*⁴ (Siamese), and *watap* and *wavey* (American Indian). The proper names *Waterloo*, *Walling-street*, *Watteau* are included on account of their attributive or appellative uses; scientific terms derived from proper names are *watt* and *wavellite*.

With regard to etymology, new information or conclusions differing from those accepted in previous dictionaries will be found in the articles *wassail* sb., *waste* adj., *watchet*; new suggestions are also offered as to the origin of *wattle* sb.¹ and sb.², which have hitherto been regarded as etymologically identical. Examples of remarkable sense-development will be found under *waste* sb., adj., vb., *watch* sb. and vb., *wave* sb. and vb. The sb. *water*, like its synonyms in other European languages, has developed a multitude of strikingly divergent metaphorical uses; and many of its compounds and derivatives, having been formed at an early period, have an interesting sense-history of their own.