

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

WAVY—WEZZON.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTES.

IN this section of the Dictionary there are 1481 Main words, 456 Special Combinations explained under these, 416 Obvious Combinations, and 850 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms: in all 3203. Of the Main words 367 are marked † as obsolete, and 10 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some other dictionaries gives the following figures:—

| | Johnson. | Casell's 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl. | 'Century' Dict. and Suppl. | Here. |
|---------------------------------|----------|--|-------------------------------|-------|
| Words recorded | 177 | 879 | 1218 | 3203 |
| Words illustrated by quotations | 154 | 380 | 406 | 2406 |
| Number of quotations | 750 | 600 | 1149 | 17707 |

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 676.

In this instalment of W the vocabulary, with very few exceptions, is of native origin; the great majority of the fundamental words go back to Old English, have a continuous history down to the present day, and have given rise to many derivative and compound forms. Among the important nouns so represented are *wax*, *way* (extending to 27 columns), *weal*, *weald* (with an interesting history), *wealth*, *weapon*, *weasand*, *weasel*, *weather*, *web*, *wed* (a pledge), *wedding*, *wedge*, *wedlock*, *Wednesday*, *weed* (plant), *weed* (garment), *week*, *weel* (pool), *weel* (basket), *weevil*, *wefi*, *weight*, *weir*, *weird*, *welcome*, *welfare*, *welkin*, *well*, *wen*, *wench* (earlier *wenchele*), *west*, *wet* (earlier *wete*), *wether*, and *wey*. Compounds with *wax*-, *way*-, *weather*-, or *weli*- as the first element are also numerous. *Weld* (the dye) and *welt* (of a shoe, etc.) are probably native, though not recorded in OE. Adjectives of early origin, as *waxen*, †*wealy*, *wear*, *Welsh*, are rare; of later date are *waxy*, *wayward*, *wealthy*, *weighty*, *weird* (an interesting development from the noun), *well* (from the adverb), and *wet* (by substitution for the earlier *wete*). The older verbs include *wax* (to grow), *wean*, *wear*, *weave*, *wed*, *weed*, *ween*, *weep*, *weel* (to know), *weigh*, *well*, *wend*, *were* (to defend), *wet* (earlier *wete*). Of other parts of speech the most notable are the pronoun *we* and the adverbs *well* and *west*. *Well* has not only developed a very large number of special or contextual senses, requiring twelve columns of illustration, but has supplied a noun and adjective, and has been so extensively employed as the first element in compounds (many of which are of long standing in the language) that these extend to over 50 columns, and are in reality almost inexhaustible.

Many of the above words present features of special interest, and attention may also be directed to the articles on *way-bit*, *way-leet*, *way-wiser*, *wayzgoose*, *wean* (= child), *wedenonfa*?, *Wedgwood*, *wee* adj., *weeping cross*, *wellaway*, *Welsh rabbit*, *werewolf*, and *wergeld*.

The other Germanic tongues are very scantily represented; Scandinavian has supplied the adj. *weak* (on which *weaken*, *weakly*, etc., have been formed), *wappen* as a northern dialect variant of *weapon*, and the verb *well* (to roll), while the related *weller* is from Dutch or Low German. From Old French come the obsolete *wayment*, *waynpain*, and *wayour*. Gaelic has furnished *weem*, Magyar *Waywode* as a variant of VAI-, VOIVODE, and Arabic *wazir*, a more original form of VIZIER. Of imitative origin are *waw* sb.^s and v.², *weel* v.², *weel-weel*, and *wehee*.

The articles in this section as far as *weigh* were revised and sent to the printer by Dr. Bradley; the remainder, after the usual preparation by his staff, have been edited by Dr. Craigie with the co-operation of Mr. Worrall.