A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY
ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

WHISKING—WILFULNESS.

BY
C. T. ONIONS, M.A. OXON., M.A. LOND.

PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 582 Main words, 317 Special Combinations explained under these, 433 Obvious Combinations, and 546 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1878 words. Of the Main words 134 are marked † as obsolete, and 1 is marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Johnson. 1755</th>
<th>Cassell's 'Encyclopaedic' and Suppl.</th>
<th>'Century' Dict. and Suppl.</th>
<th>Here.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Words recorded, Whisking—Wilfulness</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Words illustrated by quotations</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>1366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of quotations</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>8146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 588.

This section is almost equally divided between wh and wv words. The former are somewhat in the preponderance and, as should be expected, comprise a number of the echoic, imitative, or onomatopoeic formations characteristic of this part of the vocabulary, as whisper, whois, whist, whister, whoistle, whither vb., whoister, whoizy, whoo, whoop, whoosh, whooom, whourl, whouter. But in both parts the chief articles deal with words that go back to the Old English period, viz. the interrogative words whither, who (whom, whose), whoy, and whoite (with its compounds making 40 columns), whole (14 columns), whom, wold (12 columns), widow, wite, wite sb., wild (18 columns). Among these, beside the interrogatives, white, whole, where, and wild have interesting Indo-European relationships that can be established with greater or less certainty.

In the sphere of etymology, the words in respect of which a greater wealth of evidence can be shown than hitherto, or upon which fresh views are presented, are whiting, whilow, Whit Sunday, whitten, wholey, whortl, whoortl(ber), wich (wych), the several words wick, wicked, wicker, wicket, width, wilder, wilderness, witc. Among other articles of etymological interest, but concerned with words now mainly obsolete or dialectal, are whit, whole, whomball, wrine, wi, widdendream, widge, wistle, wig sb.† and ‡, wight adj., wike, wild bred. Whole, wide, wite, and wild are conspicuous for the history of their sense-development. Of historical or antiquarian importance are several compounds of white, as whitebait, whiteboy, whitecoat, whitefoot, white frier, White House, white rose, white staff, whiteswash (in bankruptcy); to these may be added whist sb.†, whistling-shop, wickner, wild goose chase.

Proper names are the source of Whitechapel, Whitefieldian, Whitehead‡ (torpedo), Whitesmith‡ (gooseberry), the two last being homographs of ordinary compounds of white with a common noun. There are a few aliens, e.g. whiskyjohn, wickyp, wicopy, and wigwam of North American origin.

ADDENDUM.

Whistle v. sense 9. To go whistle. Earlier instance —1453—4. If any man pretende so greet a curiosite anentis pe person of crist pat he lackid pe passioun of angir, he may go whistil til he leerne bettir.