A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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WILGA—WISE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section there are 458 Main words, 385 Special Combinations explained under these, 458 Obvious Combinations, and 175 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1476 words. Of the Main words 165 are marked † as obsolete, and 7 are marked ¶ as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

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<th>Johnson, 1755</th>
<th>Cassell's Encyclopædic and Suppl.</th>
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<td>Words recorded Wilga—Wise</td>
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<td>264</td>
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<td>Words Illustrated by quotations</td>
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<td>Number of quotations</td>
<td>352</td>
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In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary and Supplement the quotations number 317.

Nearly the whole of this section is occupied with a handful of words (mostly monosyllable-) and their derivatives, viz. will (sb.1, vb.1 and 2), wind (sb.1 and 2, vb.1), wind (sb.1), wind, wink (vb.1), winter, wince, wince; of these all but one belong to the Old English stock, and most of them have Indo-European connexions which are more or less clearly definable; one of them, wine, is a loanword with an ulterior history which has not yet been entirely cleared up.

The Scandinavian element includes the following: will adj. and vb., wilsome adj., window (with its interesting variants windor, window, and wimock), wind. From Anglo-Norman are wimblo, wince vb.1, and winch vb.1. Some form of Low German or Dutch has given wimlock, wimler, wimla, and wimlock. There are some etymological obscurities, but they are to be found for the most part in words of slight general importance; it may be noted that the origin of windfall and of windlass sb. remains uncertain. The proper-name element is represented by Will sb.2, Willemite, will-gill, William, Williamite, Williams, Williamite, willock, will of the weep (originally Will with the wisp), willy sb.2, Wilton, Wiltshire, Winchester, Windsor, and Winter's or Winterian bark. Aboriginal languages have contributed only a few words, and they are unimportant: wilga, willy-willy, wimmish.

Miscellaneous points of interest are to be found in the evidence given upon the pronunciation of wind 'ventus'; the introduction of wimlock by Coverdale; the late emergence of the now prevailing sense of wink; the dialectal origin of the modern use of wimp; the local survival or revival of wimber or wimber; the synonyms of wimlock, viz. wimle, wimblo vb.2, wind vb.1, wind vb.1 The longest article is that on the 'auxiliary' verb will—viz. will vb.1, distinct in origin and use from will vb.1; its length is due partly to the wealth of inflexional forms that need illustration, partly to the large development of its senses, the fine distinctions of which are essentially a matter of lexicography and only incidentally concern grammar.