

## PREFATORY NOTE TO F.

THE half-volume of the Dictionary containing the words beginning with F includes 9,339 Main words, 1,419 Subordinate entries, and 2,849 Special combinations explained under the Main words, making a total of 13,607 words, besides 3,459 Obvious combinations recorded and for the most part illustrated by quotations, without separate explanation. Of the Main words, 2,364, or 25¼%, are marked (†) as obsolete, and 215, or 2¼%, are marked (||) as alien or imperfectly naturalized.

Except for the total absence of words directly taken from Greek, the portion of the English vocabulary treated in this half-volume is representative of all the various sources which have contributed to the formation of the language. The words that have come down from Old English are very numerous, and many of them have necessarily occupied an unusually large proportion of space, on account of the great variety of senses and applications which they have acquired in the course of their long history. The verb *fall* and its related substantive, with their derivatives and combinations, occupy nearly ten pages. Among other long articles may be mentioned those on *fast, father, fear, feel, fetch, field, fill, find, fire, fish, flesh, flow, fly, food, foot, foul, friend, full*. Under all these words will be found recorded, and authenticated by quotations, many senses hitherto overlooked by lexicographers. The articles on the words *for, forth, and from*, have cost much thought and research, and it is hoped that they will form a substantial contribution to English grammar, and will be found serviceable in elucidating many hitherto obscure passages in our older writers. The Scandinavian element in the language is represented by several important words, including *fellow* (the academic use of which has never before been correctly explained in an English dictionary), *flat*, and *fling*. The words of Romanic and Latin derivation are perhaps even more numerous than those of Old-English descent, and are unusually interesting. It so happens that while the Romanic and Latin derivatives occurring under the first five letters of the alphabet are for the most part merely literary, or belong to the technical or the scientific vocabulary, those under F include a large number of the familiar words of everyday speech, such as *fable, face, fact, fade, fail, faint, fairy, faith, false, fame, family, famine, fancy, fantastic, farce, farm, fashion, fate, fatigue, fault, favour, feast, feat, feature, feign, felon, female, fence, fender, ferment, ferret, festive, fiction, fierce, fig, figure, file, finance, fine, finish, firm, fix, flame, flavour, flounce, flour, flourish, flower, focus, foil, folly, foment, fool, force, foreign, forfeit, forge, fork, form, formal, fort, fortify, fortress, fortune, fossil, foundation, fountain, fraction, frail, franchise, frank, frantic, fray, frenzy, frequent, friction, fringe, fritter, frivolous, frock, front, frontier, frown, frugal, fruit, fry, fugitive, fume, function, fund, funeral, fungus, funnel, fur, furnace, furnish, furniture, fury, fuse, fusion, fusty, futile, future*, etc. As these words, though of foreign origin, have long been completely established in popular currency, they have in most instances developed many new senses in addition to those which they had already acquired in the languages from which they are taken, and the articles devoted to them are therefore usually of considerable length. A remarkable characteristic of the portion of the vocabulary here treated is the abundance of onomatopœic formations, and of words which, though having a definite etymology, have been felt to have an inherent expressiveness in their sound which has influenced their development of meaning: such, for example, as *fizz, flab, flap, flash, fleer, flick, flip, flop, flounce, flounder, slump, flurry, flush, flutter, fumble, fuzzi*.

The almost total absence of terms of purely scientific application beginning with F is partly due to the fact that the great mass of English scientific terms are either formed from Greek elements, or contain Latin prefixes. As has been already stated, no word of immediate Greek derivation begins in modern English orthography with F. If a phonetic system of spelling had been adopted in English, the proportion of scientific terms under the letter would have been very large, as it would have included the many Greek derivatives which are now spelt with initial PH-. The letter F is also remarkable in containing no words beginning with Latin prefixes, which in all the earlier letters occur in considerable numbers. Most of the scientific terms which are found in this portion of the Dictionary are special applications of words which are popularly current in non-technical senses. In the explanation of these the assistance of eminent specialists has been obtained. Although much of the 'encyclopædic' matter which it has been the custom to insert in English dictionaries is of set purpose excluded from this work as being alien to its scope, the current senses of scientific terms are often given with greater precision than in previous dictionaries, and many interesting facts with regard to their origin and history have for the first time been brought to light.

Among the articles which contain material of value to students of legal history may be mentioned those on *farm, fee, felony, feoffee, feu, feud, fine, franchise, frankpledge, frithborh*. In most of the Law

Dictionaries, and hence in some dictionaries of the English language, there appear many alleged terms of early English law which have no real existence, having been evolved from misreadings or misunderstandings of the texts. It has not always been thought worth while to occupy space in recording these figments; but in a few cases (as under *fierding-court*), where the error has obtained some general currency, its origin has been briefly pointed out.

In the etymologies, the conclusions reached by earlier investigators have been carefully considered in the light of the new evidence afforded by the quotations, and of the general results of recent philological research. Among the articles containing etymological facts or suggestions not found in earlier dictionaries may be mentioned those on the words *factotum*, *fade*, *failure*, *fake*, *fall*, *fallow*, *faller*, *far*, *farther*, *farce*, *farm*, *fathom*, *favel*, *favella*, *fee*, *feeze*, *felon*, *feud*, *flamfew*, *flamingo*, *flannel*, *flask*, *flavour*, *flee*, *fleech*, *flippant*, *flounder*, *focile*, *fog*, and *foggy*, *fogger* (with which compare the later articles *fooker*, *fowker*, *fulker*), *foist* vb., *follow*, *frantic*, *free*, *fresh*, *fret*, *frill*, *frith* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *frizzle*, *frock*, *froe*, *frog*, *frough*, *fudge*, *full* v.<sup>1</sup> (to baptize), *funnel*, *fur*, *further*, *fuss*, *fylfot*. In this department I have received continued help from Prof. Sievers, now of Leipzig, Prof. Napier, Oxford, and Monsieur Paul Meyer, and on particular questions from other scholars, among whom are the Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, the Rev. Canon D. Silvan Evans, Dr. H. Sweet, Oxford, Prof. J. H. Gallée, Utrecht, and Monsieur A. Hatzfeld.

The material for the letter F, so far as it existed in 1875, was sub-edited, according to the original plan of the Dictionary, by the Rev. G. Wheelwright, who printed a specimen (8 pages 4to) containing *Fa—Face*. The earlier portion was afterwards taken in hand by the Rev. G. B. R. Bousfield, B.A., and Mr. J. Peto, the former of whom sub-edited *F—Fi*, and the latter *Fl—Floun*. I have to record, with great regret, the removal by death of both these valued helpers in the work of the Dictionary. Owing to this and to other circumstances, it was not found possible to obtain outside help in the preliminary arrangement of the material from *Flu-* onwards.

I have to acknowledge with gratitude the continued and unremitting labour of Mr. Fitzedward Hall, D.C.L., who has enriched every page with new and valuable quotations. Lord Aldenham, the Rev. Dr. J. T. Fowler, of Durham, and Mr. W. H. Stevenson, M.A., Exeter College, Oxford, have also read all the first proofs, and have often suggested important improvements.

Occasional assistance in special departments has been received from most of those whose names are mentioned in the Prefatory Note to the letter E, especially from Mr. A. Beazeley, C.E.; Sir F. Pollock, Bart.; Mr. R. B. Prosser; Mr. W. Sykes, M.R.C.S. (now of Gosport). The constant (almost daily) help rendered by Dr. Furnivall it would be impossible adequately to acknowledge. Thanks for information or advice on the treatment of particular words are also due to Mr. A. Caland. Wageningen, Holland; Mr. W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, Royal Gardens, Kew; Mr. H. T. Gerrans, M.A., Oxford; Mr. James Hammond, M.A.; Mr. George Heppel, M.A.; Mr. A. F. Leach, M.A.; Prof. Maitland, Cambridge; the Rev. H. Rashdall, M.A.; Mr. J. M. Rigg; and Mr. R. J. Whitwell.

My assistants in the preparation of this half-volume (to whom I owe most cordial thanks for their painstaking and zealous co-operation) are Mr. G. F. H. Sykes, B.A.; Mr. Walter Worrall, B.A.; Mr. W. J. Lewis; Mr. H. J. Bayliss, and (latterly) Miss E. S. Bradley. In the proof-reading I have, as before, been ably assisted by Mr. A. Erlebach, B.A. My removal to Oxford, which took place in the middle of 1896, has, by enabling me to confer with my assistants personally instead of by correspondence, materially facilitated my work, and the results are already visible in the greatly increased rapidity with which the copy has been produced.

HENRY BRADLEY.

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#### EMENDATIONS.

**Falcon-gentle.** 'The falcon-gentle is the female of the peregrine, not of the goshawk . . . and her male is the tercel-gentle.' (D. H. Madden, *Diary of Master William Silence*, 1897, p. 376.)

**Faldstool.** The explanation given of the OE. form *fyldestól* is incorrect; cf. the gloss 'volumina, fylðas' in *Zeitschrift f. deutsches Alterthum*, IX. 494.

**Fastgong, Fastingong.** The ON. forms *fastu-gangr*, *fastu-ningangr*, should have been referred to. From the latter it appears that the correct analysis of *fastingong* is *fast* sb. + *ingang*.

**Feindill.** The article should be deleted, the word in the quot. being a mistake for *seindill* (= seldom).

**For, prep. 7 c.** The expression 'to name (a child) for (=after) a person' is erroneously marked 'now only U.S.' It is still current in Sc.

**Forayer.** A reference should be given to the articles FOURRIER, FURRIER<sup>1</sup>.

**Fox sb. 16.** *Fox-whelp* b was app. a kind of cider. Cf. the following quot.:

1664 EVELYN *Pomona* iv. 14 For the kinds then of Cider-Apples in being . . . Some commend the Fox-Whelp.

**Foy, v.** Mr. G. H. Haswell informs us that on the north-east coast (esp. at Shields), a *foy-boat* was a small boat used (before the introduction of steam-tugs) to tow vessels in and out of harbour. The boat carried a small anchor or 'kedge', and was rowed a certain distance ahead of the vessel being towed; the kedge was then dropped, and the men on the ship 'hove upon' the kedge with a windlass until the vessel came over it, when the kedge was taken up and the process repeated. The operation was called *foying*, and the men employed *foy-men*. (See *The Maister: a Century of Tyneside Life*, p. 39.)

**Fruz, v.** Delete the reference to FURZE v., and insert the following as the first example:

1703 MRS. CENTLIVRE *Beau's Duel* IV. i Mercy on me, what a bush of hair is there fruz'd out.