

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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## FLEXUOSITY — FOISTER.

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BY

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### NOTE.

THIS Section contains 1025 Main words, 350 Combinations explained under these, and 143 Subordinate entries; 1518 in all. The *obvious combinations*, recorded and illustrated by quotations, without separate definition, number 332 more. Of the 1025 Main words, 839 are current and native or fully naturalized, 173 (17%) are marked (†) as *obsolete*, and 13 (1¼%) as (||) *alien* or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with the corresponding portion of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, and of some more recent lexicographical works, shows the following figures:

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic.'	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard.'	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Flexuosity</i> to <i>Foister</i>	155	795	1074	1003	1850
Words illustrated by quotations	117	288	416	140	1510
Number of illustrative quotations	499	538	1149	185	7544

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 584.

The words in this Section represent, in somewhat more nearly equal proportions than usual, all the various elements of which the English language is composed, except that Greek derivatives are entirely absent. Although the primary words coming down from Old English and Old Norse are not very numerous, they occupy a large proportion of space on account of their multiplicity of senses and the abundance of their derivatives and combinations. Under most of these (as *flight*, *fling*, *flint*, *flit*, *float*, *flock*, *flood*, *floor*, *flow*, *fly*, *foam*) will be found evidence of the existence of senses and uses not hitherto recorded in dictionaries, or new light on the process of development of the senses already well known. The Romanic words of early adoption are still fewer in number, but they include the important word *flower* (of which *flour* was originally only a specific application, the distinction between the two words not being recognized even in Johnson's Dictionary), as well as *flourish*, *flinch*, *foison*, *foin*, and nine different words with the spelling *foil*. Of Latin derivatives of later introduction there are *flora*, *floral*, *florid*, *fluctuate*, *fluent* and *fluency*, *flux*, *fluxion*, *focus*, &c. The onomatopœic words, which were so prominent a feature of the last published section of F, are largely represented also in this Section, especially in the *fl*-portion: examples are *flick*, *flicker*, *flip*, *flip-flap*, *flog*, *flop*, *fluff*, *flump*, *flurry*, &c. Words belonging to this class, which have undergone a somewhat interesting development of meaning, are *flippant* and *firt*. Partly at least of onomatopœic origin are the eleven words spelt *flush*, which with their derivatives occupy two whole pages.

The Section includes a more than ordinarily large number of new etymological suggestions, which it is hoped will commend themselves to the judgement of scholars as at least more plausible than those found in other dictionaries; some of the most noteworthy of these will be found in the articles *flounder*, *foçile*, *fog*, *foggy*, *fogger*, and *foist* (verb). It may be mentioned that the hypothesis put forward as to the origin of *fogger* appears to be supported by early quotations for *fooker*, *fowker*, which were discovered after the article was sent to press.