

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

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TH—THYZLE.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS double section contains 2265 Main words, 693 combinations explained under these, and 578 entries of obsolete forms, etc., amounting to 3536. The *obvious combinations*, recorded, classified, and illustrated under the Main words, number 533 more, raising the total to 4069. Of the Main words, 1807 (79.78 %) are now current English, native or naturalized, 366 (or 16.16 %) are marked † as obsolete, and 92 (4.06 %) || alien or not fully naturalized. Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some more recent Dictionaries shows the following figures:—

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Th-</i> to <i>Thy-</i>	318	1478	1847	1984	4069
Words illustrated by quotations	284	447	636	190	3608
Number of illustrative quotations	1023	789	1875	255	20,133

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 988.

It has been necessary to extend the size of this issue considerably beyond that of the ordinary double-section, in order to include all the words in TH. Like initial CH, PH, and SH, initial TH is, phonetically, a separate letter, although the usual alphabetical order embeds it in the midst of T, between Te- and Ti-, with which it has no immediate kinship. As shown in the initial article, which gives the history of the sound, and the symbols by which it has been represented in Greek and in English, TH actually stands in modern English for *two* simple consonantal sounds, viz. *th* in *thin* (p), and *th* in *then* (ð), which have the same relation to each other as *t* and *d*, or *s* and *z*. Initially, the second of these, *th* in *then* (ð) is confined exclusively to the demonstrative words, derivatives from the root of *the* or *that*, and the pronouns of the second person singular, *thou*, *thee*, *thine*, *thy*. The demonstrative words—adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, conjunctions—are not numerous: they comprise the existing simple words *the*, *that*, *this*, *these*, *those*; *they*, *their*, *theirs*, *them*; *then*, *thence*, *there*, *thither*, *thus*; *than*, *though*; and their compounds; with about as many more, obsolete or dialectal; but they occupy, with their history, forms, senses, and uses, a large portion of the following pages. Thus THE as definite article and in other uses fills 11 columns, while THAT requires 13. As is well known to students of the English language, the history of some of these words presents peculiar difficulties. This is especially true of the plural demonstratives *these* and *those*, both originally plural of *this*, though *those* now functions as plural of *that*, having supplanted *tho*, so well known in Chaucer, e.g. 'Of whiche he Theofraste is oon of tho'. The history of these plurals is here fully displayed.

The *thin* sound (p) pertains initially to all other words; and (with half-a-dozen exceptions) these are all either Teutonic (Old English or Scandinavian) or of Greek origin. Among the native words are the numerals THREE, *thirteen*, *thirty*, THOUSAND, and their derivatives THIRD and THRICE. Among native substantives are *thane*, *thief*, *thigh*, THING, *thistle*, *thorn*, THOUGHT, THREAD, *threat*, THRESHOLD, *throat*, *throb*, THROE, *throng*, THROSTLE, THRUSH, *thrum*, *thumb*, THUNDER; among adjectives, THICK, and THIN; among verbs THANK, *thatch*, THINK, *thole*, *thrash* or *thresh*, *thrill*, and THROW, the latter forming the longest article in the section (with its family, 20 columns). This verb is also notable for its change of meaning, its OE. sense being retained now only in the Scotch *thraw* to twist, turn, and in the *throwing* of pottery and silk. Large articles are THOROUGH, and THROUGH, both originating in the OE. *þurh*. The primary words in þ in OE. or Anglo-Saxon dictionaries are about 200, of which 130 came down into ME. and 90 are in modern use. Including derivatives and compounds, Bosworth-Toller has 730 OE. words; the main words and compounds of native origin explained here number about 2000. Words from Norse are also numerous, esp. in *thr-*. Among them are *thrall*, *thrawe*, *thrift*, *thrive*, *thrust*, *thwart*; also *thro* in the curious Middle English alliterating phrase *thriuen and thro*.

Words from Greek are also very numerous (922 in all), comprising main words, as *theatre*, *theme*, *theory*, *thorax*, *throne*, *thyme*, each with many derivatives, and also the prolific families of *thalamo-*, *thallo-*, *thanaio-*, *thauma-*, *theo-* (140 derivatives), *thermo-* (13 columns), *thio-*, *thrombo-*, *thyro-*. In these groups the most interesting words as to their history are THEOLOGY and THERMOMETER. Whence Leonard Digges derived (or invented) his name for 'the planisphere or circle called *Theodelitus*', remains unknown, though his original spelling eliminates conjectures founded on the later altered form THEODOLITE. Among words of some interest are THIRDBOROUGH, THIRLEPOLL, *thistle-lack*, *thorp*, THOMAS ATKINS, now more familiar as *Tommy*, and *Thew* (*sb.*²) for the chastisement of turbulent women. Under THWACK *v.* we see Sir Thomas More ready to wager that no foreigner could pronounce after him 'Thwaitis thwackt him with a Thwille'.