

A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VI. L—N.)

MEET—MONOPOLY.

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Meet—Mesnalty. This includes 1230 Main words, 88 Special Combinations explained under these, and 642 Subordinate entries; in all 1960. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 168, making a total of 2128. Of the Main words 290 (23 $\frac{3}{4}$ %) are marked † as obsolete, and 93 (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %) are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

| | Johnson. | Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.* | 'Century' Dict. | Funk's 'Standard'. | Here. |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Words recorded, <i>Meet</i> to <i>Mesnalty</i> | 159 | 1149 | 1200 | 1299 | 2128 |
| Words illustrated by quotations | 122 | 293 | 332 | 85 | 1471 |
| Number of illustrative quotations | 374 | 406 | 796 | 119 | 6867 |

* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 418.

This section contains few words of native English etymology: the most important of these are *meet* vb., *mell* vb., *meng* vb., *mere* sb.¹ and sb.², *mermaid*, *merry*, *mesk*. The greatest amount of space is occupied by the words from French and Latin; but there are also many modern scientific formations from Greek, beginning with *mega-*, *megalo-*, *meio-*, *melan-*, *mero-*. The only Celtic words are *menhir* and *merrow*. From Oriental and American languages there are *mehmandar*, *mehtar*, *Melchite*, *melt* sb., *menhaden*.

Among the words showing interesting development of senses may be mentioned *meinie*, *melancholy*, *mellow*, *member*, *menial*, *Mercury*, *mere* adj., *meridian*, *merit*.

Etymological facts or suggestions not hitherto given in English dictionaries will be found under *melanochroi*, *menstruum*, *mercy*, *mere* sb.², *mere* adj., *merino*, *merry*.

Mesne—Misbirth. This includes 2298 Main words, 617 Special Combinations explained under these, and 885 Subordinate entries; in all 3800. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 864, making a total of 4664. Of the Main words, 439 (19%) are marked † as obsolete, and 188 (under 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ %) are marked || as alien, or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

| | Johnson. | Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.* | 'Century' Dict. | Funk's 'Standard'. | Here. |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Words recorded, <i>Mesne</i> to <i>Misbirth</i> | 323 | 2396 | 2156 | 2459 | 4664 |
| Words illustrated by quotations | 246 | 655 | 671 | 179 | 2822 |
| Number of illustrative quotations | 691 | 841 | 1414 | 232 | 13931 |

* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 724.

In this section the words that have come down from Old English are numerically a small minority; but among them are several that have required to be treated at some length on account of their multitude of senses, or have given rise to a considerable number of derivatives and combinations, as *mickle*, *mid* adj., *middle*, *might*, *mighty*, *mild*, *milk*, *mill*, *mind* sb.¹ and vb., *mingle* vb., *mirth*, and the originally Latin *mile*, *mill*, *mint* sb.¹

More numerous, and on the whole more interesting with regard to their development of meaning, are the words derived from French and Latin, including *mesne*, *mess*, *message*, *messenger*, *mine*, *minim*, *minish*, *minister*, *minor*, *minus*, *miracle*, *mirror*, and a large number of words ultimately from Greek, as *metal* (and its differentiated form *mettle*), *metamorphosis*, *metaphysic*, *meteor*, *method*, *metropolis*, *microcosm*, *misanthrope*. The modern scientific terms formed from Greek elements are abundant, but in general they occupy comparatively little space in the Dictionary, many of them being grouped together in the articles *meso-*, *meta-*, and *micro-*. The Celtic languages contribute only *messan* (whence the diminutive *messet*), *metheglin*, and *mind* sb.² From Hebrew there are *Messiah* and some terms relating to Jewish antiquities; from Arabic *mesquita* a mosque (obsolete), *metel*, *minar*, *minaret*; from various Oriental and American languages a few words pertaining to natural history or relating to the institutions of remote countries.

Among the articles in which the etymological information given in former Dictionaries is corrected or supplemented are those on *meter* sb.³, *method*, *methy*, *mew* sb.¹, *mickle*, *mid* adj., *midden*, *middenerd*, *middling*, *midst*, *mien*, *milch*, *milk* sb. and vb., *mill* sb.¹, *mill*, *milt*, *mine* sb. and vb., *minus*, *minute* sb., *mire* sb.¹, *mire* sb.², *mire-drum*, and the prefix *mis-*. The curious form-history of *methinks* is fully presented, probably for the first time. Under *mess* sb., the senses 'confusion, muddle, dirty or untidy condition', which have commonly been supposed to belong to an etymologically distinct word, are shown to be a natural though very recent development of the older senses. Various points of historical interest are illustrated under the words *methodist*, *minister*, *minstrel*.

Misbode—Monopoly. This includes 2405 Main words, 268 Special Combinations explained under these, and 808 Subordinate entries; in all 3481. The *obvious combinations* recorded and illustrated number 309, making a total of 3790. Of the Main words 570 (23 $\frac{3}{4}$ %) are marked † as obsolete, and 98 (4%) are marked †† as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Dr. Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries give the following figures:—

| | Johnson. | Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'. | 'Century' Dict. | Funk's 'Standard'. | Here. |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|
| Words recorded, <i>Misbode</i> to <i>Monopoly</i> | 359 | 1983 | 2018 | 2103 | 3790 |
| Words illustrated by quotations | 275 | 742 | 859 | 203 | 3022 |
| Number of illustrative quotations | 771 | 933 | 1778 | 253 | 14394 |

* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 962.

More than a third of the space in the present instalment is occupied by the words beginning with the pre x *mis-*, which are partly of native English and partly of Romanic origin. Of the remaining words, the great majority are of Latin and French etymology. There is, however, a considerable number of native words, but several of these are obsolete; of those which still survive in use the most prominent are *miss* sb.¹ and vb.¹, *mist*, *mite*¹, *moan* sb. and vb., *mole* sb.¹ and sb.², *Monday*. Of ultimately Greek derivation are the many formations with the prefixes *mis(o)-* and *mon(o)-*, and a few other words, as *mnemonic* and its cognates, *moly*, *molybdena*, *molybdic*. The only Celtic words are *moar*, *mobarship*, *mod*, and *mollag*, which have a very slender claim to be regarded as English. Modern German has given us *mispickel*; from Dutch there are the obsolete and rare *misken* sb., *misken*², *misken-fro*. Hebrew is represented by *mishna(h)* and *Moloch*; Arabic, Persian, and various Indian tongues by *miskal*, *mochras*, *mofussil*, *mogra*, *Mogul*, *mohair*, *Moharram*, *mokaddam*, *monaul*, *mongoose*; the American Indian languages by *mitu*, *mituporanga*, *mobbie*, *moccasin*, *moco-moco*, *Mohawk*, *Mohican*; Maori and Polynesian by *moa*, *mohiki*, *moho*, *moki*, *moko*, *moko-moko*.

Although this section contains no article of great length, the words exhibiting remarkable sense-development are perhaps more than usually numerous. Among these may be mentioned *mischief*, *miscreant*, *miser*, *miss* sb.¹ and sb.², *miss* vb.¹, *mistress*, *mite* sb.², *mock* vb., *mode*, *model*, *moderate*, *moderation*, *modern*, *modest*, *modulate*, *molest*, *moment*, *money*, *mongrel*, *monk*, *monopoly*.

In the department of etymology the most noteworthy point is the derivation of the verb *mix*, which is not, as has hitherto been commonly asserted, the representative of the Old English *miscian*, but a development from the Latin participle *mixtus*. The true explanation was already given in 1893 by Dr. Murray in the article *Commix*, but has been overlooked or tacitly rejected by subsequent lexicographers. Another result of some interest is the ultimate identity of *mockado* and *mohair*. Etymological facts or suggestions not given in previous Dictionaries will also be found in the articles *miss* sb.¹, *mistletoe*, *mitis*¹ and ², *mizen*, *mo*, *mock* vb., *mode*, *moderate* vb., *moire*, *moist*, *mole* sb.², *moline*, *monkey*.