

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME VIII.)

Q — REE.

BY

W. A. CRAIGIE, M.A.

## PREFATORY NOTES.

**Q.** THIS section contains 1407 Main words, 265 Combinations explained under these, and 649 Subordinate entries ; in all 2321. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, but not requiring individual explanation, number 408 more. Of the 1407 Main words, 962 are current and fully 'English,' 389 are marked † as obsolete, and 56 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded	245	874	1058	971	2729
Words illustrated by quotations	182	349	461	108	2253
Number of illustrative quotations	611	561	1316	156	9480

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 660.

Comparatively few of the words beginning with Q in English are of native origin. Out of the 80 pages of which this section consists, not more than 16 are occupied with the treatment of native words (even including several of doubtful etymology which appear in early Middle English). On the other hand the Latin element (adopted directly or through French) covers rather more than 50 pages. Of those words which have come down from OE. and are still in current use, the most important are *quake*, *quean*, *queen*, *quell*, *quench*, *quern*, *quick* (which with its derivatives and combinations occupies 18 columns), and *quoth* (a relic of the obs. vb. *quethe*). The other Teutonic tongues have contributed very little ; † *quart* (a. and sb.<sup>1</sup>) and *quey* are from ON., *quacksalver* (abbrev. *quack*) from Du., and *quartz* from German. Here may also be mentioned an interesting group of onomatopoeic words which express the idea of shaking or trembling, as *quab*, *quag* (see also *quagmire*), *quap*, *quave*, *quaver*, *quiver*, *quop*.

A notable feature of the Latin element in Q is the number of words adopted without change of form, as *quære*, *quantum*, *quarto*, *quondam*, *quorum*, etc. Those modified in accordance with English usage are also very numerous and important. Some of these were no doubt originally adopted through OFr., which has otherwise contributed largely, e. g. *quainf*, *quarrel*, *quarry*, *quarter* (with a remarkable development of special senses, combinations, etc., extending to 19 columns), *quest*, *quilt*, *quite*, etc. From mod.Fr. come *quadrille*, *quarte*, *quartette*, *quinte* and *qui vive* (erroneously explained in most English dicts.). The other Romanic tongues are very slightly represented.

More remote languages (American, African, etc.) have given such words as *quagga*, *quahaug*, *quamash*, *quandong*, *quassia*, *quetzal*, *quina* (with numerous derivatives) and *quinoa* : in the etymologies of these some advances have been made on previous dictionaries.

More or less obscurity still attaches to the etymology of a considerable number of words in this section, some of which have been the subject of much discussion. Such are *quaff*, *quail* vb., *qualm* sb.<sup>3</sup>, *quandary*, *queasy*, *queer*, *quibble*, *quill*, *quip*, *quirk*, *quiver* vb., *quiz* and *quoil*. In these cases the historical evidence collected here may assist in leading to more definite results than have yet been attained.

**R—Reactive.** This section contains 1434 Main words, 294 Combinations explained under these, and 1237 Subordinate entries, or 2965 in all. The obvious combinations recorded and illustrated number 738, making a total of 3703. Of the Main words 388 are marked † as obsolete, and 66 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>R</i> to <i>Reactive</i>	257	1189	1440	1281	3703
Words illustrated by quotations	204	427	492	116	2965
Number of illustrative quotations	809	769	1731	181	14182

\* Including the Supplement of 1902.

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 760.

As few of the words dealt with in this section have required extensive treatment, the number it contains is comparatively large. A notable feature is the prevalence of groups of monosyllabic words having the same form, but of different origin and meaning; the most striking examples of this are *race*, *rack*, *rag*, *rail*, *rake*, *rap*, *rape*, *rash*, *rai*, *rate*, *rave* and *ray*. In the section as a whole, both the Teutonic and Latin elements of the language are well represented.

Among the more important words of English origin are *rafter*, *raid* (an old Sc. form, revived and popularized by Scott), *rain*, *rainbow*, *rake* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *ram*, *rank* adj., *rather*, *raven*, *raw*, and *reach*. The adoptions from Scandinavian are numerous, and include *race* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *raik*, *rake* v.<sup>1</sup>, *ransack* (probably also *rack* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *raft* and *rag*), together with the verb *raise*, which has flourished at the expense of the native *rear* and forms the longest article in the section. A Du. or LG. origin seems probable in a few cases, as *rack* sb.<sup>2</sup> and sb.<sup>3</sup>, *ran*, and *ravel*. The French element is very large, and includes many of the commonest words, as *race* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *rage*, *rail* sb.<sup>2</sup> (whence the Eng. combs. *railroad* and *railway*), *raisin*, *rampant*, *rampart*, *random*, *range*, *ransom*, *rascal*, *ravage*, *ravish*, *ray*. The Fr. *raser* to shave, etc., appears in the three forms *race*, *rase*, and *raze*, each of which has now a specific sense. Among the Latin words which have been adopted (directly or through Fr.) with only a slight change of form are *rabid*, *radial*, *radical*, *ramify*, *rancour*, *rapid*, *raft*, *rapture*, *rare*, *rate*, *ratify*, *rational*; of purely Latin form are *rabies*, *radius*, *radix*, *ratio*. The article on the prefix *Re-* introduces a class of Latin words and types which will bulk very largely in the sections immediately following on the present. The Gaelic contribution is as usual very small, being limited to *raith*, *rann*, *rapparee*, and *rath*. Adoptions from the more remote languages are also somewhat limited, the most prominent being *rabbi*(n), *racoon*, *rajah*, *rajput*, *raki*, *ramadan*, and *rattan*.

The ultimate origin and precise history of a certain number of words still remains more or less obscure; of these perhaps the most interesting and perplexing is *RAGMAN*<sup>2</sup>.

**Reactively—Ree.** This section contains 1390 Main words, 412 Combinations explained under these, and 843 Subordinate entries, making 2645 in all. The obvious combinations, recorded and illustrated by quotations, number 395, giving a total of 3040. Of the Main words, 377 are marked † as obsolete, and 22 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

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

	Johnson.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic'.	'Century' Dict.	Funk's 'Standard'.	Here.
Words recorded, <i>Reactively</i> to <i>Ree</i>	291	1195	1432	1092	3040
Words illustrated by quotations	255	515	529	123	2677
Number of illustrative quotations	872	778	1605	174	16156

The number of quotations in the corresponding portion of Richardson is 945.

Although this section contains comparatively few words of native origin, some of these are of considerable importance and interest, as the vb. *read* and its doublet *rede*, *ready*, *reap* (with a puzzling variety of early forms), *rear* (the native verb corresponding to the Scand. *raise*), *reck* and *reckless* (with their obs. variants *retch* and *retchless*), *reckon*, and finally the adj. *RED*, the specific applications of which have involved much research and occupy a considerable amount of space. Of less prominent words, mention may be made of *read* sb.<sup>1</sup>, *ream* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *rear* adj.<sup>2</sup>, *rearmouse*, and *rede* sb.<sup>1</sup>

Apart from these, the important words in the section are of Latin or French origin, and many of these hold a very prominent place in the language. With a few exceptions, such as *real*, *realm* and *reason*, these words are formed with the prefix *re-*, although the original force of this is in many cases no longer felt. Among those which have most closely retained the Latin form are *rebel*, *rebellion*, *recant*, *recede*, *recent*, *reception*, *recess*, etc., while French influence is prominent in *rebate*, *rebound*, *rebuke*, *rebut*, *receive*, *recover*, *redress*, etc. The very abstract sense of some of these words (as *receive*, *recover*) causes considerable difficulty of arrangement, which is sometimes increased by the large number of obsolete uses which have to be recorded, as in the case of *redound*, *redress*, *reduce*. Formations of the type *readapt*, *readdress*, *readhere*, etc., are numerous, but seldom of special interest. In some cases the main element in such words is of English origin, as *rebellow*, *recall*, *recast*, *recut*.

The only notable words which have a more remote origin than the above are *realgar*, *ream* (of paper), and *rebeck*. Etymological difficulties are comparatively few, and of minor importance.

Of words having a historical interest those which chiefly deserve mention are *rebato*, *recheat*, *recognition*, *recognizance*, *recovery*, and the agent-nouns *reader*, *receiver*, *recorder*, *rector*.