

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. PART I.)

## U — UNFORESEEABLE.

BY

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### PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section of the Dictionary there are 5301 Main words, 77 Special Combinations explained under these, 409 Obvious Combinations, and 433 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 6220 words. Of the Main words 803 are marked † as obsolete, and 28 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some recent Dictionaries gives the following results:—

|                                 | Johnson. | Cassell's<br>'Encyclopædic'<br>and Suppl. | 'Century' Dict.<br>and Suppl. | Funk's<br>'Standard' | Here.  |
|---------------------------------|----------|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Words recorded                  | 770      | 2194                                      | 2420                          | 3132                 | 6220   |
| Words illustrated by quotations | 723      | 1689                                      | 1129                          | 142                  | 5968   |
| Number of quotations            | 1537     | 2099                                      | 1645                          | 177                  | 26,034 |

In the corresponding portion of Richardson the quotations number 2474.

This first portion of U is representative of the letter as a whole in consisting of a certain number of words of usual types from various sources, together with a vastly greater number formed with one or other of two native prefixes having the same form, viz. UN-.

The words preceding UN- include a few of English origin, but the only one of these in common use is *udder*. The others are obsolete, archaic, or dialectal terms (as *ughten*, *uhtsong*, *umest*, *umquhile*), and some abbreviated or interjectional forms, as *uds*, *ugh*, *'um*, *um*, *umph*. Scandinavian has contributed the verb *ug* and the adj. *ugly* (with further developments in *ugglesome*, *uglify*, *ugsome*, etc.), and the Middle English prefix UM- (UMB-, UMBE-); otherwise the adoptions from the languages related to English are few and unimportant. On the other hand the Latin element is large in the words with initial *ub-*, *ul-*, and *um-*, especially in numerous and frequently important formations from the stems *über-*, *ubi-*, *ulcer-*, *ulm-*, *uln-*, *ulter-*, *ultim-*, *umbell-*, *umbil-*, *umbōn-*, *umbr-*. From Latin also (partly after French usage) comes the prefix ULTRA-, and the suffixes *-ular*, *-ule*, *-ulent*, *-ulose*, *-ulous*. Old French has contributed *ullage*, *umbles*, *umbrage*, *umbrageous*, *umpire*, and some others, while *umbrella* is a comparatively late adoption from Italian. Greek is barely represented by scientific terms in *ulo-* (and *uloid*). Among the words from less usual sources it may be noted that Irish has supplied *ullagone*, *Ulster*, † *Ultagh*, and *Ultonian*, Russian *Ugrian*, *ukase*, *Ukrainian*, Turkish *Uhlan*, *Ulema*, and Eskimo *umiak*.

The remarkable extension, during the course of centuries, in the use of the prefixes UN<sup>-1</sup> and UN<sup>-2</sup> (as displayed in the special articles devoted to these) makes it impossible to include even every recorded or actual form in which they occur, and still less to insert unrecorded but legitimate formations in which they might be employed. The number of forms, however, having a claim to insertion on historical or other grounds is so great, that it has been found necessary to introduce special typographical features and other devices to obtain the requisite space and to indicate the relative importance of the various words. Previous dictionaries have freely inserted forms with *un-* of which the currency is uncertified, or of which only one instance can be cited, while omitting others which have been in real use, sometimes for centuries. With the evidence here presented, it is now possible to distinguish between the two classes, and to separate the casual from the more permanent formations, some of which hold as important a place in the language as the primitives from which they are formed.

The prefix UNDER- has also had a very extensive development from the 16th century onwards, and words of which it forms the first element occupy almost thirty pages. A few of these are of some importance or interest, as the nouns *undercliff*, *-croft*, *-graduate*, *-tow*, *-writer*, the adjs. and advs. *underfoot*, *-ground*, *-hand*, and the verbs *undergo*, *-mine*, *-stand*, *-take*, *-write*.

Of words in *un-* which are not formed with these prefixes, the most important are those based on the Latin stems *ūn-* 'one' (as *unal*, *unanimity*), *unct-* 'anoint' (as *unction*, *unctuous*) and *und-* 'wave' (as *undine*, *undulant*, *undulate*). Outside of these, only the French *uncle* and the native *undern* (now archaic or dialectal) call for special notice.