

# A NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES.

(VOLUME X. SECOND HALF. V—Z.)

WILGA—WISE.

BY

C. T. ONIONS, M.A. OXON., M.A. LOND.

## PREFATORY NOTE.

In this section there are 458 Main words, 385 Special Combinations explained under these, 458 Obvious Combinations, and 175 Subordinate entries of obsolete or variant forms; in all 1476 words. Of the Main words 165 are marked † as obsolete, and 7 are marked || as alien or not fully naturalized.

Comparison with Johnson's and some other large Dictionaries gives the following figures:—

	Johnson, 1755.	Cassell's 'Encyclopædic' and Suppl.	'Century' and Suppl.	Here.
Words recorded <i>Wilga—Wise</i>	78	564	813	1476
Words illustrated by quotations	70	184	259	1311
Number of quotations	352	316	799	8552

In the corresponding portion of Richardson's Dictionary and Supplement the quotations number 317

Nearly the whole of this section is occupied with a handful of words (mostly monosyllables) and their derivatives, viz. *will* (sb.<sup>1</sup>, vbs.<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>), *win* (sbs.<sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>, vb.<sup>1</sup>), *wind* (sb.<sup>1</sup>, vb.<sup>1</sup>), *wine* (sb.<sup>1</sup>), *wing*, *wink* (vb.<sup>1</sup>), *winter*, *wipe*, *wire*; of these all but one belong to the Old English stock, and most of them have Indo-European connexions which are more or less clearly definable; one of them, *wine*, is a loanword with an ulterior history which has not yet been entirely cleared up.

The Scandinavian element includes the following: *will* adj. and vb.<sup>3</sup>, *wilsome* adj.<sup>1</sup>, *window* (with its interesting variants *windore*, *window*, and *winnock*), *wing*. From Anglo-Norman are *wimble*, *wince* vb.<sup>1</sup>, and *winch* vb.<sup>1</sup> Some form of Low German or Dutch has given *winbrow*, *winder* sb.<sup>4</sup>, *winnard*, *wintle*, *winze*<sup>2</sup>, and *wirrock*. There are some etymological obscurities, but they are to be found for the most part in words of slight general importance; it may be noted that the origin of *windfall* and of *windlass* sb.<sup>1</sup> remains uncertain. The proper-name element is represented by *Will* sb.<sup>3</sup>, *Willemite*, *will-gill*, *William*, *Williamite*, *Williams*, *Williamsite*, *willock*, *will o' the wisp* (originally *Will with the wisp*), *willy* sb.<sup>2</sup>, *Willon*, *Wiltshire*, *Winchester*, *Windsor*, and *Winter's* or *Winteran bark*. Aboriginal languages have contributed only a few words, and they are unimportant: *wilga*, *willy-willy*, *winninish*.

Miscellaneous points of interest are to be found in the evidence given upon the pronunciation of *wind* 'ventus'; the introduction of *wine-bibber* by Coverdale; the late emergence of the now prevailing sense of *wink*; the dialectal origin of the modern use of *winsome*; the local survival or revival of *winterbourne*; the synonyms of 'winnow', viz. *wim*, *wimble* vb.<sup>2</sup>, *wind* vb.<sup>3</sup>, *windle* vb.<sup>2</sup> The longest article is that on the 'auxiliary' verb *will*—viz. *will* vb.<sup>1</sup>, distinct in origin and use from *will* vb.<sup>2</sup>; its length is due partly to the wealth of inflexional forms that need illustration, partly to the large development of its senses, the fine distinctions of which are essentially a matter of lexicography and only incidentally concern grammar.