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"Perfection is unattainable, but nearer and nearer approaches may be made; and finding my Dictionary about to be reprinted, I have endeavoured, by a revisal, to make it less reprehensible. I will not deny, that I found many parts requiring emendation; and many more capable of improvement. Many faults I have corrected, some superfluities I have taken away, and some deficiencies I have supplied: I have methodised some parts that were disordered, and illuminated some that were obscure. Yet the changes or additions bear a very small proportion to the whole. The critic will now have less to object, but the student who has bought any of the former copies needs not repent; he will not, without nice collation, perceive how they differ; and usefulness seldom depends upon little things.

"For negligence, or deficiency, I have perhaps not need of more apology than the nature of the work will furnish: I have left that inaccurate which never was made exact, and that imperfect which never was completed."—

Of the present augmented edition of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary the proprietors, as I am informed, intend to publish as soon as possible, in the octavo size, an abridgement; in which I have respectfully, and for answerable reasons, declined any concern whatever. And I now relinquish altogether the labours of lexicography, with the hope, that my omissions and imperfections may stimulate the accurate and the judicious to form a dictionary of our language, as not to subject it to any of the animadversions which will be made on my attempt.

HENRY JOHN TODD.

May 29, 1819.
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The nature and design of the additions and alterations, which are made in the present publication of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, are explained in the preceding Advertisement. It remains to specify my obligations to others, in the preparation of the work; and to introduce to the reader's notice such other circumstances, connected with the progress of it, as it becomes me to state.

The first, and in my own opinion the most important, obligation which I have to acknowledge, is to James Boswell, Esq. of the Middle Temple, the son of the biographer of Johnson, the friend of the late Edmond Malone, and a zealous promoter of the cause of literature. Among the valuable books of Mr. Malone, consigned to the care of Mr. Boswell, there was a copy of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary interleaved, and bound in three volumes; in which Mr. Malone had "inserted a great number of additional words and examples omitted by Johnson." With the frankness, which distinguishes the real lover of learning, Mr. Boswell sent these volumes to me, of the existence of which I had not before known; allowing me, at the same time, to extract any of the observations, which Mr. Malone had made, for the purpose of the present work. The accuracy and diligence of Mr. Malone could not but render the business of examining his volumes very pleasing; nor fail to afford abundant service towards the labour in which I was employed. His statement at the beginning of the first of the volumes is this: "1052 manuscript remarks in the three volumes of this most valuable Dictionary: for the greater part I am answerable: those to which D is subscribed, were written by Samuel Dyer."—Of these additional words and examples a large number is taken from the works of Bishop Hall in particular, and from those of other writers in the reigns of Elizabeth and her successor; most of which, in the course of my studies, had been long since selected also by myself; the fitness of which for my design, I was therefore proud to find corroborated by the judgement of Mr. Malone. That I have omitted many of his additions, I will not conceal; that I have, in particular cases, expressly summoned him to my aid, will be obvious; and that he would not have disdained the manner in which I have adopted any of his improvements, I am persuaded.
To the President and Fellows of Sion College, I am next to say that, in like manner, I am indebted for an unsolicited offer of the use of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, belonging to their library; in the margins of which, references to authors for examples where several words have none, and also some new words with examples, are pointed out by the late Rev. Mr. Bagshaw, of Bromley, one of the friends of Dr. Johnson. But they are principally mere references, in number about 600, and chiefly to our theological writers; of which some agree with examples cited by Mr. Malone or myself, and some with others which have appeared in Mr. Mason's Supplement to Dr. Johnson's Dictionary. Etymological remarks are rarely found among these proofs of Mr. Bagshaw's diligence. By the perusal of the whole, however, I have been much gratified, as well as often confirmed in matters which had before excited hesitation.

For the sight of an interleaved copy of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, which belonged to the late Rev. Mr. Henshall, I have been obliged to Messrs. Longman and Co. booksellers. The copy is formed into four volumes: that, which ends with the letter C, contains the most of his fanciful, however learned, annotations: the rest are thinly strown with remarks. I am not aware of having derived advantage from this favour.

From the same gentlemen I received another copy of the Dictionary, filled with marginal remarks by the late Rev. Mr. Eyre. Though these remarks, like Mr. Bagshaw's, are mostly references; and though they are references principally to recent publications, as reviews and magazines, of which, at the beginning of the book, Mr. Eyre gives a list; as plays and novels also of our own days; one cannot but admire the indefatigable industry of the scholiast, in crowding the margins with words or sentences, intended (I should suppose in very many instances) rather for future consideration than for decided addition. Had the same attention been paid to our old authors, the labour of Mr. Eyre would have been invaluable. Probably, not having access to many writers of this description, Mr. Eyre availed himself of the less useful information within his reach; and bestowed acute as well as diligent investigation upon objects not always deserving it. Sometimes, though rarely, he has given a citation from a book of elder times; a citation generally admissible. The writer of a future dictionary may perhaps often betake himself to this storehouse of information. What I have scrupled to adopt, may, at no distant period, demand, on increasing authority, admittance into an English dictionary; and eccentric terms, which have been employed by questionable writers to express common conceptions, may perhaps lose their novelty, or their quaintness, in sage and solemn usage.

There remains to be expressed another obligation to these gentlemen for the use of several books and papers, which were the property of the late Mr. Horne Tooke. Of these in due order. The first has been a copy of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary in two folio volumes, with marginal notes; in which there are not fifty that can be of service to
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any lexicographer, (as I perhaps mistakingly conceive,) who is in possession of the Diversions of Purley. This copy had been purchased at the sale of Mr. Tooke's library, and is said to have been intended by the purchaser to be the basis of a new English dictionary. By the purchaser, however, it was consigned to Messrs. Longman and Co.; and the publick will with me lament, that any intention should have been impeded, of which the furtherance might at once have crushed my humble attempt. At the beginning of this copy, there are the names of some authors entered; on the preface there are some remarks, not of the most liberal character; and to the history of the language, and to the grammar, there is no addition of importance. The Hermit of Mr. Harris, another of Mr. Tooke's books, abounding with his notes of haughty mood, has been of no use whatever to my purpose. His folio copy of Beaumont and Fletcher, with words marked in the margins, (an employment in which he was assisted by a distinguished living character,) has been of great service to me; being the same edition as that from which my own remarks had been formed, and thus by easy reference confirming my choice with respect to dubious expressions, as well as pointing out others which I had overpassed. The Gothick and Saxon dictionary of Lye, edited by Mr. Manning, was also among the printed volumes of Mr. Tooke entrusted to me; upon which the manuscript remarks afforded no intelligence of consequence. I come next to the observations upon our language, which Mr. Tooke left in manuscript books; at least such as I have examined. These were fifteen quarto books, containing the words of Dr. Johnson's Dictionary in regular order, with some additions, more particularly adverbs and substantives derived from adjectives; but without example, or other notice than the mere entry of the word. This employment occasionally suggested to me the introduction of such words into the dictionary, especially when I could support them by example. And therefore to this employment of Mr. Tooke I gladly acknowledge myself indebted. Six quarto books, containing words arranged according to terminations, as in and, ard, cd, est, &c. have been without use to me, however they might have been intended for some valuable purpose by Mr. Tooke. Of a quarto, entitled roots, which are Latin verbs, with English words stated to be derived from them, I found no occasion to avail myself. In another, entitled Gothick roots, consisting of not many written pages, there was little to be observed, which was not already in Lye. Out of three quarto, entitled Index Expurgatorius, or a list of such words as Mr. Tooke would have discharged from Dr. Johnson's Dictionary, I have made no selection; some, which he rejects, being supported by no mean authority; and some, being local, deserving to be retained. I think that in the letter A the arbitrary abolitions amount to about 600. Besides these books, there was a great variety of cards, upon which were written terminations entered in the quarto volumes, and other intended verbal arrangements. There was also one set, denouncing certain words as false English, and arranged according to terminations, which I have printed at the close of this Dictionary; both as it is a specimen of the employment which I have been describing, and as a criticism, rarely to be questioned. Such is the account of the papers, left by Mr. Tooke, which I have
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seen; which indicate, I think, that he had once intended to compile an English Dictionary. If more had been left to show, that he had other illustrations to offer, not dissimilar to those which his Diversions of Purley had communicated, his friends would surely not have suffered them to slumber in inglorious silence. For that work, in which he has so acutely illustrated an ancient system, he has the thanks of every sound philologist; though it has been well remarked, that he has not laid in it, as he imagined, the foundation for future philosophers.

I am now to offer my thanks to the Rev. Archdeacon Churton, and the Rev. J. B. Blakeway; by whose remarks, communicated without solicitation, and without conditions, I have been, in several instances, materially assisted: to John Nichols, Esq. for the perusal of papers, illustrating our language, which were written by the late Dr. Pegge, and which offered, though mostly interwoven into his own publications, a gleaning or two to be gathered: to Roger Wilbraham, Esq. for the use of some uncommon books in his possession, and for some pertinent observations: and to Martin Whish, Esq. of whose attention, though directing me not seldom to what my own researches had also marked, I cannot express too grateful a sense, when I consider the largeness of the communications, and the liberality with which they were made. Some notices have been sent by others, whose good intentions I respect, in number and importance too inconsiderable to require further acknowledgement. Nor have I been without obligation, in the progress of my employment, to criticisms which wanted as well as to those which possessed the writer’s name; in which, on the one hand, much wit has been employed upon what are justly termed my feeble exertions; and, on the other, indignation has hurled its thunderbolts at my presumption; in which, pretended illustrations and detections of mistake, penned in the bewitching hours of self-delusion, have been also proposed; which upon examination have only discovered how liable we all are to deceive, and how much it behoves the maker or augmenter of a dictionary not always to rely implicitly upon proffered kindness, nor wholly to disregard the oppositions of sportive or malicious ingenuity.

That there may soon be new makers of an English dictionary, it is warranable to conjecture, knowing, as I do, that other gentlemen have bestowed attention upon the subject; the incorporation of whose services, not altogether free from conditions, it was beyond my power, if it had been my wish, after my plan was formed, to make. The treasures which now remain in their own management, undispersed, may therefore, if the owners choose, be laid before the public, without intermixture, and without omission.

The History of the English Language I have augmented with some new materials. To the Grammar I have added Notes, which are principally illustrative of orthography, and of the etymological system so powerfully recalled to modern notice by Mr. Tooke; to which are subjoined the grammatical remarks of Mr. Tyrwhitt upon our ancient lan-
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language. For the convenience of the volumes the Grammar has its place in the last. After it follows a List of Authors; of whom many perhaps might be considered too obscure to have been formally cited in the dictionary, if it could be denied, in the words of Johnson, that "the riches of the English tongue are much greater than they are commonly supposed; that many useful and valuable books lie buried in shops and libraries unknown and unexamined, unless some lucky compiler opens them by chance, and finds an easy spoil of wit and learning." Of old authors, as of old words, yet no one make too hasty a rejection. Sarcasm may expose its impotence, as well as ignorance, in arraigning either; unaccustomed to observe that from the one, (the partially "unknown and unexamined," our best writers have occasionally not disdained to draw wisdom; and that with the other they have warranted the use of terms, which the jargon of modern hypercriticism would discard. It may be easy, though it is not "pleasing without scurrility," if I may use Sir Nathaniel's phrase, to present both words and sentences, with the juxtaposition of a quaint title, in a manner so detached, as to excite no favourable opinion of the book, or rather to destroy all belief that it possesses any power in conveying knowledge. I might have omitted some citations from modern writers. But the canons yet remain to be promulgated, by which the extremes of opposite tastes are to be settled. The precise period, at which antiquity is to be regarded as a rule, is not yet determined: the standard "one inclines to remove to the distance of a century and a half; another may, with as good reason, fix it three centuries backwards; and another, six." We then expect decision upon these points from a society for refining the language, and fixing its standard? Alas, Johnson himself has told us, that "the edicts of an English Academy would probably be read by many, only that they might be sure to disobey them!"

For the paucity of curious or satisfactory information, which my additions and alterations exhibit; and for the abundance of inaccuracies and fault which have escaped my care; I may not, I hope, solicit the pardon of the candid reader in vain. I should indeed have been thrown into irrecoverable confusion and dismay, in reconsidering what I have done, if for an humble attendant also there were not consolation in the words of the master, which first accompanied the fourth edition of his Dictionary.

"Many are the works of human industry, which to begin and finish are hardly granted to the same man. He that undertakes to compile a Dictionary, undertakes that, which, if it comprehends the full extent of his design, he knows himself unable to perform. Yet his labours, though deficient, may be useful, and, with the hope of this inferior praise, he must incite his activity, and solace his weariness."

* Idler, No. 91.
† Campbell, Philos. of Rhetorick.
[Love's Lab. Lost.
§ Life of Hume's Common.

"Dans la derniere seance de l'Academie, il (Voltaire) parla fort long-temps et avec la plus grande chaleur sur l'utilite d'un nouveau Dictionnaire conçu a peu pres sur la meme plan que celui de Crusca, ou celui de Johnson." Grimm, Mem. tom. ii.