

In the preparation of this department of the book the authors have availed themselves of the labours of Crabb, whose work on "English Synonyms Explained," despite its rather prosy reflections and much that is now obsolete, is a great storehouse of illustration. They are also somewhat indebted to Archbishop Whately, and particularly to Archdeacon C. J. Smith, M.A., whose "Synonyms Discriminated," (London: George Bell & Sons), the compilers would earnestly recommend to the attention of the profession. For many of the definitions and illustrations in this department of their work the authors are under obligations, in addition to Stormonth and the "Imperial Dictionary," to "The Encyclopædic Dictionary," (London: Cassell), a work which teachers and trustees should see finds a place in every school library.

(3) Section three is devoted to DERIVATIVES and WORD-FORMATIONS. In this section the comparative method, at once the only scientific and the most labour-saving one, has been followed. It is surely time that students of Etymology should not look upon the correspondence of Anglo-Saxon with Latin and Greek words as anything strange or exceptional. The original identity of these languages can be realized only by constant comparison.

The material for this section has, in the main, been either drawn from or tested by Skeat's "Etymological Dictionary." In a few instances the compilers have ventured to dissent from the decisions of this eminent authority, chiefly where these conflict with the evidently sound conclusions of recent German philologists. But, as has been said, Professor Skeat, in the main, has been followed, and no English master can afford to be without his work: whoever trusts for derivation to the dictionaries in ordinary use will lean on a broken reed. For some valuable hints on arrangement the authors are indebted to Prof. McElroy's excellent little work, "Essential Lessons in English Etymology," which teachers will find it profitable to consult. It should need no apology that in an "English Word-Book" the Anglo-Saxon element of the language is taken as the starting-point for all comparisons.

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