

remark as follows : "*Le Tac. du petit A a eu ce malheur.*"

Dr. Johnson defined a Puritan as "a sectary pretending to eminent purity of religion," a Whig as "the name of a faction," and a Tory as "one who adheres to the ancient constitution of the state and the apostolical hierarchy of the Church of England, opposed to a Whig." Dr. Johnson copied occasionally from Nathan Bailey's "Universal Etymological English Dictionary," which the elder William Pitt used to read in order to have affluence of language. But Johnson was too shrewd to fall into the blunder of John Ash, who borrowed extensively from Johnson's two folio volumes. Johnson remarked under the word curmudgeon, "It is a vitious manner of pronouncing *cœur méchant*. Fr. an unknown correspondent." John Ash transferred this entry to his dictionary of 1775 and the second edition of 1795, in which it reads, "fr. the Fr. *cœur*, unknown, *méchant*, a correspondent." Ash, who was a Baptist minister, announced the plan of his work as "extensive beyond anything that has yet been attempted of the kind in the English language." He was right, as he called Gawain the sister of King Arthur, and branded esoteric as bad spelling for exoteric. Under the head of dictionary, William Rider remarks in his work of 1759, four years after Johnson's great work, "How little those books which go by this name in the English language may deserve it, may easily be perceived by considering that none claim any other merit but scraping together as many synonymes as they can, and leaving the reader to pick out the meaning from the rubbish that is collected." Dr. Webster said in his dictionary of 1828 that curt is "rarely used, and not elegant," and that the word curtly is "not in use."

Such curiosities become quite

marked when one traces certain theological, medical, or political words through an entire series of dictionaries. The current edition of Webster's dictionary remarks under consubstantiation that "the Lutherans maintain that, after consecration of the elements, the body and blood of Christ are substantially present with the substance of the bread and wine." Charles Richardson's dictionary, valuable for its elaborate quotations from the best authors, mentions John Milton's remark that "the Lutheran holds consubstantiation an error, indeed, but not mortal." And Milton is right, if the official creed of the Lutheran Church is to settle the question. Webster defines a humanitarian as "one who denies the divinity of Christ and believes him to be a mere man." John Wesley, who published a dictionary in 1753, remarked on the title-page that he was "a lover of good English and common sense," and "N. B.—The author assures you, he thinks this is the best English dictionary in the world." He defines a Methodist as "one who lives according to the method laid down in the Bible;" an Arminian as "one that believes universal redemption." Calvinists, in John Wesley's anonymous dictionary, are "they that hold absolute, unconditional predestination." A latitudinarian is "one who fancies all religions are saving." A Puritan is "an old, strict Church of England man;" and a swaddler is "a nickname given by the Papists in Ireland to true Protestants."

James Knowles, whose dictionary of 1835 contains seventy-seven thousand words, or twenty thousand more than Johnson's, defines a Papist as "one that adheres to the Church of Rome," and a Romanist he defines as a Papist; but in his preface he offers a profuse apology for the offence given by these definitions. Still more