

A
DICTIONARY
OF
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

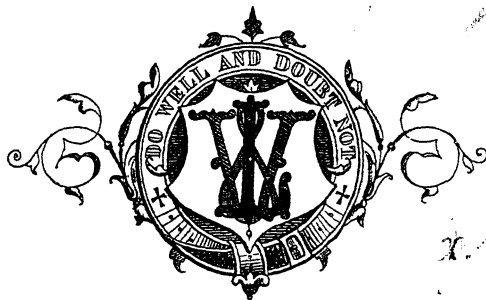
THE UNIVERSAL
PRONOUNCING AND DEFINING
DICTIONARY
OF
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

BY
NOAH WEBSTER, LL.D.

WITH NUMEROUS SYNONYMS, CAREFULLY DISCRIMINATED
BY CHAUNCEY A. GOODRICH, D.D.,
PROFESSOR IN YALE COLLEGE,
EDITOR OF THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED
WALKER'S KEY

TO THE PRONUNCIATION OF CLASSICAL AND SCRIPTURE PROPER NAMES;
A VOCABULARY OF MODERN GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES; PHRASES AND QUOTATIONS FROM THE ANCIENT
AND MODERN LANGUAGES; ABBREVIATIONS USED IN WRITING, PRINTING, ETC. ETC.



LONDON:
WARD AND LOCK, 158 FLEET STREET.

NEW EDITION.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN introducing to the notice of the English public NOAH WEBSTER'S UNIVERSAL PRONOUNCING AND DEFINING DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, the Publishers think themselves called upon to state, as briefly as possible, the advantages this Book possesses over its competitors in the English market. These advantages are—Cheapness of price, Comprehensiveness of scheme, Portability of form, and Carefulness of typography.

This Edition, condensed from the great work of NOAH WEBSTER, by the able hand associated with the famous lexicographer in his original labours, has been brought down to the present time, and is thought to contain every emendation and correction of our English tongue to that period.

With these few words the Publishers confidently recommend the Book to the consideration of the public at large.

WARD AND LOCK.

LONDON, 158 FLEET STREET.

September, 1863.

PREFACE TO THE ORIGINAL EDITION.

THIS volume, while adapted to all the purposes of a medium-sized English Dictionary, has a *specific* end and object. It has been framed expressly for the benefit of those who are cultivating ENGLISH COMPOSITION on a broad scale, and are desirous to gain an exact knowledge of our language, and a ready command of its varied forms of expression. Thousands in our higher seats of learning, and among those who devote their time to self-improvement in the intervals of active life, as well as those who are called to the habitual use of the pen in correspondence or otherwise, have felt the want of such a volume—moderate in price and easy to be handled—which might lie constantly before them while they are engaged in the business of composition. How far the present work will supply this want may be seen from the following statement of the principles on which it has been framed:—

I. The *Vocabulary* has been pruned of obsolete and useless words, which serve only to encumber the pages and enhance the price of such a volume; while the great body of the language in actual use has been carefully retained, and many hundreds of new words added in various departments of Science, Literature, and Art.

II. The space thus gained is devoted to the *Definitions*. In this respect the larger form of Webster's Dictionary has stood unrivalled in the public estimation; and the attempt is here made to carry the exactness of Webster's definitions into a condensed Dictionary, on a scale never before known in a volume of this size. The most important words are (to a great extent) defined, not by a mere array of Synonyms, but in short descriptive *sentences* or *clauses*, after the manner of the larger works, designed to fix and ascertain the meaning in clear and precise terms.

III. To words thus defined, *Synonymous* terms are added in thousands of cases. This was a leading feature in the large edition of Webster, and is now introduced for the first time into a work of this size. The object is, after giving a clear conception of the peculiar import of a word, to bring others into view which have the same general signification, thus opening a wide range to a writer for selecting the most appropriate terms, and aiding him to acquire a varied and expressive diction.

IV. Synonymous words are carefully *discriminated* in numerous instances. This feature was first introduced into a general Dictionary by Barclay, though in a very imperfect manner. Dr. Webster, in many cases, made discriminations of this kind with uncommon felicity in his large work; and the same plan is here carried out and applied to about *eighteen hundred* of the most important words in our language. The distinctive meaning of each is more or less clearly drawn out; a comparison is made between them, showing the points of difference; and in most cases, brief illustrations are added, which are useful and appropriate when connected with a previous explanation, but commonly futile or deceptive without it. More than *six hundred* distinct articles are devoted to discriminations of this kind, being a larger number than is contained in any similar work in our language with the exception of Crabbe. One great object of these discriminations, besides affording aid in the exact use of terms, has been to *awaken in young writers a desire for making similar distinctions themselves*. Nothing could be more useful as a discipline of their mental powers, nothing more adapted to fix indelibly in their minds the true meaning of the terms they use, than to take up an exercise of this kind in a systematic manner and on a broad scale. To aid in this, a list is given of nearly all the words here discriminated. Let the teacher select a series of exercises for a class of advanced pupils—let those who are engaged in self-culture do it for themselves; and let the rule be, that the young writer shall first endeavour to distinguish for himself between the words selected; that he then turn to the discriminations here made, and bring them to the test

of his own observation; and that he close by framing short sentences, in which the words discriminated are each of them used in their peculiar and appropriate sense. "The great source of a loose style," says Dr. Blair, "is the injudicious use of synonymous terms;" the great remedy lies in some course of exercises like the one here proposed.

In making these discriminations, another object has been kept in view, viz., that of showing the *difference of usage*, in respect to certain words, between the United States and England. In some cases, as that of *bank bill*, it is impossible for us to go back to the usage of the mother country; but in others of a more recent origin, as that of *depôt* for *station-house*, it is not too late, and there is at present a tendency in that direction. Instances of this kind are given in respect to the use of *balance* for *remainder*; of *appreciate* for *rise in value*; of the phrase "over one's signature, name," &c., for "under one's signature," &c. Others of a similar nature may be found by examining the List of Synonymous Words.

V. Great care has been bestowed on the subject of *pronunciation*. Upon certain disputed topics, teachers and orthoepists have been consulted in different parts of our country, and a correspondence has been opened with the veteran orthoepist of England, B. H. SMART, Esq., who has devoted more than forty years to the study of this subject. While, upon one leading point, our great lexicographer, Webster, differs from Mr. Smart, it has in another quarter been truly said, "Of all the successors of Walker, Smart appears to have given the most careful and discriminating attention to the subject, and he may therefore be regarded as the best single authority for present usage." The results of this correspondence will be given in the "Principles of Pronunciation and Remarks on the Key;" and the writer would take this opportunity to make a public acknowledgment to Mr. Smart for his kind attention to the "queries" which were sent to him.

VI. The *Orthography*, in disputed cases, has usually been doubly given, though with a clear indication of the form to be preferred on the principles of Dr. Webster. His peculiarities in this respect, as introduced into the Revised Edition of his Dictionary, extend only to a few limited classes of words. In every instance, the form preferred has been sanctioned by distinguished English grammarians and orthoepists, such as Lowth, Walker, Perry, etc. The sole object has been to maintain and carry out the *acknowledged analogies of our language*; and the friends of Dr. Webster have reason to be highly gratified with the extent—already so wide and so rapidly increasing—to which his principles of orthography have been adopted by the public.

VII. An *Appendix* is added, containing—

1. Walker's Key to the Pronunciation of Classical and Scripture Proper Names, revised and improved by Professor TRACHER, of Yale College, and others who have been thoroughly conversant with these subjects.

2. A Vocabulary of Modern Geographical Names, prepared expressly for this work by JOSEPH THOMAS, M.D., whose distinguished success as editor of "The Pronouncing Gazetteer,"

gives the best possible pledge of accuracy in this most difficult department of literary effort.

3. Tables giving a full account of the abbreviations used in writing and printing.

4. A collection of Latin, French, and Italian words and phrases of frequent occurrence, with translations of the same.

5. An account of the principal Deities and Heroes of Antiquity.

The whole is designed to form a *complete book of reference* for the use of all who consult a work of this nature.

The writer has much pleasure in acknowledging that he has been indebted to the Rev. E. GOODRICH SMITH and the Rev. CHESTER LYMAN for important aid in making the abridgment and enriching the definitions of many words. To his brother, WILLIAM G. WEBSTER, Esq.,* his obligations are more varied, extending to almost every department of the work. Mr. WEBSTER'S intimate acquaintance with his father's views has made his counsel and co-operation of great value in the present case, as in the revision of the larger form of the Dictionary in 1847.

YALE COLLEGE, September, 1856.

* The judicious compiler of the "Pocket Pronouncing Dictionary of the English Language," Price 1s., published by Ward and Lock.