

**NEW WORDS
SELF-DEFINED**

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New Words Self-Defined by C. Alphonso Smith

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Toute époque a ses idées propres; il faut qu'elle
ait aussi les mots propres à ces idées.

—VICIEN HUGO, *Preface to Cromwell*

Charles BY *1864*
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TO MY WIFE

Without whose interest there would have been less pleasure in compiling this book, and without whose aid there would have been less hope that the compilation would be worth while.

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PREFACE

THIS book is both less and more than a dictionary. It is less than a dictionary in containing not one formal definition; it is more than a dictionary in its attempt to quote only such sentences as make the meaning of each word stand self-revealed. It is one thing to memorize a definition, quite another to add the word defined at once to your vocabulary of actual use.

The sentences here culled will, I believe, enable the reader to take each word or phrase by its handle and to use it, if he so desires. If he does not care to make personal use of these words, it should be remembered that most of them have found their way since 1914 into so many short stories, sketches, novels, news columns, and magazine contributions that a reading knowledge of them is essential to a proper understanding of current writing. They are not all new words, of course; but, when not new, they have at least been called into newness of service or represent new directions of popular interest or scientific research. They have, therefore, it is hoped, a value as material of history apart from their service to the student of language or their more immediate service to the general reader.

It is a pleasure to record the coöperation of the midshipmen in the pursuit of some of the more elu-

sive of these words. I could at least never have "wangled" my way through all the difficulties presented had it not been for the efficient assistance of midshipmen U. P. Bern, R. E. Blick, Jr., John P. Cady, W. P. Cogswell, W. H. Crew, J. A. Hollowell, Jr., D. H. Johnston, T. H. Kehoe, H. D. Krick, E. J. Long, E. P. Montgomery, J. F. Morgan, J. E. Murphy, F. W. Rowe, Jr., Roswell P. Russell, George McW. Sturgeon, Jr., and Archie Tolk.

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