Century Dictionary 1888

No English dictionary, however, can well include every word or every form of a word that has been used by any English writer or speaker. There is a very large number of words and forms discoverable in the literature of all periods of the language, in the various dialects, and in colloquial use, which have no practical claim upon the notice of the lexicographer. A large group not meriting inclusion consists of words used only for the nonce by writers of all periods and of all degrees of authority, and especially by recent writers in newspapers and other ephemeral publications; of words intended by their inventors for wider use in popular or technical speech, but which have not been accepted; and of many special names of things, as of many chemical compounds, of many inventions, of patented commercial articles, and the like. Yet another group is composed of many substantive uses of adjectives, adjective uses of substantives (as of nouns of material), participial adjectives, verbal nouns ending in *-ing*, abstract nouns ending in *-ness*, adverbs ending in *-ly* from adjectives, adjectives ending in *-ish*, regular compounds, etc., which can be used at will in accordance with the established principles of the language, but which are too obvious, both in meaning and formation, and often too occasional in use, to need separate definition. So also dialectal, provincial, or colloquial words must be excluded, so far as they stand out of vital relation to the main body of the language which it is the object of a general dictionary to explain. The special limitations of the technical and scientific vocabulary will be mentioned later.

Words that must be excluded.