

July 19. 1906

5374

2, SALISBURY VILLAS,

CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Sir—

It gives me
great pleasure to
hear that my book
is useful. There is
a 3rd edition, but it
does not much differ
from the 2nd; i.e. if
you refer to my
larger (quarto) Dict^y

There is a smaller
"Concise" Dictionary on
the same lines, but
without the quotations.
This went thro' several
editions, till at last

I could no longer alter
it as I wished. So
I ~~now~~ rewrote it &
reissued it in a
new form.

This last, the Concise
Etymol. Dictⁿ of 1901,
is the most advanced
of all, * & contains
corrections that I
could not well make
elsewhere. —

I will keep your
notes, & ponder them.

* It contains Litt.

My plan gives me
no space for explaining
special usages. E.g.
"blind" of a widow is
only a peculiar use.
So is "park" of artillery.
So, indeed, is even
quaternion, which was
deliberately adopted
from the Bible use of it!

The definitions are
purposely brief: but they
are often worse, viz.
wrong! — But I do not
think many people wd
take a definition from
such a book as mine.
Better ones can be had
in any usual Dictⁿ.

The chief trouble is
that some of the
etymologies are wrong
too: & that is more
serious. I keep ^{on} correcting
them all the while;
yet am, of course, always
behind what I shd. like
to attain to. -

"Green-gage" is explained
in the New Eng. Dictⁿ (Oxford),
& I copy it in latest editions.

I am afraid that the
derivation from Lindsey &
Wolsey is a bad guess. It
is rejected in the New Eng.
Dictionary; which see.

I am most extremely
obliged to you for so kindly
thinking of me. I send you
a few odd pamphlets I
have to distribute.

Y^{rs} W. W. Skeat.