



Adversity

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Adversity
1817

1817

78

John Walker
CRITICA

Pronouncing Dictionary

AND EXPOSITOR OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

IN WHICH

Not only the Meaning of every Word is clearly explained, and the Sound of every Syllable distinctly shewn, but where Words are subject to different Pronunciations, the reasons for each are at large displayed, and the preferable Pronunciation is pointed out.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

PRINCIPLES OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION;

IN WHICH

The Sounds of Letters, Syllables and Words, are critically investigated, and systematically arranged; the Rules for pronouncing are so classed and disposed as to be easily applicable to the most difficult Words; and the Analogies of the Language are so fully shewn, as to lay the Foundation of a consistent and rational Pronunciation.

LIKEWISE

Rules to be observed by the NATIVES of SCOTLAND, IRELAND and LONDON, for avoiding their respective Peculiarities;

AND

DIRECTIONS TO FOREIGNERS for acquiring a Knowledge of the Use of this DICTIONARY.

THE WHOLE INTERSPERSED WITH

OBSERVATIONS, PHILOLOGICAL, CRITICAL, AND GRAMMATICAL.

BY JOHN WALKER,

Author of Elements of Elocution, Rhyming Dictionary, Melody of Speaking delineated, &c.

Quare, si ferè puer, & verba iunior, & uox, hujus alacrum uerbi dicitur: ut oratio florens flant uoluptas, non ciuitate donata. QUINTILIAN.

D U B L I N :

PRINTED FOR P. WOGAN, OLD-BRIDGE;
AND W. JONES, DAME-STREET.

P R E F A C E.

Few subjects have of late years more employed the pens of every class of critics, than the improvement of the English language. The greatest abilities in the nation have been exerted in cultivating and reforming it; nor have a thousand minor critics been wanting to add their mite of amendment to their native tongue. Johnson, whose large mind and just taste made him capable of enriching and adorning the language with original composition, has condescended to the drudgery of disentangling, explaining, and arranging it, and left a lasting monument of his ability, labour, and patience: and Dr. Lowth, the politest scholar of the age, has veiled his superiority in his short Introduction to English Grammar. The ponderous folio has gravely vindicated the rights of analogy; and the light ephemeral sheet of news has corrected errors in Grammar, as well as Politics, by slyly marking them in italics.

Nor has the improvement stopt here. While Johnson and Lowth have been insensibly operating on the orthography and construction of our language, its pronunciation has not been neglected. The importance of a consistent and regular pronunciation was too obvious to be overlooked; and the want of this consistency and regularity induced several ingenious men to endeavour at a reformation; who, by exhibiting the anomalies of pronunciation, and pointing out its analogies, have reclaimed some words that were not irrecoverably fixed in a wrong sound, and prevented others from being perverted by ignorance or caprice.

Among those writers who deserve the first praise on this subject, is Mr. Elphinstone; who, in his Principles of the English Language, has reduced the chaos to a system, and laid the foundation of a just and regular pronunciation. But this gentleman, by treating his subject with an affected obscurity, and by absurdly endeavouring to alter the whole orthography of the language, has unfortunately lost his credit with the publick for that part of his labours which entitles him to the highest applause.

After him, Dr. Kenrick contributed a portion of improvement by his Rhetorical Dictionary; in which the words are divided into syllables as they are pronounced, and figures placed over the vowels to indicate their different sounds. But though this gentleman, in his Rhetorical Grammar prefixed to his Dictionary, has given several rational strictures on language in general, and the English language in particular, he has rendered his Dictionary extremely imperfect, by entirely omitting a great number of words of doubtful and difficult pronunciation—those very words for which a Dictionary of this kind would naturally be consulted.

To him succeeded Mr. Sheridan; who not only divided the words into syllables, and placed figures over the vowels as Dr. Kenrick had done, but by spelling these syllables as they are pronounced, seemed to complicate the idea of a

Pronouncing Dictionary, and to leave but little expectation of future improvement. It must, indeed, be confessed, that Mr. Sheridan's Dictionary is greatly superior to every thing that preceded it; and his method of conveying the sound of words, by spelling them as they are pronounced, is highly rational and useful.—But here sincerity obliges me to stop. The numerous instances I have given of impropriety, inconsistency, and want of acquaintance with the analogies of the language, sufficiently shew how imperfect * I think his Dictionary is upon the whole, and what ample room was left for attempting another that might better answer the purpose of a guide to pronunciation.

The last writer on this subject is Mr. Nares; who, in his Elements of Orthoëpy, has shewn a clearness of method and an extent of observation which deserve the highest encomiums. His preface alone proves him an elegant writer, as well as a philosophical observer of language: and his alphabetical index, referring near five thousand words to the rules for pronouncing them, is a new and useful method of treating the subject: but he seems, on many occasions, to have mistaken the best usage, and to have paid too little attention to the first principles of pronunciation.

Thus I have ventured to give my opinion of my rivals and competitors, and I hope without envy or self-conceit. Perhaps it would have been policy in me to have been silent on this head, for fear of putting the public in mind, that others have written on the subject as well as myself: but this is a narrow policy, which, under the colour of tenderness to others, is calculated to raise ourselves at their expence. A writer, who is conscious he deserves the attention of the public, (and unless he is thus conscious he ought not to write) must not only wish to be compared with those who have gone before him, but will promote the comparison, by informing his readers what others have done, and on what he founds his pretensions to a preference; and if this be done with fairness and impartiality, it can be no more offensive to modesty, than it is to honesty and plain dealing.

The work I have to offer on the subject has, I hope, added something to the public stock. It not only exhibits the principles of pronunciation, as others have done, divides the words into syllables, and marks the sounds of the vowels like Dr. Kenrick, spells the words as they are pronounced like Mr. Sheridan, and directs the inspector to the rule by the word like Mr. Nares; but where words are subject to different pronunciations, it shews the reasons from analogy for each; produces authorities for one side and the other, and points out the pronunciation which is preferable. In short, I have endeavoured to unite the science of Mr. Elphinstone, the method of Mr. Nares, and the general utility of Mr. Sheridan; and to add to these advantages, have given critical observations on such words as are subject to a diversity of pronunciation. How I have succeeded must be left to the decision of the public.

But to all works of this kind there lies a formidable objection; which is, that the pronunciation of a language is necessarily indefinite and fugitive, and that all endeavours to delineate or settle it are vain. Dr. Johnson, in his Grammar prefixed to his Dictionary, says: "Most of the writers of English Grammar have given long tables of words pronounced otherwise than they are written; and seem not sufficiently to have considered, that, of English, as of all living tongues, there is a double pronunciation; one, cursory and colloquial; the other, regular and solemn. The cursory pronunciation is always vague and uncertain, being made different, in different mouths, by negli-

* See Principles, No. 110, 124, 126, 129, 454, 462, 479, 480, 530, and the words *Assure, Collect, Convict, Dis, Donative, Ephemera, Satisty,*

gence, unskilfulness, or affectation. The solemn pronunciation, though by no means immutable and permanent, is yet always less remote from the orthography, and less liable to capricious innovation. They have, however, generally formed their tables according to the cursory speech of those with whom they happened to converse; and concluding, that the whole nation combines to vitiate language in one manner, have often established the jargon of the lowest of the people as the model of speech. For pronunciation, the best general rule is, to consider those as the most elegant speakers who deviate least from the written words."

Without any derogation from the character of Dr. Johnson, it may be asserted, that in these observations we do not perceive that justness and accuracy of thinking for which he is so remarkable. It would be doing great injustice to him to suppose, that he meant to exclude all possibility of conveying the actual pronunciation of many words that depart manifestly from their orthography, or of those that are written alike, and pronounced differently and inversely. He has marked these differences with great propriety himself in many places of his Dictionary; and it is to be regretted that he did not extend these remarks farther. It is impossible, therefore, he could suppose, that, because the almost imperceptible glances of colloquial pronunciation were not to be caught and described by the pen, the very perceptible difference between the initial accented syllables of *money* and *monitor*, or the final unaccented syllables of *finite* and *infinite*, could not be sufficiently marked upon paper. Cannot we show that *cellar*, a vault; and *seller*, one who sells, have exactly the same sound; or that the monosyllable *full*, and the first syllable of *fulminate*, are sounded differently, because there are some words in which solemnity will authorize a different pronunciation from familiarity? Besides; that colloquial pronunciation, which is perfect, is so much the language of solemn speaking, that perhaps, there is no more difference than between the same picture painted to be viewed near and at a distance. The symmetry in both is exactly the same; and the distinction lies only in the colouring. The English language, in this respect, seems to have a great superiority over the French; which pronounces many letters in the poetic and solemn style that are wholly silent in the prosaic and familiar. But if a solemn and familiar pronunciation really exists in our language, is it not the business of a grammarian to mark both? And if he cannot point out the precise sound of unaccented syllables, (for these only are liable to obscurity) he may at least, give those sounds which approach the nearest; and by this means approximate to the desired point, though he can never fully arrive at it.

The truth is, Dr. Johnson seems to have had a confused idea of the distinctness and indistinctness with which, on solemn or familiar occasions, we sometimes pronounce the unaccented vowels; and with respect to these, it must be owned, that his remarks are not entirely without foundation. The English language, with respect to its pronunciation, is evidently divisible into accented and unaccented sounds. The accented syllables, by being pronounced with greater force than the unaccented, have their vowels as clearly and distinctly sounded, as any given note in music; while the unaccented vowels, for want of the stress, are apt to slide into an obscurity of sound, which, though sufficiently distinguishable to the ear, cannot be so definitely marked out to the eye by other sounds as those vowels that are under the accent. Thus some of the vowels, when neither under the accent, nor closed by a consonant, have a longer or a shorter, an open or a closer sound, according to the solemnity or familiarity, the deliberation or rapidity of our delivery. This will be perceived in the sound of the *e* in *emotion**, of the *e* in *obedience*, and of the *u* in *regular*. In

* See the words *Callid*, *Disputab*, *Demost*, *Esse*, *Crepan*.

the hasty pronunciation of common speaking, the *e* in *emotion* is often shortened, as if divided into *em-o-tion*; the *o* in *obedience* is shortened and obscured, as if written *ub-be-di-ence*; and the *u* in *singular*, changed into short *i*, as if written *sing-il-ar*; while the deliberate and elegant sound of these vowels is the long open sound they have, when the accent is on them in *equal, over, and went*; but *a*, when unaccented, seems to have no such diversity; it has generally a short obscure sound, whether ending a syllable, or closed by a consonant. Thus the *a* in *able* has its definite and distinct sound; but the same letter in *tolerable** goes into an obscure indefinite sound approaching to short *a*; nor can any solemnity or deliberation give it the long open sound it has in the first word. Thus, by distinguishing vowels into their accented and unaccented sounds, we are enabled to see clearly what Dr. Johnson saw but obscurely; and by this distinction entirely to obviate the objection.

Equally indefinite and uncertain is his general rule, that those are to be considered as the most elegant speakers who deviate least from the written words. It is certain, where custom is equal, this ought to take place; and if the whole body of respectable English speakers were equally divided in their pronunciation of the word *busy*, one half pronouncing it *bew-ze* †, and the other half *bi-ze*, that the former ought to be accounted the most elegant speakers; but till this is the case, the latter pronunciation, though a gross deviation from orthography, will still be esteemed the most elegant. Dr. Johnson's general rule, therefore, can only take place where custom has not plainly decided; but unfortunately for the English language, its orthography and pronunciation are so widely different, that Dr. Watts and Dr. Jones lay it down as a maxim in their treatises on spelling, that all words, which can be founded different ways, must be written according to that sound which is most distant from the true pronunciation; and consequently, in such a language, a Pronouncing Dictionary must be of essential use.

But still it may be objected to such an undertaking, that the fluctuation of pronunciation is so great as to render all attempts to settle it useless. What will it avail us, it may be said, to know the pronunciation of the present day, if, in a few years, it will be altered? and how are we to know even what the present pronunciation is, when the same words are often differently pronounced by different speakers, and those, perhaps, of equal numbers and reputation? To which it may be answered, that the fluctuation of our language, with respect to its pronunciation, seems to have been greatly exaggerated ‡. Except a very few single words

* Principles, No. 88. 545.

† Principles, No. 178.

‡ The old and new *Ἀρχαί*, with all the various dialects, must have occasioned infinite irregularity in the pronunciation of the Greek tongue; and if we may judge of the Latin pronunciation by the ancient inscriptions, it was little less various and irregular than the Greek. Aulus Gellius tells us, that Nigidius, a grammarian who lived a little more than a century before him, accented the first syllable of *Valeri*; but says he, "si quis nunc *Valerius* appellans in casu vocandi secundum id preceptum Nigidii acverit primam, non aberit quin rideatur."—Whoever now should place the accent on the first syllable of *Valerius*, when a vocative case, would set every body a laughing. Even that highly polished language the French, if we may believe a writer in the *Encyclopédie*, is little less irregular in this respect than our own.

Il est arrivé, says he, par les altérations qui se succèdent rapidement dans la manière de prononcer, & les corrections qui s'introduisent lentement dans la manière d'écrire, que la prononciation & l'écriture ne marchent point ensemble, & que quoiqu'il y ait chez les peuples les plus policés de l'Europe, des sociétés d'hommes de lettres chargés de les moderer, de les accorder, & de les rapprocher de la même ligne, elles se trouvent insin à une distance inconcevable; ensuite que de deux choses dont l'une n'a été imaginée dans son origine, que pour représenter fidèlement l'autre, celle-ci ne diffère guère moins de celle-là, que le portrait de la même personne peinte dans deux ages très éloignés.

rational method of determining what is called custom. This method I have adopted in the following work; and if I have sometimes dissented from the majority, it has been, either from a persuasion of being better informed of what was the actual custom of speaking, or from a partiality to the evident analogies of the language.

And here I must entreat the candid reader to make every reasonable allowance for the freedom with which I have criticised other writers on this subject, and particularly Mr. Sheridan. As a man, a gentleman, and a scholar, I knew Mr. Sheridan, and respected him; and think every lover of elocution owes him a tribute of thanks for his unwearied addresses to the publick, to rouse them to the study of the delivery of their native tongue. But this tribute, however just, does not exempt him from examination. His credit with the world necessarily subjects him to animadversion, because the errors of such a writer are dangerous in proportion to his reputation; this has made me zealous to remark his inaccuracies, but not without giving my reasons; nor have I ever taken advantage of such faults as may be called inadvertencies. On the same principles I have ventured to criticise Dr. Johnson *, whose friendship and advice I was honoured with, whose memory I love, and whose intellectual powers impress me with something like veneration and awe.—I do not pretend to be exempt from faults myself; in work like the present, it would be a miracle to escape them, nor have I the least idea of deciding as a judge, in a case of so much delicacy and importance, as the pronunciation of a whole people; I have only assumed the part of an advocate to plead the cause of consistency and analogy, and where custom is either silent or dubious, to tempt the lovers of their language to incline to the side of propriety; so that my design is principally to give a kind of history of pronunciation, and a register of its present state; and where the authorities of dictionaries or speakers are found to differ, to give such a display of the analogies of the language as may enable every inspector to decide for himself.

With respect to the explanation of words, except in very few instances, I have scrupulously followed Dr. Johnson. His Dictionary has been deemed lawful plunder by every subsequent Lexicographer; and so servilely has it been copied, that such words as he must have omitted merely by mistake, as *Predilection*, *Respectable*, *Descriptive*, *Sully*, *Mimetick*, *Isolated*, *Inimical*, *Decompose*, and many others, are neither in Mr. Sheridan's, Dr. Kenrick's, nor several other Dictionaries.

These and many others will, no doubt, be inserted by Mr. Croft in his future Dictionary; which, if we may judge by the abilities and leisure of the writer, will be a most valuable present to the Republick of Letters.

* See Principles, No. 350, and the words *Skeptick*, *Sib-fow*, *Scirrhus*, *Celle*, *Mimnathy*, *Further*.

Rules to be observed by the Natives of IRELAND in order to obtain a just Pronunciation of English.

AS Mr. Sheridan was a native of Ireland, and had the best opportunities of understanding those peculiarities of pronunciation which obtain there, I shall extract his observations on that subject as the best general direction, and add a few of my own, by way of supplement, which I hope will render this article of instruction still more complete.

The reader will be pleased to take notice, that as I have made a different arrangement of the vowels, and have adopted a notation different from Mr. Sheridan, I am obliged to make use of different figures to mark the vowels, but still such as perfectly correspond to his.

“ The chief mistakes made by the Irish in pronouncing English, lie for the most part in the sounds of the two first vowels, *a* and *e*; the former being generally sounded \hat{a} by the Irish, as in the word *bâr*, in most words where it is pronounced \hat{a} , as in *day*, by the English. Thus the Irish say, *pâtron*, *mâtron*, the vowel \hat{a} having the same sound as in the word *fâther*; whilst the English pronounce them as if written *paytron*, *maytron*. The following rule, strictly attended to, will rectify this mistake through the whole language.

“ When the vowel *a* finishes a syllable, and has the accent on it, it is invariably pronounced \hat{a} [day] by the English. To this rule there are but three exceptions in the whole language to be found in the words *fâther*, *papâ*, *matâ*. The Irish may think also the word *rather* an exception, as well as *fâther*; and so it would appear to be in their manner of pronouncing it *râther*, laying the accent on the vowel *a*; but in the English pronunciation the consonant *th* is taken into the first syllable, as thus, *rathter*, which makes the difference.

“ Whenever a consonant follows the vowel *a* in the same syllable, and the accent is on the consonant, the vowel *a* has always its fourth sound, as *hât*, *mân*; as also the same sound lengthened when it precedes the letter *r*, as *fâr*, *bâr*, though the accent be on the vowel; as likewise when it precedes *m*, as *bâlm*, *psâlm*. The Irish, ignorant of this latter exception, pronounce all words of that structure as if they were written *beowm*, *psowm*, *quowm*, *carowm*, &c. In the third sound of *a*, marked by different combinations of vowels, or consonants, such as *aw*, in *Paul*; *aw*, in *law*; *all*, in *call*; *ald*, in *bald*; *alk*, in *talk*, &c. the Irish make no mistake, except in that of *lm*, as before mentioned.

“ The second vowel, *e*, is for the most part sounded *ee* by the English, when the accent is upon it; whilst the Irish in most words give it the sound of slender \hat{e} , as in *hâte*. This sound of \hat{e} [ee] is marked by different combinations of vowels, such as *ea*, *ei*, *æ* final mute, *ee*, and *ie*. In the two last combinations of *ee* and *ie*, the Irish never mistake; such as in *meet*, *seem*, *field*, *believe*, &c.; but in all the others, they almost universally change the sound of \hat{e} into \hat{a} . Thus in the combination *ea*, they pronounce the words *tea*, *sea*, *please*, as if they were spelt *tay*, *say*, *plays*; instead of *tee*, *see*, *please*. The English constantly give this sound to *ea* whenever the accent is on the vowel *e*, except in the following words, *great*, *a pear*, *a bear*, *to bear*, *to forbear*, *to swear*, *to tear*, *to wear*. In all which the *e* has the sound of \hat{a} in *hâte*. For want of knowing these exceptions, the gentlemen of Ireland, after some time of residence in London, are apt to fall into the general rule, and pronounce these words as if spelt *great*, *beer*, *swearer*, &c.

“ *Ei* is also founded *ee* by the English, and as *â* by the Irish ; thus the word
 “ *deceit*, *receive*, are pronounced by them as if written *desate*, *resate*. *Ei* is
 “ always founded *ee*, except when a *g* follows it, as in the words *reign*, *feign*,
 “ *deign*, &c. as also in the words *rein* (of a bridle), *rein-deer*, *vein*, *drain*, *veil*,
 “ *hair*, which are pronounced like *rain*, *vain*, *drain*, *vail*, *air*.

“ The final mute *e* makes the preceding *e* in the same syllable, when accented,
 “ have the sound of *ee*, as in the words *suprême*, *sincère*, *replète*. This rule is
 “ almost universally broken through by the Irish, who pronounce all such words
 “ as if written *suprême*, *sinsère*, *replète*, &c. There are but two exceptions to
 “ this rule in the English pronunciation, which are the words *there*, *where*.

“ In the way of marking this sound, by a double *e*, as thus *ee*, as the Irish
 “ never make any mistakes, the best method for all who want to acquire the right
 “ pronunciation of these several combinations is, to suppose that *ea*, *ei*, and *e*
 “ attended by a final mute *e*, are all spelt with a double *e*, or *ee*.

“ *Ey* is always founded like *â* by the English, when the accent is upon it ;
 “ as in the words *prey*, *convey*, pronounced *pray*, *convay*. To this there are
 “ but two exceptions, in the words *key* and *léy*, founded *kee*, *lee*. The Irish,
 “ in attempting to pronounce like the English, often give the same sound to *ey*,
 “ as usually belongs to *ei* ; thus for *prey*, *convey*, they say *pree*, *convee*.

“ A strict observation of these few rules, with a due attention to the very few
 “ exceptions enumerated above, will enable the well-educated natives of Ire-
 “ land to pronounce their words exactly in the same way as the more polished
 “ part of the inhabitants of England do, so far as the vowels are concerned.
 “ The diphthongs they commit no fault in, except in the sound of *i*, which
 “ has been already taken notice of in the Grammar * : where, likewise, the
 “ only difference in pronouncing any of the consonants has been pointed out ;
 “ which is, the thickening the sounds of *d* and *t*, in certain situations ; and an
 “ easy method proposed of correcting this habit †.

“ In order to complete the whole, I shall now give a list of such detached
 “ words, that do not come under any of the above rules, as are pronounced
 “ differently in Ireland from what they are in England.

* “ Vide p. 13. where the true manner of pronouncing the diphthong *i* is pointed out ;
 “ the Irish pronouncing it much in the same manner as the French.

† “ The letter *d* has always the same sound by those who pronounce English well ;
 “ but the Provincials, particularly the Irish, Scotch, and Welsh, in many words thicken
 “ the sound by a mixture of breath. Thus though they found the *d* right in the positive
 “ *loud* and *broad*, in the comparative degree they thicken it by an aspiration, and found
 “ it as if it were written *loudher*, *broadher*. This vicious pronunciation is produced by
 “ pushing the tongue forward so as to touch the teeth in forming that sound ; and the
 “ way to cure this is easy ; for as they can pronounce the *d* properly in the word *loud*,
 “ let them rest a little upon that syllable, keeping the tongue in the position of forming
 “ *d*, and then let them separate it from the upper gum without pushing it forward,
 “ and the sound *der* will be produced of course : for the organ being left in the position
 “ of sounding *d* at the end of the syllable *loud*, is necessarily in the position of forming
 “ the same *d* in uttering the last syllable, unless it makes a new movement, as in the
 “ case of protruding it so as to touch the teeth. This letter is sometimes, though not
 “ often, quiescent, as in the words *bandkerchief*, *bandfeme*, *bandfel*.

“ In pronouncing the letter *t*, the Irish and other provincials thicken the sound as
 “ was before mentioned with regard to the *d* ; for *letter*, they say *letter* ; for *utter*, *utther*,
 “ and so on in all words of that structure. This faulty manner arises from the same
 “ cause that was mentioned as affecting the sound of the *d* ; I mean the protruding of
 “ the tongue so as to touch the teeth, and is curable only in the same way.”

<i>Irish pron.</i>	<i>English pron.</i>	<i>Irish pron.</i>	<i>English pron.</i>
ché arful	chér ful.	cóarse (<i>coarse</i>)	cóarse.
fé arful	fér ful.	cóurse (<i>course</i>)	cóarse.
dóór	dóre.	cóurt	cóurt.
flóór	flóre.	mal'é cious	mal/sh'us.
gápe	gápe.	pádding	pádding.
gáth'er (<i>gather</i>)	gáth'er.	quósh (<i>quash</i>)	quásh.
béard	bérd.	lézh'ur (<i>leisure</i>)	lé'zhur.
báill	báill.	clá'mour	clám'mur.
bósh	bósh.	Mé'kil (<i>Michael</i>)	Mí'kel.
pásh	pásh.	dróth (<i>drought</i>)	drout.
páill	páill.	sárch (<i>search</i>)	térch.
páil pit	páil pit.	sóurce (<i>source</i>)	sórcé.
cálf	cálf.	cúshion	cúshion.
kéech (<i>catch</i>)	cáitch.	stréngth (<i>strength</i>)	strénkth.
lénth (<i>length</i>)	lenkth.	bréth (<i>breadth</i>)	brédth.
stróv (<i>strove</i>)	stróve.	cowld (<i>cold</i>)	cóld.
dróv (<i>drove</i>)	dróve.	bowld (<i>bold</i>)	bóld.
tén'ure	té'nure.	có'fer	có'fer.
tén'able	té'nable.	endá'avout	endév'úr.
wráth	wráth.	fát (<i>foot</i>)	fát.
wráth (<i>wrote</i>)	wróth.	misché'evous	mí's'chivous.
fá'rewel	fár'wel.	ín'ion (<i>onion</i>)	ún'nyun.
róde	ród.	pát	pát.
stróde	stród.	rétth (<i>reach</i>)	réach.
shóne	shón.	squá'dron	squod'run.
shésm (<i>schism</i>)	shízm.	zá'a'lous	zél'lus.
whé'refore	whér'fore.	zá'o'lot	zél'lut.
thé'refore	thér'fore.		

"These, after the closest attention, are all the words, not included in the rules before laid down, that I have been able to collect, in which the well-educated natives of Ireland differ from those of England."

I shall make no observations on the accuracy of this list, but desire my reader to observe, that the strongest characteristics of the pronunciation of Ireland is the rough jarring pronunciation of the letter *R*, and the aspiration or rough breathing before all the accented vowels. For the true sound of *R*, see that letter in the Principles, No. 419. And for the rough breathing or aspiration of the vowels, the pupil should be told not to bring the voice suddenly from the breast, but to speak, as it were, from the mouth only.

It may be observed too, that the natives of Ireland pronounce *rm* at the end of a word so distinctly as to form two separate syllables. Thus *storm*, and *farm*, seem sounded by them as if written *stáw-rum*, *fa-rum*; while the English sound the *r* so soft and so close to the *m*, that it seems pronounced nearly as if written *stáwrm*, *faarm*.

Nearly the same observations are applicable to *lm*. When these letters end a word they are, in Ireland, pronounced at such a distance, that *belm* and *realm* sound as if written *bel-um* and *real-um*; but in England the *l* and *m* are pronounced as close as possible, and so as to form but one syllable. To remedy this, it will be necessary for the pupil to make a collection of words terminating with these consonants, and to practise them over till a true pronunciation is acquired.

Rules to be observed by the Natives of SCOTLAND for attaining a just Pronunciation of English.

THAT pronunciation which distinguishes the inhabitants of Scotland is of a very different kind from that of Ireland, and may be divided into the quantity, quality, and accentuation, of the vowels. With respect to quantity, it may be observed, that the Scotch pronounce almost all their accented vowels long. Thus, if I am not mistaken, they would pronounce *habit*, *bay-bit*; *tepid*, *tee-pid*; *sinner*, *see-ner*; *conscious*, *con-scus*; and *subject*, *soo-b-ject*; it is not pretended, however, that every accented vowel is so pronounced, but that such a pronunciation is very general, and particularly of the *i*. This vowel is short in English pronunciation where the other vowels are long; thus *evan-gelion*, *ad-he-sion*, *emo-tion*, *con-fu-sion*, have the *a*, *e*, *o*, and *u*, long; and in these instances the Scotch would pronounce them like the English; but in *vi-sion*, *de-ci-sion*, &c. where the English pronounce the *i* short, the Scotch lengthen this letter by pronouncing it like *ee*, as if the words were written *vee-sion*, *deccc-sion*, &c. and this peculiarity is universal. The best way, therefore, to correct this, will be to make a collection of the most usual words which have the vowels short, and to pronounce them daily till a habit is formed.

With respect to the quality of the vowels, it may be observed, that the inhabitants of Scotland are apt to pronounce the *a* like *aw*, where the English give it the slender sound; thus *Satan*, is pronounced *Sawtan*, and *fatal*, *fa-wal*. It may be remarked too, that the Scotch give this sound to the *a* preceded by *w*, according to the general rule, without attending to the exceptions, *Principles*, No. 88; and thus, instead of making *evan*, *evast*, and *twang*, rhyme with *tax*, *hast*, and *hang*, they pronounce them so as to rhyme with *box*, *fast*, and *song*. The short *e* in *bed*, *fed*, *red*, &c. borders too much upon the English sound of *a*, in *bad*, *lad*, *mad*, &c. and the short *i* in *bid*, *lid*, *rid*, too much on the English sound of *e* in *bed*, *led*, *red*. To correct this error, it would be useful to collect the long and short sounds of these vowels, and to pronounce the long ones first, and to shorten them by degrees till they are perfectly short; at the same time preserving the radical sound of the vowel in both. Thus the correspondent long sounds to the *e* in *bed*, *fed*, *red*, are *bade*, *fade*, *rade*, and that of the short *i* in *bid*, *lid*, *rid*, are *bead*, *lead*, *reed*; and the former of these classes will naturally lead the ear to the true sound of the latter, the only difference lying in the quantity. The short *o* in *not*, *lodge*, *got*, &c. is apt to slide into the short *u*, as if the words were written *nut*, *ludge*, *gut*, &c. To rectify this, it should be remembered, that this *o* is the short sound of *aw*, and ought to have the radical sound of the deep *a* in *ball*. Thus the radical sound corresponding to the *o* in *not*, *cot*, *got*, is found in *naught*, *caught*, *fought*, &c. and these long sounds, like the former, should be abbreviated into the short ones. But what will tend greatly to clear the difficulty will be, to remember that only these words which are collected in the *Principles*, No. 165, have the *o* sounded like short *u* when the accent is upon it: and with respect to *u*, it may be observed, that the pronunciation peculiar to the English is only found in the words enumerated, *Principles*, No. 174.

In addition to what has been said, it may be observed, that *oo* in *food*, *mood*, *moon*, *soon*, &c. which ought always to have a long sound, is generally shortened in Scotland to that middle sound of the *u* in *hull*; and it must be remembered, that *wool*, *wood*, *good*, *hood*, *stood*, *foot*, are the only words where this sound of *oo* ought to take place.

The accentuation, both in Scotland and Ireland, (if by accentuation we mean the stress, and not the kind of stress) is so much the same as that of England, that I can scarcely recollect any words in which they differ. Indeed, if it were not so, the versification of each country would be different: for as English verse is formed by accent or stress, if this accent or stress were upon different syllables in different countries, what is verse in England would not be verse in Scotland or Ireland; and this sufficiently shows how very indefinitely the word accent is generally used.

But besides the mispronunciation of single words, there is a tone of voice with which these words are accompanied, that distinguishes a native of Ireland or Scotland as much as an improper sound of the letters. This is vulgarly, and, if it does not mean stress only, but the kind of stress, I think, not improperly called the accent*. For though there is an asperity in the Irish dialect, and a drawl in the Scotch, independent of the slides and inflexions they make use of, yet it may with confidence be affirmed, that much of the peculiarity which distinguishes these dialects may be reduced to a predominant use of one of these slides. Let any one who has sufficiently studied the speaking voice to distinguish the slides, observe the pronunciation of an Irishman and a Scotchman, who have much of the dialect of their country, and he will find that the former abounds with the falling, and the latter with the rising inflexion †; and if this is the case, a teacher, if he understands these slides, ought to direct his instruction so as to remedy the imperfection. But as avoiding the wrong, and seizing the right at the same instant, is, perhaps, too great a task for human powers, I would advise a native of Ireland, who has much of the accent, to pronounce almost all his words, and end all his sentences with the rising slide; and a Scotchman in the same manner, to use the falling inflexion: this will, in some measure, counteract the natural propensity, and bids fairer for bringing the pupil to that nearly equal mixture of both slides which distinguishes the English speaker, than endeavouring at first to catch the agreeable variety. For this purpose the teacher ought to pronounce all the single words in the lesson with the falling inflexion to a Scotchman, and with the rising to an Irishman; and should frequently give the pauses in a sentence the same inflexions to each of these pupils, where he would vary them to a native of England. But while the human voice remains unstudied, there is little expectation that this distinction of the slides should be applied to these useful purposes.

Besides a peculiarity of inflexion, which I take to be a falling circumflex, directly opposite to that of the Scotch, the Welsh pronounce the sharp consonants and aspirations instead of the flat. (See Principles, No. 29, 41.) Thus for *big* they say *pick*; for *blood*, *plood*; and for *good*, *coot*. Instead of *virtue* and *vice*, they say *virtue* and *vice*; instead of *zeal* and *praise*, they say *zeal* and *praise*; instead of *these* and *those*, they say *thece* and *thoce*: and instead of *azure* and *eser*, they say *ayser* and *eser*; and for *jail*, *chail*. Thus there are nine distinct consonant sounds which, to the Welsh, are entirely useless. To speak with propriety, therefore, the Welsh ought for some time to pronounce the flat consonants and aspirations only; that is, they ought not only to pronounce them where the letters require the flat sound, but even where they require the sharp sound; this will be the best way to acquire a habit; and when this is once done, a distinction will be easily made, and a just pronunciation more readily acquired.

* See this more fully exemplified in Elements of Elocution, vol. II. p. 13.

† Or rather the rising circumflex. For an explanation of this inflexion, see Melody of Speaking Delineated, page 16.

There is scarcely any part of England remote from the capital where a different system of pronunciation does not prevail. As in Wales they pronounce the sharp consonants for the flat, so in Somersetshire they pronounce many of the flat instead of the sharp. Thus for *Somerſetſhire*, they ſay *Zomerzetſhire*; for *father*, *wather*; for *think*, *τthink*; and for *ſure*, *τhure* *.

There are dialects peculiar to Cornwall, Lancaſhire, Yorkſhire, and every diſtant county in England; but as a conſideration of theſe would lead to a detail too minute for the preſent occaſion, I ſhall conclude theſe remarks with a few obſervations on the peculiarities of my countrymen, the Cockneys; who, as they are the models of pronunciation to the diſtant provinces, ought to be more ſcrupuloſly correct.

FIRST FAULT OF THE LONDONERS.—*Pronouncing s indiſtinctly after ſt.*

The letter *s* after *ſt* from the very difficulty of its pronunciation, is often ſounded inarticulately. The inhabitants of London, of the lower order, cut the knot, and pronounce it in a diſtinct ſyllable, as if *e* were before it; but this is to be avoided as the greateſt blemiſh in ſpeaking: the three laſt letters in *poſts*, *fiſts*, *miſts*, &c. muſt all be diſtinctly heard in one ſyllable, and without permitting the letters to coaleſce. For the acquiring of this ſound, it will be proper to ſelect nouns that end in *ſt* or *ſte*; to form them into plurals, and pronounce them forcibly and diſtinctly every day. The ſame may be obſerved of the third perſon of verbs ending in *ſts* or *ſtes*, as *perſiſts*, *waſtes*, *haſtes*, &c.

For this purpoſe, the *Rhyming Dictionary*, where all the words are arranged according to their terminations, will be found peculiarly uſeful.

SECOND FAULT.—*Pronouncing w for v, and inverſely.*

The pronouncing of *v* for *w*, and more frequently *w* for *v*, among the inhabitants of London, and thoſe not always of the lower order, is a blemiſh of the firſt magnitude. The difficulty of remedying this defect is the greater, as the cure of one of theſe miſtakes has a tendency to promote the other.

Thus, if you are very careful to make a pupil pronounce *wal* and *vinegar*, not as if written *wéal* and *winegar*, you will find him very apt to pronounce *wine* and *wind*, as if written *vine* and *vind*. The only method of rectifying this habit ſeems to be this: Let the pupil ſelect from a dictionary, not only all the words that begin with *v*, but as many as he can of thoſe that have this letter in any other part. Let him be told to bite his under lip while he is ſounding the *v* in thoſe words, and to praſtiſe this every day till he pronounces the *v* properly at firſt ſight; then, and not till then, let him purſue the ſame method with the *w*; which he muſt be directed to pronounce by a pouting out of the lips without ſuffering them to touch the teeth. Thus, by giving all the attention to only one of theſe letters at a time, and fixing by habit the true ſound of that, we ſhall at laſt find both of them reduced to their proper pronunciation in a ſhorter time than by endeavouring to rectify them both at once.

THIRD FAULT.—*Not ſounding h after w.*

The aſpirate *h* is often ſunk, particularly in the capital, where we do not find the leaſt diſtinction of ſound between *wbile* and *wile*, *wbet* and *wet*, *wbere* and

* See *Change*.

care, &c. The best method to rectify this is, to collect all the words of this description from a dictionary, and write them down; and instead of the *w* to begin them with *hoo* in a distinct syllable, and so to pronounce them. Thus, *whible* be written and sounded *hoo-ile*; *whet*, *hoo-et*; *where*, *hoo-are*; *whip*, *hoo-ip*, &c. This is no more, as Dr. Lowth observes, than placing the aspirate in its true position before the *w*, as it is in the Saxon, which the words come from; where we may observe, that though we have altered the orthography of our ancestors, we have still preserved their pronunciation.

FOURTH FAULT.—*Not sounding h where it ought to be sounded, and inversely.*

A still worse habit than the last prevails, chiefly among the people of London, that of sinking the *h* at the beginning of words where it ought to be sounded, and of sounding it, either where it is not seen, or where it ought to be sunk. Thus we not unfrequently hear, especially among children, *hears* pronounced *ars*, and *are*, *harm*. This is a vice perfectly similar to that of pronouncing the *v* for the *w*, and the *w* for the *v*, and requires a similar method to correct it.

As there are so very few words in the language where the initial *h* is sunk, we may select these from the rest, and, without setting the pupil right when he mispronounces these, or when he prefixes the *h* improperly to other words, we may make him pronounce all the words where *h* is sounded, till he has almost forgot there are any words pronounced otherwise. Then he may go over those words to which he improperly prefixes the *h*, and those where the *h* is seen but not sounded, without any danger of an interchange. As these latter words are but few, I shall subjoin a catalogue of them for the use of the learner. *Heir*, *heirist*, *herb*, *herbist*, *herbist*, *herbist*, *herbist*, *honour*, *honourable*, *honorably*, *hospital*, *hospiter*, *hour*, *hourly*, *humble*, *humbly*, *humbler*, *humour*, *humourist*, *humourous*, *humourously*, *humourous*. Where we may observe, that *humour* and its compounds not only sink the *h*, but sound the *u* like the pronoun *you*, or the noun *you*, as if written *yeu-mour*, *yeu-mourist*, &c.

Thus I have endeavoured to correct some of the more glaring errors of my countrymen; who, with all their faults, are still upon the whole the best pronouncers of the English language. For though the pronunciation of London is certainly erroneous in many words, yet, upon being compared with that of any other place, it is undoubtedly the best; that is, not only the best by courtesy, and because it happens to be the pronunciation of the capital, but best by a better title; that of being more generally received; or, in other words, though the people of London are erroneous in the pronunciation of many words, the inhabitants of every other place are erroneous in many more. Nay, harsh as the sentence may seem, those at a considerable distance from the capital do not only mispronounce many words taken separately, but they scarcely pronounce with purity a single word, syllable, or letter. Thus, if the short sound of the letter *v* in *trunk*, *fun*, &c. differ from the sound of that letter in the northern parts of England, where they sound it like the *u* in *bull*, and nearly as if the words were written *troun*, *fun*, &c. it necessarily follows that every word where that letter occurs must by those provincials be mispronounced.

Perhaps I cannot conclude these observations better than by quoting a passage from Dr. Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric, where what is called *national*, or general use in language, is treated with the greatest depth, clearness, and vivacity. To which I would premise, that what he observes with respect to England as distinct from the provinces, may, with very few exceptions, be applied to London—the centre of them all.

" In every province there are peculiarities of dialect, which affect not only
 " the pronunciation and the accent, but even the inflection and the combination
 " of words, whereby their idiom is distinguished from that of the nation, and
 " from that of every other province. The narrowness of the circle to which
 " the currency of the words and phrases of such dialects is confined, sufficiently
 " discriminates them from that which is properly styled the language, and
 " which commands a circulation incomparably wider. This is one reason, I
 " imagine why the term *use* on this subject is commonly accompanied with the
 " epithet *general*. In the generality of provincial idioms there is, it must be
 " acknowledged, a pretty considerable concurrence both of the middle and of
 " the lower ranks. But still this use is bounded by the province, county, or
 " district, which gives name to the dialect, and beyond which its peculiarities
 " are sometimes unintelligible, and always ridiculous. But the language pro-
 " perly so called is found current, especially in the upper and middle ranks,
 " over the whole British empire. Thus, though in every province they ridi-
 " cule the idiom of every other province, they all vail to the English idiom,
 " and scruple not to acknowledge its superiority over their own.

" For example; in some parts of Wales (if we may credit Shakespeare in his
 " character of Fluellin in Henry V.) the common people say *goot* for *good*; in
 " the South of Scotland they say *gude*; and in the North *gued*. Wherever
 " one of these pronunciations prevails, you will never hear from a native either
 " of the two; but the word *good* is to be heard every where from natives, as
 " well as strangers; nor do the people ever dream that there is any thing laugh-
 " able in it, however much they are disposed to laugh at the country accents
 " and idioms which they discern in one another. Nay more; though the peo-
 " ple of distant provinces do not understand one another, they mostly all under-
 " stand one who speaks properly. It is a just and curious observation of
 " Dr. Kenrick, in his Rhetorical Grammar, that the ease of language, or
 " rather speech, being quite contrary to that of science; in the former, the
 " ignorant understand the learned, better than the learned do the ignorant;
 " in the latter it is otherwise."

But though the inhabitants of London have this manifest advantage over all
 the other inhabitants of the island, they have the disadvantage of being more
 disgraced by their peculiarities than any other people. The grand difference
 between the metropolis and the provinces is, that people of education in London
 are free from all the vices of the vulgar; but the best educated people in the
 provinces, if constantly resident there, are sure to be strongly tinged with the
 dialect of the country in which they live. Hence it is, that the vulgar pronun-
 ciation of London, though not half so erroneous as that of Scotland, Ireland, or
 any of the provinces, is, to a person of correct taste, a thousand times more
 offensive and disgusting.

DIRECTIONS to FOREIGNERS,

In order to attain a Knowledge of the Marks in this Dictionary, and to acquire a right Pronunciation of every Word in the English Language.

AS the sounds of the vowels are different in different languages, it would be endless to bring parallel sounds from the various languages of Europe; but as the French is generally understood upon the continent, if we can reduce the sounds of the English letters to those of the French, we shall render the pronunciation of our language very generally attainable: and this, it is presumed, will be pretty accurately accomplished by observing the following directions:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
â	bi	ci	dî	î	ef	dgi	ch	âs	djé	qué	ell	em	en	o	pi	kiou	arr
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z										
es	ti	iou	vi	dobliou	ex	ouai	zedd										

The French have all our vowel sounds, and will therefore find the pronunciation of them very easy. The only difficulty they will meet with seems to be *i*, which, though demonstrably composed of two successive sounds, has passed for a simple vowel with a very competent judge of English pronunciation*. The reason is, these two sounds are pronounced so closely together as to require some attention to discover their component parts: this attention Mr. Sheridan † never gave, or he would not have told us that this diphthong is a compound of our fullest and slenderest sounds *â* and *î*; the first made by the largest, and the last by the smallest aperture of the mouth. Now nothing is more certain than the inaccuracy of this definition. The third sound of *a*, which is perfectly equivalent to the third sound of *e*, when combined with the first sound of *e*, must inevitably form the diphthong in *boy*, *joy*, &c. and not the diphthongal sound of the vowel *i* in *idle*, and the personal pronoun *I*; this double sound will, upon a close examination, be found to be composed of the Italian *a* in the last syllable of *papa*, and the first sound of *e*, pronounced as closely together as possible ‡; and for the exactness of this definition, I appeal to every just English ear in the kingdom.

The other diphthongal vowel *u* is composed of the French *i*, pronounced as closely as possible to their diphthong *ou*, or the English *êê* and *ô*, perfectly equivalent to the sound the French would give to the letters *you*, and which is exactly the sound the English give to the plural of the second personal pronoun.

The diphthong *oi* or *oy* is composed of the French *â* and *î*; thus *toy* and *boy* would be exactly expressed to a Frenchman by writing them *tâi* and *bâi*.

The diphthongs *ou* and *ow*, when sounded like *ou*, are composed of the French *â* and the diphthong *ou*; and the English sounds of *thou* and *now* may be expressed to a Frenchman by spelling them *thâou* and *nâou*.

* Elements of Orthœpy, page 2.

† See Section III. of his Prosodial Grammar prefixed to his Dictionary.

‡ Holder, the most philosophical and accurate investigator of the formation and powers of the letters, says: Our vulgar *i*, as in *stile*, seems to be such a diphthong (or rather syllable, or part of a syllable) composed of *e*, *i*, or *e*, *i*, and not a simple original vowel.—Elements of Speech, page 95.

Dr. Wallis, speaking of the long English *i*, says it is sounded—*eadem ferè modo quo Gallorum ai* in vocibus *maie*, *manus*; *paie*, *panis*, &c. *Nempe sonum habet compertum ex Gallorum è* *fœminine & i* vel *y*.—Grammatica Linguae Anglicanae, pag. 48.

W is no more than the French diphthong *ou*. Thus *Woff* is equivalent to *Oueff*, and *wall* to *ouall*.

Y is perfectly equivalent to the French letter of that name, and may be supplied by *i*. Thus *yoke*, *you*, &c. is expressed by *ioké*, *iou*, &c.

J, or *I* consonant, must be pronounced by prefixing *d* to the French *j*. Thus *jay*, *joy*, &c. sound to a Frenchman as if spelled *djé*, *djâi*, &c. If any difficulty be found in forming this combination of sounds, it will be removed by pronouncing the *d*, *ed*, and spelling these words *edjé*, *edjâi*, &c.

Ch, in English words not derived from the Greek, Latin, or French, is pronounced as if *t* were prefixed. Thus the sound of *chair*, *cheese*, *chain*, &c. would be understood by a Frenchman if the words were written *tchère*, *tchize*, *tchéne*.

Sh in English is expressed by *ch* in French. Thus *shame*, *share*, &c. would be spelled by a Frenchman *chème*, *chère*, &c.

The ringing sound *ng* in *long*, *sang*, &c. may be perfectly conceived by a pupil who can pronounce the French word *Encore*, as the first syllable of this word is exactly correspondent to the sound in those English words; and for the formation of it, see Principles, No. 57; also the word *Encore*.

But the greatest difficulty every foreigner finds in pronouncing English, is the hissing consonant *th*. This, it may be observed, has, like the other consonants, a sharp and a flat sound: sharp as in *thin*, *bath*; flat as in *that*, *with*. To acquire a true pronunciation of this difficult combination, it may be proper to begin with those words where it is initial: and first, let the pupil protrude his tongue a little way beyond the teeth, and press it between them as if going to bite the tip of it; while this is doing, if he wishes to pronounce *thin*, let him hiss as if to sound the letter *s*; and after the hiss, let him draw back his tongue within his teeth, and pronounce the preposition *in*, and thus will the word *thin* be perfectly pronounced. If he would pronounce *that*, let him place the tongue between the teeth as before; and while he is hissing as to sound the letter *s*, let him withdraw his tongue into his mouth, and immediately pronounce the preposition *at*. To pronounce this combination when final in *bath*, let him pronounce *ba*, and protrude the tongue beyond the teeth, pressing the tongue with them, and hissing as if to sound *s*; if he would pronounce *with*, let him first form *wi*, put the tongue in the same position as before, and hiss as if to sound *s*. It will be proper to make the pupil dwell some time with the tongue beyond the teeth in order to form the habit, and to pronounce daily some words out of a dictionary beginning and ending with these letters.

These directions, it is presumed, if properly attended to, will be sufficient to give such Foreigners as understand French, and have not access to a master, a competent knowledge of English pronunciation; but to render the sounds of the vowels marked by figures in this Dictionary still more easily to be comprehended—with those English words which exemplify the sounds of the vowels, I have associated such French words as have vowels exactly corresponding to them, and which immediately convey the true English pronunciation. These should be committed to memory, or written down and held in his hand while the pupil is inspecting the Dictionary.