

times the case, had been handed on and finally become legitimized by force of custom.

We cannot imagine that Augustine and his monks, fresh from Italy, pronounced, or taught the English people to pronounce, *a*, *ay*, or *e*, *ee*, or *i*, *ei*. They would rather have represented the sound which we call *ay*, by *e* accented or unaccented; whilst the English *e* would have been written *i*; and what we call *i*, would have gone down as *ei* or *ai*.

By strangely deviating in these respects from the general usage, our nation has rendered itself doubly insular, and considerable difficulty has been thrown in the way of foreigners desiring to learn our language. Not even do our Scandinavian brethren, I believe, herein agree with us. But although the continental nations have preserved more truly than we have done the tones of the languages which we are in the practice of calling dead, we are not to imagine that this has been anything more than an accident. These nations, either occupying the ground which was formerly the area of those tongues, or being geographically in contact with it, adopted in the written and spoken developments of their own respective vernacular languages the phonetic systems of vanquished or superseded races, simply as a matter of convenience, with no particular desire to perpetuate the veritable tones of the classic tongues. Ever since the revival of literature in the beginning of the sixteenth century, there has been a school of learned men on the European continent who contend that the classic languages ought to be more completely resuscitated; that many niceties and elegances of utterance which usage in the several nations has failed to secure, might and ought to be recovered and practised.\*

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\* The numerous native "professors" of the Greek tongue who found their way to Italy after, and long before, the fall of Constantinople (1453), naturally pronounced the ancient language as they would their own vernacular *Romaic*, which bears the same relation to it that Italian does to Latin. Manuel Chrysoloras, who died in 1415, thus taught in Florence, Milan, and Rome. Previous to this, Boccaccio, who died in 1375, was a diligent student of Greek under similar tuition.

Reuchlin (1455—1522) advocated the *Romaic* pronunciation in Germany. In 1528 Erasmus published his treatise "De rectâ Latini Græcique Sermonis pronunciatione," in which, in opposition to the great German scholar, he maintained that the ancient sounds are not reproduced by the modern modes. Henceforward there were two schools of Greek orthoepists, the Erasmian and the Reuchlinian—the *etists* and the *iotacists*, (the latter so called from their giving the sound of *iota* to  $\eta$ ,  $\iota$ ,  $\upsilon$ , and the diphthongs  $\alpha\epsilon$  and  $\alpha\omicron$ .) At Oxford, Grocyn (1442—1519) taught Greek, probably *Romaicè*; and strangely enough, under him it is said that Erasmus first began the study of this language in 1497. At Cambridge, Cheke (1614—1577) inculcated a method resembling the Erasmian in his "Disputatio de Pronuncia-