

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY VOWELS.

The distinction between primary vowels and secondary (or derivativ) ones is important. On page 109 we complaind that the relation of primary and secondary was not only ignored but that a sign (\bar{a}) manifestly only apropriat for a primary was uzed in the (not secondary even, but) weak sylabls of *particular*, for which *par tic yu lar* (colloquial *par tic y^a lar*) is the orthoepy and "particyular" quite good enuf New Spelng for us moderats. Theory is pusht too far when "p \bar{a} rtikyul \bar{a} r" apears. Recently we hav seen \bar{a} (as in *day*) uzed in the third sylabls of *temporary*, *ordinary* and *advantage*, and in the second of *certainty*. THE HERALD and its notation mis the mark if this goes on.

The distinguishing of primary vowels began erly in use of the Roman alfabet. Dubling of the vowel sign is found on inscriptions; so, too, enlargement is found, especially of I, as LIBERI, IVS, IVBETO. In the first century B.C. apears the 'apex' (') becoming almost universal in the Augustan age, lasting til the empire's fall, when the church kept up its use in both world-language (Latin) and the vernaculars. With the advent of printing this went into comparativ desuetude, tho continuing as acute accent (as \acute{a} , \acute{o}) and macron (as \bar{o} , \bar{u}). Before Caxton, the distinction was in ful blast, the five vowels being paird and having Roman values, so that they had a ten-vowel scale and consistent paird symbols in evryday use by scribes—a lost art, much needed in these degenerat days. Printers did not pair vowels (at any rate, exceptionally only) and the dark ages of vowel notation began. With disuse of vowel pairs came misnaming of a, e, i, u, and genral drifting and shifting of the vowel elements of most words, with dropt gutturals and other changes. All this time printers went on for generation after generation copying the wordforms uzed by their p edecers in the Tudor period—result, a jumbl, C(h)aos, which Johnson in 1755, with more lerning than wisdom, attempted to rivet on the language, and succeeded but too wel.

What ar we to do about it? Rename the vowels by their fundamental values. Restore their use in pairs (or triplets, if yu wil) and fix (plank 15) a New Speling in acord therwith, as also in acord with such speech habits (plank 14) as ar genral, or non-local, in the language.

The cat's mew (or meow, if the mouth is opend wide) givs us an exampl of how primary, secondary, and weak vowels ar related and produced by diminution of force acording to the formula found on p. 88, $s = f(d, i, p)$, or as duration, intensity

and pitch vary. Desending in strength, we hear $mr:a:\bar{u}$; $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$, $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$, $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$, $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$, $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$, $mi\bar{a}\bar{u}$. In this, we hav the sequence i, i, i, y; \bar{a} , \bar{a} , \bar{a} , \bar{a} , and \bar{u} , \bar{u} , \bar{u} , \bar{u} . To make the ful orthoepic vowel-scale we require a, e, e; \bar{o} , o, o; with \bar{a} , o, \bar{a} . For \bar{a} , we hav rival symbols in New Speling (\bar{a} and \bar{u}).

Old Speling, bad tho it be, has this one redeeming feature: the vowel before ck is secondary, as is that before the sound η . We no no exception. These sho speech-habits inwoven with Old Sp. Exampls: i in *sick*; e, *neck*; \bar{a} , standard *tack*; \bar{a} , northern *tack*; o, American *knock*; o, British *knock*; u, *cuckoo*. It is so in German.

OUR LETER BOX.

A. R.—For him^o who has eyes as wel as ears, American literature is ful of change of Italian *a* to *aw*. Longfellow (translator of Dante, and, so, familiar with the vowel, yet, to suit his audience) rote

Came the Pawnees and the Omawhaws,
in the erly part of *Hiawatha*. *Pani* and *Omaha* ar other spelings of French origin. Even with 'ah' to sho the sound specialy in *Fahrenheit*, we hear \bar{a} and not *aw* nor \bar{a} in its first sylabl, due to ther being but a singl consonant (r) between it and the next vowel. It then becomes \bar{a} acording to rule stated and exemplified on page 43. The latter law overrides the former.

E. A. P.—Ther is no receivd Anglicized pronunciation of French names in Canada. They who no (or think they no) French ar apt to folo the analogies of receivd Parisian. Others ar misled by speling and by imitation to giv a ruf aproximat. Some of these get an establisht currency, as *de. troit* for *Detroit*, $s\bar{u}$ - $s\bar{e}$ nt. $m\bar{a}$ -ri for *Sault Ste. Marie*, etc.

S. E. O.—Masquerier was preceded by others in his analysis of orthoepy into eleven vowels. Sheridan in 1780 distinguisht but nine in his, the first pronouncing dictionary, counting u in *pull* the same as \bar{u} in *rule*, also considering \bar{a} and \bar{a} as one—u- \bar{u} and \bar{a} - \bar{a} being stil much alike in northern speech. Sheridan was Irish. Soon Stephen Jones, whose preface dates from London, issued a "Sheridan Improved" u- \bar{u} and \bar{a} - \bar{a} wer separated, eleven in all. We hav his twelfth edition, dated 1807. Walker, also a Londoner, and teacher of elocution there, discriminates twelv in his.

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Speling (postpaid, 10 c.) publisht evry July as archives of each year.

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