

PRONOUNCING HANDBOOK

—OF—

WORDS OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED,

—AND OF—

WORDS AS TO WHICH A CHOICE OF
PRONUNCIATION IS ALLOWED.

It is our purpose to report here the current usage of the best speakers with regard to such words as are the most liable to be mispronounced, and also to record such words as may be pronounced in either of two ways without any offence to good taste.

In the latter case, that mode which is supported by the greater weight of authority and is the more generally accepted is put first in order.

In the preparation of the list the latest editions of the Quarto Dictionaries of Webster and Worcester have been examined with care, and also the works of the eminent English orthoëpists, Smart, Cull, and Cooley, who make known the best usage of cultivated Englishmen of the present day. Still further research has been made whenever it seemed desirable.

The compilers have noted and carefully considered the cases in which these authorities differ, and have adopted that mode of pronunciation which seemed to them clearly preferable.

1. MARKED LETTERS.

THE following words will serve to indicate the sounds of the marked letters used in the Vocabulary:—

āle, ſat, ſee, ſld, ſſe, ſſee, gōdd, ānd, ſnd, ſll, ſn, ſp, ſrm, ſarc. *ow* is sounded as in *owl*, *th* (italicized) as in *them*, *th* (unitalicized) as in *thin*, *ch* as in *chop*, *er* as in *her*. The vowel *a*, when unaccented, at the end of a word, has a brief sound of *ä* (as in *arm*). An unmarked vowel (except *a*), forming or ending a syllable, has its long or name sound. The vowel *a* unmarked, forming or ending an unaccented syllable, commonly has a slight sound of *a* as in *arm*. (But see clause 32, under cautions). An unmarked vowel, followed in the same syllable by any consonant except *r*, has its short sound. But *ar* is pronounced as in *arm*, *er* as in *her*, or as in *nor*, *ur* as in *fur*.

2. REMARKS ON CERTAIN SOUNDS.

It may be well to make the following brief remarks in relation to certain points of pronunciation not familiar to most speakers, or in regard to which there is a difference of opinion among orthoëpists.

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