

melody, unless by artful pronunciation; because of necessity the bulk of its sounds must be arbitrary. The pronunciation is easy in a simple movement of alternate long and short syllables; but would be perplexing and unpleasant in the diversified movement of Hexameter verse."

Beautiful as is the *Evangeline* of Longfellow, his Hexameter lines are sometimes hard to scan, and often grate harshly on the ear. He is frequently forced to divide a word by the central or pivotal pause of the line, and sometimes to make a pause in the sense where the rhythm forbids it. Take for example some of the opening lines of *Evangeline*:

"This is the forest prime||val. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks,
Bearded with moss, and in gar||ments green, indistinct in the twilight.
Loud from its rocky cav||erns; the deep-voiced neighboring ocean
Speaks, and in accents discon||solate answers the wail of the forest.
Lay in the fruitful val||ley. Vast meadows stretched to the eastward."

Again, in order to comply with the Greek and Latin rule of beginning each line with a *long* syllable, he is compelled to emphasize words contrary to the sense. Examples:

In the Acadian land, on the shores of the Basin of Minas.
Somewhat apart from the vil||lage, and nearer the Basin of Minas.
But a celestial bright||ness—a more ethereal beauty.
And the retreating sun the sign of the scorpion enters.
In-doors, warmed by the wide-||mouthed fireplace idly the farmer,
Four times the sun had ris||et and set; and now on the fifth day,

"Greek and Latin Hexameter lines, as to time, are all of the same length, being equivalent to the time taken in pronouncing twelve long syllables, or twenty-four short ones. An Hexameter line may consist of seventeen syllables, and when regular and not Spondiac, it never has fewer than thirteen: whence it follows that where the syllables are many, the plurality must be short; where few, the plurality must be long.

This line is susceptible of much variety as to the succession of long and short syllables. It is however subject to laws that confine its variety within certain limits. * * *