

# The Fonetic Herald

DEVOTED TO PRONUNCIATION AND REVISED SPELLING.

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## ALFABETIC STUDIZ.

### V—DIPHTHONGS (continued.)

The first element of this diphthong has been variously represented. So far as my observation goes, it is identical, however pronounced, with the first element of *I*. In both, the first element, in my own pronunciation, differs according to the sound that follows. When the diphthong precedes a voiceless consonant, the first element is the vowel in *up*, *but*, *son*; when the diphthong ends a word or is followed by a voiced consonant, the first element is vowel in *alms* *father*. Thus, *out*, *couch*, *south*, *house* hav *u* as in *up*; *loud*, *gouge*, *Lowther*, *houses*, *owl*, noun, *our*, *how* hav *a* as in *father*. So, *ripe*, *right*, *righteous*, *like*, *knife*, *ice*, hav *u* in *up*, *jibe*, *ride*, *Elijah*, *knives*, *writhe*, *eyes*, also *isle*, rhyme, *ire*, *nine*, *why*, *I*, *ay* hav *a* in *father*.

I do not find this distinction recognized in any author, tho it corresponds closely with classification by Prof. Gregory, Edinburg, cited in Ellis' *Erly Eng. Pronunciation*, Part I., page 108.

Ellis, certain' the greatest authority on Eng. pronunciation, says: "The first element of long *I*, as I speak it, seems to be the vowel in *but*." He gives views of many others, among which I notice the following only:

Benjamin Franklin,	the vowel in	<i>but</i> ,
Wilkins,	"	"
Willis and Smart,	"	<i>first</i> ,
Sheridan and Knowles,	"	<i>what</i> ,
Haldimand,	"	{ Ger. <i>mann</i> ,
		{ Fr. <i>matelas</i> ,
Walker and Melvil B. "	"	<i>father</i> ,
Melvil Bell,	"	naccented <i>ask</i> ,
Many Londoners,	vowel in	<i>man</i> , <i>sat</i> .

Ellis adds: "Now this being a personal pronoun, it is herd evry day constantly.

But after competent orthoepists hav carefully examind it they ar unable to agree as to its analysis. One reason is difference of pronunciation, but another appears to be that the first element is pronounced with extreme brevity so that in British speech it is insufficiently herd as distinct from the following glide.

. . . . . The preceding discussion will apply to first element of present pronunciation of *ou* in *now*, *cow*." But in his more minute discussion of the same diphthong in Part IV. p 1153, he says: "As to the first element, it is subject to at least all the variations of that of long *I*; but, owing to the labial final, the tendency to labialize the first element is more markt."

The above argument, evry word of which my own observation corroborates, is what induces me to urge adoption of a singl sign for each difthong.

As to pronunciation in America, it appears to me to be usually the vowel in *father* in all words. The New England variety however appears to be that in *at* or *man* nasalized. The first elements of *I* and *ou* seem the same, tho they may be a slight effect produced in *ou* by the following *u*.

Montreal, 25 Feb. '86.

M.

It betr accords with our last study, p. 45 to speak of *positions for*, insted of *elements of*, a diphthong. The positions ar those assumed by the oral vocal apparatus

In throwing open *M*'s points to our readers, we remark

1. OPTIONAL SINGL SIGNS SHUD BE PROVIDED FOR *I*, *ou* and *oi*. Shud Gholson's contention (p. 45) be sustaind that *oi* is composed of two separat sounds and so is not difthongal, it shud be excepted. If preferd by an individual or by