

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRONUNCIATION.

MANY of us are well acquainted with the peculiarities of pronunciation in England, where they are styled provincialisms, e. g. the substitution of the 'v' for 'w,' the dropping of the 'h' and the picking it up in the wrong place, etc.; but amongst ourselves we have at least one great failing in this respect, viz., our treatment of the letter I which is so constantly turned into an A by fairly well educated people. Specially is this prominent in members of Church choirs where we hear such pronunciation as Char<sup>aty</sup>, Pur<sup>ty</sup>, Virg<sup>in</sup>, Imag<sup>nation</sup>, Trin<sup>ity</sup>, and other such like words. And again, when the letter E comes into the last syllable it is often made a broad A, e. g. in the word redeemed, pronounced re-deem-a; prov-ed, prov-ad, etc., which a very little care would remedy with great advantage to the proprieties of euphony.

Then again, why should the 'i' in the word "wind" be always made long by certain of the clergy? Is it pedantry, or what? It certainly has a dissonant sound to hear a clergyman read (for instance, in the 78th Psalm, 28th verse) "He made the East wynde to blow . . . brought in the S. W. wynde!" We all know that for the observance of rhyme and rhythm the word in poetical reading requires to be long under certain, but surely not all, circumstances. For instance, in the Benedictus, it would be quite correct, and have a better sound to say "Oh ye winds of God;" also in Hymn A. & M., 285, verse 2, "The wild winds hushed;" and verse 3, "And storm

min's drift," would have a more natural rhythm than "wild wynde" and "storm wynde." But especially when the word occurs in one of the lessons or psalms does it grate to hear the pedantic long pronunciation. Fancy asking an old seaman, "How's the wynde?" Certain it is that the natural use of a common word is preferable to a "bookish" word or expression, which is well exemplified in the following anecdote. The officer of the morning watch in a flag-ship hailed the main-top to "extinguish that nocturnal illuminator," (meaning the light in the lantern which ships carry), "Sir," was the answer, with hand to ear, to shew he didn't catch the import of the order, which was repeated by the officer on deck in the same terms,—“Aye, aye, sir,” came back the answer; but the captain of the top was in a quandery, and asked his mate, who was aloft with him, what the order meant: "Why, he means 'Dowse the glim,' of course!"

More attention to proper pronunciation on the part of school teachers, and less of the "ologies," would be attended with benefit to the pupils, and in a great measure do away with such objectionable modes of expression as "gimme," "I seen," "outen," etc.

X. Y. Z.

REPENT; BELIEVE; OBEY.

BELIEVE and come to God, cast all your sins away;  
Seek ye the Saviour's cleansing Blood; Repent—  
believe—obey.

Say not ye cannot come, for Jesus bled and died  
That none, who ask in humble faith, should ever  
be denied.

Say not ye will not come; 'tis God vouchsafes to call.  
And fearful shall their end be found, on whom His  
wrath shall fall.

Come hen whenever will, come while 'tis called to-day,  
Flee to the Saviour's cleansing blood, Repent—  
believe—obey. *Bishop Doane.*