

## II.—CLASSIFICATION OF LETTERS.

1. *Vowels.*

## 2. The Greek has seven vowels :

Two— $\epsilon$  and  $o$  . . . short.Two— $\eta$  and  $\omega$  . . . long.Three— $a$ ,  $\iota$ , and  $\upsilon$  . . doubtful.

3. Two vowels may unite and form a diphthong, as in English; but in Greek all these combinations must end in  $\iota$  or  $\upsilon$ , and are called *proper* or *improper* diphthongs, according as the other vowel is *short* or *long*, e. g. :

Proper Diphthongs.

 $a\iota$ ,  $\epsilon\iota$ ,  $o\iota$ ,  $au$ ,  $\epsilon\nu$ ,  $ou$ .

Improper Diphthongs.

 $q$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\phi$ ,  $\eta\nu$ .

REM.—In the improper diphthongs the  $\iota$ , instead of being placed *after* the other vowel (*except after a capital*) is written under it, as  $q$  instead of  $a\iota$ . It is then called *Iota subscript*, i. e. *iota written under*.

2. *Consonants.*

## 4. The Greek has seventeen consonants :

1) *Four liquids* :  $\lambda$ ,  $\mu$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $\rho$ .2) *Nine mutes*, which may be arranged as follows :

	Smooth.	Middle.	Rough.
Pi-mutes . . . .	$\pi$	$\beta$	$\phi$
Kappa-mutes . . . .	$\kappa$	$\gamma$	$\chi$
Tau-mutes . . . .	$\tau$	$\delta$	$\theta$ .

REM.—The smooth, middle, and rough mutes of the same class differ from each other only in the degree of aspiration: thus  $\pi$  is not aspirated at all,  $\beta$  is partially so, and  $\phi$  is fully aspirated = ph.