

President Thompson of St. Francis Xavier College :

"Regarding the pronunciation of Latin and Greek, I have asked Dr. Alexander McDonald and Rev. D. Gillis to give an expression of their views on the matter, as the former is our professor of Senior Latin, while the latter is professor of Greek in this college.

Following are the remarks of Dr. McDonald :

"All the teachers of Latin in our College are either alumni of the Propaganda, Rome, or have been taught the language by those who are alumni. They naturally follow the pronunciation of Latin which is in vogue at Rome to day and which, in contradistinction to what is now known as the 'Roman' may be called the 'Modern Roman.' It differs but little from the former, in the case of the vowels not at all, in that of the consonant, almost solely in the pronunciation of *c*, which is soft before *e* and *i*, and the diphthongs *œ* and *œ* ; as, *civis* pronounced *tsheevis*.

"Uniformity in pronunciation is no doubt desirable. Nevertheless the Faculty of this College believe they have good and sufficient reasons for not departing from the pronunciation that is now in use. These are (1) the difficulty of unlearning the present pronunciation which must ever come first to the lips by the force of inveterate habit. (2) Latin is to day a living language in Rome, and has never ceased to be a living language in that ancient and classical city, since the days of Cicero. It is spoken there by the learned, by the laymen as well as by clergymen, as fluently as English is spoken in London or New York. There is an unbroken tradition of pronunciation in that ancient home of the language coming down from the days of the old Roman Empire. Doubtless the pronunciation of Latin has undergone some changes in the course of centuries, as has indeed the pronunciation of every other language. But the tradition in question has been handed down among the learned only—it is only the learned who have in the latter ages spoken the language—and it is well known that the pronunciation of the language as spoken by the learned is far less liable to change. At any rate the fact that Rome is the mother and nurse of the language, the fact that Latin has never ceased to be spoken there, and the fact that the city ever has been a great centre of learning, warrant us in looking upon it as setting the fashion, so to speak, in the pronunciation of Latin, as Paris does in the pronunciation of French, and London in that of English.

"As regards Greek, the modern pronunciation is followed here, for much the same reasons as in case of Latin. Greek has never ceased to be a living language, and the teachers of Greek in the propaganda follow the modern pronunciation."

The following are the remarks of the Rev. D. C. Gillis :

"In St. Francis Xavier College the pronunciation of Modern Greek is followed. The principal points of difference between it and the pronunciation found in our text-books may be indicated thus :—

a sounds as the English *ah*.

ε sounds as the English *eh*.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \eta \\ \iota \\ \upsilon \end{array} \right\}$ sounds as the English *ee* in *see*.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \omicron \\ \omega \end{array} \right\}$ is the same in sound as *aw* in *saw*.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \epsilon\iota \\ \omicron\iota \\ \upsilon\iota \end{array} \right\}$ all sounded as *i* or *η*.

ov sounded like *oo* in *mood*.

av sounds as *ahr*, except before.

$\theta, \kappa, \xi, \pi, \sigma, \tau, \phi, \chi, \psi$, when it sounds as *ahf*.

ev sounds *ehv* and *ehf*, the conditions being the same as in the case of *ai*. The same rule holds for *ηv*.