

## PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (continued from p. 151.)

The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea,

*The* is *de*, as explain on page 154.

*Loxing* is lo<sup>u</sup>iy or lo:ij, the difference being in the the later having o lip protruded, which it comonly has under accent. A good o can be made without protrusion as we believ comon when unstrest, as in *innocent* (in 'o sent, colloquial in o sent). To employ a notation which, as ours does, exhibits lip protrusion as an adjunct or accident of a vowel appears at once grafi, as wel as truthfvl, becaus in acord with the actual: Whitney says:-

"One may hold his lips fixt immovably in a singl position (that, for instance, in which e or i is naturally pronounced), and yet uter the vowels of a *hat* and all with perfect distinctnes; one can also, by an effort, make an o and oo, clearly recognuzabl as such and nothing els, the wanting smoothnes of quality which belongs to our usual o and oo. And, on the other hand, one can fix the lips in oo-position, and yet, by a violent and exaggerated action at base of tung, say an unexceptionabl a (*Jar*)."—Part viii of 2nd Series of *Oriental and Linguistic Studies*.

*Loring* is pronounced lo<sup>u</sup>iy too, as explaind last month. Prof. Garnet has told us on p. 146 that "certainly many [about all] Americans say *no* without this u-prolongation." The Cokny will say lou<sup>u</sup>ij, just as he says hou<sup>u</sup>li goust for Holy Ghost. We last month gave expresion to the objection that the international asosiation thru its mouth-piece, the *Paris Teacher*, reflected local peculiaritis of pronunciation. Tho this be stil tru to some extent, which shal be pointed out in time, it is but just that a recent statement of views be givn. They occur in Nov. issue in noting a litl work of Prof. Rambeau, Hamburg, on use of fonetics in teaching French and English, (O. Meissner, Hamburg, 1888). It says:

"He prefers the general stan lard of English pronunciation, the medium between (educated) Londonese, Scotch and American English, to the specially suthern or Londonese English which most disps of Sweet and Ellis recomend. On this point..... we hartily agree with the author."

In noting a pamphlet by Zoëga, of Reikiavik, Iceland, for teaching English to Icelanders, we ar told on the same page with the above: "Z. recognizes nearly the same standard of English speech as we do here; but one text, borrowd from Sweet, is givn in London pronunciation." It is of good promis to find an average general orthoepy superseding a local one. The reader o't to giv careful attention to this. The articles on British-American Speech in our Feb. and Sept. issues shud be re-red with March's opinion quoted in that of Nov. 1886.

*Herd* is herd; that is, is either herd or hurd, as explain on page 154.

*Winds* is windz. The inflectional s be

comes voiced z, due to its being preceded by a voiced sound, *d*. "Lerning to read" is instiling this and like precepts into the mind by comiting word-forms "by hart". the principl on which they depend never once being stated—a rotn canker-spot in our much boasted-of educational system.

*Slowly* is slo<sup>u</sup>li, slo:li, or slo<sup>u</sup>li. How *æ* came in *slow* is an interesting question. Is it a survival of the time when men speld by sound? Was *æ* then sounded *u* and was *æ* ritn for *u* only because it was not customary, as it is stil unusual, to end a word with *u*; just as then, and now, *y* is ofn put as finish where *è* wud be expected; (compare *pity* with *pitiable*, etc.) Of a time about 500 years ago we read:

"It is comon to disregard the speling, and look up on it as lawles. It is true that it was not uniform but the Scribes had a law nevertheless, for their general object was to represent sounds, the speling is fonetic, not conventional. The variations in speling arose from variety of ways in which sounds can be represented. Thus *i* and *y* were consider interchangeable, and it is mere chance which is used."—SKEAT in p. xlv. of *Introduction to Piers Plouman*.

Was *slow* once sounded slou? The present pronunciation in south-eastern Eng. (slo<sup>u</sup>) appears (not a survival, but) to hav originated within the present century. It may be argued with a show of plausibility that *æ*, which is akin to *u*, the labial vowel *par excellence*, shud be retaind in orthograpy, tho but its gost, lip-protrusion, indicated by its sign (:), now remains in orthoepy an extremely conservativ view.

*O'er* is or, or oar, by elision of *o* from *over over*. Ther ar ten sybls in each. If *o'er* is oar, ther wil be elevn, counting or as one, spoiling the mesure. Some say that o cannot be sounded with r unles a intervene questionabl.

*Lea* is le. In south-eastern England it is liy, where we understand y to be as in *yet*. The y being faint, li is more acurat representation.

(To be continued.)

trial corner.

PRO ARIS ATQVE FOCIS.

Tu evry man upon this erth

Deth cumeth sun or let.

And how can man di beter

Than fasing ferful ods,

For the ashes ov his fathers,

And the templs ov his gods.

MARSHALL'S *Horatius*.

KEY: a a a e e i i o o o u u u  
as in art at ale cel ell ill l or ov no up put ooze

IN PRONUNCIATION ONLY.

: - lip protrusion; ^ = nasalization;

' or ' = accent; o = 'neutral vowel.'