

tion shall we adopt if we reject the Latin? we shall be confused by the babel of tongues that respond. There are the advocates of the modern Italian as being a *living, natural* guide, though I know of no school adopting the same. One can hardly be justified in speaking of the modern Italian as a living and natural guide. In the case of the consonants it cannot be accepted as a guide. A competent authority states that the ancient Latin pronunciation probably differs more widely from the Italian of to-day than from any other of the Romance tongues. The modern Greek, or Reuchlinian, pronunciation likewise has found but little favour. Neither of these methods has any sufficient advantage over the English pronunciation, so far as the study of the ancient languages is concerned. Modern Greek, modern Italian and modern English alike are essentially different in their utterance, having a strong stress-accent and having lost the feeling of a fixed quantity.

The so-called Continental Method is current now in many schools in America, and was employed in England till the sixteenth century. But, strictly speaking, there is no Continental system, since for centuries the law of nations has been for each to pronounce Latin after the analogy of its own tongue. Under these circumstances, the scholar who employs the Continental mode ought to define accurately what variety he prefers of its many phases. The result of the introduction of this method has been that scarcely any two schools can be found among those which have adopted it, agreeing in their use of the vowels or consonants.

The chief arguments against the introduction of the Latin pronunciation have been (1) that it would have an evil reflex influence on our language, and (2) that its adoption in our schools would involve a waste of the student's time. Similar arguments might be urged against the study of any foreign language. But has it been found that our increasing attention to the French and German languages, for example, has revolutionized and ruined our English tongue, as we have been told in all seriousness by the advocates of the English method that the Latin pronunciation is likely to do? And it is to be remembered that the English pronunciation has been, and is, ever undergoing change. Nothing, in fact, is more insidious than the change that is constantly going on in language. One man believes that he is speaking the language of his fathers. He is so far from it that he does not even speak the language of his youth. "But the Latin may be compared to a gigantic tree which has attained its growth—it is complete, perfected;"