

first chapter of the Second Epistle to Timothy, and was called upon to exercise her discretion in pronouncing the names of the mother and grandmother of the saintly bishop. To her mind they were manifestly French names. She might have pronounced *Lois*, *Louise*, which would not have been so bad; but she did pronounce it like the French for "laws," and *Lois*, a dissyllable (Lo-is), became a monosyllable, and *Eunice*, a trisyllable (Eu-ni-ce), followed suit as a dissyllable in true Parisian accent. We have heard a similar mistake in Church.

In order to help the unlearned, a general rule has been invented for the utterance of Hebrew names. Who invented it, when, or where, we do not know; but we have seen it pencilled in an old theological book in writing about two hundred years old: "N. B. In Hebrew names the penultimate is always long." That is, the last syllable but one is always to be emphasized. This probably holds in nine cases out of ten; but when a reader, relying upon this, reads out (as we to our annoyance have heard) "Abedneego," it is unpleasant to listen to an emphasis being laid on the shortest possible vowel. The error here is of the same kind as would be made by one who spoke of Lake N'Gami, in Africa, as Lake Neegami; or, as when a man would say, "the winds do beelow," for *blow*; or when a lumberer speaks of an "ellum," meaning an elm tree.

Such are some of the traps and discomforts that lie in the path of the reader who is desirous of pronouncing words according to their original pronunciation.

When, however, such a reader goes about the world and knocks against many minds, the chances are that good-humoured raillery will in course of time draw him into the second stage, that of a compromiser. It will be represented to him, as it was to another who wished to be free from all conventionalities, and began always, "Here *begins* such a chapter," as it seemed to him peculiar and ridiculous to say *beginneth*. Which (said his friend) is most peculiar and ridiculous, to say *beginneth*, or to say differently from all others? Or, again, when a pedantic gentleman persisted in saying, "Here *beginneth part* of such a chapter at such a verse." First of all, you cannot say, "Here *beginneth* two parts of two chapters, at such a verse of the former chapter;" and secondly, why cannot you follow the simple rule of the fabric of your Church, as better men than you have been accustomed to do for more than two hundred years at least? Is it not an error to read in Church in such a way as is not usual when there is nothing important concerned? The main effect will be that the hearers will think more

of the reader than what he reads, which is much to be avoided. They will be thinking more of what is to them a funny pronunciation than of what he is saying. Remember, this is very different from reading God's Word in such a manner as to draw attention to its meaning.

The late Bishop Huntingford, who was renowned for his classical accuracy, was asked by one of his Archdeacons if he had visited the agricultural show. He said at once, pompously, "Agri-cul-tooral, Mr. Archdeacon, agri-cul-tooral." "My Lord," was the answer at once, "I thought it was the most *natooral* way of speaking."

This kind of remonstrance, then, generally leads to a compromise which is commonly of this kind. The reader determines to pronounce in the ordinary way with the English accent, that is, with the accent thrown far back in the word for the most part, when the word is well known, but to retain the correct emphasis (as he thinks) when the word is not so well known. This is a step in advance. The reader now no longer speaks of Debohra, Samareya, Alexandreya, and the like; and his hearers are enabled to recognize old friends in Deborah, Samaria, Alexandria. But still this compromise enables the reader to cling to certain peculiarities. David's body guard is still composed of the Ch'rethites and the P'lethites, and still S. Paul and his company go down to Atta-lei-a (Acts xiv. 25). There is much to be said for this view, and it is not to be wondered at that it is adopted by so many readers at the present time. For example, the Apocalypse (now read in public with such good results) has not yet become familiar, and there are words therein which are read with advantage with an emphasis not purely English. When the word *chryso-prasus* is read with an accent on the first and third syllables, a hearer who has any knowledge of Greek at once perceives that the stone is of a yellowish green, a golden leek; and there is some advantage in quickening the attention of an intelligent hearer. But who can tell the true original pronunciation of Attalia? The Greek accent is certainly on the second syllable. The modern Greeks invariably pronounce according to the accent, as we should expect. The English accent would be on the same syllable: what is there to show that it is right to pronounce the name with the accent on the third syllable—Attaleya?

But we are outrunning the constable, and must reserve the third stage for No. IX.

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The Metropolitan and the Bishop Coadjutor are both busily engaged in the work of Confirmation.