

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (continued).

The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
Homeward is homward. In it, o is close o. In New England they hav an o which exaggerations (and most representations of dialectic speech ar exaggerations) giv as u. Thus, for *at home* yu wil be told that they say "tu hum" or "tə hum" and that *the whole* is "ðə hul." The scolarly Lowel, in the *Biglow Papers*, givs "hum" with evident intention to indicate "hum." Others appear to teach that this is r ut v but haf-oppn o, midway between o and ø. Whitney distinguishes it from u, saying:—

"In regular and authorized pronunciation ther is no such thing, in accented syllabls, as tru short o. The sound, however, is a wel-recognized element of New England uterance, in a very small number of words—whether and how far outside of New Eng. and its colonis, and whether at all among the educated on the other side of the ocean, I canot say. By it, *none* is perfectly distinguisht from *known*, and *whole* from *hole*, as is *full* from *foot*, and *sin* from *seen*; and in these two words (the *none* is ofn pronounced like *nun*, even in New England) the sound in question most clearly and frequently appears. The list of words in which it is givn varies, I think, not a litl in diferent individuals: in my own practice, it is nearly or quite restricted to *none, whole, home, stone, smoke, folks, coat, cloak, lead, throat*; I hav herd most ofn from others, in addition, *bone* and *boat*. Much as orthoepists may discard and stigmatize this sound, a fonologist can hardly help wishing wel in his secret hart to a tendency which wud reliev the spokn alfabet of such an anomaly and reproach as absence of a tru short o."—*Or. & Ling. Studies*, 2d Series, Part 8, §10.

We ar satisfied that we hav herd it from nativs of Cornwall and Devon. For information on this point and much els we patiently wait for 5th part of Ellis on *Pronunciation*. Is not the sound in question one imported by Puritans who setld New Eng.? Is it not an arcaic vowel dying out on both sides of Atlantic? Whitney is about the only American that we no of who clearly givs the sound, and he tels us:

"My place of residence and education, up to 16 years old, was in Massachusetts, on the Connecticut river, at Northampton — a shire-town of long standing, which in my yuth had not lost its ancient and wel-established reputation as a home of 'old familis,' and scene of special culture and high-bred society; the birthplace of President Timothy Dwight, and long the home of President Jonathan Edwards. My father was a merchant and banker, not himself a college-taut man, but son of a graduat of Harvard; my mother's parents wer from the shore of Conn., her father a clergyman and graduat of Yale."—*Ibid.*

The sound appears to be about identical with haf-oppn 'short o' of German—not ø—which cud be represented by Öø while Øø stood for the oppn sound, as we hav urged repeatedly—for scientific (not popular) use. This haf-oppn o lingers in regular German as it does in our tung, a branch of Low German. This is tru of other sounds: as *ch* comon in Ger. as also in remote districts of British Isles; just as k before n is fully

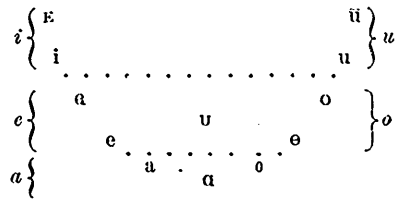
sounded in Ger. word for *boy, knabe*; and just as peopl in the Scotch Highlands say *knæ* and *knai* or *knif* for *knee* and *knife*, as was general in the Tudor period of Eng.

As *none* and *nun*, *nun*, ar said above to be diferent, it is plain that v is not ment. Lowel (pron., Lo'el) and Whitney appear to speak of diferent sounds; or is the explanation that the *Biglow Papers* ar colloquial, approximativ and exaggerativ?

Ward is usually givn as derived from Saxon *ward* or *weard*, in which it shud be noted that our printers put *w* as substitute for *u*, Saxon *w*, named Wen. We ofn ad final s, making *homewards, backward*, etc. This s has z sound. Its use is optional—Gray does not use it in this clasic. The pronunciation *-ward* is givn on Murray's authority who givs "wærd" in similar endings, as *airward*. Now if ə be the vowel in Orthoepy, even professedly liturgic, what shal be the ideal Orthograpy? *werd?* *wærd?* *wurd?* *wrd?* or what? Giv us the solution or work of the problem so that it can be gon over, verified and endorst if right. Bald, dogmatic statements of bare result wont do—giv us the work. Nor is an efeminat, whimsical like or dislike of much account. Unless it be put on a firm basis, it wont stay put, any more than the gost in *Hamlet*.

(To be continued.)

VOWEL SCALE.



| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| finite | fi'nit |
| infinite | in'fin it |
| goal, jail | jal |
| goal | gol |
| there (adverb) | dær |
| " (expletiv) | dær |
| their, (pronoun) | dær |
| gone | gon (not, gəm) |
| shone | shon |
| shown | shon |
| breeches | britshəz |
| Bowdoin | Bod'n |
| figure | fig'yur, not figər |
| barrel | bə'rel, not bə'rəl, bərl |
| paragraf | pə'ra graf, |
| paraphrase | pə'ra fraz " |

KEY: a a a e e i i e o o u u ü
 as in art at ale ell eel ill Inor ox no up put ooze