

NOTES ON PRONUNCIATION.

GRAY'S ELEGY (*continued*).

And leavs the world to darknes and to me. 4

To is tu. Some giv it as tū, tho tū is more comonly reservd for *too* and *two*.

Darkness is dark'nes; that is, we ar inclined to consider that as standard in distinct pronunciation. Other varieties of actual pronunciation ar, dɑ'k, dɑ'rk, dɑ'rk, and dɑ'k, for the first sylabl, where *r* denotes a variety of untrild *r* in which the tung-tip is believd to be elevated and retracted into the dome of the palat, "vocalized retracted *r*" of Mur. The later sylabl is also givn as nés by Mur., tho it is not quite clear what vowel is ment. N's and n's ar herd too, where ¹, ², denote faint *i*, *a*. We hav objected to the excesiv use of *a*, as occurs in colloquial speech. Frequent degradation of other vowels to ¹ is to be shund as wel. The ¹ and ² ar simply the two to which our vowels tend in careles speech. Use of ¹ as in d'fend, d'pend, 'icspend, etc., for *defend*, *depend*, *expend*, etc., violates all etymology, and that unnecessarily. A vowel that at one time becomes ² wil be ¹ at another, as notably with *the*. It wud be interesting to no what law governs the selection. This use of ¹ has been objected to in other quarters: as by the *Popular Science Monthly* (Sep., 1888, page 712) editorially:—

"Bell says 'the terminations in *certain*, *fountain*, *foreign*, *cottage*, *courage*, *language*, ar regularly 'contracted to *-in*, *-ij*, and ar so ritn in World-English,' but we believ [that] most pronounce these sylabls more like *-en*, *-ej*."

The *Century Dictionary* wil giv cur'ej, etc., as pronunciation of *courage*, etc. See *HERALD* for June, p. 182. Whitney says:

"T er ar certn clases of words also in which e is alowd by orthoepists to be lightnd into *i*, such ar especialy words in *tain*, as *mountain*, *certain*, *captain*; those in *age* and *ace*, as *cabbage*, *village*, *palace*; those in *ege*, as *college*, *knowledge* and so on: as also to final *ness*, *es*, *ed* treated in the same manner. To me this change of *e* to *i* seems always worse than easy and familiar; to be slovenly, rather; and unworthy of recognition by orthoepists."—Page 232 of 2d vol. of *O. & L. Studies*.

(*To be continued.*)

AIM AT DISTINCT SPEECH.

Speling wil always lag a certn way behind actual speech, especialy the careles, lawles speech of familiar conversation. In my opinion, therefore, it is futil to aim at representing this in practical speling; let us aim at providing a means of speling what men *mean* to say, *aim* at saying, and in mesured or formal speech or song *do* say, not at the shortcomings which, tho inseparabl from speech, ar none the les unintentional, and to be discouraged. Evry system of riting, except one on a purely fysiologic basis, like Bell's Visibl Speech,

must be not merely conventional, but even to some extent inconsistently conventional; we shal do wel if we can arive at the stage of riting English in a way that shal practicaly represent the ideal of speech to which all educated Englishmen approximate, tho none may reach it, and which is as far removed from the slurd or imperfect utterance of the average Londoner (which seems to be the cynosure that attracts some authors of proposed systems), as it is from the arcaic or even semi-foren pronunciation of distant provinces. This bears I think on such maters as the represent'n of obscure and unaccented vowels. . . . riting sounds which educated men aim at producing, not what men in a hurry actually succeed in producing. If the reader aim at the former, he may be trusted always to reach the later; if he aim only at the later, he wil soon fall short even of them, and want stil newer speling for his stil more defectiv utterance.—D^r MURRAY in *Annual Adres*, 1880, as *Pres't Fil. Soc.*

LONDONEZE.—Ther is a clas of orthoepists in England whose peculiaritis ar only slightly overdrawn in the comical farce of "Lord Dundreary," a dramatic piece that had a great run a few years ago. This speech is herd mostly in the West End of London, and is afected by loungers at the clubs. One of its chief distinctions is the melting away of robust *r*. In "Laud the Lord," the first and last words ar pronounced exactly alike; no distinction is made between *father* and *farther*. Out of London, *r* is trild out clearly, especialy in Scotland, Ireland, Wales and the north of England.—E. JONES, Liverpool, in Ringos, N. J., *Journal of American Orthoepy*.

WORLD-SPEECH.—The extent of the great European languages is about (in millions) as follos:—

	In Europ	Out of Europ	Total
English	37	70	107
French	42	6	48
German	70	5	75
Italian	28·8	·7	29½
Spanish	17	27	44
Portuguese	4	10·5	14½

This approximat estimat shows how far is English ahead of all rivals. Eng.-speaking races increas faster than others, so that their language wud bid fair to become universal, if, on the other hand, it was not likely to split up into at least three dialects.—*Paris Teacher*. To prevent which calamity, let no local pronunciation be taken as standard, but let Fusion-English, (best represented in the British Isles by the Midland Counties' speech) be recognized as the great British-American language. Adopting a standard is now a necessity.