

**Diphthongs.**

8. The diphthongs in Latin have all arisen from two vowels sounded in their proper order, but slurred so that they occupy the time of a single long vowel. Latin has six diphthongs, of which only **ae** and **au** occur frequently.

**ae** is sounded like *ai* in *aisle*.

**au** " " " *ou* in *house*.

**oe** " " " *oi* in *boil*.

**ei** " " " *ei* in *vein*.

**eu** " " " *ē-oo* in rapid succession.

**ui** " " " *oo-i* in rapid succession.

Among the Romans themselves in Imperial times, there was a tendency to replace the diphthongal sound of **ae** by the long sound of **e** (like *ai* in *pain*), and this from about 300 A.D. became the regular pronunciation.

**Consonants.**

9. The consonants have each a single sound, which in most cases is that usual in English. The following points deserve special attention :

**c** is sounded as in *come*, *sceptic*, never as in *cent*, *sceptre*.

**g** " " " *get*, *give*, never as in *gem*, *gin*.

**s** " " " *this*, *gas*, never as in *his*, *has*.

**t** " " " *mightiest*, never as in *righteous*.

**x** " " " *exercise* (*x* = *ks*), never as in *exert* (*x* = *gz*).

**j** " " " *y* in *yet*, or as *j* in *Hallelujah*.

**v** " " " *w* in *wet*, *beware*.

**r** is distinctly sounded in all positions.