

Cæsar and the politician, but that of many a pioneer philologist: "The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

It was an enthusiasm born of lofty scholarship, that led a Corsen, a Roby, and a Seelmann to enter vigorously on the attempt to resuscitate the sounds of the ancient Latin, to breathe, as it were, the breath of life again into the dead letter forms of the past, and to understand not only what a Cicero spoke to his fellow-countrymen, what a Catullus whispered to his beloved, but also how they uttered the words with their lips. Such men have shown to us, moreover, that they were working in the interests of science: that much in the ancient languages can only be correctly interpreted and appreciated by the knowledge which their own labors have brought to light.

The results of their researches have been summarized in the so-called "Latin Method" of pronunciation, which aims to give approximately the same sounds to the letters as were heard from educated speakers in the Augustan period. The word "approximately" may be thought unfortunate in this connection, and leaves room for doubt as to the degree of approximation. Many point to the conflicting opinions of scholars, whose vast researches in the field of philology during the last quarter of a century have been simply amazing, as proof that many of its features are wholly uncertain. But this arises from a mistaken idea as to the nature of the discussion. The thoroughness of German research is proverbial. Most heated and angry discussions have arisen on non-essentials,—*minutiæ*, which the average scholar need never consider, and abstruse problems, whose decision will never affect us,—while virtual agreement existed between the opponents. The specialist sees and feels plainly what to another is not perceptible.

Most scholars, who have given the subject of Latin pronunciation their close attention, agree on all essential points. By comparing Seelmann's work,—*Aussprache des Latein*,—with the scheme lately issued by the Cambridge Philological Society, it will be found that they entirely agree, so that one might readily be taken for an epitome of the other; while that of Roby differs from these less than the pronunciation of any two persons in this audience in their utterance of the English language.

The scope of the present paper precludes any full discussion of the separate sounds of the Latin alphabet. But we may be permitted a brief consideration of *x* consonant or *r*,—a letter whose sound has provoked more discussion than any other. With Seelmann and with Roby we give the English *x* sound, or