

word as if written doom; as he rhymes Rome with doom afterwards, in the same poem.

From the same foes at last both felt their doom;
And the same age saw Learning fall, and Rome.

The truth is, nothing certain can be concluded from the rhyming of poets. It may serve to confirm an established usage, but can never direct us where usage is varied and uncertain. But the pun which Shakspeare puts into the mouth of Cassius in Julius Cæsar decidedly shows what was the pronunciation of the word in his time:

Now it is Rome indeed, and *room* enough
When there is in it but one only man.

"And the Grammar in Queen 'Anne's time," Walker adds in conclusion, "recommended by Steele, says the city of Rome is pronounced like Room; and Dr. Jones in his spelling Dictionary, 1704, gives it the same sound."

Walker strangely omits the quotation from Shakspeare, which tells in favour of the present pronunciation of Rome. When in 1 Hen. VI. iii. 1, the Bishop of Winchester makes the threat, "Rome shall remedy this!" the Earl of Warwick petulantly replies with the pun, "Roam thither, then!" Like "obleege" for "oblige," "room," for "Rome," in English speech, probably took its final departure along with the late Earl Russell.

In Walker's time the stage was an authority for pronunciation, and he seems somewhat timid when he al-

ludes to some of its usages. He does not very emphatically denounce such vagaries as *ferce* for *fierce*, *ferful* for *fearful*, *berd* for *beard*, *sithe* for *sigh*. John Kemble's atches for *aches* were no longer heard; but it is remarked of Garrick that he turned *i* into *u* in *virtue*, and made *ungrateful*, *ingrateful*. To one Dr. Hill who complained of Garrick for doing this, that actor replied:

"If it is, as you say, I have injur'd a letter.
I'll change my note soon, and I hope for the better.

May the right use of letters, as well as of men,

Hereafter be fixed by the tongue and the pen.

Most devoutly I wish they may both have their due,

And that I may be never mistaken for U."

Besides evolving new words now and then (e.g., irrelevant and inimical, which were only ten years old when Walker wrote), the House of Commons also furnished some peculiarities in pronunciation. Thus it was Parliamentary use, we are told, to give the Scottish force to certain vowels; to call legislature, leegislature, etc.

Thanks to the studious painstaking of intelligent teachers and trainers, the pronunciation of English, generally speaking, has, I think, become much more precise, distinct, and certain than it was in the days of our fathers. The inherent rights of each vowel, diphthong and consonant are sought to be secured as far as practicable; and as little as possible is left to haphazard and the whim of individuals.

In a letter of inquiry for a master, Dr. Arnold writes: "What I want is a man who is a Christian and gentleman, an active man, and one who has common sense and understands boys. I do not so much care about scholarship, as he will have immediately under him the lowest forms in the school; but yet, on second thought, I do care about

it very much, because his pupils may be in the highest forms, and besides, I think that even the elements are best taught by a man who has thorough knowledge of the matter. However, if one must give way, I prefer activity of mind and an interest in his work to high scholarship, for the one may be acquired far more easily than the other."