

In unchanged proper names, as they are read, we may say by all scholars except those of the British Islands—such as *Italia*, *Germanica*, *Roma*, *Terracina*—we most probably hear the words very much as Cicero or Virgil uttered them. To this day the stranger from the north, when listening to the psalms and hymns sung in the churches at Marseilles, is scarcely able to decide whether the language is Latin or Italian.

In words that have undergone a slight alteration, according to certain dialectic principles,—such as *paradiso*, *vino*, *teatro*, *civita*, *podesta*—we feel pretty sure, also, that we hear sounds and syllables of veritable Latin, as it was spoken in the villas of Italy and in the *Castra stativa* of the frontiers.

In other words and proper names that have suffered a very great metamorphosis, Latin still meets the ear, but it is Latin disguised. In the French *feu*, *œil*, we scarcely recognize *focus*, *oculus*; nor in the Italian *vescovo*, *chiesa*, *episcopus*, *ecclesia*. Here popular corruptions have become fixed in certain phonetic forms; orthographic we cannot style them.

Nor was rapid and vulgar pronunciation the only source of corruption. Ancient classic words suffered also from the difficulty which the northern and other races experienced in enunciating the names of the places of which they made themselves masters.

In *Aosta*, *Saragossa*, *Grènohle*, we hear some barbaric chieftain endeavouring to articulate *Augusta*, *Cæsar Augusta*, *Grantianopolis*. In *Watling Way* we have an Angle or Saxon trying to say *Vitelliana Via*.*

tionē Græcæ potissimum Linguae," which drew forth a prohibition of the new practice from Gardiner, then Chancellor. "In sonis omnino ne philosophator, sed utitor præsentibus,"—the decree ran. "It were much better," the conservative Chancellor added, "that the Greek language itself with its sounds were wholly banished, than that the youth by his (Cheke's) teaching should imbibe rashness, arrogance, and vanity, most pernicious pests to all the rest of the life."

Caius also, the "Fui Caius" of Caius College, supported the old way in a treatise "De Pronunciatione Græcæ et Latine Linguae cū. Scriptione novâ." Erasmus himself had filled the Greek chair at Cambridge in 1510, where he lectured to small classes on the *Erotomata* of Chrysoloras. A well-known walk in the grounds of Queen's College retains his name. The question of pronunciation, after enlivening the learned world for a time, was at length decided practically. European scholars (the English included) adopted the new method. That is to say, in the several countries scholars took the liberty of reading the dead languages, as they did their own respectively. The result in England has been seen above.

* In some modern forms of ancient names we also probably hear conventional abbreviations similar to those which are so common in the British Islands, as Lemster for Leominster, Lanson for Launceston, &c., &c.