

ū, as accentuated Italian *u* : as the first *u* of *tumulo*, the second of *tumu'lo*, or *a*-*u* in *rule, lare*.

ū, *a* : unaccentuated Italian *u* : as the second *u* of *tumulo*, the first of *tumullo*, the *u* of *fruitulo*.

au, as Italian *au* : nearly as *ow* in English *power*.

In genuine Latin words the other diphthongs are very rare, except in archaisms where *ei*, *oe*, *oi*, *ou* are common enough.

eu, as Italian *eu*, or Latin *ē* quickly followed by Latin *ū*. Of Latin words we find perhaps only *heu*, *ceū*, *seū*; and we do not feel competent to propose a different sound for it in the many Greek words adopted into Latin.

æ is also very rare in Latin words : for them, as well as for Greek words, we should prefer a sound like the German *ø* : as an alternative we propose the open Italian *e* for *æ*, as before for *æ*.

ei too as a diphthong is very rare : we would give it the Latin *ē* sound quickly followed by a Latin *i* sound.

But in a large class of words containing *ai*, *ei*, *oi*, or *ui*, the *i* is a semiconsonant, and should be sounded like English *y* : pronounce *Gratus, maior. Troia, eius, Pompeius, Seianus, cuius, as Grā-yus, mā-yor, Trā-ya, ē-yus, Pompē-yus, Sē-yanus, cū-yus* : *ei-cil, rei-cil, as ē-yicil, rē-yicil*. The *o* or *q* of *proin, prout, dein, deinde*, when not forming a distinct syllable, does not form a diphthong, but is elided, before an initial vowel : so in *neūquam*, *e* is elided.

In a fuller discussion more might be said of the consonants : a few remarks must suffice for the present.

c, always as *k* : in *Cicero, facies*, as well as *Cacus*.

g, always as *g* in *get* : in *gero, gingiva, gyrus* as well as *gaudeo*.

s, at the beginning and end of words, and at the beginning of syllables, and before consonants, is always sharp (as the *s* of *sin*) in Italian and should be so in Latin : *sol, stella, de-sero, ni-si, nos, sonus*.

s, between two vowels, has in Italian a soft *z* sound, as in our *rose* : we would thus sound in Latin *rosa, musa, miser*. But words of this kind in Latin are but few : much more numerous are those where *s* might also be written *ss*, a lost consonant having been assimilated and the vowel always lengthened : *causa, casus, visus, odiosus*, (see Quintilian i, 7, 20). Italian is very suggestive ; and in all these cases *s* should be sharp.

l is always a pure dental, in *ratio* as in *ratis*, in *notio* as in *notus*, in *vilius* as in *vita*.

bs, bt should be sounded (and generally written) as *ps, pt* : *lapsus, aps, apsens, optulit, supler*.

j, or consonant *i*, as *y* in *yard*.

As to consonant *u*, or *v*, we believe that its sound was as near as possible to that of the vowel *u* : i. e. like the *ou* of the French *oui*, not differing much therefore from English *w*. But as there is great diversity of opinion on this point, we propose to leave it an open question, whether it shall be pronounced in this way, or as the English and Italian *v*.

y, z, ch, ph, th were brought into the language to represent Greek sounds : *z, ph, th* we propose should be sounded as at present : *ch* should never be pronounced as in our *charter* : it would be better to give it a *k* sound succeeded by an *h* sound ; but it must follow the fortunes of Greek *χ*. *y*, or Greek *υ*, had some middle sound between Latin *u* and *i*, perhaps resembling either French *u* or German *ü* ; but *y* and *y* came probably much nearer to *i* and *i* than to *ū* and *ū*.

In our Latin pronunciation quantity is systematically neglected : attention to it seems essential in any reformed method : *ā* and *ā* should be distinguished in *matris* and *patris*, as in *mater* and *pater*. The ancients observed the natural length of vowels, when the syllable was also long by position : as in *Marcus, pastor* : Cicero tells us that every vowel when followed by *us* or *ns* became long by nature : as in *infimus, insanus* : *gn* seems to have had the same power over the preceding vowel. Often too an extruded consonant leaves a naturally short vowel long : *e* from *ex* : *es, est* from *edo* : *Sestius* (*Sestios*), but *Sextius* (*Sectios*). On the other hand the long vowel of many final syllables in time became short : and we can scarcely suppose that while the naturally long vowel in *amat, docet* was shortened, it always remained long in *amant, docent* : it seems certain also, whatever the reason may be, that the *e* was short in *docentis, etc.*, as much as in *legentis, audientis*.

Following the tradition of the Italians, we fortunately keep the accent in most cases on the right syllable, though the loss of quantity has changed its nature. In a summary like this we cannot dwell on the exceptions.

In respect of elision we may see, by comparing Plautus and Terence with Ovid, how much the elaborate cultivation of the language has tended to a more distinct sounding of final syllables. We must not altogether pass over the elided vowel or the elided syllable which ends in *m*, except perhaps in the case of *ē* in common words, *que, neque* and the like. How far too final *m* was mute, or nasal, it is not easy to determine. *est* 'is' seems often in pronunciation (and in writing) to have lost its *e* and become an enclitic *st*

after a vowel or *m* : thus *tuō est, meum est* can end an Ovidian pentameter, *labori est* an Hexameter : we must therefore pronounce *tuōst, etc.*

EDWIN PALMER.
H. A. J. MUNRO.

—(Educational Times.)

The Star of the Magi and of Bethlehem.

[By T. D. McGee.] (1)

"Whence is the star that shineth so brightly?
'Tis not of those that arise for us nightly—
Pale in its presence appearing all others,
It looms like a first-born over its brothers."

II.

The herds of Arabia lay gather'd and sleeping,
The sons of the shepherds their watch were keeping,
When the star of our faith all lustrous and tender,
Fill'd the desert of grass with the sheen of its splendor.

III.

Then, in wonder and terror they ran to their seers,
Wisest of men, in those primitive years,
Ismael's priests, the renown'd of Sabea,
Who grew pale in the light that arose o'er Judea.

IV.

To their eyes, star-reveal'd, an angelical choir
Fill'd the heavens with timbrel, and anthem, and lyre,
And they heard through the calm of that marvellous morn,
That the king,—that the lion of Judah was born.

V.

Then the magi and lords of the desert arose,
And gather'd the myrrh in the Orient that grows,
And the incense of Saba, in censer and coffer,
And the virginal ore from the far mines of Ophir!

VI.

By Jordan they sought the Messiah in Zion,
The desert-born look'd for the trace of "the Lion"—
Dark, dark as Sinai enshrouded in thunder,
Grew Herod, the king, at their tidings of wonder.

VII.

Again rose the star of the Orient, to guide them
To the ox and the ass, and earth's Saviour beside them,
Where, child-like and weak, the Master of Ages
Took Tribute from Araby's princes and sages.

VIII.

So may God grant to us, amid all our demerit,
The faith, love, and hope of the men of the desert,
For us, as for them, dawns the marvellous morn,
And the angels are singing—"Lo! Jesus is born."

[1] Written on Christmas Eve, 1851.

OFFICIAL NOTICES.



Ministry of Public Instruction.

APPOINTMENTS.

MEMBERS OF THE FOLLOWING BOARDS OF EXAMINERS.

QUEBEC (CATHOLIC.)

The Lieutenant-Governor,—by an order in Council, dated the 30th October, 1872,—was pleased to appoint the Rev. Thomas Etienne Hamel, V. G., a Member of the Catholic Board of