

Komm herab du schöne holde,  
 $\bar{3}$     $\bar{6}$   $\bar{4}$     $\bar{1}$   $\bar{5}+\bar{7}$   $\bar{5}$   $\bar{2}$   
 Und verlass dein stolzes Schloss.

$\bar{1}$     $\bar{4}+\bar{8}$     $\bar{5}$   
 Blumen die der Lenz geboren  
 $\bar{8}$   $\bar{6}+\bar{5}$     $\bar{3}$   
 Streu ich dir in deinen Schooss.

$\bar{3}+\bar{8}$   $\bar{8}$     $\bar{2}$   
 Horch! der Hain erschallt von Liedern,  
 Und die Quelle rieselt klar;  
 Raum ist in der kleinsten Hütte  
 Für ein glücklich Liebenpaar.

—Goethe:

Can storied urn or animated bust  
 $\bar{6}+\bar{5}$     $\bar{3}$   $\bar{8}$   $\bar{5}$     $\bar{6}$     $\bar{5}$   
 Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?

$\bar{1}$     $\bar{8}$     $\bar{6}$   
 Can honour's voice provoke the silent dust;  
 $\bar{3}$     $\bar{3}+\bar{8}$     $\bar{2}$   $\bar{2}$     $\bar{4}+\bar{8}$   
 Or flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of death?  
 $\bar{1}$

—Gray.

In the French stanzas there are fourteen different vowel sounds in the first forty syllables and twelve in the last forty; in the German verse sixteen in the first forty and seventeen in the last; and in the forty syllables that make up the English verse fifteen.

In variety of vowels German here plainly excels both the other languages, while English outvies French. English and German, again, are equally shown to be much richer than French in diphthongs, which are the chords of the musical rhythm. And lastly, the English verse is not blemished like the French stanzas by monotonies such as "*crueile qu'elle*" or "*dans sa cabane*," while a closer inspection would reveal that a few sounds recur much oftener in the French poetry than in the English; nor is the smoothness of the English numbers marred by the harsh repetition of sibilants which appears in its German rival (we allude, of course, to the second line of the German verse).

Two more instances will help to show how well distributed the various vowel sounds are among English words. A couplet of Macaulay's Horatius begins with six different long vowel sounds in close succession; nor will any sameness be found in the rest of its melody:

"Tall are the oaks whose acorns  
 $\bar{3}$   $\bar{4}$     $\bar{8}$   $\bar{2}$     $\bar{1}$   $\bar{6}$   
 Drop in dark Auser's rill."  
 $\bar{3}$   $\bar{8}$     $\bar{5}$