

called nasal vowel sounds, represented by the combination of the vowels with the consonants *m* and *n*, namely:—

am em im aim om un ym
an en in ain ein on un eun yn.

In the following, *éin*, *éim*, the *é* is sounded separately from the other letters.

THE NASAL DIPHTHONGAL SOUNDS.—There are also certain sounds called nasal diphthongal sounds, produced by the combination of *nasal vowel* sounds with a *vowel*, not *nasal*, before them, namely:—

ian ien ion uan uin ouan oin ouin.

THE LIQUIDS.—The following combinations of the consonants are called liquids, namely:—*ll, gn*.

FRENCH ACCENTS.

Accents, as used in French, are marks differing from each other, and placed over certain *vowels only*, for specific purposes. There are three accents, viz.:—

ˊ	called the Acute	accent (thus, é)
ˋ	”	Grave ” (è)
ˆ	”	Circumflex ” (â)

The acute accent is used *only* over the vowel *e*, and indicates how it must be sounded.

The grave accent is used *only* over the vowels *a*, *e*, and *u*. When found over *e*, it indicates how this letter should be sounded.

The circumflex accent is the union of the acute and grave accents, and is used with all the vowels except *y*. It indicates that the letter over which it is placed *has a sound twice as long as it has without it*, viz. —

Âge, Bête, Bûche, Côte, Gîte, Mê-lée, Tête.

The accents not only indicate the pronunciation, but they also point out a change in the primitive spelling of many of the words in which they are found; thus *étouffer*, *âge*, *côte*, were formerly spelt *estouffer*, *age*, *coste*. Besides this, they point out a difference in the meaning of words spelt alike; thus *de*, of; *dé*, thimble; *des*, of the; *dès*, as soon; *crû*, believed; *crû*, grown; *a*, has; *à*, to; *la*, her, the; *là*, there; etc.

Besides the three kinds of accents just enumerated, certain other marks or signs are used, called

Cedilla, Diæresis, Hyphen, and Apostrophe.

THE CEDILLA (ç) is a peculiar mark, somewhat resembling a figure 5, and placed *only under the letter c*, before the vowels *a*, *o*, and *u*, thus: ç.

It indicates that the letter *c* under which it is placed has the soft sound of *ss* as in the word *lesson*:—

Façade, pronounced Fas-sad.

Reçu, pronounced Rus-su.