

father of Richard Brindsley Sheridan, had proposed himself as an authority for English orthoepey, in his "General Dictionary of the English Language," in two volumes quarto. Walker finds occasion to dissent from Sheridan frequently, as also he does now and then from Dr. Johnson too, especially in regard to giving the Latin accent to English words derived from Latin. "Were we to insist on this, the whole language would be metamorphosed," Walker says, "and we should neither pronounce English nor Latin, but a Babylonish dialect between both." For spelling sceptic with a *k*, Walker remarks on Johnson thus: "It may be observed perhaps in this, as on other occasions, of that truly great man, that he is but seldom wrong; but when he is so, that he is generally wrong to absurdity."

We, of the present day, are amazed at some of the pronunciations on which Walker takes the trouble gravely to animadvert, either in the preliminary Essay or in the body of his work, so completely out of court are they now as simple vulgarisms. We expect to hear only in jest now, and to have presented to the eye phonetically in the columns of humorous journals, such things as the following, which appear to have been in vogue in Walker's day: sparrow-grass for asparagus; red-dish for radish; cowcumber for cucumber; reesin for raisin; sassage for sausage; soger for soldier; wes-cut for waistcoat; tower for tour; yellow for yellow; yis for yes; yisterday for yesterday; bin for been; gap for gape; Gould for gold; wownd for wound; boul for bowl; wunt for wont; hant for haunt; gee-arden for garden; gee-ide for guide; chaumber for chamber; marchant for merchant; sarvice for service; and a host of others now undreamt of. The French words which will from time to time stray into English talk, Walker gave up with a despair almost

Dundrearyish in tone. "As the nasal vowels in the first and last syllable of environs are not followed by *e* or *g*, it is impossible," he says, "for a mere Englishman to pronounce it fashionably." In *eclaircissement*, "every syllable but the last," he says, "may be perfectly pronounced by an Englishman who does not speak French; but this syllable having a nasal vowel not followed by hard *e* or *g*, is an insuperable difficulty." There is what seems to us a great to-do about nothing in a long note of Walker's on the word *skedule*. "In the pronunciation of this word," he says, "we seem to depart both from the Latin *schedula* and the French *schedule*. If we follow the first we ought to pronounce the word *skedule*, if the last, *schedule*; but entirely sinking the *ch* in *sedule* seems to be the prevailing mode, and too firmly fixed by custom to be altered in favour of either of its original words. Dr. Kendrick, Mr. Perry and Buchanan pronounce it *skedule*; but Mr. Elphinston, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Scott, Mr. Nares, Barclay, Fenning and Shaw, *sedule*; though if we may believe Mr. Jones, it was pronounced *shedule* in Queen Anne's time." The vulgar pronunciation of this word among English attorneys is not here noted at all: viz., *sheddles*,—reminding us of the now established corpuscles for corpuscules, among medical men. I remember when Room was inculcated on myself as the proper pronunciation of Rome. Walker advocates it. His remarks are curious enough. "The *o* in this word," he says, "is irrevocably fixed in the English sound of the letter in move, prove, etc. Pope indeed," he continues, "rhymes it with 'dome.'"

Thus when we view some well-proportion'd dome,  
The world's just wonder, and even thine, O Rome!"

But as Mr. Nares observes, it is most probable that he pronounced this