

**THE ORTHOËPIST: A PRONOUNCING  
MANUAL, CONTAINING ABOUT THREE  
THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED WORDS  
INCLUDING A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF  
THE NAMES OF FOREIGN AUTHORS, ARTISTS,  
ETC., THAT ARE OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED**

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The Orthoëpist: A Pronouncing Manual, Containing about Three Thousand Five Hundred Words including a Considerable Number of the Names of Foreign Authors, Artists, Etc., That Are Often Mispronounced by Alfred Ayres

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**ALFRED AYRES**

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By the same author.

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THE  
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*A MANUAL*

DEVOTED

TO BRIEF DISCUSSIONS OF THE RIGHT AND  
THE WRONG USE OF WORDS,

AND

TO SOME OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THOSE WHO  
WOULD SPEAK AND WRITE WITH PROPRIETY.

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BY  
ALFRED AYRES.



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## PREFATORY NOTE.

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THIS little book has been made for the use of those who aim to have their practice in speaking English conform to the most approved orthoëpical usage.

This aim has always been esteemed a worthy ambition, and will continue to be so esteemed as long as the manner in which one speaks his mother-tongue is looked upon as showing more clearly than any other one thing what his culture is, and what his associations are and have been.

There are very many cultured people who would be amazed if their mispronunciations were to be pointed out to them. Not long since the writer met at the dinner-table of a friend a liberally educated member of one of the learned professions, who descanted at con-



siderable length on the importance of speaking one's vernacular according to the best usage, maintaining that correctness in this particular is worth all the other polite accomplishments, that it is the surest criterion by which to judge a stranger's social status, etc. And yet the gentleman, much as he seemed to pride himself on his critical knowledge of English, mispronounced several words in daily use.

It is not expected that any one who has given special attention to the subject of English orthoëpy will agree with the author in every particular; but those who look at all carefully at what he has done, will see that he has taken some pains, and, further, that on a few points he hazards an impression of his own. Instance what he says about the slurring of the pronouns, and about the sound of the vowels, especially *o*, when standing under a rhythmical accent.

The object in view has been as much to awaken an interest in the subject-matter as to teach.

The pronunciation of the foreign names that will be found in their alphabetical places, and which are frequently mispronounced, will not, it is thought, make the book less acceptable to any, while it will, perhaps, make it more acceptable to some.

Those who discover that the same things are said in a plurality of places, will kindly remember that repetition is the only sure road to mental acquirement.

Suggestions and criticisms are solicited, with the view of profiting by them in future editions.

A. A.

NEW YORK, *October, 1880.*

## KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION.

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ă, <i>long</i> .....	as in hăle, grăy, făt.
ă, <i>short</i> .....	“ păt, făt, hăve, răn.
â, <i>long before r</i> .....	“ fâre, pâr, beâr.
â, <i>Italian</i> .....	“ fâr, fâther, călm.
â, <i>intermediate</i> .....	“ făt, grăsp, brănch.
ą, <i>broad</i> .....	“ fűll, wűlk, hűul.
ą, <i>obscure</i> .....	“ lią, hesitancy.
ê, <i>long</i> .....	“ mête, sêal, êve.
ê, <i>short</i> .....	“ mên, mêt, sêll, fêrry.
ê, <i>like á</i> .....	“ hêir, thêre, whêre.
é, <i>like â</i> .....	“ obey, prêy, eight.
ë .....	“ hêr, hêrd, fêrn, vêrge.
ę, <i>obscure</i> .....	“ brię, fuęl, celęry.
ı, <i>long</i> .....	“ pine, ice, fire, file.
ı, <i>short</i> .....	“ mıs, pın, fill, mirror.
ı, <i>like long e</i> .....	“ mien, machine, police.
ı, <i>short and obtuse</i> .....	“ sır, fir, thirsty, bird.
ı, <i>obscure</i> .....	“ ruın, elixır, abılıty.
ô, <i>long</i> .....	“ nôte, fôal, ôld.
ô, <i>short</i> .....	“ nôt, ôdd, resôlve.
ó, <i>like short u</i> .....	“ sôn, dône, ôther, wôn.
o, <i>like long oo</i> .....	“ mowe, prwe, do.