

**FRENCH PRONUNCIATION, ON  
THE PLAN OF READING MADE  
EASY IN SPITE OF THE ALPHABET;  
PERRIN'S FABLES, WITH A  
HAMILTONIAN TRANSLATION**

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French Pronunciation, on the Plan of Reading Made Easy in Spite of the Alphabet; Perrin's Fables, with a Hamiltonian Translation by M. H. M.

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**M. H. M.**

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# FRENCH PRONUNCIATION,

ON THE PLAN OF

READING MADE EASY IN SPITE OF  
THE ALPHABET.

By M. H. M.



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PERRIN'S FABLES,

*WITH A HAMILTONIAN TRANSLATION.*

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## TO THE TEACHER.

### VOWELS.

		English.	French.
a	} resembles the vowel- sound in	mask	masque.
é		bell	belle.
i or y		{ fish	fichu,
		{ myth	mystère.
o		go	repos.
ou		food	foudre.
eu	heard	fleur.	

u has no representative in English ;  
it resembles ou and eu.

The diphthong oi is sounded like  
wa in waft.

These sounds are uttered with more firmness and distinctness than the English, especially *i* and *y*, which are similar to the *ee* in *feed*.

The *e* when unaccented is silent—*livre*,—except in monosyllables—*je*, *me*, *te*, *se*, *le*, *ce*, &c., in which it has the sound of the short vowel *e* resembling the indistinct *u* in *sun*. It has the sound of the accented *é* or *è* when it precedes the final consonant of its syllable—*allez*, *examiner*, *réflexion*, *objet*; the pupil is reminded of this by a dot over it, thus, *è*.

When marked with an acute accent (*é*), it is said to be shut, because it is uttered with the mouth almost closed—*donné*; with a grave accent (*è*), it is said to be open, be-



cause it is uttered with the mouth somewhat open—succès.

The circumflex accent (^) over e or any other vowel prolongs its sound, and shows the absence of a letter :—fête, formerly feste ; pâte, for paste ; maître, for maistre.

y, which is sounded i when alone, has after a vowel the power of two i's—voyage, royaume, pays : pronounce voi-iage, roi-iaume, pai-is.

When i is dotted thus, î, it does not unite with the preceding vowel, as naïf, aïeul : pronounce na-if, a-ieul.

o, which is generally like the English o in go, is sometimes short, as soleil, homme, bonne.

au is generally long.

ou sounds like the English u in rude or oo in food.

eu is like the vowel-sound in heard, but much more distinct.

n and m unite with the vowels which precede them, and form nasal sounds ; as

an en in on un  
*or* am em im om um.

an and en have the same sound—*enfant*,—except when en ends a word and is preceded by i—*chien*, *rien*, *bien* ; also *tiens*, *vient*, &c. : pronounce *chi-in*, *ri-in*, *bi-in*, *ti-in*, &c. ; this pronunciation is distinguished from en in *enfant* by a line drawn across, thus, *en*.

The vowels resume their simple sound when followed by a vowel or another n or m :—

ana	éné	ini	ono	unu
ama	émé	imi	omo	umu
ann	enn	inn	onn	
{	amm	imm	omm	
	emm			

emm has the sound of amm—  
femme, prudement.

oin or oim is a nasal diphthong,  
and is pronounced o-in—loin.

### THE CONSONANTS ARE :—

Flat.	Sharp.
b . . . . .	p.
g as in go . . . . .	c, q, as in cut, quill.
d . . . . .	t.
v . . . . .	f, ph.
j, g, as in pleasure . . . . .	ch, as in ship.