ON EARLY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION: WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHAUCER, IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIEWS MAINTAINED BY MR. A. J. ELLIS, F.R.S., IN HIS WORK "ON EARLY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO SHAKSPERE AND CHAUCER"

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RICHARD FRANCIS WEYMOUTH

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Mith especial Reference to Chaucer,



16246

IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIEWS MAINTAINED BY

MR. A. J. ELLIS, F.R.S.,

IN HIS WORK

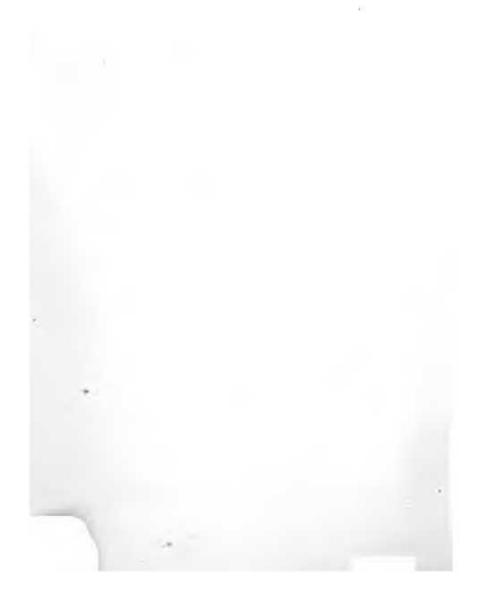
"ON EARLY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION, WITH ESPECIAL REFERENCE TO SHAKSPERE AND CHAUCER."

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RICHARD FRANCIS WEYMOUTH, D.Lit., M.A.,

ASHER & CO., BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN. 1874.

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PREFACE.

IT is now nearly four years since I first laid lance in rest to tilt at Mr. Ellis's views-expounded in a work of already 996 closely printed pages 8yo., and still growing-by reading before the Philological Society a paper in opposition to them. How I waited year after year, hoping, in the case of a book which cannot but have an exceedingly limited sale, that the expense would be at least partly borne by the Society of which I have been a member for nearly a quarter of a century, and how the hope has proved to be vain, boots not to tell. Suffice to say the delay has enabled me to avail myself of the few and scanty intervals of leisure that relieve an engrossing and harassing profession, to enlarge and to a great extent rewrite the paper, though it still is far from being as complete as I could wish. But I have no time to enlarge yet further, and must therefore console myself with the reflection that at least in some people's estimation a great book is a great evil, and that an argument, if sound, is often none the worse for being condensed. R. F. W.

MILL HILL SCHOOL, MIDDLESEX, N.W. April 1874.



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