

**RULES OF THE WELSH
INITIAL CHANGES.
WITH AN APPENDIX**

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Rules of the Welsh initial changes. With an Appendix by Charles Williams

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CHARLES WILLIAMS

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RULES

OF THE

WELSH INITIAL CHANGES.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

Λόγων ἀκριβῶν σχιβαλάμους μαθήσομαι.

Aristoph. Nubes, v. 131.

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OXFORD,

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1866.

302. e. d.



TO

JOHN JOHNES, Esq. M.A.

&c. &c.

OF DOLAU-COTHL

MY DEAR SIR,

I venture to hope that you will not be displeased at my inscribing your name on these pages, few as they are, and elementary as is the knowledge they contain. You care for every thing that is Welsh; and if it had not been for the Welsh mornings at Dolau-cothi, and for the interest which those, with whom I was fortunate enough to be gathered under your roof, took in the subject, I should certainly not have printed what I now offer to you and them.

The Initial Changes are commonly the most perplexing feature of the Welsh Language to those who know it only imperfectly; and those who observe the rules by ear, are seldom acquainted with the *rationale* of their own faultless speech. I have in consequence found many of the former glad to have these rules in manuscript,

and I have given away many copies of them at different times. Lately, however, I have seen, what I did not remember, that Mr. Rowland has appended a very careful "Synoptical View of the Initial Mutations" to his excellent Welsh Grammar. This does not prevent my offering to you and other friends my own sketch of them, and I add a brief discussion of some points in Welsh Philology, which seem to me very interesting. But my Preface threatens to be longer than the Book.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Always most sincerely yours,

CHARLES WILLIAMS.

Jesus College, Oxford,
Sept. 6, 1866.

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RULES
OF THE
WELSH INITIAL CHANGES.

Table of Welsh Initial Changes.

	Radical.	Soft.	Liquid.	Aspirate.
Labial	<i>p</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>mh</i>	<i>ph</i>
Palatal	<i>c</i>	<i>g</i>	<i>ngh</i>	<i>ch</i>
Dental	<i>t</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>nh</i>	<i>th</i>
Labial	<i>b</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>m</i>	
Palatal	<i>g</i>		<i>ng</i>	
Dental	<i>d</i>	<i>dd</i>	<i>n</i>	
Liquid	<i>m</i>	<i>v</i>		
	<i>ll</i>	<i>l</i>		
	<i>rh</i>	<i>r</i>		

For example vide §. 8.

Table of Consonants.

	Simple Pneumatic.	Aspirated Pneumatic.	Phonetic of Simple.	Phonetic of Aspirate.	Liquid.	Aspirated Liquid.
Labial	<i>p</i>	<i>ph or f</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>v</i>	<i>m</i>	<i>mh</i>
Palatal	<i>k or c</i>	<i>ch</i> <small>x Greek</small>	<i>g</i>		<i>ng</i>	<i>ngh</i>
Dental	<i>t</i>	<i>th</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>dd</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>nh</i>
Sibilant	<i>s</i>	<i>sh</i>	<i>z</i>	<i>j</i> (French)		

The liquids *ll*, *l*, *rh*, and *r* do not appear to fall under any of these classes. Perhaps the English *ch* (in *cheek*) may be a combination of dental pneumatic and aspirated sibilant, or *tsh*, and the English *j* its phonetic.

W, and *y* or *i*, though said to be used as consonants, seem to remain vowels, though too rapidly pronounced to make separate syllables.