

THE ELEMENTS OF THE Irish Language.

§ I. *Of the LETTERS.*

The LETTERS are only these 18 following.

Name.	Figure.	Pronunciation.	Name.	Figure.	Pronunciation.
Ailim	ᶗ ᵰ	a Lat. or Fr.	Luis	ᵀ ᵁ	l
Beith	B b	b	Muin	ᶗ ᵱ	m
Coll	C c	k	Nuin	ᶗ ᵽ	n
Duir	ᶓ ᵰ	d	Onn	O o	o
Eadh	E e	e Lat. or Fr.	Peithboc	P p	p
Fearn	F f	f	Ruis	R r	r
Gort	ᶒ ᵰ	g Gr.	Sail	S s	s
Uath	ᶓ ᵱ	h	Tinne	T t	t
	I i	i Fr. or se Eng.	Uir	U u	u oo Eng.

§. 2. *Of Vowels, Diphthongs and Triphthongs.*

THe Vowels are ᵰ, e, i, o, u. ᶗ, O, U, broad: e, i, small. Of the various compositions of the Vowels, arise 13 Diphthongs, and 5 Triphthongs, according to this old Rule, in which their several Classes are distinguished by Terms of Art, beginning with the leading Vowel of each Class, *Viz.*

Ceipte haiparvll p̄iom̄car an,
 C̄v̄s h̄f̄bāda f̄of̄ zo coit̄c̄ēn̄,
 C̄v̄s īf̄ne mūn ar m̄v̄n.
 C̄r̄i hūlleanna; oir na haon̄.

Of the first fort called $\alpha\eta\alpha\rho\acute{\iota}\nu\eta\lambda\lambda$, or Aphthongs, *i. e.* Diphthongs or Triphthongs beginning with the Vowel α , there are four, of which three are Diphthongs, and one a Triphthong, as followeth,

$\alpha\epsilon$ } $\lambda\alpha\epsilon$ $\mu\alpha\epsilon$ $\lambda\alpha\epsilon\tau\epsilon\alpha\mu\upsilon\lambda$.

$\alpha\iota$ } $\Gamma\acute{\alpha}\iota\delta$, $\mu\alpha\iota\tau$, $\Gamma\alpha\iota\tau$, long or short.

$\alpha\omicron$ } $\epsilon\acute{\omega}\rho\eta$
 $\mu\acute{\omega}\rho\eta$
 $\Gamma\omega\rho\eta$ { This Diphthong is always long, and hath a peculiar sound not used in any other Language that I know; which may be learned by the Ear.

$\alpha\omicron\iota$ } $\epsilon\alpha\omicron\iota$. $\mu\alpha\omicron\iota\eta$. $\mu\alpha\omicron\iota\eta$ long.

Of the second fort called $\epsilon\alpha\delta\alpha$, or Ephthongs, there are four Diphthongs, and one Triphthong.

$\epsilon\alpha$ } $\zeta\epsilon\alpha\lambda$, $\Gamma\epsilon\lambda$, $\Gamma\acute{\epsilon}\alpha\delta$, long, or short.

$\epsilon\iota$ } $\text{C}\epsilon\iota\lambda$, $\Gamma\acute{\epsilon}\iota\lambda$, $\mu\epsilon\iota\lambda$, long or short.

$\epsilon\omicron$ } $\text{C}\acute{\epsilon}\omicron\lambda$, $\text{c}\epsilon\omicron$, $\text{c}\epsilon\omicron\lambda\eta$, long.

$\epsilon\alpha$ } $\text{C}\acute{\epsilon}\upsilon\delta$, $\Gamma\epsilon\upsilon\delta$, $\mu\epsilon\upsilon\delta$, $\mu\epsilon\upsilon\rho$, long.

$\epsilon\omicron\iota$ } $\Gamma\epsilon\omicron\iota\lambda$, $\text{c}\rho\epsilon\omicron\iota\eta$, $\text{b}\epsilon\omicron\iota\eta$, long.

Of the third fort called $\eta\Gamma\eta\epsilon$, or Iphthongs, there are three Diphthongs, and two Triphthongs.

$\eta\alpha$ } $\text{S}\eta\acute{\iota}\alpha\eta$, $\text{z}\eta\acute{\iota}\alpha\eta$, $\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha\eta$, long.

$\eta\omicron$ } $\text{F}\acute{\iota}\omicron\eta$, $\text{i}\omicron\lambda\eta$, $\text{i}\omicron\lambda\eta\delta\alpha$, long or short.

$\eta\upsilon$ } $\text{F}\eta\upsilon\tau$, $\text{c}\eta\upsilon\zeta$, $\delta\eta\upsilon\lambda$, long or short.

$\eta\alpha\iota$ } $\text{D}\eta\alpha\iota\zeta$, α $\eta\delta\eta\alpha\iota\zeta$ α $\zeta\text{c}\eta\alpha\iota\delta$ long.

$\eta\upsilon$ } $\text{S}\text{c}\eta\upsilon\eta$, $\alpha\eta$ $\acute{\epsilon}\eta\lambda$, $\text{c}\eta\eta$, long.

There is but one Ophthong called $\omicron\eta$, \omicron being prefixed to no Vowel but η , as $\text{c}\omicron\eta$, $\text{c}\acute{\omicron}\eta$, long or short.

There are three $\Upsilon\eta\lambda\lambda\epsilon\eta\eta\alpha$, or Uphthongs, whereof two are Diphthongs and one a Triphthong. *viz.*

$\upsilon\alpha$ } $\text{F}\upsilon\acute{\alpha}\tau$, $\Gamma\upsilon\alpha\zeta$, $\text{c}\upsilon\alpha\delta$, long.

$\upsilon\eta$ } $\text{F}\upsilon\eta\lambda$, $\Gamma\upsilon\eta\lambda$, $\acute{\upsilon}\eta\eta$, long or short.

υα| Βύαι, ρυάη, υάη, long.

1. Note, That these Diphthongs αε, αο, εο, ευ, ια, and all Triphthongs are long, and therefore need not be marked with an acute in Writing or print.

2. Note, That all Vowels coming together without a consonant interposing, make but one Syllable.

3. Note, That the *Iriſh* always put an accent over the Vowel, that is to be pronounced long, thus (´).

§. 3 *Of the Conſonants.*

The Conſonants when they are ſingle, have the ſame force in *Iriſh*, as in *Engliſh*: only c is always pronounced as k; and ρ before e or ι is pronounced as ſh; but before α, ο, υ, it hath the ſame power with an Engliſh s.

When two c's are joined together, they are pronounced as ϗ; thus, ccυιδ, is read ϗυιδ. And two τ's have the force of δ; as ττεαδ is read δεδ. When δ goes before η, it is pronounced as η; thus, δδηα is δεηηα. Likewise, when δ is placed before λ, it hath the force of another λ; and λη are read as two lls, e. g. κοδλη, to Sleep, is read as collη; and κολη, of the Body, as collα.

ηϗ, called Νηαυ in *Iriſh*, is for the moſt part pronounced as γγ in the *Greek*; ſο αηζεαλ, is pronounced as αγγελ.

The *Iriſh* do not delight much in Conſonants, and therefore η is frequently added to b, c, δ, ρ, ϗ, m, p, ρ, τ, to ſoften the Language.

bη, and mη in the beginning and middle of words have the force of v Conſonant; but in the latter end they, (and eſpecially mη) are pronounced a little flatter, when they come after α or e.

ch is read as the Greek χ.

δη and ϗη, (which are often uſed indifferently for one another,) have ſometimes in the beginning, and middle of a word, the force of y, and ſometimes they have a pronunciation, which is better learned by the Ear, than any deſcription that can be given of it. But always in the End, and commonly in the middle of a word, they are pronounced only as η.

ρη and τη are pronounced as η alone, thus ρηυλ, is ηυλ; and τηομαρ is ηομαρ.

The variation of a word in Number, Case, or Tense, is very often indicated by adding a different Consonant to the Initial one; and then the Initial Consonant (called *ḡḡḡḡḡḡ*, i. e. the possessive Letter, because it possesses the first place in the Nominative Case, or present Tense indicative) is quiescent, and the additional only pronounced; thus *pobul* in the Nominative, is altered into *ḡpobul* in the Ablative, the *p* not being pronounced, but the Initial or Possessive Letter is always written, to shew the Primitive, or Radix of the word.

The greatest difficulty of Reading, or speaking Irish consists in pronouncing *dh*, *gh*, and the Diphthongs and Triphthongs aright; but this is readily attained by a little instruction by the Ear, and Practice; whereby the Pronunciation of the Language is rendered easy and agreeable, there being much use made of Vowels, and little of Consonants in it.

Irish Abbreviations used in this B O O K.

γ, ḡ, ḡ: ḡ: ḡ, ḡ. ḡ: ḡ, ḡ. ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ, ḡ. ḡ.
 ΔΣΥΓ Δἰπ ΔΟ: chḡ: eΔ, éΔ: mh: u ú. bh, ch, dh, fh, gh, mh, ph, rh, ch.

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