CHAPTER III.

PRONUNCIATION.

Classifying all current sounds under three heads to determine their pronunciation, we have the following:

(1) The Consonants have in the main the pronunciation which is given them in English.

To this the following are exceptions:

- *b* and *d*, when final, are pronounced like *p* and *t*.
- *g* is a guttural.
- *h* is pronounced whenever it occurs; its sound is like that of *h* in *hero*.
- *j* sounds like *y* in *yes*.
- *w* has the sound of *v*.

(2) The Vowels have a long and a short sound. Double vowels always have the long sound.

Single vowels are short in words of one syllable when followed by consonants.

Final *a*, *e*, *i*, and *o* are long.

In words of more than one syllable, single vowels are long if the consonant after them is followed by another vowel; short, if not so followed.

- Long *a* sounds like *a* in *father*; short *a* like *a* in English *bah!* or German *Mann*.
- Long *e* sounds like *ey* in *convey*; short *e* like *e* in *cherry*.
- Long *i* sounds like *ee* in *keen*; short *i* like *i* in *lip*.
- Long *o* sounds like *oe* in *woe*; short *o* like *o* in *pot*.
Long \( u \) sounds like \( u \) in French \( mûr \), but has no equivalent sound in English; short \( u \) like \( u \) in \textit{tub}.

Besides these long and short sounds, the \( e \) has (1) another prolonged short sound, peculiar to abbreviated Dutch words ending in \( e \); and (2) an imperfect sound corresponding to that of the \( e \) in the first syllable of \textit{represent}. It occurs a.o. in the verbal prefixes \textit{be} and \textit{ge}, and in the inflections of Nouns and Adjectives. Where necessary, the long sound of vowels will be indicated by the acute accent (\(^{\prime}\)) ; the short by the grave accent (\(^{\prime}\)) ; the prolonged sound of \( e \) by the circumflex accent (\( ë \)), and its imperfect sound by a curve (\( ë \)).

\textbf{Examples:} taal, \textit{language} ; lât, \textit{stick} ; fâder, \textit{father} ; kàlbàs, \textit{gourd} ; pá, \textit{father}.

meel, \textit{flour} ; vèl, \textit{skin} ; bèkèr, \textit{jug} ; lèkkèrs, \textit{sweetmeats} ; sè, \textit{to say} ; gàfind, \textit{found} ; bègrijp, \textit{to understand} ; gé, \textit{to give}.

miir, \textit{ant} ; wìl, \textit{will} ; imànd, \textit{somebody} ; kindèrs, \textit{children} ; ní, \textit{not}.

boom, \textit{tree} ; ròt, \textit{rat} ; pòtè, \textit{legs} ; skòttèl, \textit{dish} ; glò, \textit{to believe}.

muur, \textit{wall} ; ful, \textit{foal} ; búrè, \textit{neighbours} ; hullè, \textit{they}.

(3) There are a few other sounds to be observed.

\( oe \) is the perfect English \textit{oo} in \textit{woof}.

\( y \) has a softer sound than Eng. \( i \), and lies between the \( y \) of \textit{prying} and the \( ay \) of \textit{praying}. It seems to come nearest to Eng. \textit{aye} !

\( ou \) is slightly softer than \( ow \) in Eng. \textit{cow}.

\( aai \) and \( ooi \) are pronounced \textit{aay} and \textit{ooy}, with full Dutch sound of \( ë \) and \( ë \).

\( eeu \) is a combination of full Dutch \( ë \) and sound of Eng. \textit{w}.

\( oei \) is pronounced like \textit{ooy}.

\( eu \) and \( ui \) have no equivalents in English, and must be acquired by hearing them pronounced. They approach the German sounds \( ë \) and \( ëu \).
Examples: moeg, tired; koei, cow; lyf, body; fry, free; frou, woman; draal, to turn; mooi, pretty; leeu, lion; deur, door; huis, house.

(4) Reading Exercises.—Leesoefeninge.

I.

FAN mòrrë hët èk èl froeg òpgëstaan. This morning have I already early got up.

Ek wàs èl buité foor sònòp. Di skàpë èn I was already outside before sunrise. The sheep and koeïè èn përdè wàs nòg ëlmål in dì kràlë gëwees. cows and horses were still all (of them) in the kraals (been).

Ek hët soo’ntoe gëstàp èm tê siin hoe ëf folk ëf fë I (have) thither walked for to see how the servants the cattle tèl. Daar wàs dëf Boesmëns by dì hëk, èn toe hùl count. There were three Bushmen at the gate, and when they dét oopmaak, bègin dì skàpë sómàr uït tê flì. Hoe hùl dët it opened, began the sheep at once out to fly. How they it klaar kry, weet èk nì, maar hùl staan èn tél, ready got know I not, but they (just) stood and counted,
èn ès dì laastë skaap uïtspring, weet hùl préciis tê and when the last sheep out jumped, knew they exactly to së, hoefeul dì gëtàl is.
tell how many the number was.

2.

Skîppë fiaar òp dì së. Hùl rys tûssé dì Kaap Ships go on the sea. They travel between the Cape èn èl dì àndèrë pàrtë fàn dì wërlëld. Eenmaal wàs èk and all the other portions of the world. Once was I mé mét soo’n skip, wàt nà Nàtàl gëgaan hët. Dì skip along with such a ship which to Natal gone is. The ship
was 'n stoomboot gêwees. Ons hêt âg dá'ë gêfaar. was a steamer (been). We (have) eight days sailed.

Dit was 'n bitji lang gêwees, maar di weer was di meestê It was a little long (been) but the weather was the most

van di tîjd sleg. Almâl òp di skip hêt di eerstê dàg of the time bad. All on the ship have the first day

àl siik gêwôrd. Dit was 'n waarhîd òm tê siin hoe already ill become. It was a sad thing for to see how

di mënsê rôndlê. Maar òns hêt daarôm fylîg the people were lying about. But we have however safely
daar ângêkôm. Ek hêt di lân'd bânjê gêlyk, ên òp di there arrived. I have the country much liked, and on the
tërûgrys wàs êk by Blomföntyn, Colesberg, Beaufôr't return journey (was) I at Bloemfontein, Colesberg, Beaufort

Wêst ên Dî Pël lûngêwees. West and The Pauarl touched.