

CORRESPONDENCE

To the EDITOR, *Greece and Rome*

Dear Sir,

Will you not persuade the writer of the notice of Ritchie's *Fabulae Faciles* to give the reasons for his statement that *hic* and *hoc* are long? It should be noted that the macron is used in *Fabulae Faciles* to indicate long vowels, not syllables 'long by position', in accordance with general practice. It is my understanding that the vowels in *hic* and *hoc* are short in early Latin, and that the long metrical value of these words in later poetry is to be explained on the theory that they were pronounced as if written *hicc* and *hocc*.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN C. KIRTLAND.

Our Reviewer Writes

Mr. J. C. Kirtland has done good service in drawing attention to a well-established error which I perpetuated in my review of his edition of Ritchie's *Fabulae Faciles*. The *i* in the pronoun *hic* is marked long in Lewis and Short's Dictionary, in Kennedy's *Latin Primer* and in Gildersleeve's *Latin Grammar*—to mention only three authorities. It should of course be marked long *or* short; Horace ends a hexameter: '*dicier hic est*'. Vergil writes '*hic vir hic est*'. So apparently with *hoc*.

[The following, we learn, are the facts of the case:

Originally *hic* was *hī-ce* and *hōc* was *hōd-ce*. *Hī-ce* became *hic* and was spelt, pronounced, and scanned as such up to the time of Ennius. *Hōd-ce* became *hōcc* and was always scanned long owing to the two *c*'s, and was spelt *and pronounced* with the two *c*'s, the vowel being short, but the word being long for purposes of scansion.

About the time of Ennius *hōcc* began to be written *hoc* before consonants and gradually was invariably so written, whether before consonants or vowels, but it continued to be scanned as if it were *hocc*, in other words it was a long syllable with a short internal vowel.

About the time of Ennius also, *hīc*, apparently through the association of *hocc*, began to be scanned as if it were *hicc*, and in course of time was invariably so scanned.

The best places to look for an account of the matter are in Sommer's book or in Walde's etymological dictionary.—ED.]