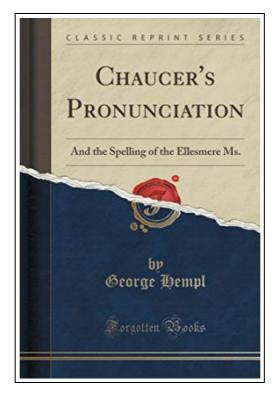
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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. Excerpt from Chaucer s Pronunciation: And the Spelling of the Ellesmere Ms. There are various ways of reading Chaucer. Not a few attempt to read the works of the Middle-English poet as though they were written in the speech of to-day, and succeed in getting a disjointed jargon that is neither poetry nor prose. Others pronounce the vowels approximately as in German, and, slipping in or leaving out enough e s to give a passable rhythm, revel in the glamour of a bogus antiquity. Still others, and they mostly foreigners, strive, with more or less success, to attain a scientific reproduction of the speech of the poet. It is my pleasant duty each year to introduce a hundred odd students to the study of Chaucer; and, much as I despise the naive and the capricious methods of reading the poet s works, I shrink from imposing a minute study of Middle-English phonology upon a class of undergraduate students, lest at the end of the brief time allotted the subject they find they have the shell but not the kernel. Still, in these matters one is largely limited by the books in the market. The Prolog and The Knight s Tale doubtless form the most acceptable pieces for undergraduate students, though the Tale does get rather long before it ends; and the Morris-Skeat edition, in spite of its weaknesses, is the best text with a glossary. But the student is there referred to Skeat s edition of another poem for a treatment of the subject of pronunciation, and this is found to be based upon the idiosyncrasies of an inferior MS and to require the gentle correction of...

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