Dearest *creature* in *creation*  
Studying English *pronunciation*,  
   I will teach you in my *verse*  
   Sounds like *corpse*, *corps*, *horse* and *worse*.

I will keep you, *Susy*, *busy*,  
Make your *head* with *heat* grow dizzy;  
   *Tear* in eye, your dress you'll *tear*;  
   *Queer*, fair *seer*, *hear* my *prayer*.

*Pray*, console your loving *poet*,  
Make my coat look *new*, dear, *sew* *it*!  
   Just compare *heart*, *hear* and *heard*,  
   *Dies* and *diet*, *lord* and *word*.

*Sword* and *sward*, *retain* and *Britain*  
(Mind the latter how it's *written*).  
   *Made* has not the sound of *bade*,  
   *Say*-*said*, *pay*-*paid*, *laid* but *plaid*.

Now I surely will not *plague you*  
With such words as *vague* and *ague*,  
   But be careful how you *speak*,  
   Say: *gush, bush, steak, streak, break, bleak*,

*Previous, precious, fuchsia, via*  
*Recipe, pipe, studding-sail, choir;*  
   *Woven*, *oven*, *how* and *low*,  
   *Script*, *receipt*, *shoe*, *poem*, *toe*.

Say, expecting fraud and *trickery*:  
*Daughter*, *laughter* and *Terpsichore*,  
   *Branch, ranch, measles*, *topsails*, *aisles*,  
   *Missiles*, *similes*, *reviles*.

*Wholly*, *holly*, *signal*, *signing*,  
*Same*, *examining*, but *mining*,  
   *Scholar*, *vicar*, and *cigar*,  
   *Solar*, *mica*, *war* and *far*.

From "desire": *desirable*-*admirable* from "admire",  
*Lumber*, *plumber*, *bier*, but *brier*,  
   *Topsham*, *brougham*, *renown*, but *known*,  
   *Knowledge*, *done*, *lone*, *gone*, *none*, *tone*,

*One*, *anemone*, *Balmoral*,  
*Kitchen*, *lichen*, *laundry*, *laurel*.  
   *Gertrude*, *German*, *wind* and *wind*,  
   *Beau, kind, kindred, queue*, *mankind*,

*Tortoise*, *turquoise*, *chamois-leather*,  
*Reading, Reading*, *heathen*, *heather*.  
   This phonetic labyrinth  
   Gives *moss*, *gross*, *brook*, *brooch*, *ninth*, *plinth*.

Have you ever yet *endeavoured*  
To pronounce *revered* and *severed*,  
   *Demon, lemon, ghoul, foul, soul,*  
   *Peter, petrol*and*patrol*?

*Billet* does not end like *ballet*;  
*Bouquet*, *wallet*, *mallet*, *chalet*.  
   *Blood* and *flood* are not like *food*,  
   Nor is *mould* like *should* and *would*.

*Banquet* is not nearly *parquet*,  
Which exactly rhymes with *khaki*.  
   *Discount*, *viscount*, *load* and *broad*,  
   *Toward*, to *forward*, to *reward*,

*Ricocheted* and *crocheting*, *croquet*?  
Right! Your pronunciation's OK.  
   *Rounded*, *wounded*, *grieve* and *sieve*,  
   *Friend* and *fiend*, *alive* and *live*.

Is your r correct in *higher*?  
Keats asserts it rhymes *Thalia*.  
   *Hugh*, but *hug*, and *hood*, but *hoot*,  
   *Buoyant*, *minute*, but *minute*.

Say *abscission* with *precision*,  
Now: *position* and *transition*;  
   Would it tally with my *rhyme*  
   If I mentioned *paradigm*?

*Twopence, threepence, tease* are *easy*,  
But*cease, crease, grease* and *greasy*?  
   *Cornice, nice, valise, revise,*  
   *Rabies,* but *lullabies*.

Of such puzzling words as *nauseous*,  
Rhyming well with *cautious, tortious*,  
   You'll *envelop* lists, I hope,  
   In a linen *envelope*.

Would you like some more? You'll *have it*!  
*Affidavit, David, davit*.  
   To *abjure*, to *perjure*. *Sheik*  
   Does not sound like *Czech* but *ache*.

*Liberty*, *library*, *heave* and *heaven*,  
*Rachel*, *loch*, *moustache*, *eleven*.  
   We say *hallowed*, but *allowed*,  
   *People*, *leopard*, *towed* but *vowed*.

Mark the difference, moreover,  
Between *mover*, *plover*, *Dover*.  
   *Leeches*, *breeches*, *wise*, *precise*,  
   *Chalice*, but *police* and *lice*,

*Camel*, *constable*, *unstable*,  
*Principle*, *disciple*, *label*.  
   *Petal*, *penal*, and *canal*,  
   *Wait*, *surmise*, *plait*, *promise*, *pal*,

*Suit*, *suite*, *ruin*. *Circuit*, *conduit*  
Rhyme with "shirk it" and "beyond it",  
   But it is not hard to tell  
   Why it's *pall*, *mall*, but *Pall* *Mall*.

*Muscle*, *muscular*, *gaol*, *iron*,  
*Timber*, *climber*, *bullion*, *lion,*  
   *Worm* and *storm*, *chaise*, *chaos*, *chair*,  
   *Senator*, *spectator*, *mayor*,

*Ivy*, *privy*, *famous*; *clamour*  
Has the a of *drachm* and *hammer*.  
   *Pussy*, *hussy* and *possess*,  
   *Desert*, but *desert*, *address*.

*Golf*, *wolf*, *countenance*, *lieutenants*  
Hoist in *lieu* of flags left*pennants*.  
   *Courier, courtier, tomb*, *bomb*, *comb*,  
   *Cow*, but *Cowper,* *some* and *home*.

"*Solder, soldier*!Blood is *thicker*",  
Quoth he, "than *liqueur* or *liquor*",  
   Making, it is sad but *true*,  
   In bravado, much *ado*.

*Stranger* does not rhyme with *anger*,  
Neither does *devour* with *clangour*.  
   *Pilot, pivot, gaunt*, but *aunt*,  
   *Font*, *front*, *wont*, *want*, *grand* and *grant*.

*Arsenic, specific, scenic,*  
*Relic, rhetoric, hygienic*.  
   *Gooseberry, goose*, and *close*, but *close*,  
   *Paradise, rise, rose*, and *dose*.

Say *inveigh, neigh*, but *inveigle*,  
Make the latter rhyme with *eagle*.  
   *Mind*! *Meandering* but *mean*,  
   *Valentine* and *magazine*.

And I bet you, dear, a *penny*,  
You say *mani*-(fold) like *many*,  
   Which is wrong. Say *rapier, pier,*  
   *Tier* (one who ties), but *tier*.

*Arch, archangel*; pray, does *erring*  
Rhyme with *herring* or with *stirring*?  
   *Prison, bison, treasure trove,*  
   *Treason, hover, cover, cove,*

*Perseverance, severance*. *Ribald*  
Rhymes (but *piebald* doesn't) with *nibbled*.  
   *Phaeton, paean, gnat, ghat, gnaw,*  
   *Lien, psychic, shone, bone, pshaw*.

Don't be *down*, my *own*, but *rough it*,  
And distinguish *buffet*, *buffet*;  
   *Brood, stood, roof, rook, school, wool, boon,*  
   Worcester, Boleyn, to *impugn*.

Say in sounds correct and *sterling*  
*Hearse, hear, hearken, year* and *yearling*.  
   *Evil, devil, mezzotint,*  
   Mind the z! (A gentle hint.)

Now you need not pay attention  
To such sounds as I don't mention,  
   Sounds like *pores, pause, pours*and *paws*,  
   Rhyming with the pronoun *yours*;

Nor are proper names *included*,  
Though I often heard, as *you did*,  
   Funny rhymes to *unicorn*,  
   Yes, you know them, *Vaughan* and *Strachan*.

No, my maiden, coy and *comely*,  
I don't want to speak of *Cholmondeley*.  
   No. Yet *Froude* compared with *proud*  
   Is no better than *McLeod*.

But mind *trivial* and *vial*,  
*Tripod, menial, denial*,  
   *Troll* and *trolley*, *realm* and *ream*,  
   *Schedule, mischief, schism,*and *scheme*.

*Argil, gill, Argyll, gill. Surely*  
May be made to rhyme with *Raleigh*,  
   But you're not supposed to say  
   *Piquet* rhymes with *sobriquet*.

Had this *invalid invalid*  
Worthless documents? How *pallid*,  
   How *uncouth* he, *couchant*, looked,  
   When for *Portsmouth* I had booked!

*Zeus, Thebes, Thales, Aphrodite*,  
*Paramour, enamoured, flighty*,  
   *Episodes, antipodes,*  
   *Acquiesce*, and *obsequies*.

Please don't monkey with the *geyser*,  
Don't peel 'taters with my *razor*,  
   Rather say in accents pure:  
   *Nature, stature*and *mature*.

*Pious, impious, limb, climb, glumly,*  
*Worsted, worsted, crumbly, dumbly,*  
   *Conquer, conquest, vase, phase, fan,*  
   *Wan, sedan* and *artisan*.

The **th** will surely *trouble you*  
More than **r**, **ch** or ***w***.  
   Say then these phonetic *gems*:  
   *Thomas, thyme, Theresa, Thames.*

*Thompson, Chatham, Waltham, Streatham,*  
There are more but I *forget 'em*-  
   Wait! I've got it: *Anthony*,  
   Lighten your anxiety.

The archaic word *albeit*  
Does not rhyme with *eight*-you *see it*;  
   *With* and *forthwith*, one has voice,  
   One has not, you make your choice.

*Shoes, goes, does* \*. Now first say: *finger*;  
Then say: *singer, ginger, linger*.  
   *Real*, *zeal*, *mauve, gauze* and *gauge*,  
   *Marriage*, *foliage*, *mirage*, *age*,

*Hero, heron, query, very*,  
*Parry, tarry fury, bury,*  
   *Dost*, *lost*, *post*, and *doth*, *cloth*, *loth*,  
   *Job*, *Job*, *blossom*, *bosom*, *oath*.

*Faugh, oppugnant*, keen *oppugners*,  
*Bowing*, *bowing*, banjo-*tuners*  
   *Holm* you know, but *noes, canoes*,  
   *Puisne*, *truism*, *use*, to *use*?

Though the difference seems *little*,  
We say *actual*, but *victual*,  
   *Seat*, *sweat*, *chaste*, *caste*, *Leigh*, *eight*, *height*,  
   *Put*, *nut*, *granite*, and *unite*.

*Reefer* does not rhyme with *deafer*,  
*Feoffer*does, and *zephyr*, *heifer*.  
   *Dull*, *bull*, *Geoffrey*, *George*, *ate*, *late*,  
   *Hint*, *pint*, *senate*, but *sedate*.

*Gaelic*, *Arabic*, *pacific*,  
*Science*, *conscience*, *scientific*;  
   *Tour*, but *our, dour, succour*, *four*,  
   *Gas*, *alas*, and *Arkansas*.

Say *manoeuvre, yacht* and *vomit*,  
Next *omit*, which differs from it  
   *Bona fide, alibi*  
   *Gyrate, dowry* and *awry*.

*Sea*, *idea*, *guinea*, *area*,  
*Psalm*, *Maria*, but *malaria*.  
   *Youth*, *south*, *southern*, *cleanse* and *clean*,  
   *Doctrine*, *turpentine*, *marine*.

Compare *alien* with *Italian*,  
*Dandelion* with *battalion*,  
   *Rally* with *ally*; *yea*, *ye*,  
   *Eye*, *I*, *ay*, *aye*, *whey*, *key*, *quay*!

Say *aver*, but *ever*, *fever*,  
*Neither*, *leisure*, *skein*, *receiver*.  
   Never guess-it is not *safe*,  
   We say *calves*, *valves*, *half*, but *Ralf*.

*Starry,* *granary*, *canary*,  
*Crevice*, but *device*, and *eyrie*,  
   *Face*, but *preface*, then *grimace*,  
   *Phlegm*, *phlegmatic*, *ass*, *glass*, *bass*.

*Bass*, *large*, *target*, *gin*, *give*, *verging*,  
*Ought*, *oust,* *joust*, and *scour*, but *scourging*;  
   *Ear*, but *earn*; and *ere* and *tear*  
   Do not rhyme with *here* but *heir*.

Mind the o of *off* and *often*  
Which may be pronounced as *orphan*,  
   With the sound of *saw* and *sauce*;  
   Also *soft, lost, cloth* and *cross*.

*Pudding, puddle, putting*. *Putting*?  
Yes: at golf it rhymes with *shutting*.  
   *Respite, spite, consent, resent.*  
   *Liable*, but *Parliament*.

*Seven* is right, but so is *even*,  
*Hyphen*, *roughen*, *nephew*, *Stephen*,  
   *Monkey*, *donkey*, *clerk* and *jerk*,  
   *Asp*, *grasp*, *wasp*, *demesne*, *cork*, *work*.

**A** of *valour, vapid vapour,*  
**S** of *news* (compare *newspaper*),  
   **G** of *gibbet, gibbon, gist,*  
   **I** of *antichrist* and *grist*,

Differ like *diverse* and *divers*,  
*Rivers, strivers, shivers, fivers*.  
   *Once*, but *nonce, toll, doll,*but *roll*,  
   *Polish, Polish, poll*and *poll*.

Pronunciation-think of *Psyche*!-  
Is a paling, stout and *spiky*.  
   Won't it make you lose your *wits*  
   Writing *groats* and saying "grits"?

It's a dark *abyss* or *tunnel*  
Strewn with stones like *rowlock*, *gunwale*,  
   *Islington*, and *Isle* of *Wight*,  
   *Housewife*, *verdict* and *indict*.

Don't you think so, reader, *rather*,  
Saying *lather*, *bather*, *father*?  
   Finally, which rhymes with *enough*,  
   *Though*, *through*, *bough*, *cough*, *hough*, *sough, tough*??

*Hiccough* has the sound of *sup*...  
My advice is: GIVE IT UP!