

NORMAL AMERICAN SPEECH.

On p. 160 we gave a specimen of normal or average distinct speech as heard from the pulpit (in sam xxiii) in northern United States and Canada. Belo is given a fable in distinct (but not forced) pronunciation, as distinguished from New Spelling or orthography. It is offered as our contribution to new editions of *Aims and Principles* (see *MF*, Nov. '10) as noticed on our p. 145. Old editions gave specimens of speech in southern and northern England only. That of America, however, appears as *Anglais d'Amérique* in Passy's *Petite Phonétique Comparée* p. 126, wherein is much that is noteworthy. But we have space to mention only that before m and n all vowels, including both elements of diphthongs, are nasalized; *e* and *o* are (not *ei*, *ou*, as in Sweet, but) *eⁱ*, *oⁱ*, as in Skeat; while *your* is *yor*, tabu'd as "nigger talk" (southern negroes say *your*, *poor*, *pour*, *pore*, *more*, *door*, *floor*, *sore*, *before*, *snore*, etc., as *yō*, *pō*, etc.)

Our p. 160 has many remarks on normal American not repeated here.

This fable has no example of classes of words that vary (as *ask*, *not*) as sam xxiii has. *Ask* varies from *æsk* (a in *fit*) to *ask* (*far*). We requote from p. 206: "The long list of words like *fast* has *æ* of *fat* with probably nine-tenths of American speakers."

The large class of words, as *stop*, *mob*, *not*, spelt with *o* in a syllable stopped by *p*, *b*, *t*, *ʃ* = *ch*, *d*, *dʒ* = *j*, *k*, *g*, has the vowel in *far*, which in British speech has *o* in *for*. A few such words spelt with *a*, as *what*, *watch*, *yacht*, retain *a* in *far*.

The vowel-gamut is:

Primary:	<i>i</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>o</i>	<i>ū</i>	} Ful	
Secondary	<i>i</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>ɪ</i>	<i>o</i>		<i>u</i>
or derived	<i>æ</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>		<i>u</i>
	<i>i</i>	<i>e</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>o</i>		<i>u</i>

Weak

Of vowel-pairs, secondaries are opener than primaries. In British speech, primary and secondary (called "narrow" and "wide" in the Bell-Ellis-Sweet nomenclature) are distinguished by a difference of tension, producing bunching of tongue in narrow, and flat and relaxed tongue in wide vowels, a difference far less marked here.

Of weak vowels *i* and *a* prevail, while *e*, *o*, *u*, are commonly theoretic, though often heard quite distinctly. This is due very largely to pronouncing dictionaries, and to school ma'ams' use of fonic methods, which require some definite quality in many weak vowels. Let us requote from p. 203:

"Many speakers avoid obscuration, saying, e. g., *rekrd*, *e^{rt}*, *mōm^{nt}*, *enⁱmi*."

e and *o* final become *eⁱ*, *oⁱ*, when folded by a pause, and then only; so too in London colloquial according to Ellis, himself a Londoner all his life. See Chambers'

Encyclopedia; article, Phonetics.

ð^a norþ wind ænd *ð^a* sɪn wær dispyū-tiŋ hwitl woz *ð^a* strogg^{ar}, hwen *a* træv^{al}ar cem ^{al}og ræpt in *a* worm clōk. ðe ^{ag}rið ðæt *ð^a* wɪn hū fɪrst med *ð^a* træv^{al}ar tēk of hiz cōt sūd bɪ consid^{ard} strogg^{ar} ðæn *ðⁱ* ^ɪð^r. ðen *ð^a* norþ wind blū wið ol hiz mait; bʌt *ð^a* mōr hɪ blū, *ð^a* mōr clōs-li did *ð^a* træv^{al}ar fōld hiz clōk ^araund him; ænd æt læst *ð^a* norþ wind gæv ɪp *ðⁱ* ^atemt. ðen *ð^a* sɪn fɒn aut worm^{li}, ænd in *a* fyū mōm^{nts} *ð^a* træv^{al}ar tuk of hiz clōk. sō *ð^a* norþ wind woz oblaidd^d tu confes^d ðæt *ð^a* sɪn woz *ð^a* strogg^{ar} ov *ð^a* tū.

A NEW CANDIDATE.

What symbol for the vowel in *up*?—Hitherto we have used *u* from *U* or cut from *u*, and *ʌ* from *A* with its cross-bar dropt. Neither is ideal. We recognize that the vowels in *are*, *up*, are akin, and that both, the latter especially, have affiliations with *h*, *m*, *n*, *r*. It would be well to indicate this by similarity of symbol. Now, 'a' may be cut to 'ʌ'—better, have the base straight, as at end of *h*, *m*, *n*. This simplifies; and increases difference from 'a', and similarity to *h*, *m*, *n*, *r*, without conflict with them. In italics the new form is the last part of *h*, *m*, *n*, and first of *v*. Script resembles italics. We give specimens in two sizes of type:

Forgiv ʌs aur dets az wɪ
forgiv aur detorz; lɪd ʌs not
ɪntu temptʃən; bʌt deliver
ʌs from ɪvɪl.

Aur Faðer hu art in hevn, haloed bɪ ðai nɛm; ðai kingdom cɪm; ðai wil bɪ dɪn on erth az it iz in hevn; gɪv ʌs ðɪs de aur deli bred; forgiv ʌs aur trespazez az wɪ forgiv ðem ðat trespas agɛnst ʌs; lɪd ʌs not ɪntu temptʃən, bʌt deliver ʌs from ɪvɪl; for ðain iz ðe kingdom, ðe pauer, and ðe glōri for ever and ever. Amen.

Let ʌs du ðe praktikal thing: Tēk ðɪs alfabet az a provizional besis, and prosɪd tu get ðe best alfabet wɪ can bai ɪmproving ðɪz leterz or selekting betər.

KEY: *ð e ɪ ɪ o ū oi ai au iu*
as in they see us old rule oil aisle owl few
(Marking *o* or *u* is unnecessary in open syllables and some other definite positions.)

Alphabet: *abcdðeefghirjklmnpqrstuvwyz*

For fuller explanation and Platform see cover of Annual of New Spelling (postpaid, 10 c.)

THE HERALD appears at 72 Howard Park av., Toronto, Canada. SUBSCRIBE AND DISTRIBUTE in letters, in schools, privately in a hundred ways. 8 copies quarterly to one address, 25 cents a year.