

of the Humber and the second by most Yorkshiremen and Americans. A few uncultured Americans utter it as *ea*, with a nasal twang to boot. Many Scotchmen and Lancashiremen, again, pronounce it as *ǣ*; and Webster asserts that Fulton and Knight, whom Worcester claims as his supporters, really treated it as a short form of the Italian *a*, or in other words as our *ā*, Webster himself sustaining this view. But in sustaining it, he states that Thackeray in his lectures always pronounced the *a* in such words with the long Italian sound, that by report all the chief English preachers, statesmen, and noblemen of his time so uttered it, and that educated Englishmen in general rendered it thus down to the close of last century, when Walker, in his zeal to avoid a drawl, brought the short sound heard in *fat* (*æ*) into fashion. The last fact, coupled with a desire to conform English pronunciation as far as possible to the typical system, makes us lean in these words to the long Italian sound—our *ā*.

M. L. R.

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