

filologic truth is posibl (unless tu a few born filologers) tu them hu no only the Roman alfabet.. This miserabl hodge-podge ov vowels and consonants is a cage wherein the filological soul ov Europ and America is imprisond. . . . My mind was never fully emancipated on speling til I lernd the Paali and Sanscrit alfabet. Before Crist, when our British forefathers wer dying their skins violet and eating roots in the woods, and our English ones pirats, the Hindu gramarian Paanini had tho't out a logical alfabet, and succeeding gramarians perfected it in that land ov ancient lerning. The Hindu alfabet is aranged according tu the organs ov speech employd. . . . Adopt a new letter for the neutral vowel, the first in Paali and Sanscrit alfabet. In English it is the comonest sound ov A, as herd in *a* (not emfatic) and *America*.—A. J. EDMUNDS, author ov *Buddhist and Christian Gospels*, in *Jur. Or. & Or.*, Oct., '07.

[Skeat said that the sign for the vowel in *but*, *come*, etc., is the crux ov the alfabetic question. The sound is not cosmopolitan and shud not hav any old-vowel sign any more than 5 shud stand for *eleven*. It is one ov (or akin tu) the a-family. French *ə* in *leur*, *peu*, *dieu*, is much like it, but is labialized, while ours (like the a-clan generally) is not, unless very exceptionaly in some dialect. In the '30s Hon. John Pickering ov Boston proposed *u*, ov which American misionaries made use—witness the Ojibway Testament revewd in our pages Nov., 1886. In later '70s the Am. Sp. Reform Aso'n used *u*, tho an u-sign, in spite ov Whitney hu taut that it was "akin tu a." U has been used considerably in America ever since, tho the Amer. Dialect Soc'y and Mod. Lang. Aso'n du not folo, but use a-symbols. In 1883 the Eng. Speling Ref. Aso'n bro't out a considerabl specimen with *u* (*must* was *must*, *come* *kum*, *up* *up*, etc.) In 1883 Murray, riting key tu pronunciation for NED, used *u* aslant (*u*) tu hav it correspond tu *i*, *e*, *o*, *u*, in *thief*, *they*, *no*, *rule*. The great primary tense vowels (calld "naro" in Bell-Ellis-Sweet nomenclature) ar represented by slant or italic symbols in NED. Ther is no sign for tense-a where we expect *a*. We drew atention tu this at botm ov p. 130. NED recognizes no tense-a in the language, tho giving secondary or lax-a a symbol (*a*) along with *i*, *e*, *æ*, *o*, *u*. NED teaches that tense-a has dropt out from the "receivd" language, while an other tense a-vowel (in *come*, etc.) has developt. Ov this ther ar two forms, tense and lax. Ellis (whose sign is *ə* for the tense one) agrees with Murray

in chusing it as "receivd." Sweet and Bell chuse the lax one (Ellis' *u*, by him considerd provincial). "Doctors difer." Passy used *œ* in the later '80s (*come* was *koem*, see our p. 227); later *Λ*, an A-sign for which *a* is rectified script. *ɹ* is the latter haf ov *a* or 'a', and the first haf ov *v*. Willing tu accept *Λ* or *a*, our *ɹ* is preferd for reasons fysiologic and analogic as explaind on pages 216, 235].

#### LONDON COLOQUIAL

The pronunciation of Sheridan in 1780, revized by Walker in 1791, and by Smart from 1834 tu 1850, is in efect that of the standard dictionaries tудay. It is givn in their dictionaries in many editions. Walker and Smart wer Londoners, teachers of elocution. In London yet the old London speech is much as they gave it. This is the old speech mentiond on our page 196. But ther came intu east London especialy a degraded and slurd new speech. Cokny overflows and suplants the old, as "Bowery dialect" crowds the better speech of New York state. Cokny invades Belgravia; the Bowery invades Fifth Avenue.

Dr A. J. Ellis givs a specimen of London colloquial (in articl on Phonetics in Chambers' Encyclopedia) bro't out as an offset or antidote tu Sweet's Belgravian colloquial, then pusht forward, "the cynosure ov all eyes" according tu our Plank 9, for a generation til Sweet's deth in 1912. This pronouncement by such a remarkabl leader and worker as Ellis receives not the atention deservd, especially as Ellis made a selection ov words tu elucidate many a moot point. We transliterate intu HERALD Notation, correcting two misprints in *carefully* and *one*.—

aa<sup>a</sup>faa<sup>ð</sup>a, aim<sup>f</sup>ū<sup>a</sup> ð<sup>a</sup>t<sup>æ</sup>t nyūbraan<sup>t</sup> f<sup>a</sup>va<sup>u</sup>a  
 ɹ<sup>o</sup>ʒ<sup>z</sup> fev<sup>r</sup>t wudbain, witfiz grō<sup>ɪ</sup>g ni<sup>ð</sup>a  
 pōst notfaaf<sup>r</sup>m<sup>ð</sup>a nō<sup>p</sup> wō<sup>l</sup>av<sup>ð</sup>a g<sup>a</sup>adn,  
 m<sup>ɹ</sup>stbiseft<sup>a</sup> me<sup>ɹ</sup> ɹ<sup>a</sup>baut tūfit o<sup>mo</sup>ɹ in-  
 lenç<sup>ɹ</sup> t<sup>æ</sup>ley, <sup>a</sup>ules s<sup>ɹ</sup>m mishæpiz oc<sup>ɹ</sup>ri<sup>g</sup>  
 o<sup>ri</sup>t<sup>a</sup>z<sup>s</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>dnli lostits yūjū<sup>ɹ</sup>l vait<sup>a</sup>l en<sup>a</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>i;  
 f<sup>a</sup>r aiv ke<sup>a</sup>fuli ɹ<sup>b</sup>z<sup>a</sup>v<sup>ð</sup>its r<sup>et</sup> ɹ<sup>v</sup> inc<sup>r</sup>is ev<sup>a</sup>ri-  
 wik ðis m<sup>ɹ</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>, ɹ<sup>u</sup>nōt<sup>ɹ</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>daun ækyū<sup>r</sup>tl<sup>i</sup>  
 onyū<sup>a</sup> slet, ɹ<sup>a</sup>nainōw it<sup>a</sup>zecz<sup>ɹ</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>st nōve<sup>a</sup>-  
 ri<sup>ɹ</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>n, baari<sup>g</sup> w<sup>ɹ</sup>ns dyu<sup>a</sup>ri<sup>g</sup>a desp<sup>r</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>tl<sup>i</sup>  
 ɹ<sup>u</sup>oi<sup>g</sup> int<sup>a</sup>ɹ<sup>ɹ</sup>l ɹ<sup>v</sup>cōld pō<sup>a</sup>ri<sup>g</sup> ren.<sup>1</sup>

Lak ov space forbids discussion ov a hundred points raisd. We ask atention tu

<sup>1</sup>Ah! father, I am sure, that that new branch ov our George's favorit woodbine, which is groing near the post not far from the north wall ov the garden, must be safe tu mesure about two feet, or more, in length tu day, unless some mishap is occurring or it has sudnly lost its usual vital energy; for I hav carefully observd its rate ov increase evry week this month, and noted it down acuratly on yur slate, and I no it has experienced no variation, barring once, during a desperatly anoying interval ov cold, pouring rain.