

A B A

A B D

(546). Fåte, fár, fáll, fát; mè, mët; pine, pín; nô, móve, nôr, nôt; túl

**A**, The first letter of the alphabet  
**A**, (63). A, an article set before nouns  
of the singular number; a man, a tree. Be-  
fore a word beginning with a vowel, it is  
written an, as, an ox; A is sometimes a  
noun, as great A (1); A is placed before a  
participle, or participle past; as, a  
begging; A has a signification denoting a  
portion; the landlord bath a hundred a year.

**ABACUS**, áb'á-kús. f.  
A counting table; the upper part  
of a column.

**ABAFT**, á-báft'. ad.

From the fore part of the ship, towards the  
stern.

To **ABANDON**, á-bán'dún. v. a.  
To give up, resign, or quit; to desert; to  
forfave.

**ABANDONED**, á-bán'dún-dënd. par. (362)  
Given up; forsaken; corrupted in the highest  
degree.

**ABANDONMENT**, á-bán'dún-mënt. f.  
The act of abandoning.

**ABANDONMENT**, áb-2n-dün-mënt. f.

**ABB**, áb. f.

The yarn on a weaver's warp.

**ABBACY**, áb'bâ-fé. f.

The rights, possessions, or privileges of an  
abbot.

**ABBAY**, or **ABBY**, áb'bé. f.

A monastery of religious persons, whether  
men or women.

**ABBOT**, áb'bët. f.

The chief of a convent of men.

To **ABBREVIATE**, áb-bré've-á-te. v. a.  
To shorten, to cut short.

**ABBREVIATION**, áb-bré-vé-á' shùn. f.  
The act of shortening.

**ABBREVIATOR**, áb-bré-vé-á'tür. f.  
One who abridges.

**ABBREVIATURE**, áb-bré've-á-tchüre  
f. (461). A mark used for shortening.

To **ABDICATE**, áb'dé-káte, v. a.  
To give up right, to resign.

535 k 16  
3 D

# COURSE of LECTURES

## ON ELOCUTION:

TOGETHER WITH

Two DISSERTATIONS on LANGUAGE;

AND

Some other TRACTS relative to thoſe SUBJECTS.

By THOMAS SHERIDAN, A.M.

L O N D O N:

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ABA  
**ABANDONMENT**, *â-bân'dûn-mént*. f.  
The act of abandoning.

ABD

John Walker

*A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English Language: to which are prefixed Principles of English Pronunciation: Rules to be Observed, by the Natives of Scotland, Ireland, and London, for Avoiding their Respective Peculiarities; and Directions to Foreigners for Acquiring a Knowledge of the Use of this Dictionary, 1791.*

63 (546).—Fate, fär, fall, fät; —mē, mêt; —pine, pîn; —

part of the hand when it is flat; the rear; the place behind; the part of any thing out of sight; the thick part of any tool, opposed to the edge.

BACK, bâk. ad.

To the place whence one came; backward from the present station; behind, not coming forward; toward things past; again, in return; again, a second time.

TO BACK, bâk. v. a.

To mount a horse; to break a horse; to place upon the back; to maintain, to strengthen; to justify; to support; to second.

TO BACKBITE, bâk'bit'. v. a.

To censure or reproach the absent.

BACKBITER, bâk'bît'r. f.

A grisly calumniator, censurer of the absent.

BACKDOOR, bâk'dôr. f.

The door behind the house.

BACKED, bâkt. a. (359).

Having a back.

BACKFRIEND, bâk'frînd. f.

An enemy in secret.

BACKGAMMON, bâk-gâm'môn. f.

A play or game with dice and tables.

BACKHOUSE, bâk'hôus'. f.

The buildings behind the chief part of the house.

BACKPIECE, bâk'pîc'. f.

The piece of armour which covers the back.

BACKROOM, bâk'rôom. f.

A room behind.

BACKSIDE, bâk'sîd'. f.

The hinder part of any thing; the hind part of an animal; the yard of ground behind a house.

TO BACKSLIDE, bâk'-slîd'. v. n.

(497).—To fall off.  
I have in this word preferred Dr. Johnson's accentuation on the second syllable, to Mr. Sheridan's on the first, for reasons that may be seen under the number marked.

BACKSLIDER, bâk'-slîd'r. f.

An apostle.

BACKSTAFF, bâk'stâf. f.

An instrument useful in taking the sun's altitude at sea.

BACKSTAIRS, bâk'stârs. f.

The private stairs in the house.

BACKSTAYS, bâk'stâz. f.

Ropes which keep the mast from pitching forward.

BACKSWORD, bâk'sôrd. f.

A sword with one sharp edge.

BACKWARDS, bâk'wôrdz. ad.

With the back forwards; towards the back; on the back; from the present station to the place behind; regressively; towards something past; out of the progressive state; from a better to a worse state; past, or time past.

BACKWARD, bâk'wôrd. a.

Unwilling, averse; hesitating; fuggish, dilatory; dull, not quick or apprehensive.

BACKWARD, bâk'wôrd. ad.

The thing past.

BACKWARDLY, bâk'wôrd-lé. ad.

Unwillingly, aversely.

BACKWARDNESS, bâk'wôrd-nés. f.

Dullness, fuggishness.

BACON, bâ'kn. f.

The flesh of a hog salted and dried.

BAD, bâd. a.

Ill, not good; vicious, corrupt; unfortunate, unhappy; hurtful, unwholesome; sick.

BADE, bâd. (75).

The practice of bid.

bâ'kôr. f.  
He whose trade is to bake.

BALANCE, bâl'lânsc. f.

A pair of scales; the act of comparing two things; the overplus of weight; that which is wanting to make two parts of an account even; equipoise; the beating part of a watch; in astronomy, one of the signs, Libra.

TO BALANCE, bâl'lânsc. v. a.  
To weigh in a balance; to counterpoise; to regulate an account; to pay that which is wanting.

TO BALANCE, bâl'lânsc. v. n.

To hesitate, to fluctuate.

BALANCER, bâl'lân-sûr. f.

The person that weighs.

BALASS RUBY, bâl'âs-rû'bê. f.

A kind of ruby.

BALCONY, bâl-kô'né. f.

A frame of wood, or stone, before the window of a room.

BALD, bâwl'd. a.  
Without hair; without natural covering; unadorned, inelegant; stripped, without dignity.

BALDERDASH, bâwl'dér-dâsh. f.

Rude mixture.

BALDLY, bâwl'dé. ad.

Nakedly, meanly, inelegantly.

BALDMONY, bâwl'mûn-né. f.

Gentian, a plant.

BALDNESS, bâwl'néss. f.

The want of hair; the loss of hair; messengers of writing.

BALDRICK, bâwl'drîk. f.

A girdle; the zodiac.

BALE, bâl. f.

A bundle of goods.

BALEFUL, bâl'fûl. a.

Sorrowful, sad; full of mischief.

BALEFULLY, bâl'fûl-lé. ad.

Sorrowfully, mischievously.

BALK, bâwk. f. (402).

A great beam.

BALK, bâwk. f.

A bridge of land left unploughed.

BALK, bâwk. f.

Disappointment when least expected.

TO BALK, bâwk. v. a. (402).

To disappoint, to frustrate; to miss any thing; to omit.

BALKERS bâwk'ûr. f.

Men who give a sign which way the shole of herrings is.

BALL, bâwl. f.

Any thing made in a round form; a round thing to play with; a globe; a globe borne as an ensign of sovereignty; any part of the body that approaches to roundness.

BALL, bâwl. f.

An entertainment of dancing.

BALLAD, bâl'lâd. f.

A song.

BALLAD-SINGER, bâl'lâd-sîng-ôr. f.

One whose employment is to sing ballads in the streets.

BALLAST, bâl'lâst. f.

Something put at the bottom of the ship to keep it steady.

BALLETTÉ, bâl'lét. f.

A dance.

BALLOON, bâl-lôon'. f.

A large round short-necked vessel used in chymistry; a ball placed on a pillar; a ball of pasteboard, stuffed with combustible material.

A B D

pîn; nô, môve, nôr, nôt; tûl

âb'bëfs. f.

erior of a nunnery.

or Aby, âb'bë. f.

stery of religious persons, whether women

âb'bût. f.

f of a conv

REVIAT

en, to c

VIATION

of shortening

VIATOR, ab-bie-vé-a'tür. f.

o abridges.

TIATURE, âb-bré've-â-tchûre

. A mark used for shortening.

ICATE, âb'dé-kâte, v. a.

up right, to resign.

The pronunciation  
of the word  
balcony has  
changed: in  
Walker the stress  
lays on the second  
syllable.

In fact Walker identifies only four 'faults' in Cockney speakers :

- pronouncing <s> indistinctly after -st (as in posts);
- pronouncing <w> for <v> and vice versa (as in vinegar);
- not sounding <h> after <w>, so that the distinction between while and wile is lost;\*
- not sounding <h> where it ought to be and vice versa.

\* **Glide Cluster Reduction** is the zero realization of /h/ in certain groups such as /hw/; <Hw> and <hj> were historically pronounced /hw/ and /hj/, but in some dialects they eventually became [w] and sometimes [j]. Therefore, words like where began to be pronounced [weər] or [weə] rather than [hweər] or [hweə]. The glide cluster /hw/ was part of the Old English phonemic inventory. Evidence for this can be found by simply having a look at different texts in Old English, whose <hw>- spelling is supposed to have been phonetic.

THE use of /h/ in modern English has come to stand as one of the foremost signals of social identity, its presence in initial positions associated almost inevitably with the 'educated' and 'polite' while its loss commonly triggers popular connotations of the 'vulgar', the 'ignorant', and the 'lower class'.

... the droppin of [h] has operated as the single most powerful pronunciation **shibboleth** in England.

a custom, doctrine, phrase, etc. distinguishing a particular class or group of people

## D.H. Lawrence, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*: the Lady and the gamekeeper

"It's your Ladyship's own 'ut. It's as your Ladyship likes an' pleases, every time..."

Sheridan was the first to describe *h*-dropping in terms which reveal negative attitudes:

"There is one defect which more generally prevails in the counties than any other, and indeed is gaining ground among the politer part of the world, I mean the omission of the aspirate in many words by some, and in most by others...".

"The best method of curing this will be to read over frequently all the words beginning with the letter H and those beginning with WH in the dictionary, and push them out with the full force of the breath, till an habit is obtained of aspirating strongly".

ABA A B D

By the 1850s, its role has consolidated still further so that [h] alone regularly assumes pre-eminence amongst a range of status markers of the 'educated and 'refined'. And by the 1860s, the resulting patterns of linguistic prejudice, voiced in social terms and explicitly endowed with social repercussions, are particularly widespread, though they are perhaps stated most clearly in Mr Podsnap's dicta on his head in Charles Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*. Expounding English sensitivities regarding the use of [h] to the Frenchman (whose habitual articulations in the novel unfortunately preclude its use), Mr Podsnap unambiguously indicates the social affiliations of this sound, as well as its differentiated alignment with the stratified usages in society:

'Ah! Of a Orse?' inquired the foreign gentleman.

'We call it Horse?', said Mr Podsnap, with forbearance. 'In England, Angleterre, England, We aspire the "H" and We Say "Horse". Only our Lower Classes Say "Orse".'

Another example of this is in David Herbert Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* (1913):

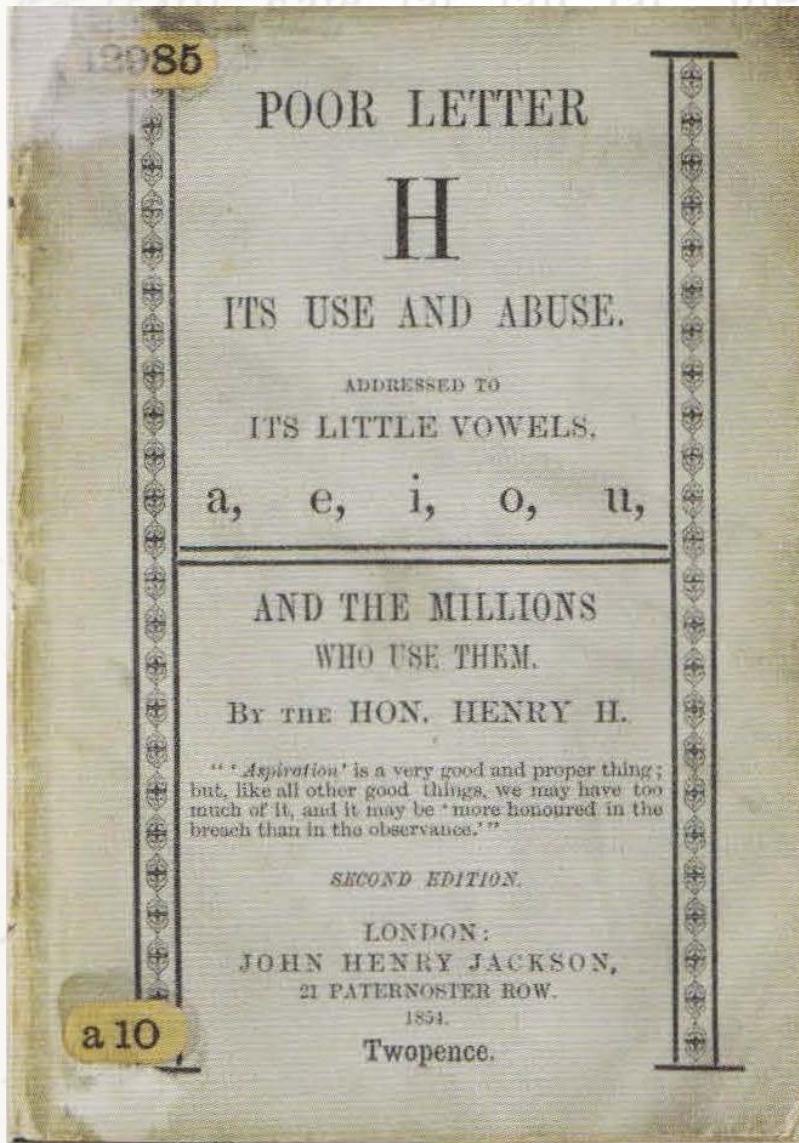
"They're hateful, and common and hateful, they are, and I'm not going any more. Mr Braithwaite drops his 'h's', an' Mr Winterbottom says 'You was'".

Examples of hypercorrection can be found for example in George Bernard Shaw's *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* (1899):

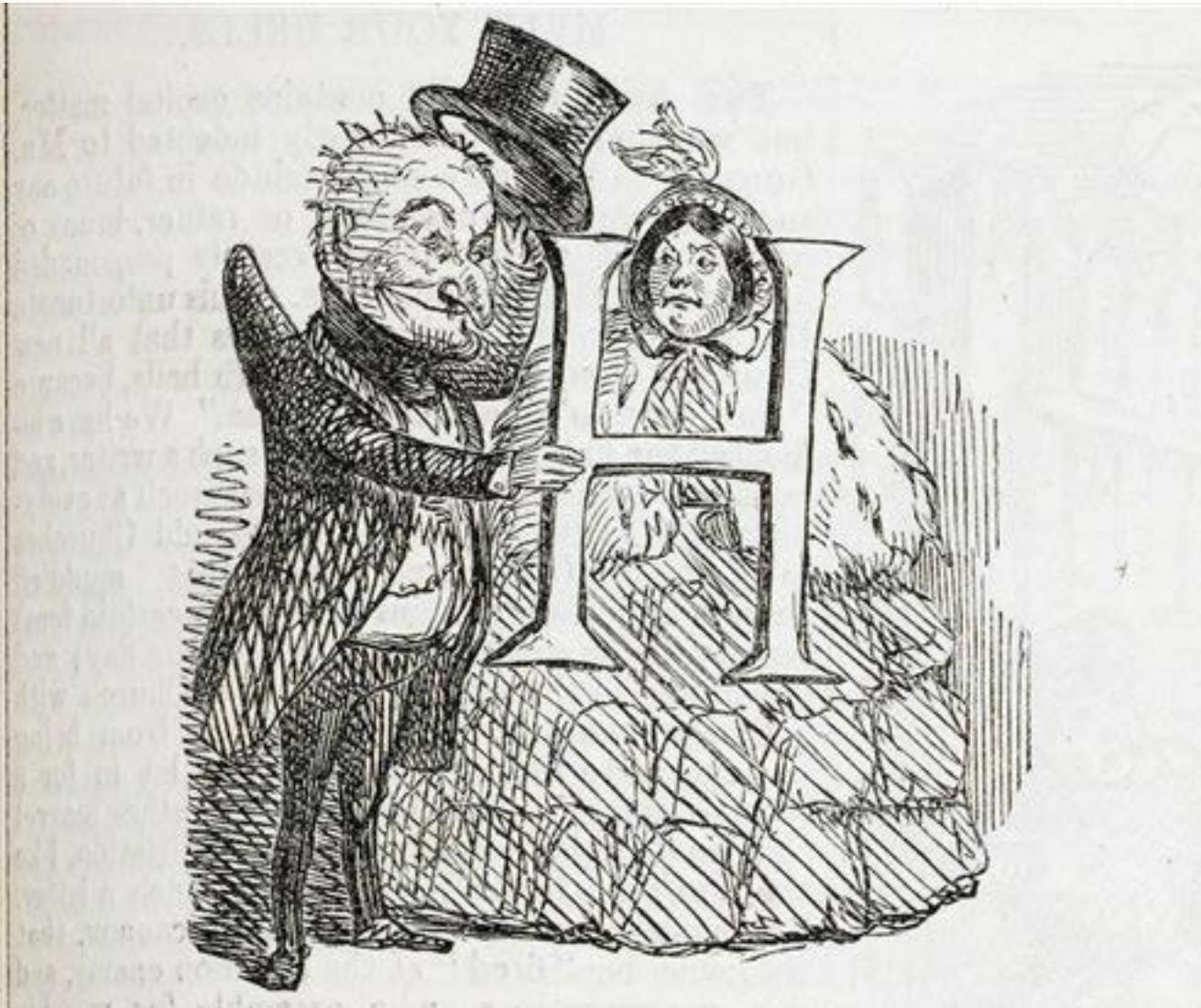
"Weoll, waw not? Waw not, gavner? Ahrs is a Free Tride nition. It grows agin us as Hinglishmen to see these bloomin furriners settin ap their Castoms Ahses and spheres o hinfluence and sich lawk hall owver Arfricar. Daownt Harfricar belong as much to huz as to them? thets wot we sy. Ennywys, there ynt naow awm in ahr business. All we daz is hescort, tourist, hor commercial. Cook's hexcursions to the Hatlas Mahntns: thets hall it is. Waw, its spreadin civlawzytion, it is. Ynt it nah?"

# POOR LETTER H

(see also <http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item126789.html>)



The British accent known as 'Received Pronunciation' (RP) emerged towards the end of the eighteenth century as the accent of the educated and aristocratic classes. It was an accent of social advancement for the newly emerging middle class, and thousands of people attended elocution classes and read manuals such as Sheridan's in order to improve their speech. Publishers were quick to see the demand, and many pamphlets and books, such as *Poor Letter H*, were produced to help those who found the acquisition of a new accent confusing. The object was to ensure a safe distance from the pronunciation of Cockney speakers, who dropped their 'h's in such words as house and inserted them in such words as arm.



"I BEG YOUR PARDON, Ma'am, BUT I THINK YOU DROPPED THIS?"

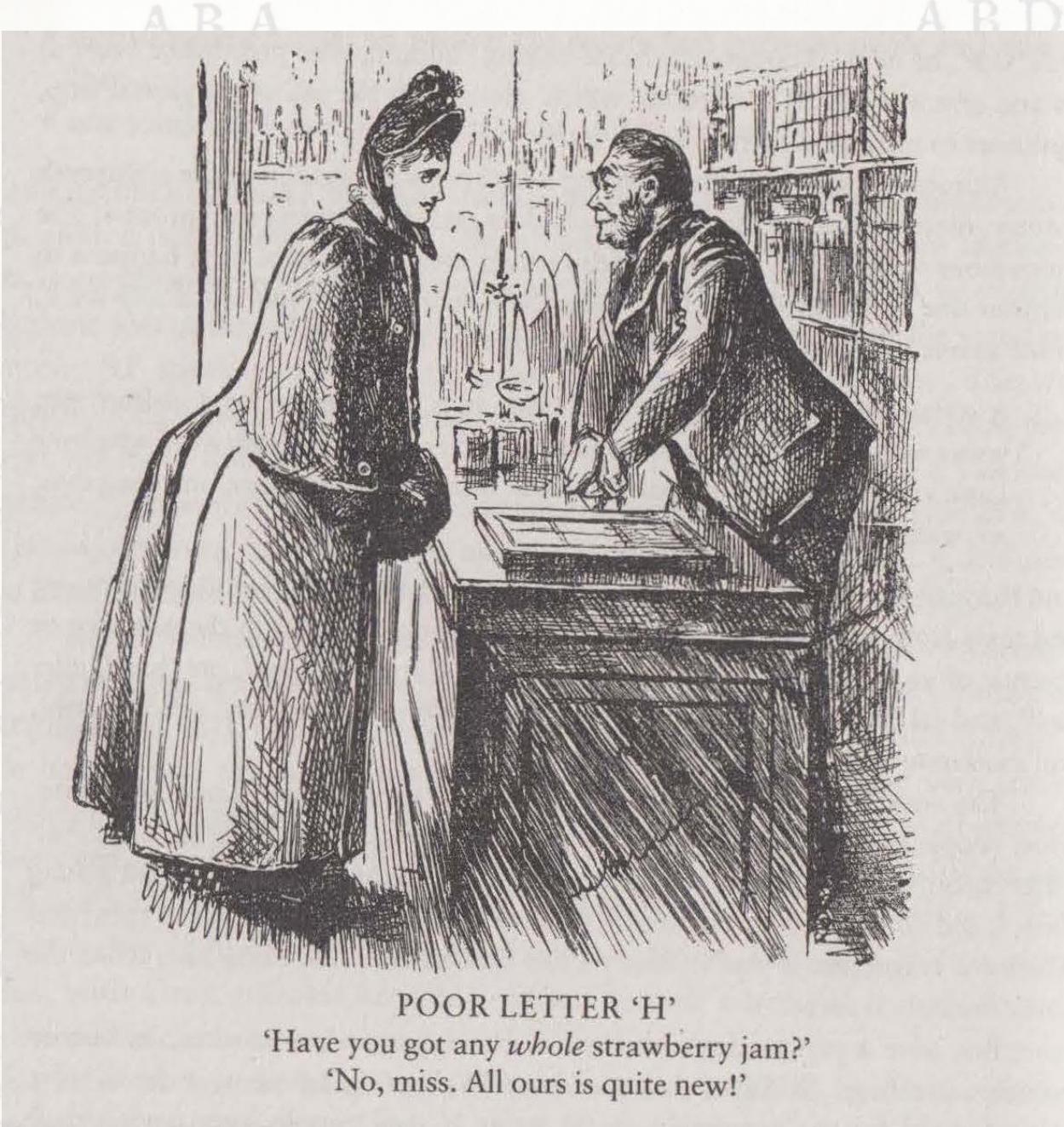
**ABANDON**  
Given up, left, or given up to a lower degree.

**ABANDONMENT**, *ə-ban'don-mēnt*. n.  
The act of abandoning.

**ABANDONMENT** *ə-ban'don-mēnt*. n.  
The act of abandoning.

**To ABDICATE**, *ab'dē-kāt*, v. a.  
To give up right, to resign.

However, as the Punch cartoons suggest, this was not always easy....





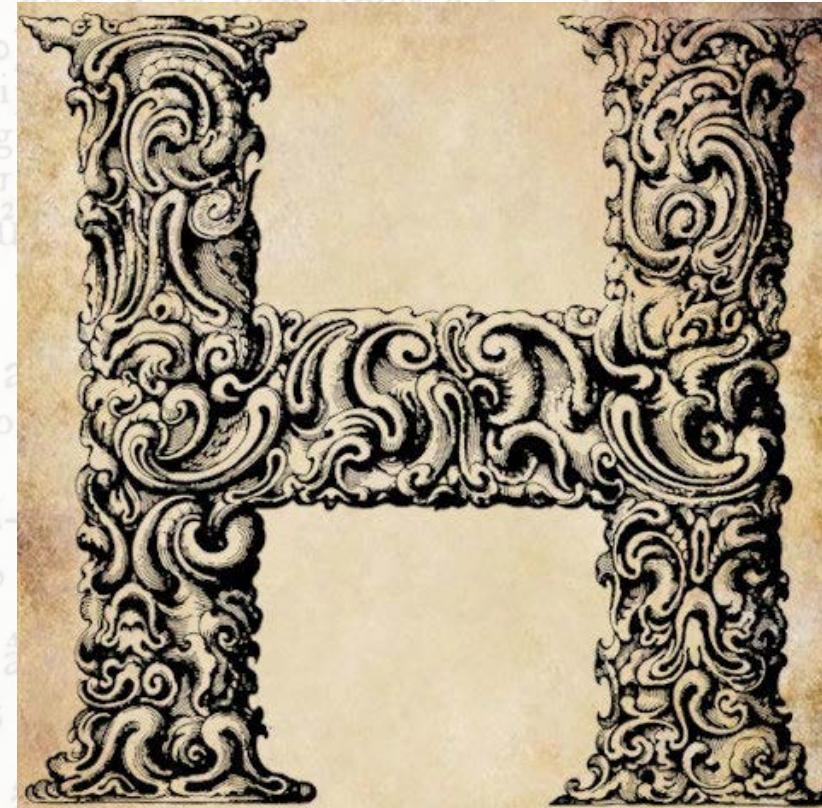
## ALARMING!

Hairdresser. "THEY SAY, SIR, THE CHOLERA'S IN THE HAIR, SIR!"

Gent., very uneasy. "INDEED! AHEM! THEN I HOPE YOU'RE VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT THE BRUSHES YOU USE."

Hairdresser. "OH! I SEE YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME, SIR. I DON'T MEAN THE 'AIR OF THE 'ED, BUT THE HAIR OF THE HATOMSPHERE!"

The list of exceptions given by Henry H shows why. Several of the supposed exceptions were undergoing change and it was not to be long before *humble*, *humour*, *humidity* and *hospital* became the RP norm. *Herb* also changed in pronunciation and today it is treated differently between Britain (which sounds the 'h') and the USA (which does not).



## TO THE MILLION.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I HAVE done just as my little brothers wished, and have got a printer to put down on paper the very few words in which letter H stands before his brothers, but does not wish to be mentioned or noticed, except in spelling, and in writing:—here they are, *for the use of the millions who use them*:—If my good friends, *the Million*, would try to remember *these*, and speak out every H in all other words *but these*, a great many of our readers and speakers, and I think some of our preachers too, would cut a far better figure in public and in society than they now do.

I have taken the following words from

a book which speaks very authoritatively about the way in which all our family and their connexions are to be treated. It says, H IS ALWAYS TO BE SOUNDED AT THE BEGINNING OF WORDS, except in the following, and all the words that are produced from them—

SPELLED.	PRONOUNCED.
HEIR, HEIRESS . . .	EIR, EIRESS.
HONEST, HONESTY . . .	ONEST, ONESTY.
HONOUR, HONOURABLE .	ONOUR, ONOURABLE.
HERB, HERBAGE . . .	ERB, ERBAGE.
HOSPITAL . . . . .	OSPITAL.
HOSTLER . . . . .	OSTLER.
HOUR . . . . .	OUR.
HUMOUR, HUMOUROUS .	UMOUR, UMOUBOUS.

Some folks say that *humble* and *humility* should be included in this list, and I think so too.

The act of abandoning.

Abandonment. Abandon. Abandoner. Abandoning.

To ABDICATE, ab'de-kate, v. a.  
To give up right, to resign.