

Platt, James, jun. 1882–1883. Letters from James Platt junior to Eduard Sievers.
Universitätsbibliothek Leipzig, Nachlass Eduard Sievers, NL 203/4/1/352 to 365.
Digital images and transcription (Stephen Laker, Transcriber) [Data set].

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	2
LIST OF SOURCES USED BY PLATT.....	3
LETTER 1 (13/11/1882) 203/4/1/352.....	4
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 1	13
LETTER 2 (20/11/1882) 203/4/1/353.....	16
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 2	24
LETTER 3 (25/11/1882) 203/4/1/354.....	26
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 3	30
LETTER 4 (6/12/1882) 203/4/1/355.....	31
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 4	37
LETTER 5 (18/12/1882) 203/4/1/356.....	39
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 5	45
LETTER 6 (23/12/1882) 203/4/1/357.....	47
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 6	51
LETTER 7 (28/12/1882) 203/4/1/358.....	53
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 7	55
LETTER 8 (3/1/1883) 203/4/1/359.....	56
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 8	62
LETTER 9 (10/1/1883) 203/4/1/360.....	64
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 9	68
LETTER 10 (1883) 203/4/1/361.....	69
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 10	77
LETTER 11 (17/1/1883) 203/4/1/362.....	79
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 11	81
LETTER 12 (25/1/1883) 203/4/1/363.....	82
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 12	90
LETTER 13 (29/1/1883) 203/4/1/364.....	92
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 13	94
LETTER 14 (3/2/1883) 203/4/1/365.....	95
TRANSCRIPT OF LETTER 14	99

Introduction

Images of James Platt junior's letters to Eduard Sievers are reproduced with the permission of Leipzig University Library (Creative Commons licence CC0 1.0; see <https://www.ub.uni-leipzig.de/forschungsbibliothek/open-digitization-policy>). I have transcribed the letters to allow for easier reading. Underlining is used irregularly by Platt to indicate cited wordforms from Old English (or other languages) or to emphasise particular words or thoughts of his own. Missing letters lost to a hole punch are given in square brackets in cases where they are not immediately obvious. Punctuation (e.g. commas or lack thereof) has not been altered. Letterheads with addresses are not written out in full. The transcribed sheets are numbered as according to Letter number, Sheet number, and TIFF image number received from Leipzig University Library; these appear in the transcript in square brackets in blue type (e.g. [L5/S4/034] = Letter 5, Sheet 4, TIFF 034). In some instances, the numbering of the TIFF images does not match the chronological order of the sheets of the actual letters, so I have ordered the images according to what seems to me the correct (see e.g. Letter 10). On rare occasions, some words in the letters are underlined in turquoise or grey crayon. Probably these highlights were made by either Sievers or Henry Sweet, but this cannot be determined with certainty (note that Sweet borrowed the letters from Sievers in early February 1883, see Van Baalen 2018: 304). For further discussion of these letters, see Amos van Baalen's article 'A Curious Case of Plagiarism in the Nineteenth Century: James Platt Jr and the Philological Society' in *Amsterdamse Beiträge zur älteren Germanistik* volume 78 (2018) and my article 'James Platt junior's Contributions to Old English Grammar' in *Transactions of the Philological Society* (forthcoming).

Stephen Laker
Fukuoka, 16 December 2025

List of sources used by Platt

Ancient Laws = Thorpe, Benjamin. 1840. *Ancient Laws and Institutes of England* (etc.). 2 vols. London: Record Commission.

Ælf. Gram. = Zupitza, Julius (ed.). 1880. *Ælfrics Grammatik und Glossar*. Berlin: Weidmannsche Buchhandlung.

Blick. Glosses = Blickling Glosses, in O.E.T.

B.T. = Bosworth, Joseph & T. Northcote Toller. 1898. *An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary. Based on the Manuscript Collections of the Late Joseph Bosworth*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. [NB. Only a part of Toller's revision of Bosworth's dictionary had been published at the time of Platt's letters.]

Chron. = Thorpe, Benjamin (ed.). 1861. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, According to the Several Original Authorities*. 2 vols. London: Longman.

C.D. / Cod. Dip. = Kemble, John M. 1839–1848. *Codex diplomaticus aevi saxonici*. 6 vols. London: Sumptibus Societatis.

Gram. = Sievers, Eduard. 1882. *Angelsächsische Grammatik*. Halle: Niemeyer.

Hept. = Thwaites, Edward. 1698. *Heptateuchus* (etc.). Oxford: Sheldonian.

Hom. / Ælf. Hom. = Thorpe, Benjamin (ed.). 1844. *The Homilies of the Anglo-Saxon Church. The First Part, Containing the Sermones Catholici, or Homilies of Ælfric*. London: Ælfric Society.

Kent gl. = Zupitza, Julius. 1877. Kentische Glosses des neunten Jahrhunderts. *Zeitschrift für deutsches Altertum* 21. 1–59.

Leechd. = Cockayne, T. Oswald. 1864–1866. *Leechdoms, Wortcunning, and Starcraft of Early England. Being a Collection of Documents, for the Most Part Never Before Printed, Illustrating the History of Science in this Country Before the Norman Conquest*. 3 vols. London: Longmans.

Legends of Holy Rood = Morris, Richard (ed.). 1871. *Legends of the Holy Rood, Symbols of the Passion and Cross Poems*. (Early English Text Society o.s. 46). London: Trübner.

Liber Psalmorum = Thorpe, Benjamin (ed.). 1835. *Libri Psalmorum versio antiqua Latina; cum paraphrasi Anglo-Saxonica, partim soluta oratione, partim metrice composita; nunc primum e Cod. MS. in Bibl. Regia Parisiensi adservato*. Oxford: E Typographeo Academico.

Liber Scintillarum = Platt Jr was editing this manuscript for the Early English Text Society (EETS) at the time of writing letters to Sievers, but he gave up on the task due to the affair with Sweet and Sievers. An EETS edition of the manuscript was later published by Ernest Wood Rhodes in 1889.

Narr. / Narrat. = Cockayne, T. Oswald. 1861. *Narratiunculae Anglice conscriptae. De pergamenis exscribebas notis illustrabat eruditis copiam*. London: Smith.

O.E.T. / O.E. Texts = Sweet, Henry (ed.). 1885. *The Oldest English Texts*. Early English Text Society, o.s. 83. London: Trübner. [Platt and Sievers both had access to a pre-published version of this book.]

Oros. = Bosworth, Joseph (ed. and transl.). 1858. *King Alfred's Anglo-Saxon Version of the Compendious History of the World by Orosius*. London: Longman. [Sweet's edition was published in 1883.]

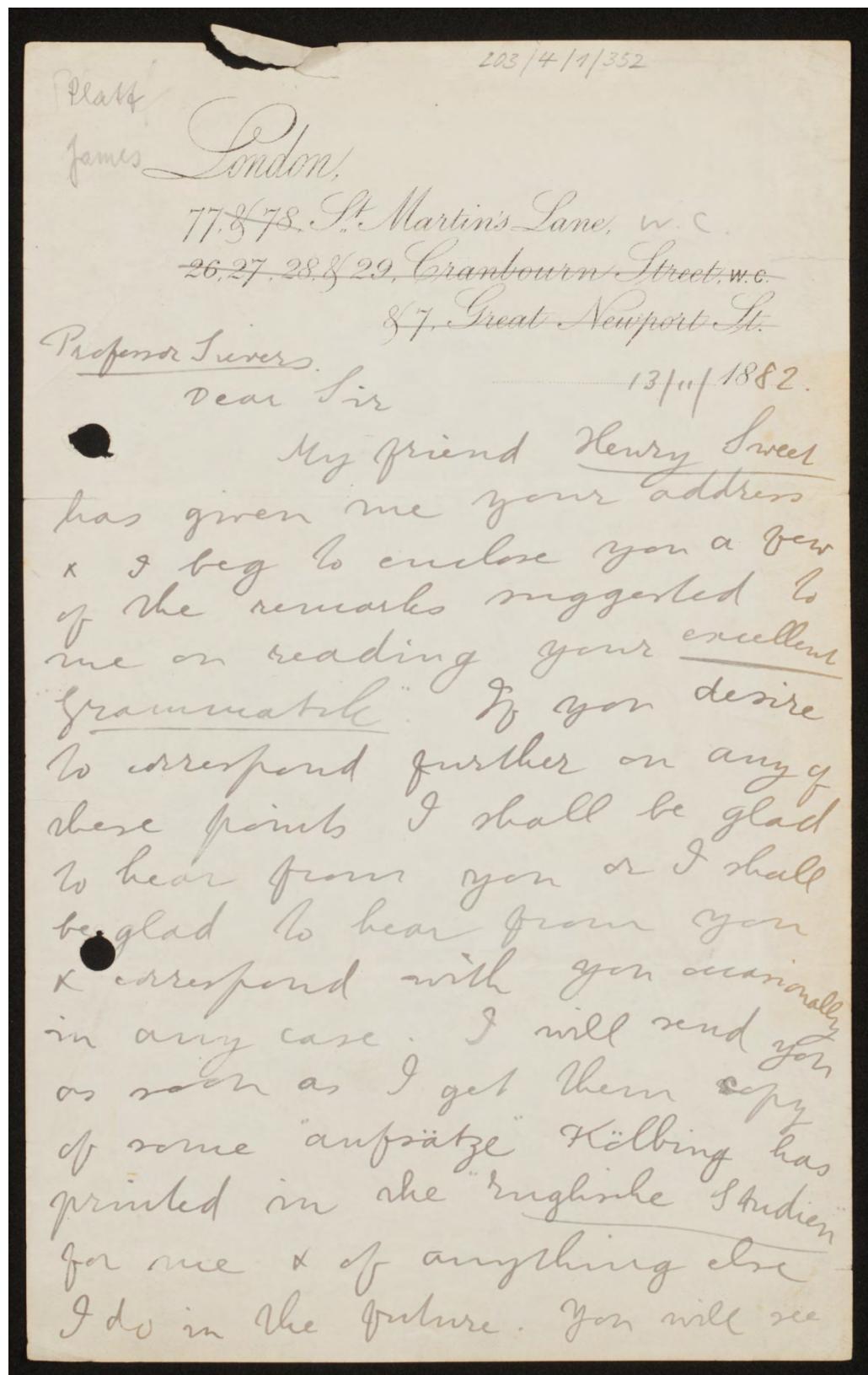
Poesie / Grein = Grein, Christian W. M. 1964. *Bibliothek der Angelsächsischen Poesie in kritisch bearbeiteten Texten und mit vollständigem Glossar*. Cassel / Göttingen: Wigand.

Shr. / Shrine = Cockayne, T. Oswald. 1864. *The Shrine: A Collection of Occasional Papers on Dry Subjects*. London: Williams and Norgate.

Wt. / Wright = Wright, Thomas (ed.). 1857. *A Volume of Vocabularies*. Privately printed.

Zeuner = Zeuner, Rudolf. 1881. *Die Sprache des kentischen Psalters*. Halle: Niemeyer.

[L1/S1/001]



from them (& from enclosed) that I study A. S. in the newest which we owe to your Germany & which is so little known here that Sweet told me I & he were the only two men who work this way in England. I am going to edit an A. S. text for the Early English Text Soc. — the "Liber Scintillorum" given me by my friend Furnivall to do & will let you know how I get on. Zupitza recommended it to me as a good text to do.

I hope to get a review of your "gram." in our "Athenaeum" but unfortunately we have so few chances of printing anything of the kind in this country.

Yours faithfully
 James Platt. jun.

Pages

203/4/7/352

20, 165 the red in Alfred is most likely short - Sweet & I have come independently to that conclusion - Alfryd occurs in the Dialogues of Gregory (MS.) cf. -brift -ferp -wald & other shortenings in names like lp to ld so pl becomes dl as in níndl for instance & Waller has still pl (see Zeuner) 82 like dæg dagas go two long roots mæg mágas (rarely mægas) & sníð (and the fem. mæd but a masc. in the charters, for example Cd. Dip. II 18) snáðas (Cd. Dip. I 261) 85 ealu is only used in nom. & acc. I have never seen gen. or dat. alðr supplies those two cases teðru is certainly a wo stem (teðwe dat. leechd. II 132) deaw is both masc. (Ælfr. gr.) & neut. (Rex)

88 ligetru ielfetu are errors of yours ligetru is neuter pl. not fem. sg. ielfetu is a late W.S. error for ielfeta (the oblique cases are in -an)

92, 93 you have added the fem. gen. ias in note but have forgotten iis ~~is~~ (päre - Mall. ^{xxii}) iis ^{pär-} (Deut. x1) chs & eowes (these two in Jane's laws)

92, 165 besides gecynd &c. gebyrd gernight gesceapf xrist & lyff are neut. as well as fem.

94 there are gen. and dat. hāda & gen. feldā in Bede also the pls. æppla hearga are n-decl. forms in the fem. nosu has gen. & dat. in -a & you have also forgotten the dat. plora (like velda vorda &c.)

* the words minute study
 gen. dat. hnyte styde
 pl. hnyte styde - durn
 also has dyre in gen. &
 dat. & cp. Sealuryda durn^{8/8}

96 rā slā are wrong rā
 stands for rāga which
 occurs in Sechd. & is
 man. The gen. is rāge
 slāge is the only form
 I know of for the other

97 the gen. of bē & is only
 rarely & incorrectly bē
 properly bēce gāle hurge &
 cp. mannes with dat. auem
 mōder with dat. auēder
 (but gen. nieder like bē
 Nam. I 66)

98 add to your list four dat.
 & pl. dyrh & also grūt

dat. grift but pl. with
added a grifta (as if
+ menn - as would be, the
pl. grift with the regular
form. pl. a added)

97 not only ēage ēare but also
wange are neut. or-dec.
alop has not only nom. & gen.
but also dat. & acc. & gen. pl.
alopa (law) in printed texts
it is neut. (Sech. II 20) not neut.

103 rūh certainly does not make
riwes regularly only riges

106 ang nd ang is the nom.
parallel to enge like Wang
~~as strange~~

the apparent cases of ange
in frein are adverb the
use of adverb in the phrase
him wæs - on his aude &
being an idiom common in st.

109 like h̄xdr̄ to h̄addr̄³⁶²

I take séfre to be from
ápor

118 you have forgotten the
vern. gen. & dat. gehw̄ere

(see Grein for examples)
beside gehw̄es

also you must add the
compounds lóchwá lóchwil
lóchweper &c.

131 séon makes + ráli + siwon
siwen (golh. + sailhw ~~lóchwil~~
+ sailhwum + sailhwans) cp.

● séon ráli sawon sewen
asiwen Seechd. II 124

bisón = bisiwen as glos
= gliw cp. also siwen-ige

133 you omit the sg. verbs
cedran^(a) cweðran^(a) cwincan^(a)

georran in your list
of this class

152 there is a real West Saxon
mutilated ~~conf.~~ of dōn
dē in Diplom. 131 x Leech.

III 38

166 here & elsewhere you make
prefix a- long —
but A.S. á is orig. ai
(except in áw) — then
again the orig. low German
á for ar is preserved
in A.S. before nouns &
adj. where it was accented
as é dialectal é that
is the correct A.S. representative
of original á

ērist (dial. erist) x arisan
are just like bigeng x began
x the modern English
preserves the quantity of
both in pairs like

• ealum (sicumba) arise
byway become -
then again ar-xfrnan
where A. S. preserved the r
before the vowel was often
incorrectly analysed by the
"volksetymologie" as a-xfrnan
x a xfrnan derived from it
besides xfrnan - this
could not have been done
if a had been long.
I have explained this to
Sweet & he agrees with me.

([L1/S10/010], probably the back of Sheet 9, is blank and not reproduced here.)

Transcript of Letter 1

[L1/S1/001]

[LETTERHEAD]

13/11/1882

Professor Sievers.

Dear Sir

My friend Henry Sweet has given me your address & I beg to enclose you a few of the remarks suggested to me on reading your excellent “Grammatik”. If you desire to correspond further on any of these points I shall be glad to hear from you or I shall be glad to hear from you & correspond with you occasionally in any case. I will send you copy [the position of word ‘copy’ is unclear, SL] as soon as I get them of some “aufsätze” Kölbing has printed in the “Englische Studien” for me & of anything else I do in the future. You will see

[L1/S2/002]

from them (& from enclosed) that I study A.S. in the newest school which we owe to your Germany & which is so little known here that Sweet told me I & he were the only two men who work this way in England.

I am going to edit an A.S. text for the Early English Text Soc. — the “Liber Scintillarum” — given me by my friend Furnivall to do & will let you know how I get on. Zupitza recommended it to me as a good text to do.

I hope to get a review of your “Gram.” in our “Aethenaeum”, but unfortunately we have so few chances of printing anything of the kind in this country.

Yours faithfully

James Platt, jun.

[L1/S3/003]

Pages

20, 165

the red in *Ælfred* is most likely short — Sweet & I have come independently to that conclusion — *Ælfryd* occurs in the Dialogues of Gregory (MS.) cp. -briht, -ferþ -wold & other shortenings in names 66

Like lþ to ld so þl becomes dl as in nædl for instance Psalter has still þl (see Zeuner)

82

like dæg dagas go two long roots mæg mágas (rarely mægas) & snáed (not the fem. snáed but a masc. in the charters for example Cod. Dip. III 18) snádas (Cod. Dip. I 261)

85

ealu is only used in nom. & acc. I have never seen gen. or dat. alop supplies these two cases

teoru is certainly a wo stem (teorwe dat. Leechd. II 132)

déaw is both masc. (*Ælf.* Gr.) & neut. / (*Hept.*)

[Some words/characters at the bottom right of the page are cut off and thus illegible in the image, SL]

[L1/S4/004]

88

lígetu ielfetu are errors of yours lígetu is neuter pl. not fem. sg. ielfetu is a late W.S. error for ielfete (the oblique cases are in -an)

92, 93

you have added the fem. gen. éas in note but have forgotten ás sás (þáre - Matt. xxii) sás (þáre Deut. xi) cús & eowes (these two in Ines laws)

92, 165

besides gecynd &c. gebyrd genyht gesceaft ærlist & lyft are neut. as well as fem.

94

there are gen. and dat. háda & gen. felda in Bede also the pls. æppla hearga are u- decl. forms in the fem. nosu has gen. & dat. in -a & you have also forgotten the dat. flóra (like felda forda &c.)

[L1/S5/005]

& the words hnudu studu gen. dat. hnyte styde pl. hnyte styde – duru also has dyre in gen. & dat. & cp. Sealwyrda Chron. 878

96

rá slá are wrong rá stands for rága which occurs in Leechd. & is masc. the fem. is ráge sláge is the only form I know of for the other

97

the gen. of bóc &c. is only rarely & incorrectly béc properly bóce góte burge &c. cp. mannes with dat. menn móðor with dat. méder (but gen. méder like béc Hom. I 66)

98

add to your list furh dat. & pl. fyrch & also grút

[L1/S6/006]

dat. grýt but pl. with added a grýta (as if ⁺menn – as would be, the pl. grýt with the regular fem. pl. a added)

97

not only éage éare but also wange are neuts. n-decl. aloþ has not only nom. & gen. but also dat. & acc. & gen. pl. aloþa (Laws) in printed texts it is neut. (Leech. III 20) not masc.

103

rúh certainly does not make rúwes regularly only rúges

106

aug not auge is the nom. parallel to enge like str[o]ng to strenge

the apparent cases of auge in Grein are adverbs the use of adverbs in the phrase him wæs - on his móde &c. being an idiom common in A.S.

[L1/S7/007]

109

like hædre to háðor I take áfre to be from áfor

118

you have forgotten the fem. gen. & dat. gehwáre (see Grein for examples) beside gehwæs also you must add the compounds lóchwá lóchwilc lóchwæþer &c.

131

réon makes ⁺sáh ⁺siwon siwen (Goth. ⁺saihw sihwum ⁺saihwum ⁺saihwans) cp. réon séah sáwon sewen asiwen Leechd. II 124 biséon = bisiwen as gléo = gliw cp. also siwen-íge

133

you omit the stg. verbs ceorran (a) cweorran (a) cwincan

[L1/S8/008]

georran in your list of this class

152

there is a real West Sax. mutated conj. cf. dón dé in Diplom. 131 & Leech. III 38

166

here & elsewhere you make prefix a- long – but A.S. á is orig. ai (except in áw) – then again the orig. Low German á for ar is preserved in A.S. before nouns & adj. where it was accented as æ dialectal é that is the correct A.S. representative of original á

[L1/S9/009]

ærīst (dial. érist) & arisan are just like bígeng & begán & the modern English preserves the quantity of both in pairs like

oakum (æcumba)arise

byway become –

then again ar-aefnan where A.S. preserved the r before the vowel was often incorrectly analysed by the “volksetymologie” as a-ræfnan & a ræfnan derived from it besides æfnan – this could not have been done if a- had been long. I have explained this to Sweet & he agrees with me.

[L1/S10/010 is a blank sheet]

203/4/1/353

London,

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

Prof. R. Sievers. 20/11/1882.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you
for your kind & instructive
letter & make a few other
remarks that may be of use
to you.

Strong verb.

you have cídan in Gram. but
I only know it as weak pr. cíde.
you have cnídan with ? against
it but the gr. pl. cnídum Math.
21.35 seems to place it beyond
doubt.

Your letter gives medcan with ?

probably because you only know the nicip you mention as proof of its being strong. I therefore direct your attention to the Pr. meadc Shrine 61.

You should write hwésan (not hwesran) from the 3d. pers. sg. hwest Sech. III 122 cp. also hwósta. wépan is the same class - each -jan verbs - hwósan twipjan.

hwinan is a probable strong verb you have forgotten - also what is scrwen in the poetry?

A dear strong verb you used to notice is stenan present tense in liber Psalmorum (Thop) p. 90 prst. asten for astan (like stel from stelan) Sweet's of T. page 122 (Blickl. Glories).

The rán you speak of from
ríman = rígnan is very interesting.
 Can you give me the reference
 where you found it?

I have observed several differences in
 the E. & late A.S. especially in
 genders i. e. when a noun has
 2 or 3 genders I find they did
 not exist at the same time but
 were different in early & late A.S.

Thus the dic you mention is M
 in early, & only in late A.S.
aucr is early, ancra late.

elpend ielpend early, ielp late.

I explain this thus - elpend occurred
 mostly in elpend(bán). The
 "volksetymologie" took elpend
 as gyld-en &c. & divided it
elp-en-bán. Hence the new noun
ielp gfp.

The rule might be that sem. wá

stems retain the -n after shorts as in sionu not after longs as in this mid which is the correct nom. Alf. gr. 313. In the oblique case there is a fluctuation between w forms & others without w formed direct from the nom. Thus (all from cod. Dip. III)

on mid 194

on midwa 52, 405

on mide 416

Fare midwan 36, 165

mide gen. 53

pa mide 53

The a in mida (O.E.T.) midwa (above) is puzzling. Is Fare midwan a later -an for old -a as sometimes happens (duran for dura)? Or has mida midwa lost -n?

calu.

I am sure the I stem is the explanation of this. In fact I ought to have been fuller in my first letter but had written

203/4/1/353

London,

77. & 78. St. Martin's Lane.

26, 27, 28. & 29. Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87. Great Newport St.

20/1/1882.

about the word with full references
 in my paper which will appear
 in the next "Englische Studien"
 and of which I meant to (x will)
 send you a copy. You are wrong
 in speaking of the "nom." ~~& calop~~
 in your Gram. and it was
 a slip of mine to refer you to
 Tech. III 20 for the acc. as that
 is a dat. The truth is that
calop does not occur in nom.
 an. sing. or more correctly
calu is the nom. acc. sing. of
calop gen. dat. Referring you
 to my paper for full details

I give here only one reference (Sech. II 268) ~~to show~~ which is good as showing at once gender ~~declension~~ of ealu. It is

"Do healpne bollan ealu
to & gehste to ealu".

The olut in Thomsen had escaped my notice & I had also forgotten O. N. lpr which cannot be the oldest Scandinavian, as the olut shows.

Along with ealu I have mentioned in my paper that hale seems to be a similar l stem. Hale as you will see in Grein is purely a singular. (The "pl." Biowulf he gives is a singular). Halep would be the correct plur. of hale & halep in the sing. is a later mistake.

Another discovery proved
in the same paper is that
lēo both m. & F. inarts in
in the dat. sing. & pl. (but
not in the other cases) regularly
means lēonan pl. lēonum,
or when weak ded. (as sometimes
happens) lēone, pl. lēonum,
(lēonan sq. Glos. Frag. 110 lēone A.G. 309).

rihte
so you have it (doubtless after
Soth. rihtwō) p. 62. It is
marc. in A.S. (pām rihtan
A.G. Dan. 74).

háp

"F." p. 89. I know it only
as marc. C.D. III 264 & neat.
C.D. IV 392. I don't think it

occurs as q. at all. The cognates are no guide for A.S. genders in many cases.

angl.

You are right. The "angere" in the is doubtless angere = angere & the only other case I know of may be explained the same way; it is angene in the following somewhat obscure (& very late) passage (Shrine, "Blom").

"Onfah me nu firne
angene peawa."

Hoping to hear from
you again

Yours truly

James Hall Jr.

Transcript of Letter 2

[L2/S1/011]

[LETTERHEAD]

20/11/1882

Prof. E. Sievers.

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your kind & instructive letter & make a few other remarks that may be of use to you.

Strong verbs.

You have cídan in Gram. but I only know it as a weak pr. cídde. You have cnídan with ? against it but the pr. pl. cnidun Matt. 21-35 seems to place it beyond doubt.

Your letter gives meolcan with ?

[L2/S2/012]

probably because you only know the milcib you mention as proof of its being strong. I therefore direct your attention to the pr. mealc Shrine 61.

You should write hwésan (not hwásan) from the 3d. pers. sg. hwést Leech. III 122 cp. also hwosta. wéban is the same class – both -jan verbs – ⁺hwésjan ⁺wóbjan.

Hwínan is a probable strong verb you have forgotten – also what is scerwen in the poetry?

A clear strong verb you omit to notice is stenan present tense in Liber Psalmorum (Thorpe) p 90 praet. asten for astæn (like stæl from stelan) Sweet's O.E.T. page 122 (Blickl. Glosses).

[L2/S3/013]

The rán you speak of from rínan = rignan is very interesting. Can you give me the reference where you found it?

I have observed several differences in the E. & Late A.S. especially in genders i.e. when a noun has 2 or 3 genders I find they did not exist at the same time but were different in early & late A.S.

Thus the díc you mention is M in early, F only in late A.S.

Ancor is early, ancra late. Elpend ielpend early, ielp late. (I explain this thus – elpend occurred mostly in elpen(d)bán. The “volksetymologie” took elpen(d) as gyld-en &c. & divided it elb-enbán. Hence the new noun ielp ylp.

mæd.

The rule might be that fem. wá

[L2/S4/014]

stems retain the -u after shorts as in sionu not after longs as in this máed which is the correct nom.

Ælf.Gr. 313. In the oblique cases there is a fluctuation between w forms & others without w formed direct from the nom. Thus (all from Cod. Dip. III)

on mæd 194

on medwa 52, 405

on mæde 416

ðære mædwan 36, 165

mæde gen. 53

ba mæde 53

The a in méda (O.E.T.) médwa (above) is puzzling. Is ðære mædwan a later -an for old -a as sometimes happens (duran for dura)? Or has méda médwa lost -n?

ealu.

I am sure the t stem is the explanation of this. In fact I ought to have been fuller in my first letter but had written

[L2/S5/015]

[LETTERHEAD]

20/11/1882

about the word with full references in my paper which will appear in the next "Englische Studien" and of which I meant to (& will) send you a copy. You are wrong in speaking of the "nom." of ealob in your Gram. and it was a slip of mine to refer you to Leech. III 20 for the acc. as that is a dat. The truth is that ealob does not occur in nom. acc. sing. or more correctly ealu is the nom. acc. sing of ealob gen. dat. Referring you to my paper for full details

[L2/S6/016]

I give here only one reference (Leech. II 268) ~~to show~~ which is good as showing at once gender & declension of ealu. It is

"Do healfne bollan ealoð to & geháete þ ealu."

The olut in Thomsen had escaped my notice & I had also forgotten O.N. olþr which cannot be the oldest Scandinavian, as the olut shows.

Along with ealu I have mentioned in my paper that hæle seems to be a similar t stem. Hæle as you will see in Grein is purely a singular. (The "pl." in Béowulf he gives is a singular). Hæleþ would be the correct plur. of hæle & hæleþ in the sing. is a later mistake.

[L2/S7/017]

Another discovery proved in the same paper is that léo both M & F inserts n in the dat. sing & pl. (but not in the other cases) regularly thus léonan, pl. léonum, or when weak decl. (as sometimes happens) léone pl. léonum, (léonan sg. Glos. Frag. 110 léone AElf.Gr. 309)

úhte

so you have it (doubtless after Goth. úhtwó) p. 62. It is masc. in A.S. (þám úhtan AElf. Hom. 74).

hæb

"f." p. 89. I know it only as masc. C.O. III 264 & neut. C.O. III 392. I don't think it

[L2/S8/018]

ange.

You are right. The "augere" in Lye is doubtless ængere = engere & the only other case I know of may be explained the same way; it is angene in the following somewhat obscure (& very late) passage (Shrine, "Blooms").

"onfoh mie nu þinne angene beawa."

Hoping to hear from you again.

Yours truly

James Platt jun.

[L3/S1/019]

203/4/1/354

London,

77. & 78. St. Martin's Lane,
26, 27, 28. & 29. Cranbourn Street, W.C.
87. Great Newport St.

Dear Prof. Sievers 25/11/1882.

I take the liberty of making a few more remarks in the hope of being useful to you.

As you have not got the "Shrine" I give full quotation for mealc p. 61 line 19.

"Corn farsc & windwode & ewa mealc & fa cealpas to cumm lxdde."

It is trans. with accus. ewa.

You have no good quotation for cinen either it would seem from your last letter. There is h'cinen Non. I 336. 9.

The place in Liber Psalmorum where stenan is present is this (p. 90 Ps. 37.8) ic grymetige & stenie. We might imagine stenan instead of ⁺stinan & ashan instead of ⁺aston & ~~is~~ being from the analogy of the other verbs of the class. So for instance cawan makes part. cawan & not cawan as ⁺kuggwans would lawfully require. Analogy is a great factor in language.

Other, ^{certain & probable} strings I do not see in your lists are

= slincan (gr. pl. sluncon Narr. 14)

slingan? Scrädringa 20

clifan? C.P. 360

oringan.

clifan? græm glossary to Poesie.

P. 166 you put down scitan (cacare) as certain (that is without any ?). Do you have a

reference to prove this I should like to know it as I do not find the verb at all & only know the nouns scitta? sittu? scitl in the Seedhous from this root.

As to hale I have just learnt that the same idea occurred to Paul also.

Referring to changes of gender the case of the 2 neuter pls. lác & wic becoming fem. sg. (lác Hlom. I 402 wic Hlom. I 584) is interesting. (An old example is bác). The pa lác must have brought it about.

Another point you may not have noticed is the reduction of tán to ta (v. weak) just as glán became glá. Ta occurs Hlom. I 246 II 254.

Finally I think you would like
to hear of a discovery of mine
— the fem. "mowering" -icge
(Dutch *egge* in diefegge, female ship.)

I have drycige (from dry) *Shrine* 56
huncicge (from hunta) *Narr.* 38
what from? scericge (explains nimra) *Shr.* 140
byrdicige (gloves plumaria) *W.T.* 282

a lastly Sweet points out to me
walcrigge O.E.T. 62 as a
corruption of wselcyrge through
analogy of this -icge. Have
you observed the ending & have
you any further examples?

I see barriige O.E.T. 45
carrige O.E.T. 97 also but they
may not belong here. I cannot
make out the Latin & have not
seen Sweet since I observed them
to ask him.

Yours truly
James Hall Jr.

Transcript of Letter 3

[L3/S1/019]

[LETTERHEAD]

25/11/1882

Dear Prof. Sievers

I take the liberty of making a few more remarks in the hope of being useful to you.

As you have not got the "Shrine" I give you full quotation for mealc p. 61 line 19.

"Com ðærsc & þ windwode & ewa mealc & ða cealfas to cuum lædde."

It is trans. with accus. ewa. You have no good quotation for cínan either it would seem from your last letter. There is tó cinen Hom. I 336.9.

[L3/S2/020]

The place in the Liber Psalmorum where stenan is present is this (p. 90 Ps. 37.8) ic grymetige & stene. We might imagine stenan instead of ⁺stinan & astan instead of ⁺aston for being from the analogy of the other verbs of the class. So for instance céowan makes part. cowen & not cúwen as ⁺kuggwans would lawfully require. Analogy is a great factor in language.

Other certain & probable strongs I do not see in your lists are

slincan (pr. pl. scluncon Narr. 14)

slingan ? Scréadunga 20

clifan? C.P. 360

bringan

slíþan ? Grein glossary to Poesie.

P. 166 you put down scítan (cacare) as certain (that is without any ?). If you have a

[L3/S3/021]

reference to prove this I should like to know it as I do not find the verb at all & only know the nouns scitta? scitte? scitel in Leechdoms from this root.

A[s] to hæle I have just learnt that the same idea occurred to Paul also.

Referring to changes of gender the case of the 2 neuter pls. lác & wíc becoming fem. sgs. (lác Hom. I 402 wíc Hom. I 584) is interesting. (An old example is bóc). The þa lác must have brought it about.

Another point you may not have noticed is the reduction of tán to tá (v. weak) just as flán became flá. Tá occurs Hom. I 246 II 254.

[L3/S4/022]

Finally I think you would like to hear of a discovery of mine – the fem. "movierung" -icge (Dutch -egge in diefegge, female thief).

I have drýicge (from drý) Shrine 56

 hunticge (from huntan) Narr. 38

what from? scericge (explains mima) Shr. 140

 byrdicge (glosses plumaria) Wt. 282

& lastly Sweet points out to me walcrigge O.E.T. 62 as a corruption of wælcyrge through analogy of this -cge. Have you observed the ending & have you any further examples? I see barricge O.E.T. 45 [&] cearricge O.E.T. 97 also but they may not belong here. I cannot make out the Latin & have not seen Sweet since I observed them to ask him.

Yours truly

James Platt jun

[L4/S1/023]

203/4/1/355

London,

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

Professor Rivers. 67. of 1882.

Dear Sir

I have made an interesting discovery which I thought you would like to hear — the addition of 4 new nouns to the gen. cons. or "boc" declension, all place-names, viz. Cent
I Tonet Wilt. I have sent a paper to Wülcher with full quotations for each word showing the genitives end in e (de Wilt) dat.

of Cent on Cent To Cent on
pam éalonde on Tenet pam
éalonde on Wilh pam éalonde
ad. Cent & Tenet Wilh.

These words I find all
 feminine except Tenet which
 I have no quotation for showing
 gender yet it must have
 been like the rest. Breton
Lunden & Lindess (the country
 of the Lindesware) I also find
 as fem. In Cd. Dp. I also
 find the^a word for "Mercia"
 and as fem. sing. "cabre
Mierce" although usually
 the pl. name of the people is
 used.

Have you made any

observations on this interesting subject of place names? I suppose they were not all gen. Angel was probably masc. as Bede latinises it as Angulus. Normandia is neut. in chron. but then that is late.

Another point is personal names. I find that gen. in burg make dat. acc. burge (or byrig burg). Hence I suppose masc. in man (like Cadmon Sudeman Norman) made dat. manne instead of men. but I have no quotations.

Wülder tells me we shall now soon have the second part of the "Poesie" and he will give a list of the Ms. accents in it. It was a great mistake to leave them out as he notifies other very minute points.

What signs do you use for correcting printers' proofs? The English you doubtless know use I (originally d for Latin dele) on the margin to show a ~~letter~~ lined through in the text (~~this text~~) is to be omitted or a ~~letter~~ word (~~this text~~). Additions are placed over a sloping line and the caret placed in the text to show

203/4/7/355

London,

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

6/12/1882.

where they come in this

of

set

so also stops , / ; / / but the period usually) and the inverted commas " " instead of ' ' and " " / and the hyphen or dash - / instead of - / . Italics are indicated by underlining, small capitals by two lines, capitals by three.

If you do not know these things they will be interesting

To you & perhaps you can
tell me the German equivalent.

Yours truly
James Platt Jr.

([L4/S7/029] and [L4/S8/030] are blank, so not reproduced here.)

Transcript of Letter 4

[L4/S1/023]

[LETTERHEAD]

6/12/1882

Professor Sievers.

Dear Sir

I have made an interesting discovery which I thought you would like to hear – the addition of 4 new nouns to the fem. cons. or “bóc” declension, all place-names, viz. Cent I' Tenet Wiht. I have sent a paper to Wülcker with full quotations for each word showing the genitives end in e (I'e Wihte) dat.

[L4/S2/024]

of Cent on Cent to Cent on I' þám éalonde on Tenet þám éalonde on Wiht þám éalonde acc. Cent I' Tenet Wiht.

These words I find all feminine except Tenet which I have no quotation for showing gender yet it must have been like the rest. Breten Lunden & Lindess (the country of the Lindesware) I also find as fem. In Cod. Dip. I also find the a word for “Mercia” used as fem. sing. “ealre Mierce” although usually the pl. name of the people is used.

Have you made any

[L4/S3/025]

observations on this interesting subject of place names? I suppose they were not all fem. Angel was probably masc. as Bede latinises it as Angulus. Normandig is neut. in Chron. but then that is late.

Another point is personal names. I find that fems. in burg make dat. acc. burge ([no]t byrig burg).

Hence I suppose masc. in man (like Cædmon Sudeman Norþman) made dat. manne instead of men but I have no quotations.

[L4/S4/026]

Wülcker tells me we shall now soon have the second part of the “Poesie” and he will give a list of the MS. accents in it. It was a great mistake to leave them out as he notifies other very minute points. What signs do you use for correcting printers’ proofs? The English you doubtless know use [DELE SYMBOL] (originally d for Latin dele) on the margin to show a word letter lined through in the text (thus [THE WORD TEXT WITH A LINE THROUGH IT]) is to be omitted or a letter word (thus [THE WORD TEXT WITH A LINE THROUGH IT]). Additions are placed over a sloping line and the caret placed in the text to show

[L4/S5/027]

[LETTERHEAD]

6/12/1882

where they come in thus

x/ te-t

so also stops , /; / : but the period usually [DOT WITH A CIRCLE AROUND IT] and the inverted commas “ ” instead of ‘ ’ and “ ”/ and hyphen or dash -/- instead of -/. Italics are indicated by underlining, small capitals by two lines, capitals by three. If you do not know these things they will be interesting

[L4/S6/028]

to you & perhaps you can tell me the German equivalents.

Yours truly
James Platt jun.
[L4/S7/029 and L4/S8/030 are blank]

[L5/S1/031]

203/4/1/356

London,
77. & 78. St. Martin's Lane,
26, 27, 28. & 29. Cranbourn Street, W.C.
87. Great Newport St.

187. 12. 1882.

Professor Rivers.

Dear Sir

Thanks for your letter.
In reply to your question I have
no quotations for brang.

For your new "gram"
you should add I think great
to the adj. like strang with
mutate compar. & superl. greatestra
is found Narrat. 14 & I have
never seen any greatestra or greateststa.
Do you know any other adj.
of this kind since the "gram"?

I was right about dem.
wá stems dropping -w- in nom.
& therefore often in oblique cases
side by side with -w- forms.

L's (nom. l's Cad. Dip. 5 319) goes

just like mid gen. leswe & læse?

I have now I think
learnt up the hyrnetu elfetur
mystery. There are 3 nouns which
always have nom. -u zafu
spadu proto & always -an
in oblique cases - at least I know
no other forms. hyrnetu elfetur
I also find with nom. -u
(except the late -e nouns. in
A. S. Gram. p. 307) and oblique
cases -an. (elftesang in the
Poetry I explain as a comp. word).
I take these 5 words as instances
of vern. N-stems in -ō like
the Gothic -ō & O.N. -a which
clearly come from -ō whereas
A. S. -e O.N.F. O.S. -a cannot
be -ō but only -ē (see ibid.
Möller in "Beiträge" vor further
on this point but he did not
know of the occurrence of -ō in A.S.).

2. The only diff. between A.S. & Goth. O.N. is that A.S. has the correct -u for -ō while Goth. & O.N. have (not g. -a O.N. -u as would be correct ~~if~~ but) -ō -a from -ō + consonant therefore taken from oblique cases.

Another discovery I have just made is a real A.S. dual. Kluge's nose duru are used as sg. his breost might from the form as well be pl. but my word is a clear dual.

It is sculdrum (never sculdras) pl. of sculdror masc. (see auch. II 198).

I am also now clear about vetian which used to puzzle me; feccan is the same word but fecc only occurs where veti occurs, hence not in 2.3 pers. sg. which are always vetast vetap & not in imp. which is vetia. I take

fecc (which occurs chiefly in late A.S.) to be phonetic for the slurred pronunciation of ty in beti as ch cp. orceard for ortgears (that is ordh for orty) x English chensday for Tyusday (Tuesday). The verb seems one of the 3rd class Goth. -an a.x.g. -en like hygan hagde so fetian fette. We should expect fettan fette but analogy has been at work. Fetian owes the i to betast sc. like volgian after volgast &c.

Do you know any nouns that change gender in gl. besides the clear cases of ést v. éstas m.
 * fenn m. fennas m. (no esta éste or ^{gl.} fenni * no ést m. or fenn m.). Segl late has m. sg. & n. gl. (Elf. Gram. p. 86) but early is both genders in each number.

203/4/9/356

London,

77. & 78. St. Martin's Lane.

26, 27, 28. & 29. Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87. Great Newport St.

1871 or 1882.

Do you understand the Latin
 glosses baruina to barricge
O. E. Texts 45 & senon to
cearricge 97? Sweet appears
 not to. I can only refer senon
 doubtfully to Lat. schoenum
schoenobates &c. & translate
cearricge "dancer" or "tumbler"
 comparing the vb. cirran.
 Supposing there 2 to be -icge
 words I have now 9 examples
 of this form. ending viz.

galdricge
 walcricge }
 barricge
 cearricge

byrdicige "embroiderer"
dryjicige "witch"
lunticige "lunatic"
scr(n)icige "mimic"
sealticige "dancer"

cosijn writes (I communicated
 them to him) that divegge &
 the contracted labbei klappet
 (ei = ege) are the only Dutch
 literary forms but igge ege
 are common in the dialects
 (especially W. Flemish) & in
 Mid. Dutch igge is common
 e.g. clappigge makerigge
meesterigge troesterigge wassrigge.

Yours truly
 J. Platt jun.

([L5/S7/037] and [L5/S8/038] are blank, so not reproduced here.)

Transcript of Letter 5

[L5/S1/031]

[LETTERHEAD]

18/12/1882

Professor Sievers.

Dear Sir

Thanks for your letter. In reply to your question I have no quotations for brang.

For your new “Gram.” you should add I think gréat to the adj. like strang with mutate compar. & superl. gríetra is found Narrat. 14 & I have never seen any gréatra or gríatesta. Do you know any other adj. of this kind since the “Gram”?

I was right about fem. wá stems dropping -u in nom. & therefore often in oblique cases side by side with -w- forms. Læs (nom. læs Cod. Dip. 5 319) goes

[L5/S2/032]

just like mæd gen. læswe & læse ?

I have now I think cleared up the hyrnetu ielfetu mystery. There are 3 nouns which always have nom. -u fabu spadu brotu & always -an in oblique cases – at least I know no other forms. Hyrnetu ielfetu I also find with nom. -u (except the late -e noms. in Ælf. Gram. p. 307) and oblique cases -an. (Ielfetesang in the Poetry I explain as a comp. word). I take these 5 words as instances of fem. N-stems in -ô like the Gothic -ô & O.N. -a which clearly come from -ô whereas A.S. -e O.H.G. O.S. -a cannot be -ô but only -ê (see also Möller in “Beiträge” for further on this point but he did not know of the occurrence of -ô in A.S.).

[L5/S3/033]

The only diff. between A.S. & Goth. O.N. is that A.S. has the correct -u for -ô while Goth. O.N. have (not G. -a O.N. -u as would be correct) but -ô -a from -ô + consonant therefore t[a]ken from oblique cases.

Another discovery I have just made is a real A.S. dual. Kluge’s nosu duru are used as sgs. his bréost might from the form as well be pl. but my word is a clear dual. It is sculdru (never sculdras) pl. of sculdor masc. (see Leech. II 198).

I am also now clear about fetian which used to puzzle me; feccan is the same word but fecc only occurs where feti- occurs hence not in 2,3 pers. sg. which are always fetast fetab & not in imp. which is feta. I take

[L5/S4/034]

fecc (which occurs chiefly in late A.S.) to be phonetic for the slurred pronunciation of ty in feti as ch cp. orceard for ortgeard (that is orch for orty) & English chewsday for Tyusday (Tuesday). The verb seems one of the 3rd class Goth. -an O.H.G. -en like hycgan hogde so fetian fette. We should expect fettan fætte but analogy has been at work. Fetian owes the i to fetast &c. like folgian after folgast &c. Do you know any nouns that change gender in pl. besides the clear cases of ést f. éstas m. & fenn n. fennas m. (no ésta éste or pl. fenn & no ést m. or sg. fenn m.). Segl late has m. sg. & n. pl. (Ælf. Gram. p. 86) but early is both genders in each number.

[L5/S5/035]

[LETTERHEAD]

18/12/1882

Do you understand the Latin glosses baruina to barricge

O.E. Texts 45 & senon to cearricge 97? Sweet appears not to. I can only refer senon doubtfully to Lat. schoenum schoenobates &c. & translate cearricge “dancer” or “tumbler” comparing the vb. cirran.

Supposing these 2 to be -icge words I have now 9 examples of this fem. ending viz.

gealdricge

wælcricge

barricge

cearricge

all in O.E. Texts

[L5/S6/036]

byrdicge “embroidereress”

dryicge “witch”

þ hunticge “huntress”

scer(n)icge “mima”

sealticge “dancer”

Cosijn writes (I communicated them to him) that dievegge & the contracted labbei klappei (ei = ege) are the only Dutch literary forms but igge ege are common in the dialects (especially W. Flemish) & in Mid. Dutch igge is common e.g. clappigge makerigge meesterigge troesterigge wasscrigge.

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.

[L5/S7/037 and L5/S8/038 are blank]

[L6/S1/039]

203/4/1/357

Platt, J. jun.
London,77, & 78, St. Martin's Lane,
26, 27, 28, & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.
87, Great Newport St.

Dear Professor Rivers 23/12/1882.

Thanks for pointing Cert out. You must be right & I had not noticed it. Also about ea you are doubtless right but you say gen. dat. ie. I only know the dat. Have you gen? The gen. éas would be parallel to cis with dat. cj.

Your griffra is from the same place as I quoted. I did not think of quoting from the "Anglia" text.

I was just going to point out the compar. of the 4 cardinal points as I ~~saw~~ they were omitted in your "grammar" when your letter came! I am pleased to be able to give you reference for éarka C.D. III 444. Sífra occurs Tech. III 252 & 270 C.D. III 408 & corrector sífra C.D. II 148 & also norfra chron. 100^{n. again} myrfra as you state. You must also add to gram. útra ~~slit.~~ blomes p. 263 beside your útra.

Another addition to be made is

awrdu is the neuter wo stem. For gender see Sechd. II 206 for decl. II 182.

Dire readan sis occurs not only Oros. 1.1 but Deuteronomy XI.

Somewhat you are right about tierlen. I don't think I ever told you any etymology of nateshwōn. Sechd. III 76 I actually found what I took to be the original, viz. natoþeshwōn (? = þ as in gescentu &c.). Nihterne dagperne I also explain I think satisfactorily. Nihterne is for nihtperne & cp. dagperne = daghwæflic. Then nihterne dagperne are therefore adverbial phrases niht hwæperne dag hwæperne. I anticipate your objection that niht is vern. I believe it became masc. in certain collocations with dag by analogy. Cp. the gen. nihtes which in dwæs nihtes Chron. 616 & þes emnihtes Sechd. II 240 is clearly not vern.

Sorry I cannot agree to give up my idea about þapu &c. & I hope to convince you! I shall be glad to hear from you again on this point. First I must state I have found 3 more words I assign to this class — certainly more (requent in Sechd. morn wealmorn feldmorn)

* probably gana (hewdelys) hracu (throat).
Your objections seem weak.

1) I know hyrnylla in Exodus but
at best it is very late & unreliable; perhaps
it is a case of lost n, compare the
accus. ane spada Legends of Holy Rood 13.
The only cases (oblique) of ilgetru I know
of are in -an always excepting ylfetesang
which I still look on as corrupt. I never
claimed ilgetru for this class at all &
do not now as I have no -an forms
but on the contrary strong ones. Therefore
ilgetruse is no argument as it may
come from ilget the neuter nominative.
ylfetesang is like rihtesang & many
other corups. (Sigellas by the way occurs
not only where you say, Bede, but also
Tech. III 274 & Ancient Laws II 400).

2) I don't see spada. Where do you
find it? At any rate it may be an
error; there are ~~many~~^{many} recorded cases
of confusion between a & n, neuter
plurals often.

3) You say other words have strong
& weak forms "parallel". This does not
apply to these as they're always weak
in oblique cases & mostly (very few
exceptions) -n in nom. sing. The

said few exceptions - viz. -e in nom.
sing. - are easily explained by the
overwhelming majority of -e nouns to
m-decl. & on the other hand the -u
cannot be explained by any analogy,
therefore (by a very safe rule to follow)
it is probably genuine. I said there
were no exceptions to the oblique cases in
-an. Your abuton pa mannes prob.
comes from - where? Chron. Vor year
1137 ride by ride with plurals like
numbers "thunbs" classical perman! I
think you will admit it is out of the
argument!

4) As to the point that m-decl. nouns
have "protected" vowels so that A.S. should
have -a not u I can only point
to goth. -a o.n. -i in nom. masc.
which can only come from original
final -e not -e protected by nasal.
-e protected would be goth. -e as in gen. pl.
& o.n. -a.

What is pisleferhūs "scriptorium"
Wright 58 & pliclitere "protecta" Aldh.
406 (Haupt)? Some of these apparently foreign words
are very hard to explain. I think prass is Latin
pretium cp. masse for change of e to a.
What do you think of it? yours truly J. Platt Jun.

Transcript of Letter 6

[L6/S1/039]

[LETTERHEAD]

23/12/1882

Dear Professor Sievers

Thanks for pointing Cert out. You must be right & I had not noticed it. Also about éa you are doubtless right but you say gen. dat. ré. I only know the dat. Have you gen? The gen. éas would be parallel to cús with dat. cý.

Your grýttra is from the same place as I quoted. I did not think of quoting from the “Anglia” text. I was just going to point out the compass, cf the 4 cardinal points as I s[a]w they were omitted in your “Grammar” when your letter came! I am pleased to be able to give you reference for éastrā C.D. III 444. Súbra occurs Leech. III 252 & 270 C.D. III 408 & corrector sýbra C.D. V 148 so also norþbra Chron. p. 100 against nyrþra as you state. You must also add to Gram. ýtra Blick. Glosses p. 263 beside your útra.

Another addition to be made is

[L6/S2/040]

cwudu to the neuter wo stems. For gender see Leech. II 206 for decl. II 182.

Ðære réadan sás occurs not only Oros. 1.1 but Deuteronomy XI.

Doubtless you are right about fierlen [fyrlen ‘remote’? SL]. I don’t think I ever told you my etymology cf náteshwón. Leechd. III 76

I actually found what I took to be the original viz. nátóþæshwón (t = þ [as] in gescentu &c.). Nihterne dægþerne I also explain I think satisfactorily. Nihterne is for nihtþerne & cp. dægþerlic = dæghwæþwerlic. Then nihterne dægþerne are therefore adverbial phrases niht hwæþerne dæghwæþerne.

I anticipate your objection that niht is fem. I believe it became masc. in certain collocations with dæg by analogy. Cp. the gen. nihtes which in ánes nihtes Chron. 616 & þæs emnihtes Leech. III 240 is clearly not fem.

Sorry I cannot agree to give up my idea about fabu &c. & I hope to convince you! I shall be glad to hear from you again on this point. Firstly I must state I have found 3 more words I assign to this class — certainly moru (frequent in Leechd. moru, wealmoru, feldmoru)

[L6/S3/041]

& probably fanu (fleurdelys) hracu (throat). Your objections seem weak.

1) I know hyrnytta in Exodus but at best it is very late & unreliable; perhaps it is the case of lost -n; compare the accus. áne spada Legends of Holy Rood 13. The only cases (oblique) of ielfetu I know of are in -an always excepting ylfetesang which I still look on as comp. I never claimed lígetu for this class at all & do not now as I have no -an forms but on the contrary strong ones. Therefore lígetræsc is no argument as it may come from líget the neuter nominative ylfetesang is like úhtesang & many other comps. (Ligettas by the way occurs not only where you say, Bede, but also Leech. III 274 & Ancient Laws II 400).

2) I don’t see spada. Where do you find it? At any rate it may be an error; there are some many recorded cases of confusion between a & u, neuter plurals often.

3) You say other words have strong & weak forms “parallel”. This does not apply to these as they’re always weak in oblique cases & mostly (very few exceptions) -u in nom. sing. The

[L6/S4/042]

said few exceptions – viz. -e in nom. sing. – are easily explained by the overwhelming majority of -e noms. To n-decl. & on the other hand the -u cannot be explained by any analogy, therefore (by a very safe rule to follow) it is probably genuine. I said there were no exceptions to the oblique cases in -an. Your abuton þa mannes br[ote] comes from – where? Chron. for year 1137 side by side with plurals like þumbes “thumbs” classical þúman! I think you will admit it is out of the argument!

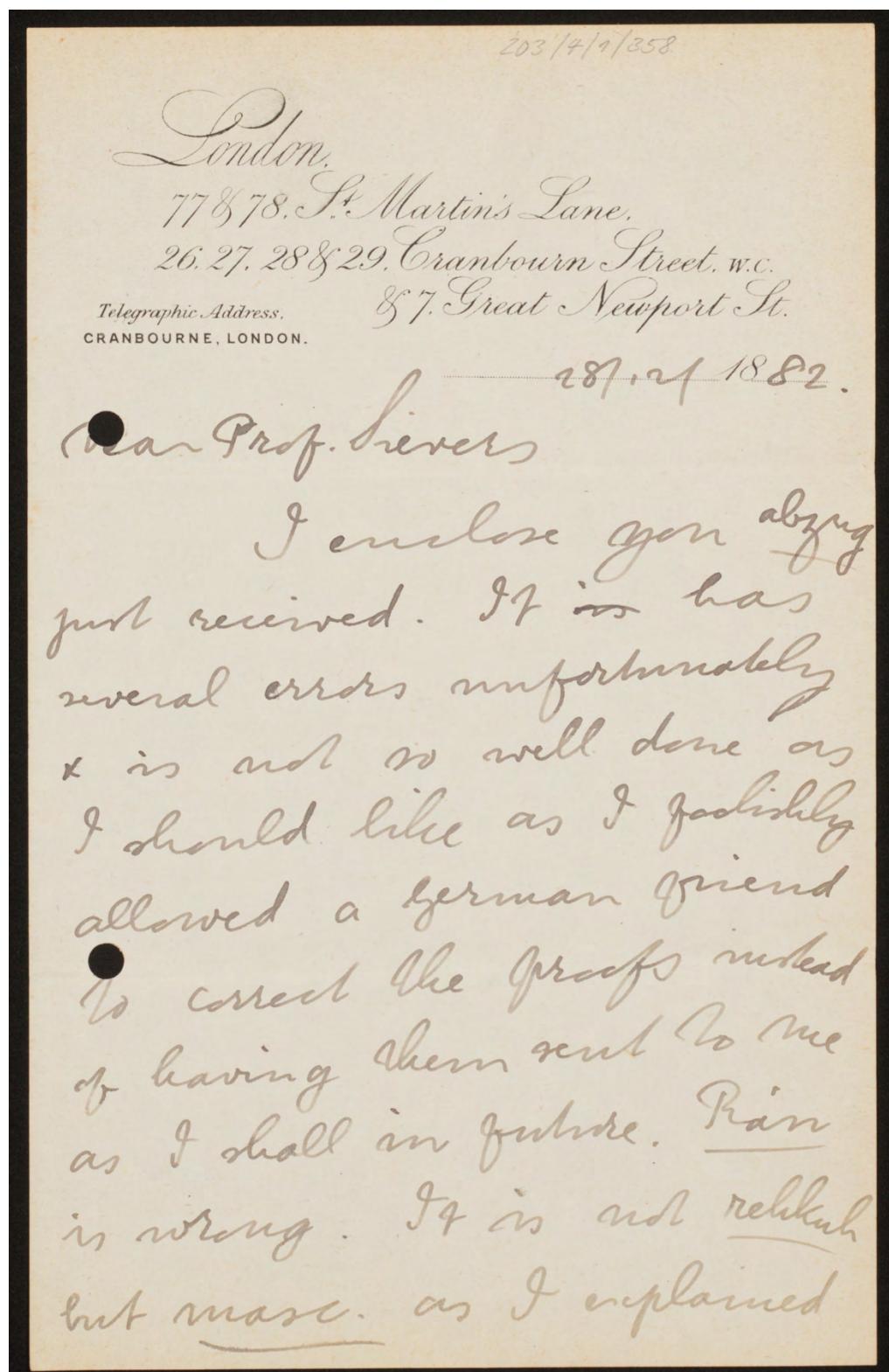
4) As to the point that n-decl. noms have “protected” vowels so that A.S. should have -a not -u I can only point to Goth. -a O.N. -i in nom. masc. which can only come from original final -ê not -ê protected by nasal. ê protected would be Goth. -ê as in gen.pl. & O.N. -a.

What is pisleferhús “scriptorium” Wright 58 & pliclitere “proretâ” Aldh. p. 406 (Haupt)? Some of these apparently foreign words are very hard to explain. I think prass is Latin premium cp. mæsse for change of e to a. What do you think of it?

Yours truly

J. Platt Jun.

[L7/S1/043]



in one of my letters
to you the fern. being
rage. Yours truly
J. Platt jun.

Transcript of Letter 7

[L7/S1/043]

[LETTERHEAD]

28/12/1882

Dear Prof. Sievers

I enclose you abzug just received. It is has several errors unfortunately & is not so well done as I should like as I foolishly allowed a German friend to correct the proofs instead of having them sent to me as I shall in future. Rán is wrong. It is not rehkuh but masc. as I explained

[L7/S2/044]

in one of my letters to you the fem. being ræge.

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.

[L8/S1/045]

203/4/1/359

London,
77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,
26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.
& 7, Great Newport St.

3/1/1883.

Dear Prof. Sievers

Thanks for reference for gen.
i.e. I have not "excerpted" Oros.
yet as I am waiting for Sweets'
edition. Of course this gen. is like
hic as opposed to bice & the late
meder gen. for mudder which I think
I pointed out to you before.

Another reference for pire nis
has turned up - Mark II.

What you say about bedon
early m. becoming late f. by analogy
connection with corpe f. had occurred
to me - in fact I am writing a
paper for the "Anglia" on this &
a large number of similar cases of
change of gender in late A.S. from
some analogy with another word.
Hitherto dictionaries ^{etc.} have put two

(or three) genders. To words without stopping is ask whether I was not early & I take or I used in singular & I in plural. The following are a few of my examples - without references - of each class.

<u>hord</u>	early	n.	late	m.	analog of <u>márum</u> m.
<u>holt</u>		n.	m.		<u>wudu</u> m.
<u>cowde</u>		n.	f.		<u>heord</u> f.
<u>rusl</u>		n.	f.		<u>pin</u> v.
<u>grif</u>		n.	m.		<u>bearn</u> m.
<u>lác</u>		n.	v.		<u>offnung</u> f.
<u>swelgend</u>		f.	{ (m. & n. (charles)}		<u>wál</u> m. & n.
<u>wormsm</u>		n.			<u>grund</u> m.
<u>hd</u>		m.	n.		<u>bæl</u> n.
<u>hyll</u>		m.	f.		<u>díun</u> f.
<u>portic</u>		m.	n.		<u>geat</u> n.
<u>brim</u>		n.	m.		<u>wæg</u> m.

& so on. swelgend especially good as it takes the 2 genders of wál.

<u>t warn</u>	<u>warnmas</u>
<u>t ven</u>	<u>venmas</u>
<u>t gles</u>	<u>glasas</u>
<u>se step</u>	<u>stapu</u>
<u>zio heorr</u>	<u>heorras</u>
<u>zio list</u>	<u>listas</u>
<u>zio est</u>	<u>estas</u>
<u>zio wrichts</u>	<u>wrichtas</u>

{ gen. wrichts } { once in year } { wrichtas }

203/4/1/359

London,

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

1883.

On the same page sinum dat.
 to sinu occurs matching your
merum.

Breadru was known to me.
 Another is law sg. Dipl. 509

law Biblical 19 Tech. I pref. ^{LXXXIII.}

Scereru is very interesting. I
 suppose scara "vortex" Gram.

300 is neut. pl.

Wintras was specially welcome
 to me as I had no reference
 for masc. pl. only neut. (tu
wintru Chron. 887 shows it is
 really neuter) & now I can
 place the word in a list I.

made for my gender paper
of masc. singulars with plural,
both masc. & neuter. Example

All masc. in my.

God of course - as - u
amber

cymel

liger

tungl

spend

- as Tech. ~~100~~ ^u 200 ^u _{shin}

I knew ean pl. duru also has 3.
weak abl. cases dat. duran Mark
I 33 an. Chron. p. 217.

The Liber Scint. I am editing
has interesting forms. There
is imperf. onipesta to onipe M.
folio 3b cp. your oifnum. dat. sg.
fjnd 89a frjnd 88a. There is an
- endras pl. (wealdendras) 98a. Where
abouts in the Hept. are the 2 you
said you found there? I do not
find them. Then the Lib. Scint.

has an interesting tendency to keep neuter pl. -u after longs thus gádu 6a hordu 87b ferdu 100a.

Referring to what you say of gen. gen. -es there is an early example in Parker Chron. 894 Exances'es.

with specan sp. Elfric's psalig for pratig.

Under adverbs mention full as the regular adv. to full (not full which seems not to occur).

With Mierce Seaxe rare -an but gen. -na put -síle see Chron. under Sund-wil-Dom-e.

Under praet. praes. verbs put the parts. (like you gewiten) ge-runnen Chr. 1046 ge-munnen

Stich. 254. Do you know any from other pr. pt. verbs (e. g. from purfan magan)?

Like smierwan smierede

goes an lw word wielwan wielede.

I have found another dual.
Masc. stap pl. stapu the 2 banks
of a ~~river~~ river.

You speak of sealh lw as
if fem. They are masc. (sealh o.g.
Texts 113 lw (J. D. III 218). A ~~seal~~
wo-stem omitted by you is lw
"tenth" germ. schlein.

How do you explain Brōpor
-u pl? Is the -u due to analogy
of neuter double pls. like wīpn-u
winter-u &? Brōpor seems the
best form of the pl. But that cannot
be cons. as there is no "inulant."

Thanks very much for right
of enclosed. Cen-deffion is especially
interesting. Perhaps Doffean and
Andoffean were originally Deffion
or something of that sort & then
Anglicised. I believe they never occur
in any other form of ending.
I think it probable that gen. -e is right
for I Wihl & well-known names like those.

Yours truly J. Platt.

Transcript of Letter 8

[L8/S1/045]

[LETTERHEAD]

3/1/1883

Dear Prof. Sievers

Thanks for reference for gen. ré. I have not “excerpirt” Oros. yet as I am waiting for Sweet’s edition. Of course this gen. is like béc as opposed to bóce & the late méder gen. for módor which I think I pointed out to you before.

Another reference for þære sás has turned up – Mark V 1.

What you say about heofon early m. becoming late f. by analogy connection with eorþe f. had occurred to me – in fact I am writing a paper for the “Anglia” on this & a large number of similar cases of change of gender in late A.S. from some analogy with another word.

Hitherto dictionaries &c. have put two

[L8/S2/046]

(or three) gends. to words without stopping to ask whether 1 was not early & 1 late or 1 used in singular & 1 in plural. The following are a few of my examples – without references – cf. each class.

<u>hord</u>	early n.	late m.	analogy of	<u>máþum</u> m.
<u>holt</u>	n.	m.		<u>wudu</u> m.
<u>eowde</u>	n.	f.		<u>heord</u> f.
<u>súsl</u>	n.	f.		<u>bín</u> f.
<u>gráf</u>	n.	m.		<u>bearu</u> m.
<u>lác</u>	n.	f.		<u>offrung</u> f.
<u>swelgend</u>	f.	m. & n. (charters)		<u>wæl</u> m. & n.
<u>worsm</u>	n.	m.		<u>gund</u> m.
<u>ád</u>	m.	n.		<u>bæl</u> n.
<u>hyll</u>	m.	f.		<u>dún</u> f.
<u>portic</u>	m.	n.		<u>geat</u> n.
<u>brim</u>	n.	m.		<u>wæg</u> m.

& so on Swelgend especially good as it takes the 2 gends. of wál.

<u>b wam</u>	<u>wammas</u>
<u>b fen</u>	<u>fennas</u>
<u>b glæs</u>	<u>glæsas</u>
<u>se stæþ</u>	<u>stabu</u>
<u>séo heorr</u>	<u>heorras</u>
<u>séo list</u>	<u>listas</u>
<u>séo ést</u>	<u>éstas</u>
<u>séo wróht</u> (gen. <u>wróhtes</u> once in Grein)	<u>wróhtas</u>

[L8/S3/047]

[LETTERHEAD]

1883

On the same page sinum dat. to sinu occurs matching your sinerum.

Bréadru was known to me. Another is læw sg. Dipl. 509 læwru Ritual 19 Leech. I pref. LXXIII.

Screreru is very interesting. I suppose sceara “forfex” Gram. 2[9]0 [the first number looks like a 3 rather than a 2 but the reference appears to be to §290 in Sievers’ Gram., SL] is neut. pl.

Wintras was especially welcome to me as I had no reference for masc. pl. only neut. (tú wintru Chron. 887 shows it is really neuter) & now I can place the word in a list I

[L8/S4/048]

made for my gender paper of masc. singulars with plurals both masc. & neuter. Examples

All masc. in sing.

God of course -as -u

amber "

cynnel "

lígæt "

tungol "

alfend -as Leech. III 200 -u Shrine 43

I know éan pl. Duru also has weak obl. cases dat. duran Mark I 33 acc. Chron. p. 217.

The Liber Scint. I am editing has interesting forms. There is superl. smóþesta to sméþe MS. folio 3b cp. your softum. Dat.sg. fýnd 89a frýnd 88a. There is an -endras pl. (wealdendras) 98a. Where abouts in the Hept. are the 2 you said you found there? I do not find them. Then the Lib. Scint.

[L8/S5/049]

has an interesting tendency to keep neuter pl. -u after longs thus gódu 6a hordu 87b færeldu 100a.

Referring to what you say of fem. gen. -es there is an early example in Parker Chron. 894 Exancestres.

With specan cp. Ælfric’s pætig for pratig.

Under adverbs mention full as the regular adv. to full (not fulle which seems not to occur).

With Mierce Seaxe rare -an but gen. -na put -sæle see chron. under Sumor- Wil- Dom- &c.

Under praet. praes. verbs put the parts. (like your gewiten) ge-unnen chr. 1046 ge-munen Blick. 254.

Do you know any from other pr. pt. verbs (e.g. from þurfan magan)?

Like smierwan smierede

[L8/S6/050]

goes an lw word wielwan wielede.

I have found another dual. Masc. stæþ pl. stæþu the 2 banks of a ribær river.

You speak of sealh íw as if fem. They are masc. (sealh O.E. Texts 113 íw C.D. III 218). A real wo-stem omitted by you is [s]llíw “tench” Germ. schleie.

How do you explain bróþor -u pl? Is the -u due to analogy of neuter double pls. like wæpn -u winter -u &c? Bróþor seems the best form of the pl. But that cannot be cons. as there is no “umlaut”.

Thanks very much for right of enclosed. Cen-defrion is especially interesting. Perhaps Doferan and Andefaran were originally Defrion or something of that sort & then Anglicised. I believe they never occur in any other form of ending. I think it probable that gen. -e is right for I' Wiht & well-known names like those.

Yours truly

J. Platt.

[L9/S1/051]

203/4/1/360

London,

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,

26, 27, 28, & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

Dear Professor Rivers 10/1/1883.

In further reply to your letter I think your remark about the "gram. Wechsel" in horh very interesting as I find on referring to my rules the decl. I have "belege" for is perfectly regular viz.

nom. acc. horhgen. horwesdat. horwem. a. ql. hor (h) asdat. horwum

This is just like seō(ha)m seah
sáwan sewan & seón = *schan
sáh sáwan sáwan the accent

being on root in nom. acc.
& on ending in oblique cases.
Doubtless earh goes the same.
The only references I have are
for earh nom. acc. (guin) and
dat. pl. arwan = carwum thryz.

I approve as you do.
Sweet's e & ə distinguished from
e = i ə = u. Why not distinguish
w.s. ə = á dial. é as ¹é
& w.s. é = ðé as ²é?

I have been looking over
the Chronicle to see its usage
as to British placenames.
My idea that the latter ~~had~~
names take A.S. declension
seems justified. These words
would then present a parallel
to Latin words which when
fully naturalised take native

but when not common retain
 Latin inflections. Besides
 the ſ Wahl genitives in -e
 we must award regular flexion
 to Bræton (this is the nom. in
 Bede see B.T. & also occurs once
 as oblique case by same rule
 in B.T.) oblique generally -e.
Lunder may also safely be
 postulated as nom. to oblique
Lundene Lundenne. The Welsh
 is Prydain Glundain &
 I suppose these names would
 come rather from British
 than Latin although it is
 said the more civilised Britons
 spoke Latin in Bede's time
 hence his reckoning it as
 a language. Saxfern which
 often occurs as oblique case

(in the char. as well as your examples) must be nom. & the more generally used abl. cases in -e. I am not clear whether Temes Humber or Temesce Humber would be the correct nouns. The abl. Temesan Humberian seem to require nouns. in -e which were either used uninflected as abl. cases or inflected like tunge &c. The whole question is very important & I must investigate further & hope you will do the same. It would be important to get the Welsh names for these places rivers &c. as far as possible.

Yours truly
James Hall Jay.

Transcript of Letter 9

[L9/S1/051]

[LETTERHEAD]

10/1/1883.

Dear Professor Sievers

In further reply to your letter I think your remark about the "Gram. Wechsel" in horh very interesting as I find on referring to my notes the decl. I have "belege" for is perfectly regular viz.

nom. acc. horh

gen. horwes

dat. horwe

n.a. pl. hor(h)as

dat. horwum

This is just like seo(ha)n seah sáwon sewen & iséon = ⁺síhan sáh siwon siwen the accent

[L9/S2/052]

being on root in nom. acc. & on ending in oblique cases. Doubtless earh goes the same. The only references I have are for earh nom. acc. (Grein) and dat. pl. arwan = earwum chron.

I approve as you do of Sweet's é ø distinguished from é = i ø = u. Why not distinguish W.S. æ ⁺á dial. é æ [READ æ WITH HOOK UNDERNEATH, SL] & W.S. é = œ [READ WITH œ WITH ACCENT ON TOP AND HOOK UNDERNEATH, SL] as é [READ é WITH HOOK UNDERNEATH, SL].

I have been looking over the Chronicle to see its usage as to British placenames. My idea that the better known names took A.S. declension seems justified. These words would then present a parallel to Latin words which when fully naturalised take native

[L9/S3/053]

but when not common retain Latin inflections. Besides the I' Wiht genitives in -e we must accord regular flexion to Breten (this is the nom. in Bede see B.T. & also occurs once as oblique case by your rule see B.T.) oblique generally -e. Lunden may also safely be postulated as nom. to oblique Lundene Lundenne. The Welsh is Prydain Llundain & I suppose these names would come rather from British than Latin although it is said the more civilised Britons spoke Latin in Bede's time hence his reckoning it as a language. Sæfern which often occurs as oblique case

[L9/S4/054]

(in the chron. as well as your examples) must be nom. To the more generally used obl. cases in -e I am not clear whether Temes Humber or Temese Hambre would be the correct noms. The oblique Temesan Humbran seem to require noms. in -e which were either used uninflected as obl. cases or inflected like tunge &c. The whole question is very important & I must investigate further & hope you will do the same. It would be important to get the Welsh names for these places rivers &c. as far as possible.

Yours truly

James Platt Jun.

[L10/S1/055]

203/4/1/361

London,
77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,
26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.
87, Great Newport St.

Dear Prof. Sievers 1883.

you must be right about
bone (which in fact occurred
to me after I last wrote you)
& the rest (hine is long if
we are to judge from Engl.
haar-hund).

I now see my way clear
about the ending -en in zyden
& the -u by which zijgetu
syntetu are "moved" from
the masc. -t words. This is
no exception to the rule of which
vieren savd are examples.
It is not old á at all but
í or ia just as in cown

peonre & the bráðu veldu class.
 It is thus perfectly regular
 that it should be kept. The oblique
 cases being odd. Ja should
 have double an at & this seems
 mostly the case (gydennu ulfele &)
 but of course never in the nom.

The nom. hyfi is very
 interesting & must be e instead
 of u as in meru &c. after short
 syllable i stem. I do not
 remember any occurrence of
 the nom. elsewhere. I have
 a pl. hyfa "belegt."

hyfe is neut. (but mað
rife teck. II 94) so if as seems
 most likely spere is u-stem
 it is the only short neuter i-stem.

Putting hyfe^(masc.) as cons.
 on the strength of hupban
hupsean only is perhaps rather

bold. Might not there be like
switmete angmgl (from enge)
andhēafdu (from ende rather than
from the preposition and). Have
you other evidence for the cons.
decl. of this word? Pl. is hypoth.

From a remark in
your last about lēonum.
I saw you did not understand
that I assign to lēo the
following unique decl. as the
regular as it is the only "belgt."
one. lēo lēon
lēon lēona
lēonan lēonum
lēon lēon.

That is nom. gen. acc. stem lēo⁽ⁿ⁾
dat. stem lēon⁽ⁿ⁾

examples are given for lēonan
& an apparently strong dat.
sq. lēone in my "Eng. Stud."
paper & the dat. pl. lēonum is

common. Since I wrote that paper I have found further proof of my view in the fact that the proper name Leó (the boar) is declined same way

Leós nom. Chr. 814 Dipl. 117

León gen. Chr. 813

Leone dat. Chr. ~~etc.~~ 797 Dipl. 116

The word is therefore unique.

Céos I do not know any oblique forms for. Leó is strong (Nom. I 390 θá réo) as well as weak (e.g. Dent. xxxii 10). Add to your

list héos "ursa" gram. 309 probably n.-stem. Also θá or "θos" but "lot" from θán as θlá from θlán Blck. 121

Nom. I 246 II 254.

Filmen has reis filmen & acc. filmen Sech. II 242.

Still more remarkable are silvener
help & apparently flán which have
 all cases fern. except gen. dat.
 sing. which are m. or n.

I have cawres filmeres barn thimne
rnnes helpes rumlicum helpes
nicelan(-um) helpes flánes &
fláne dat. never occurs with any
-re adjective or anything to show
 it is fern.

You must be right about sic
 Dr. Kluge added the dot under
 the e I suppose as I did and
 put it. I did not see prof.

ernicht is perhaps neut.
 as you suggest. I have large
 collections of borrowed Latin
 words which take the gender
 of the A. S. equivalent which
 is something similar. Doubtless
 you have noticed them. Nomen
 is and in A. S. as m. (nama)
firmamentum as m. (reder)

practerium as q. (tid) modus
 n. (genet) & so on. 361

As to the -u -an words I think we can now be in perfect agreement. I give up the idea that the -u is ō & revert to my original idea that it is from the -u of gifu &c. some as you believe. What you say about gemu hantu ewu is very convincing & also the fact that all my words spadu &c. are short syllables. In fact I believe there are no short syllabled gen. n. stems in the -e at all. I cannot remember any just now so I think we must make a rule that while longs like sunne tunge retain the -e the shorts all take -u. Looked at in this light my

discovery is even more ³⁶¹ interesting than before.

I may cede to you the nouns. - more - prole in spinal though plantnames being almost exclusively -e verbs. the analogy would account of the -e. The seeds. have mostly - more - prole in ssprole edforprole feldmude weakmude although they never have more prole but only more prole when uncompounded. Cp. diffuse f. from bung n., dolhrine weak f. from run strong, ribbe f. from ribb n., x other cases of words slipping into the -e verbs. when used as plantnames.

The oblique cases you really are wrong about. Your

- prole from Boos. Toller is nd
all, but now. (The teachd. mostly
use now. for all. in recipes).

Ane spada & pinne braca

Kent. gl. ¹ 18 & 21 are the only
cases I know of ^{without -n} ~~where~~ & there
- n seems to be lost as the
weak ^{strong} would be spade brac.

hygneth ylfeth & the -en
in myneccum refere gymen
pignem I think now must
be as you say strong. Perhaps
it was kept to mark more
distinctly the idea of the word being
your. especially as there may
have been masc. hygneth ylfeth
as O.H. G. elbiz hornuz. Ylpetan
& gydenan &c. do occur as oblique
cases but only late I think
Elf. gram. 307 has ylfelle hygnette.
These & the -an cases may be due
to confusion between the -n of these words
& that of spada &c. yours truly
J. Platt Jr.

Transcript of Letter 10

[L10/S1/055]

[LETTERHEAD]

1883

Dear Prof. Sievers

you must be right about bune (which in fact occurred to me after I last wrote you) & the rest (húne is long if we are to judge from Engl. hoar-hound).

I now see my way clear about the ending -enu in gydenu &c. & the -u by which ielfetu hyrnetu are “moviert” from the masc. -t words. This is no exception to the rule of which firen sáwol are examples. It is not old â at all but î for iă just as in eowu

[L10/S2/056]

beowu & the bráedu ieldu class. It is thus perfectly regular that it should be kept. The oblique cases being old jâ should have double nn tt & this seems mostly the case (gydenne ielfette &c.) but of course never in the nom.

The nom. hyfi is very interesting & must be e instead of u as in neru &c. after short syllable i stem. I do not remember any occurrence of the nom. elsewhere. I have a pl. hyfa “belegt”.

Sife is neut. / burh smæl sife Leech. II 94) so if as seems most likely spere is u-stem it is the only short neuter i-stem.

Putting hype (masc.) as cons. on the strength of hupbán hupseax only is perhaps rather

[L10/S3/057]

bold. Might not these be like swótmete angnægl (from enge) andhéafdu (from ende rather than from the preposition and). Have you other evidence for the cons. decl. of this word? Pl. is hypos.

From a remark in your last about léonum I saw you did not understand that I assign to léo the following unique decl. as the regular as it is the only “belegt” one.

léo léon

léon léona

léonan léonum

léon léon

That is nom. gen. acc. stem léo-(n)

dat. stem léon-(n)

Examples are given for léonan & an apparently strong dat. sg. léone in my “Eng. Stud.” paper & the dat. pl. léonum is

[L10/S4/058]

common. Since I wrote that paper I have found further proof of my view in the fact that the proper name Léo (the pope) is declined same way

Léo nom. Chr. 814 Dipl. 117

léon gen. Chr. 813

léone dat. Chr. 797 Dipl. 116

The word is therefore unique. Céo I do not know any oblique forms for. Séo is strong (Hom. I 390 ðá séo) as well as weak (e.g. Deut. XXXII 10). Add to your list héo “ursa” [last two words somewhat unclear, SL] Gram. 309 probably n-stem. Also tá not “toe” but “lot” from tán as flá from flán Blick. 121 Hom. I 246 II 254.

Filmen has séo filmen & acc. filmene Leech. II 242.

[L10/S5/062]

Still more remarkable are filmen help & apparently flán which have all cases fem. except gen. dat. sing. which are m. or n.

I have éowres filmenes bám filmene sumes helpes rúmlicum helpe micelan (= um) helpe flánes & fláne dat. never occurs with any -re adjective or anything to show it is fem.

You must be right about scéo &c. Kluge added the dot under the e I suppose as I did not put it. I did not see proof.

Emniht is perhaps neut. as you suggest. I have large collections of borrowed Latin words which take the gender of the A.S. equivalent which is something similar. Doubtless you have noticed them. Nomen is used is A.S. as m. (nama) firmamentum as m. (rodor)

[L10/S6/061]

praeteritum as f. (tíd) modus n. (gemet) & so on.

As to the -u -an words I think we can now be in perfect agreement. I give up the idea that the -u is -ô & revert to my original idea that it is from the -u of gifu &c. s[a]me as you believe. What you say about fremu hnutu eowu is very convincing & also the fact that all my words spadu &c. are short syllables. In fact I believe there are no short syllabled fem. n-stems in the -e at all. I cannot remember any just now so I think we must make a rule that while longs like sumne tunge retain the -e the shorts all take -u.

Looked at in this light my

[L10/S7/059]

discovery is even more interesting than before.

I may cede to you the noms -more -þrote in Epinal though plantnames being almost exclusively -e fems. the analogy would account for the -e. The Leechd. have mostly -more -þrote in escþrote eoforþrote feldmore wealmore although they never have more þrote but only moru þrotu when uncompounded cp. cluspunge f. from bung m. dolhrúne weak f. from rún strong, r[i]bbe f. from ribb n., & other cases of words slipping into the -e fems when used as plantnames.

The oblique cases you really are wrong about. Your

[L10/S8/060]

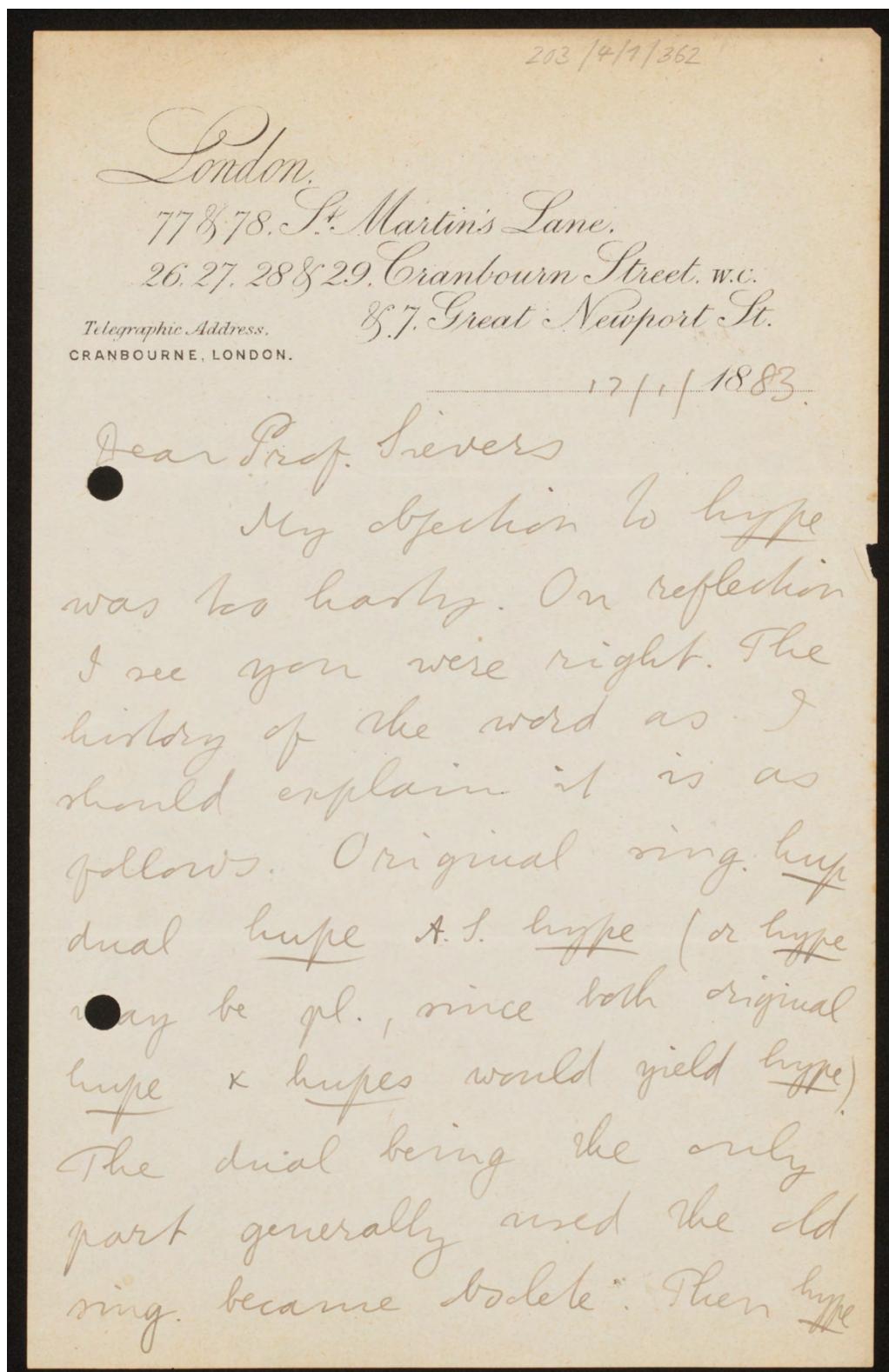
-þrote from Bosw. Toller is not acc. but nom. (The Leechd. mostly use nom. for acc. in recipes).

Áne spada & bínre hraca Kent gl. p. 18 & 21 are the only cases I know of where without -n & there -n seems to be lost as the weak strong would be spade hr[a]ce.

Hyrnetu ielfetu & the -enu in mynecenu nefenu gydenu bignenu I think now must be as you say strong. Perhaps it was kept to mark more distinctly the idea of the word being fem. especially as there may have been masc. hyrnet ielfet as O.H.G. elbiz hornuz. ylfett[a]n gydenan &c. do occur as oblique cases but only late I think Ælf. Gram. 307 has ylfelle hynnette. These & the -an cases may be due to confusion between the -u of these words & that of spadu &c.

Your truly

J. Platt jun.



was mistaken for an i-ŋ
like byre and a new sing.
made on the analogy of
byre to pl. byre &c.

Referring again to places
I see the Chron. not only
uses undeclined cases for
continental names (like et
Paris, or lend, &c.) but even
for native A. S. names (thus
or Burh et Burh &c. often,
et Wetmōr, & so on).

When are we going to
have the general Teutonic
grammar which has been
for some time promised
us from your pen?

Yours truly
J. Platt Jr.

Transcript of Letter 11

[L11/S1/063]

[LETTERHEAD]

17/1/1883

Dear Prof. Sievers

My objection to hype was too hasty. On reflection I see you were right. The history of the word as I should explain it is as follows. Original sing. hup dual hupe A.S. hype (or hype may be pl., since both original hupe & hypes would yield hype). The dual being the only part generally used the old sing. became obsolete. Then hype

[L11/S2/064]

was mistaken for an i-pl. like byre and a new sing. made on the analogy of byre to pl. byre &c.

Referring again to places I see the Chron. not only uses undeclined cases for continental names (like æt Paris, on Gend, &c.) but even for native A.S. names (thus on Burh æt Burh &c. often, æt Weðmór, & so on).

When are we going to have the general Teutonic grammar which has been for some time promised us from your pen?

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.

[L12/S1/065]

203/4/1/363

excuse this hurried
letter. I am quite
upset to think you
77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane,^{should} think so badly
26, 27, 28, & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.
87, Great Newport St.

25/1/1883.

Dear Professor Rivers

I am sorry you should
have written to me so hastily.
The facts - which you must
kindly read in mere justice
to myself - are these.

Wüller sent me the
proof quite lately in a great
hurry as the "Anglia" was
just going to press & asked
if I would kindly alter as
little as possible & return at
once. I must confess I was

torn by doubts as to how I should act. I ought to have asked advice, but I wanted to act at once. I just altered as few parts ^{as possible} so as to fit my original explanation to the one I had accepted. Then I returned the proof. I decided on receiving abzüge to send you one at once and apologize for not mentioning your name on account of the great increase of alteration in the proof it would ^{have made} ~~make~~ ask if I could not do you justice in a nachtrag or something of the kind. The fact

is I have not had much
experience yet in this line.
I had no idea the "Anglia"
was out till your letter
reached me. I thought I
should get the abzüge before
me left appeared so as to
write to you before you saw
the paper.

I am sure you will
see that I acted if foolishly
at least not with the slightest
intention to offend you. In
fact if you look at the thing
closely you will see that, for
the mere sake of me taking
the credit of one ^(not very important) thing to
myself, it would have been

absolutely against my interest
as well as a mean and
ungentlemanly thing to purpose
^{and go to} omitting your name. You know
from the letters I have written
you that I am in no wise
hasty about imparting my
own discoveries &c. to others
they may be a help to. I
had looked forward to a long
continuance of our pleasant
intercourse, to seeing you when
some day I may visit your
country — surely this unfortunate
little mistaken ~~of~~ act of
mine shall not stand between
us. If you like you need
not mention my name to
the trifling contributions you

have received from me. That will pay me back for my offence to you. In fact I never expected you to acknowledge them at all - at most only the best. (I may add that bregð should be put down as "erstarrkar nom." of an n-stem. Icel. Bragi - the all. cases do not occur but would be + bregðan - also I have found another like spadu, it is peru all. cases peran in Leechd. II - & there is a subj. dyge to dugan like þurpe &c. in Leechd. which I have temporarily mislaid my reference for but will find it for you). What I should

203/1/1/363

London.

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane.

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

Telegraphic Address.

CRANBOURNE, LONDON.

18

like you to do now - if
 and asking so much -
 is not to couch your note
 to the "Anglia" in such
 words as to incriminate
 me in a crime I never
dreamed of committing. But
 it in my name if you
 can (as I meant to ^{make a habbag}
 first) & you will be doing
 a good ^{only just} action to

Yours truly
 J. Platt Jr.

P.S. I hope you have not ³⁶³ written to Wilcher before getting this explanation as I do not wish to be misrepresented to my friends in the "Auglia" as ^{supposed} committing ^{such} an action; they would not believe it, it is true; but then there are strangers who do not know me well - like yourself. Perhaps you can tell me what you write to Wilcher. I may add that this one case of the u-nomous is the only one of your kind ~~communications~~ that I have utilised in any way (except just putting in Cert & which you have and perhaps noticed & which you should add to your note in the "Auglia" as

203/4/1/363

London.

77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane.

26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourne Street, W.C.

87, Great Newport St.

Telegraphic Address.

CRANBOURNE, LONDON.

18

starting from you). I have not alluded to any other of your communications in my other papers (those for kept in "Angl." "Engl. Stud." & "Beiträge"). I did not like alluding using the your help in this case but it seemed wrong to publish what I had got to look on as a wrong explanation (I mean my original one). The whole thing is due to my inexperience & indecision of character & the hurry of my business life (as I am not free from business worries like you are).

Transcript of Letter 12

[L12/S1/065]

Excuse this hurried letter. I am quite upset to think you should think so badly of me.

[LETTERHEAD]

25/1/1883

Dear Professor Sievers

I am sorry you should have written to me so hastily. The facts – which you must kindly read in mere justice to myself – are these.

Wölcker sent me the proof quite lately in a great hurry as the “Anglia” was past going to press & asked if I would kindly alter as little as possible & return at once.

I must confess I was

[L12/S2/066]

torn by doubts as to how I should act. I ought to have asked advice, but I wanted to act at once. I just altered as few points as possible so as to fit my original explanation to the one I had accepted. Then I returned the proof. I decided on receiving abzüge to send you one at once and apologise for not mentioning your name on account of the great increase of alteration in the proof it would make have mad[e] & ask if I could not do you justice in a nachtrag or something of the kind. The fact

[L12/S3/067]

is I have not had much experience yet in this line. I had no idea the “Anglia” was out till your letter reached me. I thought I should get the “abzüge” before the heft appeared so as to write to you before you saw the paper.

I am sure that you will see that I acted if foolishly at least not with the slightest intention to offend you. In fact if you look at the thing closely you will see that, for the mere sake of one taking the credit of one (not very important) thing of yours to myself, it would have been

[L12/S4/068]

absolutely against my interest as well as a mean and ungentlemanly thing to purposely offend you by omitting your name. You know from the letters I have written you that I am in no wise chary about imparting my own discoveries &c. to others they may be a help to. I had looked forward to a long continuance of our pleasant intercourse, to seeing you when some day I may visit your country – surely this unfortunate little mistaken act of mine shall not stand between us. If you like you need not mention my name to the trifling contributions you

[L12/S5/072]

have received from me. That will pay me back for my offence to you. In fact I never expected you to acknowledge them at all – at most only the best. (I may add that brego shoud be put down as “erstarrter nom.” of an n-stem. Icel. bragi – the obl. cases do not occur but would be ⁺bregan – also I have found another like spadu, it is peru obl. cases peran in Leechd. II – & there is a subj. dyge to dugan like byrfe &c. in Leechd. which I have temporarily mislaid my reference for but will find it for you). What I should

[L12/S6/071]

[LETTERHEAD crossed out]

like you to do now – if not asking too much – is not to couch your note to the “Anglia” in such words as to incriminate me in a crime I never dreamed of committing. Put it in my name if you can (as I meant to make a nachtrag at first) & you will be doing a good & only just action to

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.

[L12/S7/074]

P.S. I hope you have not written to Wülcker before getting this explanation as I do not wish to be misrepresented to my friends in the “Anglia” as purposely committing such an action; they would not believe it, it is true; but then there are strangers who do not know me well – like yourself. Perhaps you can tell me what you write to Wülcker. I may add that this one case of the u-nouns is the only one of your kind communications that I have utilised in any way (except just putting in Cert which you have not perhaps noticed & which you should add to your note in the “Anglia” as

[L12/S8/073]

[LETTERHEAD crossed out]

starting from you). I have not alluded to any other of your communications in my other papers (those for heft II “Angl.” “Engl. Stud.” & “Beiträge”). I did not like alluding using the your help in this case but it seemed wrong to publish what I had got to look on as a wrong explanation (I mean my original one). The whole thing is due to my inexperience & indecision of character & the hurry of my business life (as I am not free from business worries like you are).

[L13/S1/069]

203/4/1/364

London.

P.S. As to Cosijn's
help as to Dutch ~~igge~~
words ~~I have~~ he
allows me to give
77 & 78, St. Martin's Lane, where particularly
26, 27, 28 & 29, Cranbourn ~~and~~ Street, W.C. reference
& 7, Great Newport St.

Telegraphic Address.
CRANBOURNE, LONDON.

29/1/1883.

Dear Professor Sievers!

Thanks for your kind
letter. Wölcher has a small
paper (on Benn Pennas &c.) for
heft II so I have sent an
"annexing" which I think
will satisfy you & asked him
to print it at beginning or
end of that paper (so as to
be conspicuous, you see, not
hidden away in a corner).
I mentioned that you had
told me you wrote to him before
you understood & would probably

write again retracting your
 first letter. This you will
 doubtless do. I am glad to
 hear you are going to print
 your notes in "Berlänge." If
 you had waited for second
 edition of "Gram." 2 years
 someone would perhaps have
 foreshadowed you in some points
 during all that period! I
 will not write with any more
 suggestions till your paper
 is out. I think I told you
 that my paper in "Engl.
 Stud." left II contains some
 of the points I drew your
 attention to in my letters
 (e.g. magas to Alfred Dyke)
 but I suppose that will not
clash with your paper - till you
 ought to know & I'm not sure if I told
 you before.

Yours truly J. Platt Jr.

Transcript of letter 13

[L13/S1/069]

P.S. As to Cosijn's help as to Dutch igge words I have he allows me to give these particulars without reference.

[LETTERHEAD]

29/1/1883

Dear Professor Sievers!

Thanks for your kind letter. Wülcker has a small paper (on fenn fennas &c.) for heft II so I have sent an “anmerkung” which I think will satisfy you & asked him to print it at beginning or e[n]d of that paper (so as to be conspicuous, you see, not hidden away in a corner). I mentioned that you had told me you wrote to him before you understood & would probably

[L13/S2/070]

write again retracting your first letter. This you will doubtless do. I am glad to hear you are going to print your notes in “Beiträge”. If you had waited for second edition of “Gram.” 2 years someone would perhaps have forestalled you in some points during all that period! I will not write with any more suggestions till your paper is out. I think I told you that my paper in “Engl. Stud.” heft II contains some of the points I drew your attention to in my letters (e.g. mágas léo Ælfrēd dyge) but I suppose that will not clash with your paper – still you ought to know & I’m not sure if I told you before.

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.

[L14/S1/075]

203/4/1/365

London, 3/2/83.

Dear Professor Sweet,

I am sorry to find you wrote to Sweet before getting my explanation. He has not been very friendly with me lately as I have been too frank in arguing against some of his theories and he rode the chance of bringing the matter privately into the council of the Philological Society. I did not know of this till Thursday night and I had by that time destroyed your letter to me acquitting me of this mean thing. Hence I had no evidence to show the council that my story of your being satisfied was true. At the same time Sweet brought forward 2 other points to strengthen his charge but those I was able to refute. viz.

1) he had heard from me - like you - that Conijn told me about igge in Dutch so - like you - he suggested I had intended

to take the credit. I quite cleared myself of this charge ~~during~~ ^{when} Cosijn was quite satisfied about my not quoting his name - ~~which~~ and I also pointed out how absurd it would have been, if I had meant to steal Cosijn's idea, for me to tell Sweet & you & several other friends - as I did - that Cosijn told me these things!

2) Sweet's other point was that I quoted from his "O. & T. Texts" but had previously told him I would not. I showed him that my promise was that I would not print "discoveries" - e.g. if the same words only occurred in "O. & T. Texts" I should never have printed anything about them because that would be a "discovery" made by the help of the "Texts" only. But I never promised to Sweet that I would not make "quotations" from the "Texts" to support "discoveries".

203/4/1/365

made in other bodies. Thus, as the ³ ~~3~~
icge was discovered by me in other
bodies long before "O. & T." came before
me I was quite justified in quoting
2 forms from "O. & T." along with
others from other bodies. I ought
to have mentioned perhaps that welcige
was pointed to me by Sweet (gealdricge
I found myself) but I had already
given Sweet credit for that in a
paper in the Phil. Society's Transactions
so I did not think it necessary to
repeat the reference to him in the "Anglia".

The council I hear - I
was not there - acquitted me of these
2 points but as Sweet had your letter
to him & I had not got your letter
to me they said they wanted a
note from you before acquitting

me of the part of the charge referring⁴ to the n-words. So I write to ask you to write me (or Sweet) that you are satisfied. I may mention that (just as in Cosijn's case) I told Sweet himself (last Friday week, the 19th, after the Phil. Society's meeting) & other friends that you helped me with the n-words. How could I have done that if I had meant to take the credit?

This absurd thing, although satisfactorily cleared up, would do no credit to me (or Sweet) if known so the Council have agreed not to tell anyone of it — even Cosijn is to know nothing as he is quite unaware that anyone has been championing the imaginary wrong to him — so I ~~also~~ trust you will also not let the affair go beyond yourself. Yours truly
J. Platt Jr.

Transcript of Letter 14

[L14/S1/075]

London, 3/2/83

Dear Professor Sievers

I am sorry to find you wrote to Sweet before getting my explanation. He has not been very friendly with me lately as I have been too frank in arguing against some of his theories and he took the chance of bringing the matter privately into the council of the Philological Society. I did not know of this till Thursday night and I had by that time destroyed your letter to me acquitting me of this mean thing. Hence I had no evidence to show the council that my story of your being satisfied was true. At the same time Sweet brought forward 2 other points to strengthen his charge but those I was able to refute viz.

1) he had heard from me – like you – that Cosijn told me about igge in Dutch so – like you – he suggested I had intended

[L14/S2/076]

to take the credit. I quite cleared myself of this charge as showing Cosijn was quite satisfied about my not quoting his name – which and I also pointed out how absurd it would have been, if I had meant to steal Cosijn's idea, for me to tell Sweet & you & several other friends – as I did – that Cosijn told me these things!

2) Sweet's other point was that I quoted from his "O.E. Texts" but had previously told him I would not. I showed him that my promise was that I would not print "discoveries" – e.g. if the icge words only occurred in "O.E. Texts" I should never have printed anything about them because that would be a "discovery" made by the help of the "Texts" only. But I never promised to Sweet that I would not make "quotations" from the "Texts" to support "discoveries"

[L14/S3/077]

made in other books. Thus, as the icge was discovered by me in other books long before "O.E.T" came before me I was quite justified in quoting 2 forms from the "O.E.T" along with others from other books. I ought to have mentioned perhaps that wælcricge was pointed to me by Sweet (gealdrige I found myself) but I had already given Sweet credit for that in a paper in the Phil. Society's Transactions so I did not think it necessary to repeat the reference to him in the "Anglia".

The council I hear – I was not there – acquitted me of these 2 points but as Sweet had your letter to him & I had not got your letter to me they said they wanted a note from you before acquitting

[L14/S4/078]

me of the part of the charge referring to the u-words. So I write to ask you to write me (or Sweet) that you are satisfied. I may mention that (just as in Cosijn's case) I told Sweet himself (last Friday week, the 19th, after the Phil. Society's meeting) & other friends that you helped me with the u-words. How could I have done that if I had meant to take the credit?

This absurd thing, although satisfactorily cleared up, would do no credit to me (or Sweet) if known so the Council have agreed not to tell anyone of it – even Cosijn is to know nothing as he is quite unaware that anyone has been championing the imaginary wrong to him – so I also trust you will also not let the affair go beyond yourself.

Yours truly

J. Platt jun.