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Reasons for applying the Roman Alphabet

Our so-called European alphabet, as adopted by the Greeks, Romans, and modern nations of Europe, is really Asiatic, and not European in its origin.

It is well suited to the expression of Sanskrit; while its numerous accessory appliances, its types of various kinds and sizes, its capital and small letters, hyphens, brackets, stops etc, make it better suited than any other graphic system to meet the linguistic requirements of the coming century - a century which will witness such vast physical, moral, and intellectual changes, that a new order of things, and almost a new world and a new race of beings, will come into existence. In that new world some of the most inveterate prejudices and peculiarities now separating nation from nation will be obliterated, and all nationalities - brought into fraternal relationship will recognize their kinship and solidarity.



The Roman alphabet adapts itself so readily to expansion by the employment of diacritical points and marks, that it may be regarded as a thoroughly scientific instrument for the accurate expression of every Indian sound, and probably of nearly every sound in every language of the world. And it may, I think, be confidently predicted that before the twentieth century has closed, man's vision, overtasked by a constantly increasing output of literary matter, will peremptorily demand that the reading of the world's best books be facilitated by the adoption of that graphic system which is most universally applicable and most easily apprehensible.



SIR MONIER MONIER-WILLIAMS: A Sanskrit-English Dictionary 1899

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