



November 1954

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 3, no.16, November 1954, p.268

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HARDY'S BURIAL

SIR SYDNEY COCKERELL's statement (in the *London Times Literary Supplement*, January 22, 1954, page 57) that Thomas Hardy was *not* opposed to the idea of burial in Westminster Abbey, as some people have claimed he was, finds support in a Colby College publication, issued in the year of the Hardy centenary, 1940. In Carroll A. Wilson's *Descriptive Catalogue of the Grolier Club Exhibition of the Works of Thomas Hardy* (Waterville, Colby, 1940), there is reproduced (facing page 13) the lettering for the memorial tablet erected to Hardy's memory in St. Juliot Church, Cornwall. Hardy designed this tablet for himself and marked the lettering as follows:

.... HE DIED 19 & IS BURIED AT
STINSFORD DORSET: ERECTED 19 ...

In drawing the fifteen letters for "Stinsford Dorset," however, he did not draw them solid, like the rest of the letters, but dotted them in very lightly and spaced them so that they were exactly replaceable by the sixteen letters of the words "Westminster Abbey." No one who has seen this drawing, or its reproduction in the Colby publication, can have any doubt about the correctness of the statement made by Sir Sydney Cockerell.

