TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

Harvard University,
Cambridge
May 11 - '92

My dear Smith,

I rec'd your card this noon but will not be able
to give you a very satisfactory answer. The Co-operative
Society cannot legally import the book and they tell me
that the only chance I have of getting it is either to
ask the Harpers to import a copy or to send the money to
England myself. I do not know just how the new copyright
law works and cannot seem to find out. The book is pub­
lished by James R. Osgood, McIlvane & Co., 45 Albemarle-street,
London, W. Tess of the D'Urbervilles, 3 vols., octavo,
cloth, 3½s 6½d. This seems to be the regular price of
English three-volume novels.

The expurgation of Harper's editors consists of one
complete chapter, which it is said does not materially
affect the book. I should advise you to buy it, together
with Emile Zola's "La Terre". The latter will make up
for the missing chapter.

Sincerely,
Robinson.

McIlvane