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Vernon Lee: Letters Home

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7-27-1885

## Violet Paget (Kensington, England) to Matilda Paget (Bagni di Lucca, Italy)

Vernon Lee (Violet Paget)

Matilda Paget

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Dear Mr. & Mrs. Kennington

July 27

Dearstamma - This

morning I move to the above  
address, (tomorrow)

got it ready to Cambridge.

A death in Mr. & Mrs. Kennington's  
family had caused me to postpone

it. I have it quite altered  
in E. Terrace, two weeks

have the house all alone

til the 10th or 12th, when

we shall go to Sproun

or to the Custom at City Road.

The house is

Mary is very delicate  
again, yesterday when  
we dined at Mr. Newton's  
very nearly fainting.

I think she has worn  
herself out over writing  
since May she has  
had a more extraordinary  
fit of nervousness.  
She has written about  
60 short songs, of  
a kind of garden  
comedy in verse in  
the Beaumont & Fletcher  
style. The songs are

extremely beautiful: something  
quite new, successful  
leaving no doubt  
whatsoever that she will  
occupy the first  
place in the new generation.  
She says she must  
write what she feels  
she can, that in  
a month the fit may  
be over. But in the  
meantime she seems  
much exhausted.

Yesterday I called on  
Mrs. Clifford & found her  
along with her alone  
she is interesting

cordial. Her interests  
self enjoyment & ill being  
are counterbalanced  
by a kind of selfish  
expansiveness & expansive  
helpfulness, which  
are pleasant. Besides,  
she has great feeling  
& talent: her extraordinary  
novel shows it.

Then I went to Mr.  
Barrington's garden, where  
I met Mr. Tilton; we  
discussed about the

5

Combe play. It is really a  
 thing to be enthusiastic  
 about. Old Newton  
 has been 5 times. He  
 is, I fancy, one of  
 my few friends here.

He took a great fancy  
 to Ephraim last year  
 & somewhat surprised  
 to see my false position  
 vis-a-vis the Ward-Sack  
 set, better than any one  
 has a dear old man. He  
 said sure will be useful  
 to me another year. He

wants to introduce me  
to Lady A. Campbell, of  
whom he is an admirer;  
but she is unfortunately  
going out to the continent.  
He would like to know what  
wages him to employ  
me, but Knowles answered  
that if the Queen herself  
were to send an anonymous  
pseudonymous article,  
he would be obliged to refuse  
it. At all events that  
is satisfactory. Other

Mr. [unclear] has just  
asked me to dinner  
for tomorrow, but  
as I am bound to  
the [unclear] I can't  
do so.

A cousin of Miss  
Fro, Mr. Pease, who  
reviewed Miss Brown  
in Time, wants to  
see me.

20 Earl Terrace 210 Circle  
John has just been. He  
is full of the [unclear] &  
[unclear] & Lady A. Campbell.



He is very nice & sympathetic  
& imaginative. I am about  
to call on Mrs Andrew Lang,  
that last Saturday St James's  
Square contained an article  
by Mr. Newman describing  
Miss B. and speaking of  
it as worthy of Imperial  
Rome. It is sad, as I had  
taken a great fancy to his  
Natalia wife, and the  
fact of her having been  
a Mrs. Lang's school friend

seemed to create a bond  
between us.

Tomorrow Jamson &  
Lee Bro Green, who return  
to town.

Yours ever

J. L.

I have written Mr Law,  
explaining that I intended  
a divorce, calling on him, but  
that I have not done so as Mr  
Menden's words about my  
wife's plain mark had not forced  
me to visit at his house. For he  
but had I hoped to see her again