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## Colby Library Quarterly 217

### FROM FLORENCE TO COLBY BY WAY OF KANSAS

WHEN HENRY JAMES called on Violet Paget in Florence in the spring of 1887, he found her living at No. 5, Via Garibaldi, with her mother and her half-brother, Eugene Lee-Hamilton. His was a tragic case. After receiving an Oxford education, Lee-Hamilton had entered the Foreign Office and at the time of the Franco-Prussian war he was attached to the British Embassy in Paris. In 1873, however, he suddenly collapsed with paralytic symptoms, and for the next twenty years he was a prostrate invalid. He took to writing poetry and developed not a little skill as a sonneteer. Several books of his poems were published, and the list of those who wrote sympathetic reviews of his work includes the name of Edith Wharton.

In the fall of 1889 some of Eugene Lee-Hamilton's poems — "several selections in a poetry magazine" — attracted the attention of Miss Florence Snow in Kansas. She wrote to him; he answered from Italy. She wrote a sonnet to him; he replied with a sonnet of his own, "To Florence Snow," which he included later in his book entitled *Wingless Hours* (1904). He mailed copies of autographed books to her. Then, having made a miraculous recovery, Eugene Lee-Hamilton found himself able to travel. In the early summer of 1897 he came to Toronto, Canada, and accepted an invitation to brave the August heat of Kansas. He spent several days with Florence Snow and her niece, Lydia Sain, and later published some reference to "Kansas woods a year ago." He died about a dozen years later.

Miss Florence Snow treasured her memories of the poet from Italy and of his visit in 1897, and in 1940 she wrote it all down. Her account of Lee-Hamilton eventually made Chapter VI of a book, *Pictures on my Wall: A Lifetime in Kansas*, by Florence L. Snow (Lawrence, Kansas, University of Kansas Press, 1945), a copy of which has now, through the kindness of Professor John E. Hankins, been

## 218 Colby Library Quarterly

presented to the Colby College Library by Miss Sain (the author's niece). Chapter VI (pages 105-122) is entitled "In Regard to Eugene Lee-Hamilton." We are happy to be able to add this record of his visit to Kansas to the file of his papers and books which have come to Colby by way of England.



### OTHER RECENT ACCESSIONS

FROM F. N. Fletcher, of the Class of 1882, we have received a copy of *A Sentimental Journey* "by Mr. Yorick" (published in Glasgow in 1803). Probably none of our readers need any identification of "Mr. Yorick," for Laurence Sterne's famous book has recently celebrated its sesquicentennial.

From Miss Jeannette W. Payson, of Portland, we have received an eight-volume set of Shakespeare (all edges gilt), with many fine engraved illustrations.

From Mrs. Harriet C. Sprague we have received a set of *The Lark* (with *most* amusing contents), a copy of the facsimile edition of Whitman's 1855 *Leaves of Grass*, and various other welcome publications. In addition to the complete set of *The Lark*, Mrs. Sprague has given us various odd issues of the same publication, with interesting bibliographical "points," autographs, variant imprints, etc., etc.

From Mrs. N. N. Wallack, of Alexandria, Virginia, we have received an extensive file of letters, manuscripts, proofs, and other material, by and about Margaret Deland. These letters and manuscripts constitute a most appropriate supplement to the Deland Collection given to Colby by the late N. N. Wallack.

From other sources the Library has received four letters of Willa Cather, dealing with her London call on the poet A. E. Housman (publication of these letters is forbidden by Miss Cather's will); an autograph manuscript by Edna