

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

---

Volume 4  
Issue 12 *November*

Article 6

---

November 1957

## A Gift from Mark Twain's Nephew

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 4, no.12, November 1957, p.226-227

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.

## 226 Colby Library Quarterly

Two other Maine items of historical significance and value are (1) the anonymous first appearance of Longfellow's *Outre-Mer: a Pilgrimage beyond the Sea*, Boston, Hilliard, Gray and Company, 1833, and (2) Joseph Whipple's *A Geographical View of the District of Maine, with Particular Reference to its Internal Resources, Including the History of Acadia, Penobscot River and Bay, with Statistical Tables, Showing the Comparative Progress of the Population of Maine with each State in the Union—a List of the Towns, their Incorporation, Census, Polls, Valuation, Counties, and Distances from Boston*, Bangor: Printed by Peter Edes, 1816.

The Godfrey library is rich in the inclusion of many standard histories of France, England, Germany, and other countries. Biographies of many historical and literary figures abound, along with a sprinkling of titles in the fields of art, religion, and philosophy.

The gift not only enriches the holdings of the Colby Library but will make available many added copies for general circulation.



### A GIFT FROM MARK TWAIN'S NEPHEW

THANKS to the generous thought and kindly interest of Mr. Cyril Clemens, the Library has received a copy of Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Poems* in an edition previously lacking in our Hardy Collection. Mr. Clemens' gift is the London (Macmillan) edition of 1903, "with thirty illustrations by the Author," bound in blue cloth.

According to Richard L. Purdy's *Thomas Hardy: A Bibliographical Study* (1954), "*Wessex Poems* was published . . . in . . . December 1898. . . . *Subsequent Editions* (see also COLLECTED EDITIONS): *Wessex Poems* . . . was published in America by Harper & Brothers at the end of January 1899, though copyrighted 1898. When the volume was included in Macmillan's definitive *Wessex Edition* in 1912, it was

## Colby Library Quarterly 227

combined with *Poems of the Past and the Present* and the illustrations discarded" (page 106).

If, obeying the direction to "see also COLLECTED EDITIONS," one turns to page 284 of Purdy's *Study*, one finds mention of the London (Macmillan) 1912 edition of *Wessex Poems*, but no other edition of this book is there listed or mentioned. Purdy had thus provided support for our previous belief that our file of editions of *Wessex Poems* was complete. The arrival of Mr. Clemens' gift proved that we were wrong in that belief. We now know that there was a 1903 edition also, Macmillan's first issue of this book.

Before sending it, Mark Twain's nephew inscribed the book thus: "For the Colby College Hardy Collection, with high admiration for its magnificent achievement, from the poet's friend and author of *My Chat with Thomas Hardy*.—Cyril Clemens."



### AN ECHO OF EARLY MAINE HISTORY

THROUGH the kindness of "Phyllis and Howard Mott" (Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Mott of Sheffield, Massachusetts), the Library has received an interesting item—a Maine imprint dated Ellsworth, August 23, 1842. It is an announcement of the opening, or re-opening, of Charles J. Whiting's Military School on October 1, 1842. Since some details in this announcement will interest students of Maine history, particularly among the many enthusiastic readers of Dr. Marriner's *Kennebec Yesterdays*, we quote from it here:

"The School is at St. Leonard's Crags, a pleasant, elevated and healthy situation three miles and a half from the village of Ellsworth, on the main post road from that village to the city of Bangor. There are ample accommodations for forty Scholars who will reside in the family of