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glimpses of the farmscapes and homely prototypes she so artfully and viably transposed to paper. So with the First Citizeness of South Berwick: the evanescent flesh is remote now, but the inextinguishable spirit lives on.

THE LETTERS OF SARAH ORNE JEWETT

By JOHN ELDRIDGE FROST

The ever-growing volume of Miss Jewett's letters in print has made desirable a survey both of those which have been printed and of those in manuscript form in libraries. It is neither possible nor desirable to list those owned by individuals for this would constitute an invasion of the collector's privacy or, worse still, a breach of manners toward Miss Jewett's friends and their heirs. It is interesting to note that plans have already been made for the eventual disposal to libraries of all letters privately owned that I have viewed.

Miss Jewett was a warm, vivid, stimulating person whose genius often flowed into her correspondence. An astonishingly large amount of it was saved by those who knew her. She was an avid correspondent who frequently devoted an entire morning to the writing of letters. When she was twenty-three she kept for a year a list of names and dates of all correspondents, both letters sent and received. The list of several hundred letters is now owned by the Houghton Library. It is important to recall that this list was compiled before Miss Jewett had become a well-known author or written a book. Her correspondence increased with her fame.

By the will of Sarah Orne Jewett, signed in 1897 and probated in the fall of 1909, her sister Mary Rice Jewett and her friend Annie Adams Fields were given full authority to determine what unprinted papers, unpublished manuscripts, and "more especially . . . any . . . letters in whosoever hands they may be" should be allowed publication. In accordance with these directions two years after Miss Jewett's death, Annie Fields selected from the letters written to Sarah's family and friends those which seemed to possess the most interest, and
the volume was issued by Houghton Mifflin Company, Sarah Jewett's publisher. One hundred forty-four letters were reproduced in part, and this collection for years served as the chief biographical source on the writer.

Unfortunately, this very readable collection has its limitations. In 1905 the private publication of the letters of a prominent Boston woman had aroused considerable controversy as to whether letters should be published in full, or whether they should appear devoid of their more personal aspects. Two years later, when the letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman appeared, Sarah Jewett felt it necessary to use a phrase in her editorial note: "If the veil of privacy seems to be unduly lifted..." To most persons the veil of privacy seemed hardly to have been lifted at all, and many complained that the excerpts were so brief and so bowdlerized that the essential personality that should have infused them had been shorn away. Yet, when Annie Fields edited Sarah Jewett's letters, the memory of the six-year-old controversy was sufficiently strong so that no single letter appeared in full.

The letters used by Annie Fields were returned to their owners, and perhaps no more than half can be located today. A large number of those found are in the Houghton Library. A comparison of the original letters with those in the book reveals that letters of different dates have been joined, and dates have been assigned which are at best occasionally doubtful and sometimes in distinct error.1 The elimination of much that was personal seemed desirable in 1911, but it is less so today. The collection is extremely readable, and it is to be hoped that eventually we may have an edition containing many of these letters in their entirety.

By the will of Dr. Theodore Jewett Eastman (Sarah’s nephew), signed in 1925 and probated in 1926, the personal papers and family correspondence of the Jewetts were disposed of. Correspondence which seemed closely related to Miss Jewett’s work eventually found a home in the Houghton Library of Harvard University while the bulk that remained was housed in the library of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. In this way two of the three largest

1 On pp. 161 and 162, for instance, letters dated 1899 should read 1896.
Jewett collections were formed. The third at Colby College was established largely through the efforts of Professor Carl J. Weber, his wife Clara Carter Weber, and Professor Richard Cary, all of Waterville, Maine.

Colby College has rendered distinguished service to scholarship by making available in print its entire collection of Jewett correspondence. In 1947 the Colby College Press published two hundred and twenty-five copies of a volume of Jewett letters owned by their school, with editorial notes by Professor Weber. This volume, printed by the Anthoensen Press, was chosen by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of the Fifty Books of the Year, and went out of print almost overnight. In 1956 the school published a much larger volume of Jewett letters, this time edited by Professor Richard Cary of Colby, and now also out of print. High standards of scholarship have been maintained in both of Colby's editions of the Jewett letters, and the footnotes are especially praiseworthy. Additional Jewett letters are included in the Colby Library Quarterly as they are acquired by the college.

The comprehensiveness of the following checklist of letters written by Miss Jewett now in institutional libraries was greatly enhanced through the kindness of Professor Joseph Jones of the University of Texas who made available to the compiler a supplementary list of institutions which had reported ownership of correspondence. The name of the institution, its location, total number of letters owned, persons addressed and number of letters to each, are listed. Collections of published letters with their contents and letters in periodical articles are first noted.

Published Letters


144 letters: to Mary Elizabeth Woodman Aldrich (1), Thomas Bailey Aldrich (3), the two latter (1), Willa Cather (3), Ellen Chase (4), David Douglas (4), Louisa Dressel (2), Annie Adams Fields (62), Alice Greenwood Howe (4), Miss A. O. Huntington (1), Rose Lamb (2), Louisa P. Lor-
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Alden, John, ed. “Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain,” in *Boston Public Library Quarterly*, v. 9, no. 2 (April 1957), 86-96. 10 letters to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain.

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2 letters: to Charles Jervis Gilman (1), Charles Ashburton Gilman (1), with excerpts from others.


2 letters: to James Ripley Osgood (1), William Hayes Ward (1).


2 letters to Samuel Thurber.

LETTERS IN LIBRARIES

Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.: 1 to Ida M. Tarbell.


Amherst College, Amherst, Mass.: 1 to Amy Lowell.

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass.: 2 to Patrick K. Foley.


Boston University, Boston, Mass.: 1 to Katharine and Louisa Loring.

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., 17: to Alice M. D. Gilman (7), Charles Ashburton Gilman (4), Charles Jervis Gilman (1), Elizabeth Jervis Gilman (2), the latter and Mary Gardiner Gilman (2), William DeWitt Hyde (1).

Chicago Historical Society, Chicago, Ill.: 1 to Mr. Squires.

Colby College, Waterville, Me., 97: 94 (as above), to Sally (1), Lilla Cabot Perry (1), Mary Davenport Claflin (1).


Columbia University, New York City, 7: to Anon. (1), Miss Smith (1), Society of the Philistines (1), Arthur Stedman (4).

Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.: 1 to Mary Noailles Murfree.

Fenway Court, Boston, Mass.: 4 to Isabella Stewart Gardner.

Harvard University (Houghton Library), Cambridge, Mass., 479: to Mrs. Fred P. Abbott (1), Mary Elizabeth Woodman Aldrich (71), Thomas Bailey Aldrich (43), the two latter (4), Anon. (1), Boylston Beal (1), Mabel Lowell Burnett (6), David Douglas (1), George du Maurier (2), Annie Adams Fields (169), Dr. Christopher P. Gerrish (1), Amy Gordon Galt Grant (1), Anna Lyman Mason Gray (1), Col. Thomas Wentworth Higginson (1), Louis A. Holman (1), Houghton, Mifflin and Co. (1), Alice Howe Gibbens James (1), Prof. William James (2), Mary Rice Jewett (36), James Russell Lowell (1), Ellen Mason (1), Mr. Merriam (1), Dr. S. Weir Mitchell (6), Thomas B. Mosher (1), Mr. Munroe (1), Nelly Nichols (1), Charles Eliot Norton (17), Lily Norton (1), Sara Norton (2), James R. Osgood (1), Frances Parker Parkman (15), Prof. Theophilus Parsons (2), Bliss Perry (8), Samuel T. Pickard (8), Harriet Waters Preston (1), Sarah Wyman Whitman (37), John Greenleaf Whittier (31).

(Lamont Library). 3 to George Edward Woodberry.

Haverford College, Haverford, Pa.: 1 to James R. Osgood.

Rutherford B. Hayes Library, Fremont, Ohio, 23: to Adams Davenport Claflin (3), Mary Davenport Claflin (8), Emma Harding Claflin Ellis (11), William Dean Howells (1).

Sarah Orne Jewett Memorial, South Berwick, Me., 3: to Charles Eliot Norton (2), Sara Norton (1).

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.: 1 to Sarah Chauncey Woolsey.


Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial, Cambridge, Mass.: 2 to Alice Longfellow.

Loyola University, Chicago, Ill.: 1 to F. Hopkinson Smith.

Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.: 1 to Hon. F. E. Boothby.
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Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass., 5: to Mary Davenport Claflin (2), Annie Adams Fields (1), Francis Jackson Garrison (1), Mrs. Haskins (1).

Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 4: to Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward (1), William Hayes Ward (3).


Newark Public Library, Newark, N. J.: 1 to Susan Lord Hayes Ward.

Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.: 3 to Alice French.


Princeton University, Princeton, N. J., 3: to Edward Bok (1), Laurence Hutton (1), Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed (1).

Radcliffe College (Women's Archives), Cambridge, Mass.: 1 to Elizabeth Cary Agassiz.


University of California, Los Angeles, Cal.: 1 to William Smith.

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Cal.: 3 to Hamlin Garland.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.: 1 to Prof. Charles W. Kent.


Yale University, New Haven, Conn., 9: to Abby Alger (2), William A. Baker (1), Sarah Warner Brooks (1), Samuel
JEWETT AND THE JUVENILE CRITICS

By GEORGE P. NYE

Two letters written by Sarah Orne Jewett in May 1906 came to my attention about ten years ago at the high school in Newton, Massachusetts. In them she acknowledged and commented on a sheaf of compositions which had been sent to her by the senior English class of Mr. Samuel Thurber (1879-1943). According to Robert W. Boyden, a member of that year’s senior class (and now of Proctor Academy, Andover, New Hampshire), Thurber taught English in the commercial and general courses at that time. The text used by the class is listed in school files as *Short Stories.* No copies have survived. Was the book *The Queen’s Twin and Other Stories? The King of Folly Island and Other People?* It may well have been any one of half a dozen kindred collections. I have no definite information, except that it was a very old rebound text, not used in classes during the past fifteen years.

Whatever the Jewett stories were that the students read, I think we can readily infer from the two letters that Thurber’s charges were not as enthusiastic as they might have been had they been reading, say, *To Have and To Hold.* Reading under compulsion is a limited joy at best, as we all know, and Miss Jewett’s quiet delineation of rural character is not the type of literary fare likely to have satisfied pupils who craved more action and excitement. Years later, in *Not Under Forty* (New York, 1936), Willa Cather could address her fiercely pro-Jewett remarks to these same people, but while they were youngsters in Thurber’s class it was their pleasure to write a few comments which obviously distressed the gentle invalid in South Berwick.

1 Unfortunately, no other documents besides the letters have come to light. At least one letter must have been written to SOJ by Mr. Thurber. Most helpful, if they could be found, would be the compositions themselves, with Miss Jewett’s marginal comments.

2 No such title is listed in Clara C. and Carl J. Weber’s *Bibliography of the Published Writings of Sarah Orne Jewett* (Waterville, Maine, 1949).