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CARDINER
APR
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630 PM
1899
ME.

Mr. George W. Latham,
Auburn High School,
Auburn, N. Y.

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CHICAGO
APR 11 1894
7:00 AM

My dear Latham,

Your letter acted upon me like a spring tonic - just as Panderus acts, or one of Hardy's novels. You have read Tess, but have you read the Trooper Major - the Mayor of Casterbridge - Far From the Madding Crowd - the Woodlanders & other Returns of the Matter. If you have not, you have something in store for you - and so have I, for the Matter. Henry James says that a novel by Daudet must be given two readings in order to do the author justice. I find by experience that his words are true and I also find that they would apply equally well to Hardy - that is, as far as my perception goes. I can perfectly understand how certain people may read the Mayor & Casterbridge (the best of the lot in my opinion) and feel that he has read the book in the last sense - the only sense - of the words. But I cannot do that and I am glad to say that I have the whole of them to go through again - all but the Hours of Ethelwate and Trooper & a Trooper & a Trooper. One reading is

quite enough for them. - And this then is
"Esther Waters", which I shall take up again
before a long time. Whence I took up that book
I took up the Atlantic Monthly, which I hold to
to be one of the most expeditiously conservative
periodicals in the world. A man living in New-
York, ~~London~~, can now send his manuscript to
No 4 Park St, Boston and have it back again in
his pocket in less than forty-eight hours;
and a man living in London, England, can
write a greater novel than has been brought
out by any American writer since Hawthorne,
and have it disposed of by the critics of that
magazine in half a dozen lines of faint praise,
deciding not only a narrow humanity - but -
the New England Literary Woman with her thin
lips and all the rest of it. - "Esther Waters"
is a tremendous piece of work and a piece of
work that is bound to be regarded some day, if
you ever read it - you will, I think, fully agree
with me.

Did you see the article in the N. A. R.
(I don't know I like to call up the name of my
German and would another R) by Quaker on
modern fiction? If you did you must have
noticed among the list of good novels one

"Esther Waters" & "Impressions of Boston". It was a surprise to me and I wrote to
Tend to find out who wrote it. Some says that he sent me the book &
only says he had no time to read it - and send you it to see if you find it.
I had to read some reviews about it - no such a Frenchman. It has been making
a fine but I am not sure to be right and deeply interested in the story - for
it's side it is, really the record. The theme is education and the author,
J. M. Tracy, answers wonderfully in answer of the troubles of all things. I do
not see how good a story it could be translated and I don't mind if it can find
its way to our shores to the satisfaction of those things and some of the people
I had an impression the author is a Frenchman for his is a Frenchman - and makes
the plot in the form of all such romances. And yet as I read it, the spirit
of the impressions, the & aside, about a girl's life and a fine story. The
moral lesson of the book is the highest French, but what are the things that are
of the world and what part of it is to be said of the young person.
Study of French romances, of the part of French "Dante's" & "Pitt's"
Parnassus. It is a study of pictures and a study of characters with the
sublimity of comparison. The young Charles's part is a study of what she has
his actions and the further into what she has in the heart with a truth that
nothing from her at first she might have seen America are excellent. Such

more involving business do not prevent the fact from being a remarkable first thing.
I do not remember that of the greater part of it - what makes David a great
man in the literary world. The business I do not do; but his has to be
maintained with his long suffering husband. The habits of the life is virtual
to a large extent. He felt, thought in his inner world, a peculiar complexity
and marked out with a shell which he called in a great measure. He pursued
of the end, was for as it has not, seems to be to show the effect of a person's
impulse. The work itself, if done in, to the end of conversation with William. Fringing in
the little school. The marked conclusion of history to history complex with it.

For you in fact as much that he has. I have a piece found to be and
do not not say not say with myself. In a book or so I shall try
to write again and answer him that I was just about to do that and make
you write about the other yellow paper cover, - but say that you are open
that you are better in a good way for me. The same man I say in my first
that you remember that little man not forgetting, I am the I have learned
to how to read him. It's just the: when the end shows you may see
now that is for days. He said that you know you are at a stage like
this: "It is but the old controversy but much more of the vice [Drunkness]. The
"writing of several philosophers about very touch of it; and see myself - the
"Stoic" when to come, who advise to give themselves conditions the liberty -

" to drink to a debauch, to recreate and
" refresh the soul; and even that censor and
" reformer of albums, Cato, was reproach'd that he
" was a good fellow."

Yours very sincerely,

Putnam

25 April - 1895