

Colby



Colby Quarterly

Volume 1
Issue 12 *October*

Article 6

10-1-1945

A Jewett Manuscript

Marguerite Roberts

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

Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 1, no.12, October 1945, p.190-191

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 administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.

190 Colby Library Quarterly

If I lent you that book "some" twenty years ago, it is "some" nineteen years, eleven months, and twenty-eight days since I thought of it.

A horrible reflection strikes me. Perhaps you are giving me a realistic object lesson in honesty. *Have* I a book of yours which I have neglected or forgotten to return? Well, you won't get it!

This is a loving good-bye as well as a defiance. My wife & I go to New York to-morrow, to take Wednesday's steamer for England. The way the Prince of Wales has been carrying on recently makes our presence there absolutely necessary. I hope that *you* will be good while I am gone. I can't act as an example everywhere at once.

Ever yours,

T. B. ALDRICH

This letter was written from Ponkapog, Massachusetts. The name reminds us of the fact that Sarah Orne Jewett, of South Berwick, Maine, used to address Aldrich as the Duke of Ponkapog.



A JEWETT MANUSCRIPT

ONE YEAR after Aldrich assumed the responsibility of the editorship of the *Atlantic*, Longfellow died. Aldrich at once appealed to Whittier for a memorial poem, but Whittier reported inability to comply. "It seems as if I could never write again." Yet within a few weeks he composed a poem "Godspeed," addressed to Sarah Orne Jewett and her friend, Mrs. Annie Fields, on the occasion of their going abroad for the summer of 1882.

A possible explanation of this sudden rebirth of creative activity in Whittier has just come to light. The Colby Library Associates recently purchased the manuscript of a poem entitled "The Eagle Trees," which Miss Jewett addressed to J[ohn] G[reenleaf] W[hittier], dating it April 1882. This was just one month before the date of Whittier's "Godspeed." The fact that Miss Jewett's poem had, apparently, never been published and that its existence was, until the recent discovery of the manuscript, unknown, led to reluctance to purchase the manuscript until all doubt

Colby Library Quarterly 191

about its authenticity had been removed. Thanks to the extended and persistent researches of Library Associate Clara Carter Weber, this doubt was at last dispelled and the manuscript was purchased. The poem was published for the first time only a few weeks ago, in the September issue of the *New England Quarterly*, to which our readers are referred for a detailed account of its composition and of the provenance of the manuscript. The holograph has now become a valuable addition to the Jewett Collection in the Colby Library.

If any of our readers have Jewett letters, or know where any may be found, will they please communicate with the editor?



A HALL MANUSCRIPT

THE September 1944 *Atlantic* appeared with a series of poems written by one of the authors of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. In presenting them the *Atlantic* remarked: "A member of the best collaborating team in American letters, JAMES NORMAN HALL is a poet and essayist as well. . ."

Mr. Hall's first poem showed an understanding appreciation of a Maine poet's "lonely flute." The verses were entitled "Edwin Arlington Robinson's Poems." Thanks to Mr. Hall's gracious response to our request, his autograph manuscript of this poem is now in the Colby library. A prized association item in our Robinson Collection, it holds a place similar to that held in our Hardy Collection by Drinkwater's autograph manuscript of his poem to Thomas Hardy. Mr. Hall observes of the poet Robinson: "He found the wintry end of autumn best."

The second of Mr. Hall's poems in the *Atlantic* was also about a Maine author, one already named in the pages of this issue—Sarah Orne Jewett. When we add that Mr. Hall states that Thomas Hardy is a great favorite with him, it