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Desiderata

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Besides copies of the novel itself, the semi-centennial exhibition included a contemporary Hardy letter referring to *Jude*, and—one of the high lights of the exhibit—Hardy’s letter to Miss Gilder declining to be interviewed by her. A photostatic copy of her notorious review was also shown, together with a copy of the pamphlet privately printed by Paul Lemperly in 1917 in an edition of 27 copies, in which the correspondence between Hardy and Miss Gilder is given. This pamphlet and the letters were lent by Mr. Carroll A. Wilson.

Also exhibited were several rarely seen discussions of *Jude*, such as Edmund Gosse’s article on “Mr. Hardy’s New Novel” which helped to launch a new periodical, The *Cosmopolis*, in January 1896, and Havelock Ellis’s “Concerning *Jude the Obscure*” in *The Savoy* for October 1896.

DESIDERATA

JACOB ABBOTT is not as widely known to the present generation of readers as he was a century ago. Born in Hallowell, Maine, in 1803, and long a resident in Farmington, Maine, Abbott wrote, before his death in 1879, nearly two hundred books—perhaps more than two hundred—the best know among them being the once-famous Rollo Series. Rollo was obviously a Maine boy; to some readers it is “obvious” that he lived at Farmington, thirty-five miles from the Colby campus. He made his first appearance in a book in or about 1835, and from that date until the outbreak of the Civil War hardly a year went by without the addition of one or two titles to the Rollo Series. Twenty-eight were published in all. Of these the Colby Library possesses copies of only nine. We are indebted for these books to J. R. Melcher, ’81, who gave one; to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Berry, ’94 and ’96, who gave two; and to Elmer H. Hussey, ’13, who gave the other six. Will Library Asso-
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associates and Colby friends and readers of the QUARTERLY look over their attic collections and see how many of the other nineteen volumes they can find to add to our Abbott shelf? Of "Rollo's Tour in Europe" we have the volumes *On the Atlantic*, *In Paris*, *In Switzerland*, *On the Rhine*, *In London*, *In Scotland*, and *In Holland*. We lack the Rome, Naples, and Geneva volumes. Please help us to find them! Of the earlier series, *Rollo Learning to Talk*, *Rollo at School*, etc., we have none of the original publications.

Jacob Abbott was also the author of a historical series—twenty-two biographies of historical figures, or "Makers of History" as they are called in a more modern reprint. Abbott began this series in or about 1848, with *The History of Charles the First*, and one of its first purchasers was the Society of Erosophian Adelphi of Waterville College—the fraternity which had invited Emerson to speak here in 1841. Another Waterville purchaser of Abbott's biographies was Dr. David N. Sheldon, Professor of Philosophy from 1843 to 1853, and to his family the college library is indebted for copies of the books about King Alfred, Julius Caesar, and Nero. Colby Lamb, '53, gave us *The History of Alexander the Great* (New York, 1848). We also have the volumes on Hannibal, Charles the Second, and Richard the Second. But this leaves fourteen biographies yet to be acquired. We shall welcome the aid of all our readers in finding copies of them. The historical personalities who are missing are Cleopatra, Margaret of Anjou, Mary Queen of Scots, and Queen Elizabeth; William the Conqueror, Richard I, and Richard III; Xerxes, Cyrus, Darius, Romulus, and Pyrrhus; Genghis Khan, and Peter the Great.

We have a copy of Jacob Abbott's *The Teacher* dated 1836, but we would like to be helped to a copy of the first edition, Boston 1833. Since many of the books of this prolific Farmington author are of the sort that have sometimes been relegated to the attic, it is quite possible that readers of these lines may be able to find under the eaves copies which will fill some of the gaps in our collection.