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The Date of Miss Jewett's Letter to Vernon Lee

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Westminster Gazette under the heading “Mr. Wells’s Philosophy.” Her obvious disapproval of his philosophical views, and particularly of his way of presenting them to the public, resulted in—or at least was followed by—a period of silence. Then, in 1910, when Wells’s *The New Machiavelli* was published by John Lane, the correspondence was resumed. Vernon Lee wrote to say that she didn’t like the book. Wells replied:

My dear Vernon Lee.

I knew you wouldn’t like *The New Machiavelli* or, for a time after you’ve read it, me. I don’t repent or apologize for the book, which I’m proud of, but my affections run on different lines I think from yours, and it makes no difference to my very warm regard for you that you should not see it as I would like you to see it. Don’t come to us while there is any strained feeling on your part toward us. There’s none on ours to you. I think a day will come when you will forgive me *The New Machiavelli*, and anyhow dear Vernon Lee, I am Yours very warmly and admiringly and affectionately

H. G. Wells

Four years later came the First World War, after which Wells wrote no more letters to Vernon Lee.

THE DATE OF MISS JEWETT’S LETTER TO VERNON LEE

On page 107 of our August, 1952, issue we printed a letter written by Sarah Orne Jewett to “Dear Miss Paget.” The letter was dated simply “3d Jan’y” and we conjecturally assigned 1907 as the year in which the letter was written. This was done on the strength of Miss Jewett’s reference to the fact that “The Atlantic is just now printing some French sketches by Mrs. Wharton”—a statement which we took to refer to Edith Wharton’s “A Motor-Flight through France,” one installment of which ap-
appeared in the *Atlantic* for January, 1907. It is now clear that the letter *should* have been dated 1908 instead of 1907, for Miss Jewett was referring to "A Second Motor-Flight through France" which *The Atlantic* published a year after the initial flight. The first of four installments appeared in January, 1908, and it was on the third of *this* January that Sarah Orne Jewett wrote her second rather than her first letter to Miss Paget. Letter No. 43 should be corrected accordingly.

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**LETTERS FROM GOSSE AND BENSON**

Vernon Lee had a veritable genius for eliciting interesting letters from friends and strangers alike. Some of the men who wrote to her sent remarks which we are glad to have, remarks which we might have missed but for Vernon Lee’s catalytic services.

Arthur Christopher Benson, the son of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, had been a Master at Eton College from 1885 to 1903. (At a later date he became the president of Magdalene College, Cambridge.) In 1905 he published a life of Edward FitzGerald in the English Men of Letters series, and in 1906 his *Walter Pater* was added to this same series of critical biographies. It was probably upon the announcement of Benson’s selection for the English Men of Letters *Pater* that Violet Paget wrote to him, saying that she was greatly interested in the subject of aesthetics, on which Walter Pater had also written. Benson’s reply came from Wordsworth’s Lake District:

Skelwith Fold, Ambleside.
July 16, 1905

Dear Miss Paget,

Thank you for your kind and interesting letter. I only knew Mr Pater a very little, but I *seem*, by reading his books and talking to