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"dated" and it cuts to a minimum that part of the story which concerns Scrooge's early "affair of the heart." And it includes, among the things never before published, a reproduction of Charles Dickens' letter accepting an invitation to read the Carol in Peterborough, England, in the Christmas season of 1855, almost exactly a hundred years ago. The Colby Carol also reproduces a photograph which Mr. Calhoun believes to be hitherto unpublished showing Dickens at his reading desk.

The Colby College Press has obviously tried hard to bring this new edition within the reach of all, and has issued it in two formats: a cloth-bound edition at three dollars, and a paper-bound edition in red at two dollars. A. Edward Newton's advice is worth repeating: "Buy two copies: one to give away and one to read, as the Christmas season rolls around." And Mr. Calhoun explains why: "because every lover of the Carol is a missionary for its message. He has come to recognize that message as the hope of the world."

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THOMAS HARDY AND MILTON ABBEY

By the Reverend Canon Herbert Pentin, M.A.

Ericeira, Portugal

The first five years of my clerical life were spent in Warwickshire, as Curate of George Eliot's parish at Nuneaton, and of Shakespeare's Church at Stratford-on-Avon. Then, Sir Everard Hambro, by presenting me with the Living of Milton Abbey in the year 1901, brought me back to Dorset where my boyhood and youth had been spent.

Thomas Hardy and I soon met at meetings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, of which I
became the Hon. Secretary. He talked at first of my new parish, in which he manifested a lively interest, and it became obvious how much he knew of Milton Abbey and its history, and also of the folk-lore and traditions of the place. He told me that as a young man he had visited the Abbey Church from time to time to study and sketch its various types of architecture, and that he had also had long talks with the oldest inhabitants, some of whom then wore the traditional white smock. He had got to know, more than most people, a great deal about the demolition, in the 18th century, of the Old Town of Milton Abbey by Joseph Damer, Lord Milton (afterwards Earl of Dorchester) and of the townspeople's strong reaction;* and also about the ancient little Chapel of St. Catherine on the wooded hill above the Abbey. Some of the incidents that he told me are incorporated in my article on "The Old Town of Milton Abbey" in Volume XXV of the Dorset Field Club's Proceedings.

Hardy was also much attracted and impressed by the peculiar hamlet of Holworth, near "White Nose" on the Dorset coast, not only on account of its remoteness from the world, far from the madding crowd, but also because, curiously enough, though it is detached by sixteen miles from his "Middleton Abbey" in the centre of Dorset, yet for many centuries it has remained an ecclesiastically-annexed portion of that parish. The almost utter loneliness of this peculiar seaside hamlet had a great charm for this unworldly man and he writes of Holworth in his smuggling story "The Distracted Preacher" in his Wessex Tales.

Hardy was also very interested in old-time Dorset songs and doggerel rhymes, and he started me on a quest for the folk-songs sung by gaffers at Harvest Home Suppers and Friendly Society Fêtes, and also for the game-rhymes sung

* The twenty years' stubborn fight of the townspeople against the Lord of the Manor recalls Hardy's allusion in his novel The Woodlanders to "Middleton Abbey"—he makes use of the ancient name of the parish—as being "a place where one might gain strength, particularly strength of mind."
by children in village school playgrounds. William Barnes, the Dorset poet, is credited with having been the first to make a collection of such rhymes, though Judge J. S. Udal was the first to have an article printed on the subject (in the seventh volume of *The Folk Lore Journal*) and much later he wrote a weighty book bearing thereon. Hardy's interest in this subject is recorded in the following letter (the original autograph of which I enclose as an addition to the Colby file of such letters):

Max Gate, Dorchester.
23:2:’05 [February 23, 1905].

Dear Mr Pentin:

It is so kind of you to send me the Milton Doggerel Rhymes so promptly. They have been with me all day—upstairs, downstairs, across the meads and in the garden. They interest me because they—or I should say two-thirds of them—are those I remember from my own childhood now, though many had escaped me during all the intervening years. I also recall some which you have not written down, but which you will, no doubt, meet with.

I have also read with interest the brief account you give of St. Catherine's Chapel, and the detailed account of the Old Town. What a sinister figure arises from the past in the person of Lord Dorchester! "The evil that men do lives after them." You probably know the traditionary story about him and the monks' bones, etc.? It is extraordinary how firmly it was believed in by the old men who used to repeat it to me when I was young.

We shall be here all the latter half of March, and shall be glad to hear from you of a date for your coming.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS HARDY.

Hardy and I were friends for over twenty years and used to visit each other's homes. The photograph herewith was taken on his last visit to me in 1920, when he was nearly eighty years of age. (I am now in my eighty-second year.)
Thomas Hardy and Herbert Pentin

circa 1920