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- and Possibilities*. London, Ward and Downey, 1894. (Contains biographical and critical notes on O'Grady.)
- T. M., "The Irish Literary Renaissance." *The Weekly Sun*, [London], December 16, 1894. (Newspaper clipping.)
- Wade, Allan, ed. *The Letters of W. B. Yeats*, 1st ed. London, Rupert Hart-Davis, 1954. (Contains letter to Standish O'Grady on p. 307 as well as numerous references to him in other letters.)
- Yeats, W. B. *Autobiographies*, 1st ed. London, Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1955. (Contains several biographical and critical comments on and personal reminiscences of O'Grady.)
- Young, Ella. *Flowering Dusk; Things Remembered*, 1st ed. New York, Longmans, Green and Co., 1945. (Contains many personal reminiscences of Standish O'Grady.)



AN IMPORTANT HARDY MANUSCRIPT

The Library has just received from an anonymous donor an extremely interesting autograph of Thomas Hardy—the original rough-draft manuscript of his poem "The Two Tall Men." Those who consult Hardy's *Collected Poems* will not find there a poem by this title, but the following explanation of this fact can be given.

Hardy wrote this rough draft on the back of an announcement of the sale of Wembley Stadium and Greyhound Racecourse shares dated August 24, 1927. The date shows that this poem was one of the very latest composed by him before his death in January 1928. It is obviously a very characteristic piece of work.

The poem deals with a man who was so tall that he was afraid of being buried (as his father had been buried) in a coffin too short for a man of his height. He accordingly began making a coffin for himself, one "long enough."

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This autograph shows all of Hardy's false starts and second thoughts, his deletions and later additions, his substitutions and transpositions. The poem tells how, when the tall man had finished making his coffin, his brother died and "he gave it to him," and then set about making a second coffin, one equally tall.

However, after this poem had been completed and while the manuscript was lingering in Hardy's hands, awaiting insertion in his last book of poetry—one that turned out, in the final event, to be the posthumous volume called *Winter Words*—the poet had a fresh idea about it. Instead of *two* tall men, brothers, let there be still another—the tall son of the tall coffin-maker—and let this son, too, die and be buried in the second coffin. Whereupon the father would set about making a *third* coffin that would be "long enough."

Hardy thereupon composed a new section of the poem, and changed the title to "The Three Tall Men." The original ending, however, he retained unchanged:

Many years later was brought to me
News that the man had died at sea.

After the death of the poet himself, the London *Daily Telegraph* printed some of his latest compositions. Thus "The Three Tall Men" appeared in the *Telegraph* on August 9, 1928, almost a year after the original rough draft had been penned. The poem was finally "collected" in *Winter Words* in October 1928.

We think that there has been no previous statement made about the evolution of this poem, and the manuscript recently given to the Colby College Library is very likely the sole evidence that "The Three Tall Men" began by involving only *two* tall men on the back of a Greyhound Racecourse prospectus. In Hardy's *Collected Poems* (London, 1952) the poem about the *three* tall men appears on pages 814-815.

