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beats all how word gets 'round when a Tory comes back to
town!'" (825). How could Madam Wallingford have been so
serenely unaware of the violence of the day?

The importance of family and good breeding governs the
characters in The Tory Lover; gentle tolerance furnishes the
tone; feminine distaste for violence curbs the action; unfamiliar­
ity with romance restricts the love story; and only fate —
exemplified in William Cowper's "God moves in a mysterious
way/His wonders to perform" — ties sections of the story to­
together to create a semblance of unity of plot.

JEWETT TO GUINEY: AN EARLIER LETTER

By Edward H. Cohen

THE EXTANT LETTERS of Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen
Guiney, dating from 1894 to 1899, indicate that the two
New Englanders were genuine friends and frequent companions
in Boston's literary circles.

Just when their acquaintance began is not certain. During
the 1880s, when Miss Jewett's reputation as an accomplished
author of local color sketches was secure and Miss Guiney's
promise as a sensitive poet was apparent, mutual friends­
such as Annie Fields and Alice Brown — would have provided
any needed introduction. Thus, the letter here recorded is
offered as evidence that Sarah Jewett and Louise Guiney may
have corresponded and met as early as 1891.

The letter itself bears the watermark of G.B. Hurd & Co.,
and is folded once on black-edged mourning stationery —
signifying, perhaps, the death of Miss Jewett's mother, in
the autumn of 1891. Words inserted above the line by Miss
Jewett have been lowered and bracketed.

1 Seven letters, in the Dinand Library of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. For a commentary on this collection, see William L. Lucey.
"'We New Englanders': Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Imogen
Dear Miss Guiney,

Mrs Fields and I wish so much that you would come to dine with us tomorrow — Saturday — at [quarter before] seven. It is Mrs Fields’s afternoon at home, so please come as early as you can! I am here only until the first of the week and we are to be quite by ourselves [tomorrow evening] — save for Miss Alice Longfellow who has not been well and is staying with Mrs Fields for awhile. If you do come I shall be sure to ask you to play us an old song!

Yours most truly
Sarah O. Jewett

2 The Boston home and literary salon of Annie Fields, widow of the eminent editor and publisher, James T. Fields. F.O. Matthiessen has written: “Even before the publisher’s death [in 1881] Sarah Jewett had begun to be a more frequent visitor to Charles Street, and now impalpably — Mrs. Fields was fifteen years older than Sarah — the two women were absorbed into a salon that endured as long as their lives” (Sarah Orne Jewett [Boston, 1829], 71).

3 The 11th of December fell on a Friday not only in 1891 — the suggested date of this letter — but also in 1883 and 1903. In 1885 Miss Guiney’s only published volume of verse, Songs at the Start, would hardly have attracted much notice; by 1903, however, she had already retired to England, where she spent most of the remaining years of her life.

4 This letter is much more formal than those of the letters in the Dinand Library; later in the decade Miss Jewett was to address her friend: “My dear Louise,” “My dear friend,” “Dear friend and poet.” The implication is, of course, that this letter may represent Miss Guiney’s first invitation to the Charles Street coterie.

5 After Longfellow’s death in 1882, his eldest daughter was a frequent companion of Mrs. Fields.