

46 Marlborough Hill
21 Nov. 1940 R.W.

My dear Wise,

That 1645 Walker was taken out of the case as I came away because I thought at the moment, without referring, that it was identical with the Roxburgh copy, was not sure you had that, & thought you might want to compare with Sobell's Walker copy. ~~Yes~~ Yes, please post mine to me at your convenience.

Your new library struck me
as being a very fine and delight-
fully arranged room: I hope
you will find it conducive
to the production of a heap
more good work - including
any project in re Swinburne
that you may be entertaining.

I had no idea till your letter
of the other day ^(18th) came that you
had anything on foot beyond
the production of the series of
tiny first editions. Now that
it seems I was mistaken I shall
withdraw entirely from the scheme.
set afoot by Mr. Harper.

I am not committed to it. Harper
approached me on the vague
general question whether it wd
be agreeable to me to edit some
Swinburne MSS for his Society;
but of course it would not
be agreeable if the interests of
you or Watts-Dunton were to be
in the remotest degree prejudiced
by my participation in the matter.
I have more than plenty to do
in the immediate future. I doubt
whether Harper is as much your
oppressor as you think. As to
Fathead, I should say, as

I said to Brown, that he has no
notion of printing it. He may
be ignorant & narrow on
that point; but that is not
of any consequence to us others.
I dare say, Fat Madge is quite
a good girl & quite a good
woman, & shall be glad to see
her when her Mother knows
she's out.

It is not a "return of the old trouble",
dear boy; but the persistence of the
permanent trouble that led to
the old ^{acute} trouble. At present I am
not contemplating a further operation;
but I shall never be able to get about
as gold. Yours as ever, all the same,
H. Burton Torrey

HENRY BUXTON FORMAN, A. L. S., 21 November 1910,
to Thomas J. Wise.

46 Marlborough Hill
N. W.

21 Nov. 1910

My dear Wise,

That 1645 Waller was taken out of the case as I came away because I thought at the moment, *without referring*, that it was identical with the Roxburgh copy, was not sure you had that, [above this word

Transcription from:

Kendall, Lyle H., Jr. **A Descriptive Catalogue of the W.L. Lewis Collection--Part One.**

Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

a penciled cross, and at the bottom of the page, also penciled, Wise's "I have it."] & thought you might want to compare with Dobell's Walkley copy. Yespl [deleted] Yes, please post mine to me at your convenience. [p. 2] Your new library struck me as being a very fine and delightfully arranged room: I hope you will find it conducive to the production of a heap more good work—including any project *in re* Swinburne that you may be entertaining.

I had no idea till your letter of the other day (18th) came that you had anything on foot beyond the production of the series of tiny first editions. Now that it seems I was mistaken I shall withdraw entirely from the scheme set afoot by Mr. Harper. [p. 3] I am not committed to it. Harper approached me on the vague general question whether it wd. be agreeable to me to edit some Swinburne MSS for his Society; but of course it would not be agreeable if the interests of you or Watts-Dunton were to be in the remotest degree prejudiced by my participation in the matter. I have more than plenty to do in the immediate future. I doubt whether Harper is as much of an aggressor as you think. As to Fat Madge, I should say, as [p. 4] I said to Brown, that he has no notion of printing it. He may be ignorant & narrow on that point; but that is not of any consequence to us others. I daresay Fat Madge is quite a good girl & quite a good poem, & shall be glad to see her when her Mother knows she's out.

It is not a "return of the old trouble," dear boy; but the persistence of the permanent trouble that led to the old acute trouble. At present I am not contemplating a further operation; but I shall never be able to get about as of old. Yours as ever, all the same,

H. Buxton Forman

[flourish]

ALS, 4 pages. Double sheet, 17.8 x 11.5 cm.

Laid paper. No watermark.

Provenance: Spoor sale, 4 May 1939. Inserted in no. 780, Forman's *A Memoir of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (London, 1892), with the Spoor bookplate.

Published, with one accidental variation from the Lewis MS, by Bratcher and Kendall, "Two Further Footnotes," pp. 67-68.

Notes: 1. Forman brought to Villa Grozzo, from his own library, a copy of Edmund Waller's *Poems*, 1645. Already in Wise's possession was the Roxburgh copy as well as "Dobell's Walkley copy" of the 1645 *Workes*, from the Henry Huth Library, the Huth copy to be described in the *Asbley Library Catalogue*

as 1st ed., 1st issue, and the Roxburgh copy as 1st ed., 2nd issue (VII, 185–188).

2. For more commentary on this important letter see “Two Further Footnotes” and Bratcher and Kendall’s *A Suppressed Critique of Wise’s Swinburne Transactions: Addendum to An Enquiry* (Austin: Humanities Research Center, 1970).

From page 38 of Kendall, 1970