

Mosby, 5.12.01.

Dear Mr deLaportaine:

I send on with much
pleasure the copy of the poems
I had reserved for you. You
will find the story of the irres-
olute lady who lived in your house
at p. 182. I don't want to alarm
you, but I fancy that the brief
remainder of her life was unhappy,
& that she "walks" in the Hall
occasionally.

Yours sincerely
Thomas Hardy.

THOMAS HARDY, A. L. S., 5 December 1901, to Alfred
C. de Lafontaine.

Max Gate, 5.12 '01.

Dear Mr de Lafontaine:

I send on with much pleasure the copy of the poems I had reserved for you. You will find the story of the irresolute lady who lived in your house at p. 182. I don't want to alarm you, but I fancy that the brief remainder of her life was unhappy, & that she "walks" in the Hall occasionally.

Yours sincerely
Thomas Hardy.

ALS, 1 page. Single sheet, 17.8 x 11.3 cm.

Wove paper. No watermark visible.

Provenance: *Ex libris* Alfred C. de Lafontaine. Tipped in to *Poems of the Past and the Present*, London and New York, 1902 (with Dec 1901 inscription), sold at Sotheby 11 Oct 1948 (lot 61).

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. The Dorchesterian de Lafontaine owned Athelhampton Hall, scene of "The Dame of Athelhall" (MS. "The Return to Athels-hall"), pages 182-185 of *Poems of the Past and the Present*.

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