

Max Gate,
near Dorchester.

10 April 1886

Dear Miss Waldy,

I am much
obliged for the copy of your
novel that you have been good
enough to send. Though I have
only been able to glance into
it as yet it seems to me to
contain some pleasant reading.
I see from the list at the
end that you are quite

an experienced hand.

I have often heard your father's name mentioned as vector of the pains you speak of - but I never had the pleasure of knowing him. Finner's puddle has not, to the best of my recollection, been the scene of either of my stories - I forget if

I have ever alluded to it under the name given by you.

You will recognize many scenes in my forthcoming novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge" (early in May)

Yours very truly
J. Hardy.

THOMAS HARDY, A. L. S., 10 April 1886, to
Frances Helen Waldy.

Max Gate,
near
Dorchester.
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Dear Miss Waldy,

I am much obliged for the copy of your novel that you have been good enough to send. Though I have only been able to glance into it as yet it seems to me to contain some pleasant reading. I see from the list at the end that you are quite an experienced hand.

I have often [p. 2] heard your father's name mentioned as rector of the parish you speak of—but I never had the pleasure of knowing him. Turnerspuddle has not, to the best of my recollection, been the scene of either of my stories—I forget if [p. 3] I have ever alluded to it under the name given by you.

You will recognize many scenes in my forthcoming novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge" (early in May)

Yours very truly
T. Hardy.

ALS, 3 pages. Double sheet, 15.6 x 10 cm.

Laid paper (engraved heading above date). Watermark: L S T above wheel design.

Provenance: Unknown. Inserted in Vol. I of *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (London, 1886), which has a slip for the novel

from Pickering and Chatto's Catalogue 349, 1951—no mention of the letter.

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. The book that Miss Waldy sent Hardy was *Bonnie Editha Coplestone* (Scarborough, 1886).

2. The reference to Turnerspudde, if I have properly transcribed the word, is baffling. I can't find it in any list of place names.

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