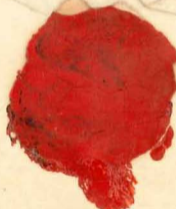


(4)



W B. Dempster Esq  
of Mr Fleming's  
Mount Street  
Rose Mount  
Aberdeen

MIDSTONE  
OCT 21  
1850



Park House  
Maidstone

My dear Dempster,

I have only quite lately  
received your note on calling at  
my publisher's. I am glad  
to hear that you are in  
great Britain once more,  
though grieved that the

cause of your visiting us  
should be so painful - The  
illness of a sister.

I shall certainly not lose  
the pleasure of seeing you  
if you do not come London-  
ward: & perhaps even  
then I should not see you  
for London is to me so  
dear in summer that  
I only make passing visits

to it tho' I have taken  
chambers in Lincoln's  
Inn Fields.

I am glad that you  
have made acquaintance  
with my friend Charles  
Beach. A more honest  
true hearted man does  
not breathe than he.

& I shall never forget  
his kindness & hospitality

To me when I was ill at  
Fowey in Cornwall. Give him  
my best remembrances & say  
that I live in the hope of  
seeing him again some future  
day.

And I hope that I shall see  
you too, though it seems very  
doubtful, before you leave.  
but whether I do or not believe  
me, dear penpals  
always yours  
A. Tennant

ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON, A. L. S., [21 May 1850,]  
to William R. Dempster.

Park House  
Maidstone

My Dear Dempster,

I have only quite lately received your note on calling at my publisher's. I am glad to hear that you are in Great Britain once more, though grieved that the [p. 2] cause of your revisiting us should be so painful—the illness of a sister.

Transcription from:

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

Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1970.

I shall certainly not have the pleasure of seeing you if you do not come London-ward: & perhaps even then I should not see you for London is to me so hateful in summer that I only make passing visits [p. 3] to it tho' I have taken chambers in Lincoln's Inn Feilds.

I am glad that you have made acquaintance with my friend Charles Peach. A more honest truer hearted man does not breathe than he. & I shall never forget his kindness & hospitality [p. 4] to me when I was ill at Fowey in cornwall. Give him my best remembrances & say that I live in the hope of seeing him again some future day.

And I hope that I shall see you too, though it seems very doubtful, before you leave. but whether I do or not believe me, dear Dempster

always yours  
A Tennyson

ALS, 4 pages. Double sheet, 11.6 x 9.3 cm.

Laid paper. Watermark: Small portion, lower corner of second half sheet.

Seal: red, pressed by hand.

Envelope: 7 x 12 cm., with a cancelled one-penny stamp printed on the envelope.

Postmarks: MAIDSTONE | MY 21 | 1850 | C ; [crown] |  
22 MY 22 | 1850.

Address: W. R. Dempster Esq | At M<sup>r</sup> Fleming's | Mount Sheep  
| Rose Mount | Aberdeen.

Provenance: *Ex libris* W. R. Dempster; Newton sale, 30 Oct 1941  
(inserted in no. 402, *Maud and Other Poems*, London, 1856).

Unpublished.

Notes: 1. Dempster was the Scottish singer, exceedingly popular in America, who composed a musical setting for Tennyson's "The May Queen" in 1844 (published in Boston, 1845).

2. Tennyson toured Cornwall in search of Arthurian inspiration during May-July 1848. Charles Peach was a recognized authority on Cornwall geology.

3. Here published by permission of Lord Tennyson, through the courtesy of Macmillan & Co., Ltd., Little Essex Street, London, W.C.2.