

The Collected Letters of Wilkie Collins: Addenda and Corrigenda (2)

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This is the second in the series of annual updates to *The Public Face of Wilkie Collins: The Collected Letters*, published in four volumes by Pickering & Chatto in 2005. The editorial principles, transcription conventions, and abbreviations employed here remain consistent with those described in the prefatory sections of Volume I. In the course of time, it is hoped that this material will be incorporated into a revised edition available in digital form with the added benefit of searchability.

Since the publication of the first of the series in December 2005, eighteen more letters have come to light, raising the total sum of recorded letters over the 3000 mark to 3016. The opportunity has also been taken to correct a few more substantial editorial slips that we have become aware of. We hope readers of the *Wilkie Collins Society Journal* will continue to draw our attention to omissions and errors in the published volumes.

(A) Addenda

* TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF LONGMAN & CO.,¹ 8 MARCH 1845

MS: Unknown. Draft: BL (Ad. Ms. 42575 f.158).²

March 8/45

My dear Sir

I am sorry ~~to~~ again /to/ trouble you, but the business between us has suddenly taken so ~~unfortun~~ and ~~un~~ /unexpected and/ to me so unaccountable a turn, that I cannot but express to you my /great/ surprise. When I left the MS with you so long since as the 25 of Jan^y. you ~~did not~~ gave me ~~every~~ reason to hope that sh^d the gentleman you were in the habit of consulting approve of the work (although in most cases you did not venture to publish ~~the first work of an author an unknown~~ /at your own risk works of unknown/ authors) that ~~as a favor~~ you might accede to my wishes, and at this and /a/ subsequent ~~interviews~~ meeting, you asked me whether I would object to be responsible for some ~~share~~ part of the expenses, sh^d the work not ~~have a fav~~ succeed, I did not absolutely decline this proposal ~~but~~ stating that, I /as/ I sh^d be sorry you sh^d be a sufferer I had no objection to the your suggestion, to a moderate extent.

Now Sir judge my surprise, when, after the approval of your friend had been obtained and he ~~and all as well as ourselves~~ /all were

agreed/ /and all/ agreed on the necessity of no time being lost in the bringing out the work (from the interest the public felt /feel/ at this moment in the local nature of the subject) ³ you d and at I say you /and/ that after the lapse of more than a month, you decline having taking any risk in the publication, and only express your willingness to publish the work for me, why surely if I had intended to do this at my own expense, not a moment need have been lost, no consultations were /would have been/ required ~~but one in the way of business~~ and the book w could have been in the hands of the public at this moment.

I regret that your pressing occupations will not allow you to favor me with a call visit and /that/ my state of health prevents my again calling upon you – ~~but~~ I have no idea of offering it to any other house to meet with ~~more~~ /fresh/ delays and with this very great disadvantage, that I cannot now offer the MS to any other person as I did to you, with the knowl /assurance/ that not one line of it had been read by any other Bookseller publisher – seeing then that there

And now my dear Sir, if upon ~~the review of the~~ consideration of the above circumstances you ~~we~~ are disposed to agree to ~~the~~ your original ~~plan~~ proposal, of publishing the work upon my taking a making myself becoming responsible for a portion of the loss, sh^d there be any – I am willing to consider myself liable to the amount of one third of the outlay; and /begging/ you will favor me oblige me by /you will oblige me by as early/ an answer as early may suit your convenience, or will /that you will/ favor me with /of/ /with/ a call you will oblige

I remain yours [truly] | W. Collins

1. Probably either Thomas Longman (1804-79: *DNB*) or William Longman (1813-77: *DNB*), the brothers then in control of Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, the Paternoster Row publishing firm to which the MS of WC's novel 'Ioláni, or Tahítí as it was' was first submitted. The identification of the firm itself derives from an 1887 journal article based on an interview with WC: "'While in the tea-merchant's office, I completed a wild extravagant story, the scene of which, I remember, was laid in Tahiti before its discovery by the English. The manuscript of this tale I induced my good father to submit to Messrs Longman, whose reader presently returned it with an intimation that the story was hopelessly bad, and that in his opinion the writer had not the smallest aptitude for romance-writing, and had no possible prospect of succeeding in a literary career. I met the worthy man years after at a dinner party, when 'The Woman in White' was running through *Household Words*, and I remember that neither of us could forbear from bursting out a-laughing at the *rencontre*.'" ('Our Portrait Gallery: Mr Wilkie Collins', *Men and Women: A Weekly Biographical and Social Journal* 3:36 (5 February 1887) pp. 281-2). Two earlier accounts of the rejection of 'Ioláni', both also based on information from WC, do not specify the publishing house to which the MS of was initially submitted. Compare: 'he wrote a novel of the most wildly impracticable kind, on the subject of savage life in Polynesia, before the discovery of the group of islands composing that country by civilized man. This curious work was offered to all the publishers in London, and, it is needless to say, declined' (Edmund Yates, 'Men of Mark. No. 2 – W. Wilkie Collins', *Train* 3:18 (June 1857) pp. 352-7); and "'The scene of the story,'" says he [WC], "was laid in the Island of Tahiti, before the period of its discovery by European navigation! My youthful imagination ran riot among the noble savages, in scenes which caused the respectable British publisher to declare that it was impossible to put his name on the title-page of such a novel' ([George M. Towle], 'Wilkie Collins', *Appleton's Journal*

4:75 (3 September 1870) pp. 278-81). The letter to HC of 13 September 1845 suggests that the MS was by then in the hands of Chapman and Hall (Baker & Clarke, I, pp. 27-9).

2. Though Peters (pp. 64-5 & 451n25) assumes that WmC both submitted the novel and wrote the letter, we are convinced that the draft is in the hand of WC, though the signature points towards his father. The contents (notably the reference to 'my state of health') suggest that the initial visit to the publishing house was indeed paid by WmC, but the nature of the revisions suggests that the draft itself was written entirely by WC, though formally on his father's behalf. Given that there are no other extant letters concerning this matter, we have concluded that it is appropriate to include this item in the run of WC's correspondence. These special circumstances also explain why here we have given as full as transcription as possible, including all cancellations and evidence of later insertion.

3. In the mid-1840s, there were many reports and discussions in the British press concerning conflicts between the English and French generally in the South Pacific, and specifically on the island of Tahiti, which had been in the British sphere of influence since the Society Islands were named by Captain Cook in 1769. In 1842, the French military persuaded the ruling monarch, Queen Pomare IV, to accept a French protectorate, and in the following year occupied the island, deposed the Queen, and expelled the acting British Consul, the missionary Rev. George Pritchard. News of these events, of course, took several months to reach Europe. Though disclaiming the act of occupation, the French government declared the protectorate valid. Tahitian resistance to the French presence seems to have continued until 1847, while the protectorate remained in force until 1880, when the island formerly became a French colony.

*** TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL,¹ 23 MAY 1848**

MS: National Archives (PRO30/22/7C 87-88).

1. Devonport Street | Hyde Park Gardens | May 23rd 1848

My Lord

I have just completed a Memoir of the life of my late father – Mr Collins R.A. – whose pictures of coast and cottage scenes, your lordship may have remarked among the private collections of this country, and in the former Exhibitions of the Royal Academy.

The work is to be published by private subscription during the ensuing autumn. Having already received for my list of subscribers the names of many noblemen and gentlemen distinguished as connoisseurs and as patrons of Art, I have been induced to hope that it would not be entirely inappropriate to communicate my plan of publication to your lordship, should you be willing to permit me the honour of adding your lordship's name to my subscription list – as patronising a work which has for its object to increase (however humbly) the existing collection of Biographies of English Painters.

The Biography will be published in two volumes – with a portrait; and will be sold for one guinea.

I have the honour to be | My Lord

Your lordship's most obedient servant | W. Wilkie Collins

To | The Rt. Honble | The Lord John Russell, M.P.

1. John, First Earl Russell (1792-1878: *DNB*), Whig statesman who first served as Prime Minister from 1846-52.

TO CHARLES DICKENS, [5] OCTOBER 1859

MS: Unknown.¹ Partial transcript: CD to WC, 6 October 1859. Published: Lawrence Hutton, ed., *Letters of Charles Dickens to Wilkie Collins* (1892), pp. 103-5; Pilgrim, IX, pp. 128.

... Could it have been done at all, in the way I suggest, to advantage? ...²

1. Judging by CD's reply of 6 October 1859, the letter (presumably later destroyed by CD) contained WC's thoughts on reading the ending of *A Tale of Two Cities* in MS or proof. (The serial run in *All the Year Round* finished only on 26 November). CD's letter concluded: 'I am very glad you like it so much. It has greatly moved and excited me in the doing, and Heaven knows I have done my best and have believed in it.' (Pilgrim, IX, pp. 127-8).

2. WC had presumably suggested that, by allowing the reader access to the thoughts of Dr Manette (imprisoned in the Bastille for uncovering the corruption of the Marquis St Evrémonte), CD might have indicated rather earlier in the narrative the connection between him and Charles Darnay (nephew of the Marquis and in love with Manette's daughter). CD writes: 'I do not positively say that the point you put, might not have been done in your manner; but I have a very strong conviction that it would have been overdone in that manner – too elaborately trapped, baited, and prepared – in the main, anticipated and its interest wasted. This is quite apart from the peculiarity of the Doctor's character, as affected by his imprisonment; which of itself would – to my way of thinking – render it quite out of the question to put the reader inside of him before the proper time, in respect of matters that were dim to himself through being, in a diseased way, morbidly shunned by him. . . .' CD later summarizes: "'Could it have been done at all, in the way I suggest, to advantage?' is your question. I don't see the way, and I never have seen the way, is my answer. I cannot imagine it that way, without imagining the reader wearied and the expectation wire-drawn.'

TO CHARLES DICKENS, [6] DECEMBER 1867

MS: Unknown.¹ Partial transcript: CD to WC, 24 December 1867. Published: Pilgrim, XI, pp. 520.

... at your sole discretion ...²

1. Probably a letter of some length to CD in Boston, accompanying a copy of the completed *No Thoroughfare*. Presumably destroyed subsequently by CD.

2. In his reply, after praising the construction but criticizing its length, CD answers queries about the staging of the play – concerning the mechanism of the clock, whether Vendale and Marguerite should remain on stage, whether Obenreizer should die on stage, and whether the part of Mme D'Or is necessary. CD then continues: 'But my dear boy, what do you mean by the whole thing being left "at my sole discretion"? Is not the play coming out, the day after tomorrow???' Since the London production indeed opened at the Adelphi on 26 December, it seems likely WC might have been referring to the projected production in New York by Lester Wallack.

TO CHARLES DICKENS, [10] JANUARY 1868

MS: Unknown.¹ Partial transcript: CD to Charles Fechter, 24 February 1868. Published: *The Letters of Charles Dickens*, edited by his Sister-in-law and his Eldest Daughter (London: Chapman & Hall, 1880, 2 vols), II, pp. 361-3; Pilgrim, XII, pp. 56–8.

... Here Fechter is magnificent. . . .

... Here his superb playing brings the house down. . . .

. . . I should call even his exit in the last act one of the subtlest and finest things he does in the piece. . . .

. . . You can hardly imagine what he gets out of the part, or what he makes of his passionate love for Marguerite. . . .²

1. Apparently a letter of some length, presumably destroyed by CD.

2. Referring to *No Thoroughfare* running at the Adelphi, with Charles Fechter playing Obenreizer to Carlotta Leclerg's Marguerite. CD introduces his quotation of WC's comments with: 'Wilkie has uniformly written of you enthusiastically. In a letter I had from him, dated the 10th of January, he described your conception and execution of the part in the most glowing terms.' The paragraph written by CD concludes: 'These expressions, and many others like them, crowded his letter.' CD had earlier written to WC: 'Your letter dated on the eleventh reached me here [Philadelphia] this morning. . . . I am indeed delighted by your account of the Play, and do begin to believe that I shall see it! Every word of your account of your last visit "Behind", I have read – and shall read – again and again.' (31 January 1868, Pilgrim XII, pp. 30-1). Despite the slight uncertainty concerning the date, this is likely to refer to the same letter from WC.

*** TO HENRY BULLAR, 1 JANUARY 1870**

MS: Unknown. On sale: Christie's Sale 4072, 6 June 2006, lot 200.¹

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | New Years' Day 1870
My dear Henry,

Thank you for your good wishes. I return them with all my heart.

Come to London when you can. I go for two days to Gloucestershire next week. My next holiday I hope will be celebrated by a visit to Basset Wood.²

Yours affectionately | Wilkie Collins

1. In an autograph album compiled by Louisa Haigh.

2. Family home of the Bullars.

*** TO THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE, CHICAGO RELIEF FUND, 31
OCTOBER 1871**

MS: Hanes.¹

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | 31st October 1871
Gentlemen,

I beg to enclose a cheque for Five pounds, offered to your Fund, as a trifling expression of my sympathy with the sufferers by the Fire of Chicago,² and of my sincere admiration of the heroic spirit with which your countrymen have met the disaster that has fallen on them.³

I remain, Gentlemen, | Your obedient servant, | Wilkie Collins
To | The Committee of the American | ~~€~~ Chicago Relief Fund⁴

1. A torn half sheet of notepaper tipped on to a piece of card.

2. The Great Fire burned from the evening of Sunday 8 October to the early hours of Tuesday 10 October 1871, devastating much of the city, and leaving 300 dead and 90,000

homeless. News of the fire was first reported in the *Times* in a brief cabled article entitled 'Awful Fire at Chicago', sent on the Monday and appearing on Tuesday, October 10, p. 3a. A full report, written on October 10 and sent by ship, appeared on 25 October, p. 10a-c.

3. Compare these sentiments with WC's rather unsympathetic account of Chicago and its rebuilding during his later visit to the city; see to Jane Bigelow, 17 January 1874.
4. The *Times* report of October 10 was followed by details of the relief fund being raised jointly by the Lord Mayor of London from the Mansion House and 'The American Committee Chicago Relief Fund' based at 22, Old Broad Street. WC's contribution was clearly sent to the latter address; the cheque appears in his bank account at Coutts on 3 November, confirming that it was indeed directed to a local address.

*** TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, 7 MAY 1872**

MS: Unknown. On sale: eBay (February 2006), priced \$180 with nine other autographs.¹

Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins | May 7th 1872

1. On a rectangular sheet the size of a visiting card; given the position of the date, this is likely to be an autograph for a collector rather than the excised ending of a letter.

*** TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, 23 MAY 1873**

MS: Unknown. On sale: eBay (19-26 February 2006), by Michael A. West of Schoharie, New York, item 6606925349.¹

Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins | May 23rd 1873 /

1. Written at the top of a small sheet of mourning stationery, this appears to be simply a dated autograph.

TO GEORGE CLARIDGE,¹ 1 AUGUST 1877

MS: Lewis Collection, clipped front of envelope only.² Published: Lewis Website.

George Claridge Esqre | 23. Harp Lane | E. C.
Wilkie Collins

1. City of London wine merchant with premises just behind the Custom House, who appears as payee in WC's bank account at Coutts & Co. on a number of occasions around this time.
2. Post-paid, postmarked as dated.

*** TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT,¹ 13 MARCH 1878**

MS: Yale (Tinker 720), accompanied by signed photograph.²

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, PORTMAN SQUARE. W. | London | 13th
March 1878

Dear Sir,

Two famous Indian Diamonds – the “Sancy Diamond”, and the “Koh-i-Noor” (now in the possession of the Queen of England)³ – were originally ornaments in Idols worshipped by the Hindoos. Being “sacred

gems”, they were watched night and day by the priests attached to the Temples – and certain disaster was predicted to any sacrilegious person who might attempt to steal them.

These were the only facts known to me when I wrote “The Moonstone”.⁴ The journey of the three Priests to England in search of ~~the~~ their diamond (and every other incident in the book), took its rise in the imagination of

Yours vy truly | Wilkie Collins

I write in great haste to catch the mail

1. Judging from the enclosure and the postscript, perhaps an American fan of *The Moonstone* requesting an autograph.
2. An oval portrait taken during winter 1874 by Napoleon Sarony of New York, one of the series of the author in a fur coat; signed ‘Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins’.
3. Famous jewels apparently of Indian origin, each with a chequered history. After being purchased in 1570 by the French Ambassador to Constantinople, the Seigneur de Sancy, the first is now held in the Louvre. The second may have belonged to the early Mughal emperors. Under the Treaty of Lahore following the British conquest of the Punjab, it was controversially presented by Duleep Singh to Queen Victoria in 1851. It was first put on display at the Great Exhibition and is now held in the Tower of London among the Crown Jewels. See Lawrence L. Copeland, *Diamonds: Famous, Notable, and Unique* (Los Angeles: Gemological Institute of America, 1974).
4. See the Prologue to *The Moonstone*, ‘The Storming of Seringpatam (1799)’.

* **TO MARIAN J. SNOOK,¹ 21 MAY 1879**

MS: Unknown, with envelope.² On sale: Jeffrey Thomas, Fine & Rare Books, San Francisco 94147-1205, December 2005, priced \$950.

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, PORTMAN SQUARE. W. | London
21st May 1879

Dear Miss Marian,

I am quite incapable of disappointing a young lady who is one of my kind readers. Your first letter never reached me – so far as I can remember. I contribute with the greatest pleasure to your collection of autographs, and I hope you will excuse me for keeping you waiting – quite unintentionally.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

To | Miss Marian J. Snook

1. An autograph hunter writing from San Francisco; from the census data, probably Marian J. Snook (b. 1855), daughter of George A. Snook, a plumber and gas fitter.
2. Directed to ‘Miss Marian J. Snook | Nth cor: Franklin & Fell Streets | San Francisco | California | U. S. A.’, with legible postmarks ‘LONDON W | ZX | MY 21 | 79’ and ‘SAN FRANCISCO | CAL | JUN | 10 | 1 PM’. The stamp has been roughly torn away and the letters is redirected in pencil to ‘San Diego | Cal’. The envelope is pasted on the inside of the blank leaf of the folding notepaper.

TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, 26 FEBRUARY 1884

MS: Lewis Collection.¹ Published: Lewis Website.

With Mr Wilkie Collins's compliments

Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins | 26th February 1884

1. Comprising a rectangle of heavy wove paper of visiting card size (bearing the dated autograph itself), which is glued to a slightly larger rectangle of lighter laid paper (on which the accompanying compliments appear in WC's very small hand).

*** TO D.W. HOWLAND,¹ 24 DECEMBER 1885**

MS: Private.²

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, | PORTMAN SQUARE. W. | London
28th Decr 1885

Sir,

I beg to thank you for your kind letter, and to express my regret at not being able to contribute to the work which you are contemplating. It is, I fear, one of the perversities in my nature, to dislike making speeches myself, and to feel no pleasure (excepting the cases of one or two great orators) in listening to speeches made by other persons. On the few occasions when I have spoken in public, because I felt it a duty to others to do so, I have said as little as possible, and of that little I have not preserved the newspaper reports.³ Pray accept my excuses, and believe me

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

D.W. Howland Esqre

1. Presumably the overseas or provincial editor of a projected collection of speeches by authors or notable persons of the day, though we can find no evidence that this was published. It might well be D.W. Howland, an educator formerly resident in Calcutta, the author of "Baboo Lore" in the "Bric-à-Brac" column of the New York quarterly *The Century* 26:2 (June 1883) pp. 319-20.

2. On lightweight monogrammed paper with faint horizontal rules.

3. One lengthy speech by WC reported in the press was that as Chairman at the Twentieth Anniversary Festival of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, held on the evening of 12 April 1865. See WC's letter to HC of the following day.

TO NAYLOR & CO.,¹ 10 JANUARY 1887

MS: Lewis Collection, tipped into a copy of Thomas F. Madigan's *Word Shadows of the Great: The Lure of Autograph Collecting* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes, 1930).²

Published: Lewis Website.

90. Gloucester Place | London. W | 10th January 1887

Dear Sirs,

In case of accidents by mail, I write to say that my signed receipt to the Manhattan Insurance Company was sent to you by registered letter

post on Saturday last.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

1. The letter must be to Messrs Naylor, who held WC's life insurance policies first in Boston and then (from early 1884) in New York – see to Sebastian Schlesinger, 28 January 1884. For details of the policies with both the Manhattan Insurance Company and the New England Mutual Insurance Company, see to William Tindell, 3 March 1874 (Baker and Clarke, II p. 381).

2. The letter has been trimmed and has an impressed stamp bottom left, that of Harold E. Harris, Notary Public of New York County. Facing the letter is a 'Certification of Genuineness', notarized by Harris and signed by Madigan. In the book, Madigan notes that '[c]ollectors for years to come will probably never suffer for want of' the letters of prolific Victorian correspondents such as Browning, Ainsworth, Reade, and Collins (p. 217).

*** To B. E. JOSEPH,¹ 13 MARCH 1887**

MS: Yale (Tinker 717).²

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, PORTMAN SQUARE. W. | London | 21st
March 1887

Dear Sir,

I am indeed greatly obliged to you for your kindness in copying, and sending to me, the interesting letter by Sir Walter Scott which it is your good fortune to possess. It will be kept by me, among the letters that I most highly value.² As a writer, and as a man, Scott is (to my mind) one of the most admirable and perfect characters that has ever conferred honour on Literature. More than thirty years' study of the art of writing fiction have convinced me that he is, beyond question, the greatest novelist that this country – or any other country – has produced.³

Believe me, dear Sir, | Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

B. E. Joseph Esqre

1. Unidentified.

2. The letter in question also remains unidentified.

3. Compare the similar phrasing in the letter to J. A. Stewart of 8 January 1888.

To [COUTTS & Co.],¹ 1874-1889²

MS: Lewis Collection.³ Published: Lewis website.

Pay to the order of | Naylor & Co | Wilkie Collins

1. The order to pay is most likely to have been made through WC's London bankers.

2. From early 1874 in Boston and then in New York City from early 1884, WC's American life insurance policies were held by the firm of Naylor & Co., to which Sebastian Schlesinger long belonged. See the letters to Charles Ward of 27 February 1874 and to Schlesinger of 28 January 1884.

3. On a torn scrap of tissue-paper; this may be a carbon copy from a company letter-book rather than the original manuscript.

* **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, UNKNOWN DATE**

MS: Unknown. On sale: eBay (March 2006), by Voyager Press Books of Seattle, Washington, item 6613997427, an album containing 53 autographs.¹

. . . interest,

and believe me | Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

1. Apparently cut unevenly from the end of a letter for the autograph. Judging by the hand and signature, this is likely to date from WC's later decades.

(B) Corrigenda

* **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, [6-7] SEPTEMBER 1857**

IV, Addenda, p. 401: The MS has been located, and the fragment of text on the verso deciphered, necessitating revisions alike to recipient, date, source line, transcription, and annotations. The entire entry should now read:

* **TO [W.S. EMDEN],¹ [5-7] SEPTEMBER 1857²**

MS: Private.³

. . . – is anxious to be personally introduced to you, for the purpose of submitting a dramatic proposal to your notice . . .

. . .
I am just away for the moors of Cumberland
Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins

1. The recipient must be a theatre manager, and is likely to be to Emden, then lessee of the Royal Olympic where *The Lighthouse* was running, and to whom WC sent a receipt for the payment for performance rights on 5 September. It is possible that this personal letter accompanied the formal receipt.

2. Conjectural dating based primarily on the reference to the trip to Cumberland. Following the Manchester performances of *The Frozen Deep* and in a state of 'grim despair and restlessness', CD proposed on 29 August 1857 that he and WC should 'cast about . . . go anywhere – take any tour – see any thing – whereon we could write something together.' (Pilgrim, VIII, p. 423). By early September, CD had announced to Forster that the decision was for a 'foray upon the fells of Cumberland' (Pilgrim, VIII, p. 428). CD and WC left London on 7 September and the collaboration became *The Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices*, appearing in *Household Words* 3-31 October 1857.

3. Fragment roughly torn away for the autograph, formerly inserted in an album. Judging by the folds, the portions of surviving text may be from around the middle of the third and fourth pages of a sheet of folded notepaper. Beneath and to the left of the signature is still visible a stroke of the pen that may well be a remnant of the excised addressee line.

*** TO GEORGE M. TOWLE, 21 MAY 1870**

II, p. 186: Fragments of the text of the memoir which accompanied the letter have been restored from the phrases quoted in Towle's unsigned article appearing in Appleton's Journal, and should follow the transcript of the letter.

[*Memoir*]²

[*the rudiments of Latin and Green learned at school*]. . . which have not been of the slightest use to me in after-life . . .

[*regarding his literary activities while working in commerce*] . . . to descend from epic poems and blank-verse tragedies . . .

[*regarding his studies at Lincoln's Inn*] . . . I am now a barrister of some fifteen years' standing, without ever having had a brief, or ever having even so much as donned a wig and gown. . . .

[*regarding 'Ioláni'*] . . . The scene of the story was laid in the island of Tahiti, before the period of its discovery by European navigation! My youthful imagination ran riot among the noble savages, in scenes which caused the respectable British publisher to declare that it was impossible to put his name on the title-page of such a novel. For the moment I was a little discouraged. But I got over it, and began another novel. . . .

[*to the favourable reviews of Antonina*] . . . many of my literary elders and betters kindly adding their special tribute of encouragement and approval . . .

2. Fragments of the lost memoir can be restored from the quotations in Towle's article.

*** TO FLORENCE MARRYAT, 15 JUNE 1872**

II, p. 350: The MS has now been located, and the defective text confirmed. The source line, transcription, and associated notes should now read:

MS: Yale (Marryat Papers: Uncat. MSS. 104/GENM).²

90. Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | 15th June 1872

Dear Madam,

Pray accept my thanks for your kind letter.

I have engagements – not yet fulfilled – to write two stories for serial publication,³ I have a play coming out in the autumn,⁴ and I possess an inveterate enemy who constantly gets in the way of my work, and whose name is – Rheumatic Gout. Under this combination of obstacles, I have been obliged, this year, to refrain from accepting any proposals for Christmas work. I do not abandon the hope of being able to contribute to “London Society”, if I may trust to your kindness to ~~wa~~ let me wait for my opportunity. In the meantime, I sincerely regret that it is not possible for me to appear in the Christmas Number.⁵

With my best wishes for your success,
Believe me | Dear Madam
Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

2. Pasted into an album of autograph letters and photographs; an L-shaped cut has been made in the lower half of the folding notepaper to facilitate attachment, but without loss of text. With grateful thanks to Beth Palmer, of Trinity College, Oxford, who located the letter at the Beinecke.

3. Apart from *The New Magdalen*, no other serial published at this time has been identified.

4. Possibly referring to *The New Magdalen*, although this did not open until 19 May 1873.

5. See to Florence Marryat of 17 July 1873.

*** TO FREDERIC LEIGHTON, 12 MAY 1873**

II, p. 400: The MS has been located. The summary and note 2 should be deleted, with the source line and transcription now reading:

MS: Leighton Archive, Kensington Central Library, London (Folder 1 LH/1/5/31).

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | 12th May 1873

Dear Leighton,

Mr Edward Pigott – a very old friend of mine – is among the Candidates for the Secretaryship to the Royal Academy. If you are still free to give him your support at the election, I can answer for him as a fit man, in every respect, for the position. I speak from a knowledge of him which extends over more than twenty years.

Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins

TO NATHANIEL J. BEARD, 13 AUGUST 1877

III, p. 166: The initial should be corrected from ‘J.’ to ‘T.’ in both recipient and addressee lines, with note 1 revised to read:

1. The younger son of Francis Carr Beard, Nathaniel Thomas Beard became chief clerk at Bentley’s in the later years of the publishing house.