

The Collected Letters of Wilkie Collins: Addenda and Corrigenda (6)

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Wilkie Collins Society
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Introduction

This pamphlet is the sixth in the series of updates to *The Public Face of Wilkie Collins: The Collected Letters*, published in four volumes by Pickering & Chatto in 2005. This update is published by the Wilkie Collins Society.

The editorial principles, transcription conventions, and abbreviations employed here remain consistent with those described in pp. ix-lxii of Volume I of *The Public Face*.

The editors are working towards publishing the entire sequence of the known letters in digital form. As part of that process each letter has been given a permanent unique number. The numbers run consecutively in order as the letters have been published. So the 2987 letters listed in *The Public Face* are numbered as published in sequence in those volumes. The numbers then continue sequentially for the new letters in subsequent *Addenda and Corrigenda*. The table below summarises the numbering.

Publication	Sequence	Pages	Numbers
<i>Public Face I</i>	Chronological	3-335	[0001]-[0614]
<i>Public Face II</i>	Chronological	3-430	[0615]-[1400]
<i>Public Face III</i>	Chronological	3-455	[1401]-[2245]
<i>Public Face IV</i>	Chronological	3-382	[2246]-[2972]
<i>Public Face IV</i>	Letter fragments	383-385	[2973]-[2981]
<i>Public Face IV</i>	Addenda	401-404	[2982]-[2987]
'Addenda' (1) 2005	Chronological	<i>WCSJ VIII</i> 48-54	[2988]-[2998]
'Addenda' (2) 2006	Chronological	<i>WCSJ IX</i> 59-68	[2999]-[3016]
'Addenda' (3) 2007	Chronological	<i>WCSJ X</i> 34-61	[3017]-[3076]
'Addenda' (4) 2008	Chronological	2-29	[3077]-[3116]
'Addenda' (5) 2009	Chronological	3-18	[3117]-[3146]
'Addenda' (6) 2010	Chronological	3-16	[3147]-[3171]

Any subsequent deletions or revisions to dating will not change the assigned number. Hence the four letters identified in *The Public Face* which were deleted by Addenda & Corrigenda (3) (2007), pp. 68-9, numbered ([229], [2975], [2977], [2979]), remain as blanks in the series.

This sixth *Addenda & Corrigenda* has been updated to December 2010 and includes 25 new letters, of which only one has been fully published in print before. They represent items from auction or dealers' catalogues, libraries and collections which had previously been overlooked, published works that had been missed and some letters which have come to light from various other sources. These new letters take the numbers [3147] to [3171]. Deducting the four letters deleted by A&C (3), there are 3167 letters in the sequence to date.

Letters marked * have not been published before. Full or partial publication in catalogues of auction houses, libraries and dealers is ignored. The editors are grateful to those owners who have provided texts or given permission for their inclusion.

The Corrigenda (pp. 17-21) note substantive corrections to the date, recipient, source, text or footnotes. Minor changes are being held over for the digital edition. Letters are arranged chronologically.

The editors welcome all comments and corrections by e-mail to paul@paullewis.co.uk.

(A) Addenda

[3147] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, [1841-1845]**¹

MS: Mortlake Collection, Special Collections Library, Pennsylvania State University (Box 1 Folder 179).

Dear fellow

You shall see the “letters” when you come and dine with us next week. The substance of the Tea-monger’s answer to Mr Collins’s communication was, 1st:— a denial of the £200~~ a year conversation. 2nd:— A vindication of the respectability of his shop, consisting in a declaration that he could have had plenty of young men in his office, my equals in birth and education.² The letter began with “Sir” and ended with “yours obediently”, so that you will easily conclude (being an intelligent sort of boy) that there is a mighty feud “henceforth and for ever” between the “houses twain” of Collins & Antrobus.³

When you answer this, pray give me an account of what has passed between you and old tea leaves,⁴ upon the subject of the governor⁵ and

yours very faithfully | W. Wilkie Collins

Whatever you tell me shall be kept “as secret as the grave”,⁶ or one of your domestic [epistles].⁷

Burn this immediately

A cheque is enclosed with the Bill.

1. Despite this uncertain allocation, this letter is likely to be from 1841 and to Charles James Ward (1814-1883), who was probably already working at Coutts bank the premises of which were close to where WC worked at this time. The date is from the content, the salutation and juvenile style, and the reference to his father as ‘the governor’.

2. The letter seems to refer to WC’s informal apprenticeship at the tea-merchant office of Edmund Antrobus, 446 Strand, at the western end opposite the current site of Charing Cross Station. WmC painted the children of the Antrobus family in 1842 and charged him 200 gns (*Memoirs* II 196, 206, 350). He also secured WC the job at the office. It seems there was some difference about whether WC would be paid.

3. The quotations are a slight puzzle: “henceforth and for ever” has not been identified (Browning’s use of it was decades later); the “houses twain” quotation is possibly from James and Horace Smith, *Rejected Addresses*, 1812 (Loyal Effusion by W.T.F):

Who burnt (confound his soul) the houses twain
Of Covent Garden and of Drury Lane?

Or the two together could be a much misremembered reference to the houses of Montague and Capulet in *Romeo & Juliet*.

4. Almost certainly WC’s name for Edmund Antrobus.

5. WC refers to his father WmC.

6. Not an uncommon phrase but possible a reference to Henry Boyd (d. 1832) ‘The Temple of Vesta’ in *Poems, Chiefly Dramatic and Lyric*, 1793, Act IV:

...There is a place
As secret as the grave, which even the eye
Of Malice and Revenge's eagle glance
Might scrutinize in vain.

7. The word has an extra stroke between the initial e and p but cannot be anything but ‘epistles’.

[3148] TO SAMPSON LOW, 26 NOVEMBER 1860

MS: Lewis Collection. Published: Lewis website.

26th November 1860 | 12 Harley Street

My dear Sir,

I have just received the enclosed to forward to you, from my brother who is now in Paris.¹

Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins

Sampson Low Esqre

1. Charles Collins travelled round Europe after his marriage to Katie Dickens on 17 July 1860. The couple had returned from Lausanne to Paris by 19 November and stayed at the Hotel Louvois before moving around this time into lodgings at 11 Rue de l’Arcade in the Madeleine district (see CAC to HC, 9 November 1860, 19 November 1860, and 3 December 1860, Morgan MA3153/23-25). No letter from CAC to WC survives from this time. Sampson Low was publishing *The Eye-Witness*, a collection of essays from *All The Year Round* and it is possible the enclosure was a receipt or corrected proofs. CAC’s bank account records receipt of a payment from Sampson Low of £50 on 17 October.

[3149] * **TO JAMES EMERSON TENNENT, 3 DECEMBER 1860**

MS: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University (GEN MSS 601 p. 168).

12. Harley Street, W.¹ | 3rd December 1860

My dear Sir Emerson,

Ever since that pleasant dinner at your house² I have been hard at work, with Dickens, on the forthcoming Christmas Number of “All The Year Round”.³ We put the finishing touches last Friday night – and, on Saturday, when my pen was my own again, I opened Lady Tennent’s album, and ventured into the good company which those fair pages disclose, with the fittest morsel I could find from “The Woman In White” copied out and signed.⁴ If I could have made any better return for the friendly feeling which has enrolled me as a contributor to the album, I would gladly have done so – and I can only hope now that your kindness and Lady Tennent’s will take the will for the deed.

I am going out of town for a short time to get a little rest and change – and cannot therefore have the pleasure (as I had wished I had proposed) of taking the album myself to Warwick Square. It is carefully packed up, and at the disposal of the messenger whom you are good enough to say you will send for it.

I am sure you will be glad to hear that the Canadian Pirates have “acknowledged their transgression” in the matter of this same “Woman In White”. They have sent me my fair share of the profits of their edition – and have promised (like good boys) “never to do so again”.⁵

Believe me, Dear Sir Emerson | ever truly yours | Wilkie Collins
Sir James Emerson Tennent

1. Centred gothic engraved address.

2. Probably on Saturday 17 November – see [0382] to Sir James Emerson Tennent, 14 November 1860.

3. ‘A Message from the Sea’ published 13 December. WC had been in Devon with CD to research the story from 1 to 5 November and wrote all of chapter IV as well as parts of chapters II and V. See *The Nine Christmas Numbers of All the Year Round*, Conducted by Charles Dickens. London: [Published at the Office]; and Messrs. Chapman & Hall, undated but probably in 1868, which is the only extant contemporary listing of authorship. See also Pilgrim vol. IX, p. 336, note 1, for other views, and p. xix for chronology.

4. On Saturday 1 December, WC wrote out 284 words covering more than a page of ms headed “Count Fosco at The Opera” and beginning “Not a note of Donizetti’s delicious music...” and ending “...if ever face spoke, his face spoke then, and that was its language.” | From “The Woman in White”, by | Wilkie Collins | December 1st 1860” (*The Woman in White* 1860 vol. III pp. 267-268). The album is with the letter at Yale.

5. Maclear & Co. of 17 & 19 King Street East, Toronto, printed and published an edition dated 1860 (pp. 243). Although the two-column format is similar to the Harper edition and the title page clearly copied from it, this edition is not illustrated and uses the London text. The payment has not been identified in WC's account at Coutts but he received unidentified payments of £25 on 30 November and £113 on 12 December.

[3150] * **TO MRS WILLIAM SPOTTEN,¹ 26 NOVEMBER 1861**

MS: Unknown. On sale: Alexander Autographs, Stamford, CT USA (10 October 2010, Lot 891, with four other items).

12. Harley Street, W.² | November 26th 1861

Dear Madam,

I have great pleasure in writing these lines, to comply with the request which you honour me by making.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

To /| Mrs William Spotten

1. The absence of 'London' in the dateline indicates a fan in Britain and possibly in London. Although Spotten is a very unusual name in British records, she has not been identified.
2. Embossed but not inked in gothic type.

[3151] **TO A. W. BOSTWICK,¹ [1861]²**

MS: Lewis Collection. Published: Lewis website.

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

A. W. Bostwick Eqr³

1. Probably Andrew W. Bostwick (1823-1912) from New York, who is recorded in the Census of 7 April 1861 at 2 Percy Street, St Pancras in a lodging house or hotel, and described as an Editor aged 29 from the USA (RG09/100/40/1). Records in the USA confirm his unusual name and burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester NY.
2. Dated from the only time when Bostwick is recorded in the UK.
3. The end of a letter cut off for the signature with no writing on the verso.

[3152] * **To Sampson Low, 29 July 1862**

MS: Canaday Center, University of Toledo (Maher Family Papers MSS-005,
Locked Cabinet D).

The Fort House | Broadstairs | Kent | July 29th 1862

Dear Sir,

Will you be so good, at your convenience, as to pay the second instalment of the purchase-money for American advance-sheets of "No Name", (£125—) into my account, at the banking house of Messrs Coutts & Co Strand.¹

I am now in a position to be able to consider proposals for the republication of "No Name". These proposals are to be, on the present occasion, for the copyright of the book – and the sum offered, under these circumstances, is not to include the money received for advance-sheets to America, or for foreign translations and reprints – all of which are to be considered as previously reserved to himself by the author. The book will fill three thick volumes, and will be completed in *All The Year Round*, either in November or December next – I cannot yet say which.²

My present address for the receipt of letters, is at the head of this note.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

Sampson Low Esqre

1. Credited to his account as from Sampson Low, 31 July. A further payment was credited on 16 October, the fourth and last on 18 February 1863 (see [0525] to Ward, 18 February 1863) and the first was credited 14 April as Recd. This £500 is from Harper & Bros for the serialisation in *Harper's Weekly*.

2. Low offered £3000 – see [0485] to HC, 12 August 1862. In fact the serialisation ended in *All The Year Round* on 17 January 1863, having run for 45 parts from 15 March 1862. WC finished writing the story on 24 December, and Low published 4000 copies a week later on 31 December – see [0509] to Beard, 24 December 1862 and [0510] to Wills, 31 December 1862.

[3153] * **TO RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES, 4 MAY 1864**

MS: Massachusetts Historical Society (Theodore F. Dwight Papers, Box 2).

12. Harley Street. W | May 4th 1864

Dear Lord Houghton,

One line to excuse my absence today – after accepting your kind invitation. My native land has welcomed me back by giving me a bad cold in my throat and chest – and I am forbidden to go out today, except under the penalty of making bad, worse.¹

Pray present my excuses to Lady Houghton until I can call – I hope in a few days – and offer them for myself.

Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins

The Rt Honble | Lord Houghton

1. In fact WC had returned from six months in Italy towards the end of March – see [0569] to W. S. Emden, 28 March 1864.

[3154] * **TO THEODORE F. DWIGHT,¹ 25 MAY 1868**

MS: Massachusetts Historical Society (Theodore F. Dwight Papers, Box 2).

90, Gloucester Place. | Portman Square.W.² | London. May 25th 1868

Dear Sir,

The pressure of many occupations has allowed me no earlier opportunity than this of acknowledging the receipt of your letter, and of so complying with your wish to possess my autograph.

Very truly yours | Wilkie Collins

To | Theodore F Dwight Esq

1. Theodore Frelinghuysen Dwight (1846-1917), librarian and autograph collector, was born in Auburn, New York. At one time he worked for G. P. Putnam in New York as secretary to the historian George Bancroft, and later (1875-1888) became librarian and chief of Bureau of Rolls at the Library, Department of State, Washington, D.C. After that (1888-1892) he was in charge of the Adams family archives and secretary and proof-reader for Henry Adams during his completion of his *History of the United States*. He served a short time (1892-1894) as librarian of the Boston Public Library before moving to Switzerland as American Consul (1904-1914). Fourteen boxes of his archives are now in the Massachusetts Historical Society. See: <www.masshist.org/findingaids/doc.cfm?fa=fa0230>.

2. Written on full mourning paper after the death of WC's mother.

[3155] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, 29 SEPTEMBER 1870**

MS: Unknown. Summary: Denholm Collection, 1903.¹

Summary: *In reference to his novel, Man and Wife.*

1. *The Denholm Collection of Autograph Letters and Ancient and Curious Documents*, Privately printed, 1903, p. 57 item 15. The Collection was sold at Sotheby's, 30 January 1918.

[3156] **TO WILLIAM F. TINDELL, 29 JUNE 1871**

MS: Lewis Collection. Published: Lewis website.

90, Gloucester Place. | Portman Square. W.¹

Thursday June 29th ²

My dear Tindell,

I have had another attack of rheumatic gout since poor Benham's death – and now I am right again, I have arrears of work to make up. Hence my silence.

I want to see you about one or two matters. If I call in Essex Street tomorrow (Friday) at 5 p.m. – will that suit you?

If not, what time will?

Yours ever | Wilkie Collins

1. Black centred embossed gothic typeface.

2. After the date, the year '1872' is inserted in another hand. In fact the letter must be from 1871. Edward Benham died at his home of smallpox and fever on 30 April 1871 at the age of 48 (Death Certificate, Edward Benham, 30 April 1871). It also fits with the calendar – June 29th was a Thursday in 1871.

[3157] * **TO MARY ANNE BENHAM,¹ 19 APRIL 1872**

MS: Heritage Collection, Dunedin Public Libraries, Otago, New Zealand.

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | 19th April 1872

My dear Mrs Benham,

With the greatest pleasure, I send to Syon Lodge today (by Parcels' Delivery Company) a copy of "Poor Miss Finch" – presented to you in affectionate remembrance of my old friend.²

I am shortly about to leave London for a little while.³ But I shall hope, on my return, to be able to avail myself of your kind invitation in company with Pigott.⁴

In the meantime, pray give my kind remembrances to your daughters,⁵ and believe me

Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins

1. Mary Anne Benham neé Shoppee (b. c.1823). See [0718] to Mary Anne Benham, 2 January 1867, revised footnote p. 19 below.

2. Edward and Mary Anne Benham lived at Syon Lodge, Isleworth, west of London. WC had visited them there (see [0718] to Mrs Benham, 2 January 1867, BGLL, II, pp. 57-8). Edward died on 30 April 1871 aged 48 of small pox and fever (death certificate, Edward Benham, 30 April 1871). The first edition is inscribed "To Mrs Benham from Wilkie Collins 1872". This letter is tipped into vol. I between the front pastedown and the front free endpaper (information from Anthony Tedeschi, Rare Book Librarian at Dunedin Public Libraries).

3. If this reference is to a planned trip to Paris, then WC was too unwell with gout to go. See [1230] to William Tindell, 10 May 1872.

4. Edward Pigott, a friend and sailing companion of WC and Benham – see [0368] to Charles Ward, 14 August 1860.

5. The 1871 Census, taken a year earlier on 2 April 1871, records three daughters at Syon Lodge – Florence aged 21, Mabel aged 18, and Edith aged 9, together with two sons Edwin aged 20 and Charles aged 7 (RG10/1313/56/19).

[3158] * **TO G. MILNER GIBSON,¹ 5 AUGUST 1872**

MS: Unknown. On sale: Michael Silverman, London (June 2010).

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W.

Dear Sir,

I comply with your request with great pleasure.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

G. Milner Gibson Esqre

1. Possibly George Milner Gibson, son of Thomas Milner Gibson (1806-1884) and his wife Susannah. He was a politician and wealthy landowner. George G. Milner Gibson was born in 1858, and in 1871 was living with his parents at Hyde Park Place, Marylebone, London (Census RG10/165/16/24).

[3159] * **TO WILLIAM F. GILL, 14 JANUARY 1874**

MS: Private, envelope only.¹

Wm F. Gill, Esqr | St James's Hotel | Boston | Mass: | Wilkie Collins

1. With 3c green stamp. Postmarked: DETROIT | JAN | 14 | MICH. WC had read on 13th at the Russell House, Detroit (Hanes p. 72).

[3160] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT,¹ 6 FEBRUARY 1874**

MS: Unknown. On sale: The Horse Soldier, Gettysburg, PA 17325 (unknown date).

Wilkie Collins | Springfield² | February 6th 1874

1. On a small card with traces of mounting at corners, apparently for an autograph collector.
2. WC read *The Dream Woman* at the Opera House, Springfield, Massachusetts on 5 February, and left the town the following day by the 1.30 train for Worcester (Hanes p. 76).

[3161] * **TO ANNE BENSON PROCTER, 11 APRIL 1876**

MS: Lewis.

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | 11th April 1876

My dear Mrs Procter,

I have had the gout again in the eye – and I am only allowed to write you two or three lines, now that I am getting better.

I rejoice to hear that you have found the right place at last – and in such a good situation.¹ When you are settled I shall hope to present myself without a black patch over my eye. The gout stopped “The Two Destinies” at half a number – which will appear next month.² I am glad you like it.

yours afftly | W.C.

1. Presumably her new home in the recently built Queen Anne’s Mansions in Petty France, Westminster, where she lived with her daughter Edith (1881 Census RG11/118/36/58). Her husband Bryan Waller Procter (1787-1874) had died eighteen months earlier (*ODNB*).

2. *The Two Destinies* was serialised in *Temple Bar* from January to September 1876. The first four parts led each issue and were 23, 23, 25 and 26 pages long. The May part was just 13 pages long and the following parts were 17, 17, 20, and 25 pages long. In effect, WC spread his work over seven months rather than six. From the May issue his story lost its place as the lead, which was taken over by Anthony Trollope’s *The American Senator*.

[3162] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT, 17 JULY 1876**

MS: Unknown. On sale: International Autograph Auctions, Nottingham (13 February 2010, Lot 442).

Wilkie Collins | 17th July 1876

1. On a card with four tiny holes to each corner. Possibly once attached to a bookmark.

[3163] * **TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE NEW ENGLAND MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY, 2 JANUARY 1877**

MS: Massachusetts Historical Society (Foster Family autograph collection, Box 5 Folder 20).

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W.
London | 2nd January 1877

Gentlemen,

I trouble you with a line to inform you that my friend, Mr Sebastian Schlesinger, of the firm of Naylor & Co 6, Oliver Street, has kindly undertaken to pay the premium on my Policy of Insurance N^o 53404, due on the 12th of February next.

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins

To the Directors of | The New England Mutual | Insurance Co | Boston. U.S.A²

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1. For details of the policy, see [1426] to Tindell, 3 March 1874.
 2. Written at the top of the first page above the printed address.

[3164] **TO LADY LOUISA GOLDSMID,¹ 10 MAY 1878**

MS: Unknown. Published: *Memoir of Sir Francis Henry Goldsmid, Bart., Q.C., M.P.*, by Rev. Prof. Marks and Rev. Albert Löwy, London: 1879 (Appendix VII p.109), our copy text.

90, Gloucester Place, | Portman Square. W. | May 10, 1878
MY DEAR LADY GOLDSMID,

Pray forgive me if I intrude too soon on your great sorrow.² I will not trust myself to speak of the dreadful calamity that has fallen on you. Let me only say that I do indeed feel for you with my whole heart, and that as long as I live I shall gratefully and affectionately remember the friend whom I have lost.³

Believe me, | Most truly yours, | Wilkie Collins

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1. Lady Louisa Sophia Goldsmid (1819–1908), wife and cousin of the Anglo-Jewish philanthropist and MP, Sir Francis Goldsmid (1808–78).
 2. Referring to the untimely death of Sir Francis in a railway accident at Waterloo Station on 2 May 1878 (see *The Times* 4 May 1878, p. 7e, and 6 May 1878, p. 6d.)
 3. WC was a visitor to the Goldsmids at their London home at St. John's Lodge in Regent's Park and at their country residence; see to Louisa Goldsmid, [0677] 15 May 1865 and [0708] 28 September 1866. WC was also in social touch with other members of the Goldsmid family, see, e.g. [0958] to Miss Goldsmid, 2 March 1870.

[3165] * **TO THOMAS ATKINSON ESQR JUNR,¹ 28 JUNE 1880**

MS: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University (Gimbel H1297).

90. Gloucester Place | W. | London | 28th June 1880²

Dear Sir,

I have forwarded your letter to Mr Payn. He is now well advanced – as I hear – towards recovery.³

“The Lighthouse” is not published. As long as I keep the play in manuscript, I keep it out of the reach of the theatrical thieves – who set the law at defiance for the excellent reason that they have no money to pay damages.⁴

The notice of my life in the volume called (I think) “Men of the Time” was corrected by myself. It is very short necessarily – the “events” in my life being not of a nature to interest the public. Circumstances have spared me the “picturesque” obstacles which have stood in the way of many literary men.⁵ And the best part of my life is in my books.

Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins

To Thos Atkinson Eqr Junior.

1. Unidentified but probably an American fan because of the London dateline and the ‘junior’ after the name.

2. Handwritten.

3. WC’s friend, the writer James Payn. On his recent illness, see [1921] to Miss Payn, 15 June 1880.

4. *The Lighthouse* was first written and performed for CD’s amateurs in 1855. WC sold the professional performance rights for two years in 1857 and the play opened at the Olympic Theatre on 10 August. Despite full houses it closed after 9 weeks on 17 October. See [0269] to John Palgrave Simpson, 17 October 1857, for early plans to print the play. WC seems to have decided soon after that not to allow further productions – see [0299] to E. Nelson Hazell, 27 April 1859, and [0349] to John Palgrave Simpson, 2 June 1860. But WC relented and Simpson did perform the play many times, though it remained unprinted in English – see [0502] to John Palgrave Simpson, 17 November 1862. There was, however, a French translation by E. D. Forgues as ‘Le Phare’ in *Une Poignée de Romans, Second Série*, Paris, J. Hetzel & Lacroix, [1864].

5. WC first corrected the entry in *Men of the Time* almost twenty years earlier – see [0411] to Edward Walford, 17 April 1861. Three years later a further correction was sent – see [0578] to Routledge, Warne & Routledge, 21 April 1864. See also [1992] to Henry J. Nicoll, 28 November 1881, for a similar reliance on this biographical account.

[3166] * **TO W. F. TILLOTSON, 22 MARCH 1883**

MS: Yale (Gimbel H1298).

Summary: “*A.L.s. of 22 March 1883 to W. F. Tillotson.*”¹

1. Thus in John B. Podeschi, *Dickens and Dickensiana. A Catalogue of the Richard Gimbel Collection in the Yale University Library*, New Haven, Yale University Library, 1980, p. 484. Yale Library could not locate this item in March 2010.

[3167] * **TO CHARLES KENT, 9 JULY 1883**

MS: Unknown. On sale: Bernard J. Shapiro, London (2010).

To Charles Kent | from | Wilkie Collins 9th July | 1883¹

1. Inscribed on title page of a Tauchnitz edition of *Heart and Science*. Presumably given to Kent on his visit earlier in the day – see [2179] to Kent, 9 July 1883.

[3168] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED RECIPIENT,¹ 7 APRIL 1885**

MS: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University (Gimbel D75).

Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins | 7th April 1885

1. A signed slip for an autograph hunter. See Podeschi, p. 268.

[3169] * **TO JAMES F. GLUCK,¹ 7 DECEMBER 1886**

MS: Private.

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, | PORTMAN SQUARE. W.

London | 7th December 1886

My dear Sir,

Pray accept my thanks for your kind letter (dated 22nd November last) which reached me a few days since. Let me also thank you for paying me the compliment of placing my portrait in front of my work.² In making my offering to your library, I add one more to my many pleasant associations with Buffalo at the time of my visit to the United States.

Post office authorities do occasionally commit blunders – very few blunders, all things considered. That I failed to receive your first letter is due, beyond all doubt, to some misadventure of this sort.

Believe me, my dear sir, | Vy truly yours | Wilkie Collins
Mr James F. Gluck

1. James Fraser Gluck (1852–97), curator of the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, New York.
2. The Ms of *The Two Destinies* which WC had donated to the library. See his letters to Gluck, [2537] 16 March 1886 and [2579] 24 June 1886.

[3170] * **GUY ROSLYN,¹ UNKNOWN DATE**

MS: Special Collections Library, Pennsylvania State University (Mortlake Collection, Box 1 Folder 179).

Faithfully yours | Wilkie Collins²
Guy Roslyn Esqre

1. Guy Roslyn was the pseudonym of George Barnett Smith (1841-1909; *ODNB*), and is also listed as a pseud. of Joshua Halton by the National Library of Australia. See also G.S. Haight, ed., *The George Eliot Letters* V p. 338n6:-

George Eliot in Derbyshire: A Volume of Gossip about Passages and People in the Novels of George Eliot, by Guy Roslyn, with intro. by George Barnett Smith, 1876. According to the DNB Guy Roslyn was a pseudonym of George Barnett Smith (1841-1909), under which he also published three volumes of verse.

2. A scrap cut from the end of a letter.

[3171] * **TO UNIDENTIFIED, UNKNOWN DATE**

MS: Yale (Gimbel H1299).

Summary: “*COLLINS, WILKIE. ... A. Sig. to an unknown correspondent. This signature apparently was cut from a letter.*”¹

1. Thus in John B. Podeschi, *Dickens and Dickensiana. A Catalogue of the Richard Gimbel Collection*, New Haven, Yale University Library 1980, p. 484. Yale Library could not locate this item in March 2010.

(B) Corrigenda

[0344] TO GEORGINA STEEPLE, 12 MAY 1860

I, p. 195: The recipient has been identified. The entire entry should be replaced with the following:

[0344] TO GEORGINA STEEPLE,¹ 12 MAY 1860

MS: Wolff Collection, envelope only.²

Miss Georgina Steeple | 87, Wellington Road, | Edgbaston, | Birmingham

1. Georgina M. Steeple (b. 1849), daughter of John Steeple (b. 1824) and Martha Steeple (b. 1823) both landscape painters. Identified at this address, Census 7 April 1861 (RG09 2123/10/16).

2. Postmarked as dated.

[0345] TO MISS CHAMBERS,¹ 15 MAY 1860

I, p. 196: The recipient has been identified following the discovery of a prior published source. The MS line and footnote 1 should read as follows:

[0345] TO JANET CHAMBERS,¹ 15 MAY 1860

MS: Texas (Ms Letters, W. Collins). Published: Lady Eliza Priestley, *The Story of a Lifetime*, London: 1908; Coleman, p. 60.

1. Janet Chambers (1836-1863), twin sister of Eliza Chambers (1836-1909) and younger sister of Nina Lehmann née Chambers. Eliza married Sir William Overend Priestley (1829-1900) who was knighted in 1893. In her autobiography she introduces the letter thus: “My twin wrote to Wilkie Collins saying she could not wait any longer, and must know the fate of Laura, etc. The following was the reply she received.” (p. 103).

[0513] TO CHARLES WARD, [DECEMBER 1860–2]

I, p. 286: This letter can now be dated precisely. The heading and footnote should be amended to read:

[0513] TO CHARLES WARD, 14 DECEMBER 1860¹

1. WC was at Harley Street for three Christmas periods – 1860, 1861, and 1862. In 1863 he was in Italy and he moved to Melcombe Place just before Christmas 1864. December 1860 is the only one in which his bank account shows a payment of £10 to Charles Ward. The cheque was paid on Monday 17 December, which fits in with the Sunday meeting.

[0718] TO MRS BENHAM,¹ 2 JANUARY 1867

II, pp. 57-8: The recipient has been identified and her background checked. The entire entry should be replaced with the following:

[0718] TO MARY ANNE BENHAM,¹ 2 JANUARY 1867

MS: Private.

9. Melcombe Place | Dorset Square N.W. | ~~Dec~~ Jan 2nd 1867

Dear Mrs Benham,

I well remember having the pleasure of meeting Mr and Mrs Speed and Miss Speed at that pleasant dinner at Syon Lodge – and I am much obliged to you for sending me the invitation.²

But there is an obstacle in the way of my accepting it – for which I alone am to blame. In plain English, the 8th of January is my birthday – and I stand pledged to celebrate the evening by going to a “Pantomime” and eating a supper!³ I have written to make my apologies to Mrs Speed – and I can only hope for “better luck next time.”

All the best wishes of the season to you and your’s!

Believe me | Dear Mrs Benham | Yours vly truly | Wilkie Collins

1. Mary Anne Benham neé Shoppee (b. c.1823), wife of WC’s lawyer and agent, Ebenezer (later Edward) Benham (1823-71) whom she married 17 June 1846. See [0719] to him of 5 January 1867. The dinner was possibly in June the previous year – see [0689] to Miss Speed, 30 June 1866. Ebenezer/Edward and Mary Anne lived at Syon Lodge, Isleworth, west of London (Census 1861 and 1871).

3. With Charles Ward and Edward Pigott. See [0721] to HC, 8 January 1867.

[0719] TO CHARLES BENHAM,¹ 5 JANUARY 1867

II, p. 58: This is the first of eleven letters with the recipient listed incorrectly as CHARLES BENHAM at Benham & Tindell solicitors. No evidence of this first name has been found and further research indicates that no-one called Charles Benham was a solicitor in the firm or connected with it. The recipient and footnote 1 should thus be amended as follows:

[0719] TO EDWARD BENHAM,¹ 5 JANUARY 1867

1. This letter is the first from WC among the more than 150 in the Collins file at Benham & Tindell, now found at the Mitchell Library, bound in two red leather volumes. Ebenezer Benham (c.1823-1871) founded the solicitor’s firm under his name in 1848. He specialised in copyright and patent law (see: <www.monro-fisher-wasbrough.com/history.html>). Ten years later he was joined as a partner by William Frederick Tindell (dd. 1886) and the firm

changed its name to Benham & Tindell. The office was at 18 Essex Street, off the Strand, and Benham lived there at first (1851 Census HO107/1512/27/5) before moving out to Syon Lodge (1861 Census RG9/772/59/12). He was WC's sailing companion in September 1860. Probably soon after 1861 he changed his name from Ebenezer to Edward (see Census 1871 RG10/1313/56/19 and Probate Calendar, granted 30 June 1871). From the summer of 1869 WC's business was handled largely by William Tindell. Benham died unexpectedly of small-pox and fever on 30 April 1871 (death certificate), perhaps contracted in Spain – see [1033] to Tindell, 25 October 1870.

In the following ten letters the recipient should also be changed from CHARLES BENHAM to EDWARD BENHAM:

- II, pp. 114-15:* [0837] 2 June 1868
- II, p. 116:* [0841] 28 June 1868
- II, p. 118:* [0846] 16 July 1868
- II, p. 119:* [0847] 18 July 1868
- II, p. 119:* [0848] 19 July 1868
- II, pp. 120-1:* [0852] 9 September 1868
- II, p. 122:* [0856] 25 September 1868
- II, p. 122:* [0857] 25 September 1868
- II, pp. 128-9:* [0871] 21 February 1869
- II, pp. 134-5:* [0885] 6 May 1869

In the following seven letters the name in the relevant footnote should also be changed from CHARLES BENHAM to EDWARD BENHAM:

- Baker & Clark I, pp. 177-8:* [0314] to Harriet Collins, 2 September 1859
- I, pp. 204-5:* [0363] to Frederick Lehmann, 6 August 1860
- II, p. 39:* [0689] to Miss Speed, 30 June 1866
- II, p. 45:* [0703] to Joseph Stringfield, 16 August 1866
- II, pp. 58-9:* [0720] to Harriet Collins, 6 January 1867
- II, pp. 95-6:* [0793] to Harriet Collins, 12 December 1867
- II, p. 217:* [1033] to William F. Tindell, 25 October 1870

[2304] **TO PAUL HAMILTON HAYNE, 3 MAY 1884**

IV, p. 33: The MS has now been identified and the transcript published in Baker & Clarke, II, pp. 467–8, has now been corrected from that source. Most changes there were of punctuation, but eight words were omitted towards the end of the second paragraph. The entire entry should be replaced with the following:

[2304] **TO PAUL HAMILTON HAYNE,¹ 3 MAY 1884**

MS: Syracuse University.² Typed transcript: Texas (Ms Letters, W. Collins).

Published: Hayne, p. 66; Coleman, pp. 290-91; Baker & Clarke, II, pp. 467-68; all with errors. Extract: Davis, p. 298.

90, GLOUCESTER PLACE, | PORTMAN SQUARE. W.

London | 3rd May 1884

My dear Sir,

I am sure I need not tell you that your kind letter has pleased and encouraged me. You are known to me already by name – and your favourable opinion is one of the rewards of my literary career which I honestly prize.

Your estimate of the value of the last new school of novel-writing is my estimate too. We are living in a period of “decline and fall,” in the art of writing fiction. To allude to your country alone, when I read for the hundredth time “The Deerslayer” or “The Red Rover”³ – and when I find myself yawning over the last new work of (let us say) Mr Blank,⁴ the enormous depth of the literary downfall in which I find myself plunged, does really astonish me. In this country, we have lately lost one of the “last of the Romans” – my dear old friend Charles Reade. I look out for the new writer, among us, who is to fill that vacant place – and I fail to see him. Like the hero of old Dumas’ magnificent story (Monte Cristo), we must say to each other: “Wait, and hope.” Art, as you have no doubt remarked, is above the operation of the ordinary laws of supply and demand. The influences which produce great – and I will even say good – writers, are entirely beyond the reach of human investigation. It may be hundreds of years, or it may be only hundreds of days, before another Fenimore Cooper appears in America, or another Walter Scott in England.⁵ I call these two – and Balzac – the three Kings of Fiction.⁶

I am sure I need not say that I shall receive your Poems gratefully, as one more proof of your friendly feeling towards me, and towards my stories.

Believe me with esteem and regard,

Most truly yours, | Wilkie Collins

To | Mr Paul Hamilton Hayne.

My health varies a great deal. Gout and work and age (I was sixty years old in

January last) try to persuade me to lay down my pen, after each new book – but, well or ill, I go on – and I am now publishing (periodically) a new story, with the quaint title of “I Say No” which I hope may interest you when it is finished.

1. Paul Hamilton Hayne (1830-1886), South Carolina poet. A presentation copy of his *Poems* (1882) was found in WC’s library at his death (Baker, item 250, p.116). See [2337] to Hayne, 16 July 1884 for WC’s thanks for this volume. An electronic edition of the volume is available at: <[http://docsouth.unc.edu/hayne.html](http://docsouth.unc.edu/hayne/hayne.html)>.

2. With a MS note: “Presented to the Greatest Balzacian H. H. Royce by G A [illegible] | 9/5/44.”

3. James Fenimore Cooper: the 31-volume 1872 New York edition of his novels was found in WC’s library – see Baker (item 133, p. 96).

4. WC refers to the realist school associated with writers such as William Dean Howells.

5. Amelius Goldenheart, hero of *The Fallen Leaves*, has Scott’s works in his library: “The writings of the one supreme genius who soars above all other novelists as Shakespeare soars above all other dramatists – the writings of Walter Scott – had their place of honour in his library” (Book 7th, ch. 2)

6. WC first used this phrase in his letter [2182] to Miss R, 12 July 1883, where he also named his favourite book by each author. A year earlier he had admitted reading *The Deerslayer* “for the fifth time” – [2017] to William Winter, 10 February 1882.

[3014] **TO B. E. JOSEPH,¹ 13 MARCH 1887**

A&C2, p. 6: The date is incorrect and should be amended as follows:

[3014] **TO B. E. JOSEPH,¹ 21 MARCH 1887**

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