

An Unidentified Correspondent and Missing Lines, Restored

REBECCA FILNER, LIBRARIAN OF THE HENRY W. AND ALBERT A. Berg Collection, New York Public Library, has brought to the editors' attention missing lines from the end of a Thomas Carlyle letter in their possession. The incomplete version of the letter published in the Duke-Edinburgh Edition (*CL*: 28: 158–59), dated 2 June 1853 to an Unidentified Correspondent, responds to a query involving the Bohemian poet and novelist Moritz Hartmann (1821–72) and includes an account of the August 1613 duel between the noblemen Edward Sackville (1590–1652) and Edward Bruce, who was killed in the affair. The restored final page four of the Carlyle letter identifies the addressee as Catherine Gore (1798–1861; *ODNB*), playwright and novelist in the period genre known as “silver fork” that was satirized by Carlyle in *Sartor Resartus* and by Thackeray in *Vanity Fair* and *Pendennis*.

In the *Collected Letters*, there is but one other letter from TC to Gore (8 Dec. 1840), a courteous acknowledgment of the receipt of her latest book. On 9 March 1841, TC requested from Monckton Milnes “a certain diabolic or quasi-diabolic book called *Cecil*” (*CLO*), thinking that his friend had written it. The novel was in fact written by Gore. In a letter of 21 March, having read the novel during a stay in Wight, TC gently chides Milnes, encouraging him to be “*sincere* and ever more sincere” and warning him that he has a “gift in him, which *may* either be reported in Heaven’s Treasury forevermore, or squandered in Mayfair in a few seasons” (*CLO*).

In the Duke-Edinburgh edition, the letter to Gore ends abruptly mid-sentence in the final paragraph, after the word “to.” Amended, the end of the letter, including the missing text from page four, reads:

Hartmann (who is a beautiful youth, with sumptuous beard, of the Hebrew race, and not without talent), I understand, is again in Town,—beard as sumptuous as ever. I surely am obliged to him for the pleasure he has procured me on this occasion; and remain / My dear Madam / Yours with many regards / T. Carlyle / Hon. Mrs Gore