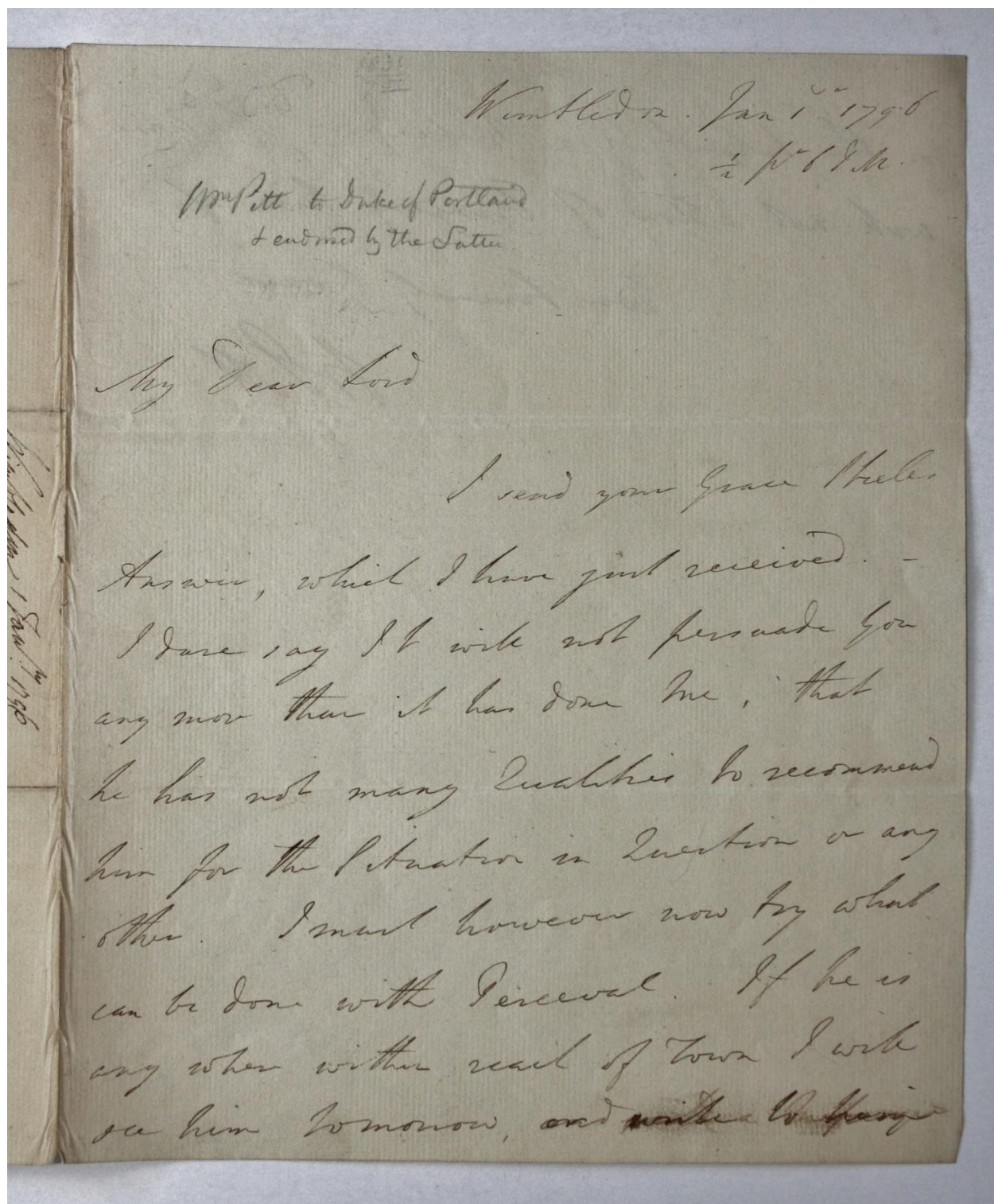


Three Once and Future Prime Ministers



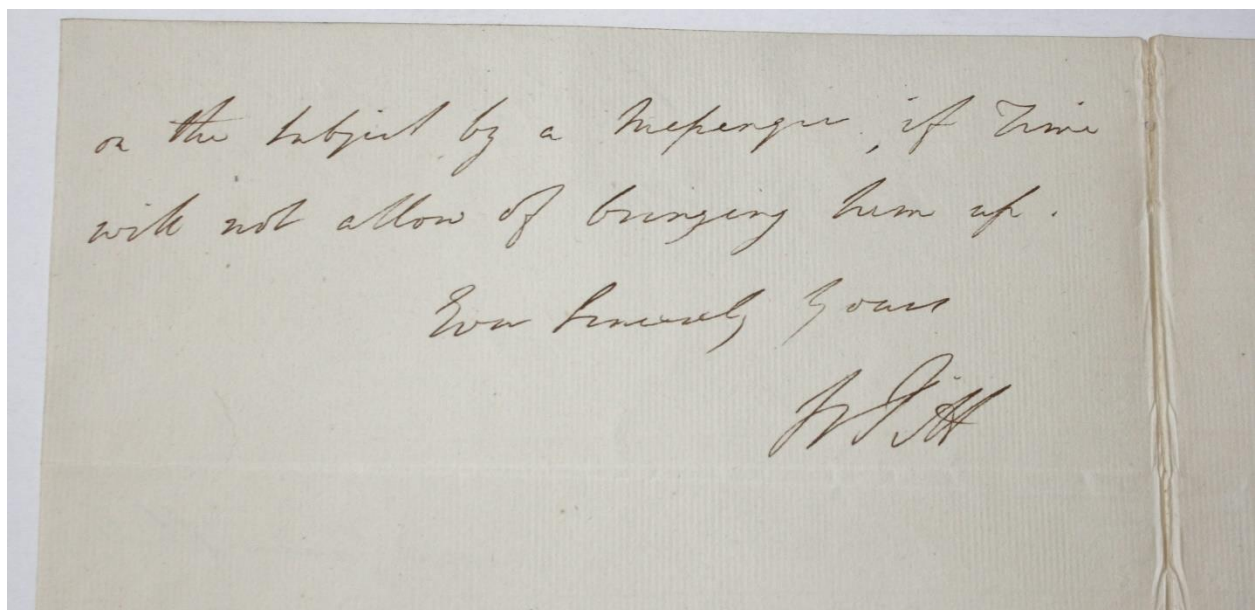
Pitt, William (the Younger). **Autograph Letter, Signed, to the 3rd Duke of Portland.** Dated Wimbledon, January 1, 1796. "My Dear Lord, I send your Grace Steele's Answer (not included here), which I have just

received. I dare say, it will not persuade you any more than it has done me, that he has not many qualities to recommend him for the situation in question or any other. I must however now try what can be done with Perceval. If he is any where within reach of Town I will see him tomorrow, and write to him on the subject by a messenger if time will not allow to bring him up. Ever sincerely yours, W. Pitt." On laid paper, "Portal and Co" watermark, two contiguous leaves 7 ¼ x 9 inches, two pages. Docketed on the 4th page by the recipient, I think he notes that he answered the same day. The vertical fold tender, starting to separate; two horizontal folds as though for insertion in an envelope. \$750

The following come from biographies in the online "History of Parliament".

At the time of this letter William Pitt was in the first of two stints as Prime Minister (1783-1801; 1804-1806). "When Lord Camden became viceroy of Ireland in 1795 and Thomas Pelham hesitated to return there as chief secretary, (Thomas) Steele (1753-1823) was Pitt's next choice. He was also Camden's and the King's, who described him as 'a man of uncommon good temper, much versed in conversing with men, and sufficient powers of elocution to state what may be necessary for him in the Irish house of commons'. Camden undertook to secure permanent provision for him, but Steele maintained that £10,000 a year would not compensate him for his transportation. To Pitt he wrote: 'It cannot inspire me with confidence in myself or in my own abilities; it cannot give me talents and information which I do not possess; it cannot improve my health or correct a bilious habit—I therefore feel, as I before told you I did, unfit for the situation and on that account am unwilling to undertake it'. If Pitt insisted, he would go; but after an interview with him on 23 Dec. 1795, Pitt had already seen that this would not do and given in."

"When late in 1795 Thomas Pelham wished to give up the Irish secretaryship, he (Spencer Perceval, 1762-1812) was thought of by Pitt and Portland as an eligible successor, as Thomas Steele declined. But Perceval rejected Pitt's offer of 2 Jan. 1796 for his growing family's sake, fearing an 'inexcusable profusion of the public money'." At the time of this letter Perceval was Counselor to the Admiralty (from 1794-1801). He was Prime minister from 1809-1812. The 3rd Duke of Portland, William Henry Cavendish Bentinck, 1738-1809, was Home Secretary at the time of this letter (1794-1801). Like Pitt, he was Prime Minister twice, Apr.-Dec. 1783 (succeeded by Pitt) and again from 1807-1809 (succeeded by Perceval).



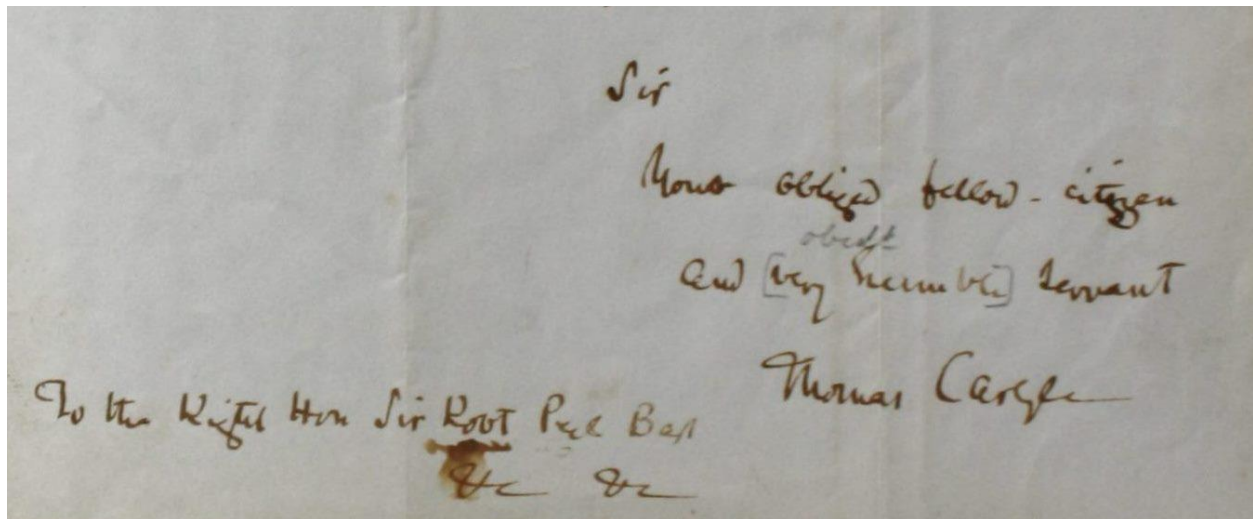
on the subject by a messenger, if time
will not allow of bringing him up.
Ever sincerely yours
W. Pitt

(Lord Mahon, Philip Henry Stanhope). ***Secret Correspondence Connected With Mr. Pitt's Return to Office in 1804.*** "Chiefly Compiled From the Mss. at Melville Castle". London: Not Published, printed by Spottiswoodes and Shaw, 1852. First edition. Original blue cloth, lettered in gilt, decorated in gilt and blind, 54 pp.

A presentation copy: "To John Stuart, Esq., Aberdeen, with the Editor's Compliments". Stanhope's grandfather was Lord Chesterfield, the letter writer. He was related to William Pitt by marriage. Lord Melville (Henry Dundas) conspired with others to bring Pitt back as Prime Minister as the French amassed a huge army for an invasion of Britain. A 1921 ownership signature. A bit soiled and stained, else Fine. \$90

And a Fourth P.M.

Carlyle, Thomas. **Autograph Letter, Signed, to Robert Peel, Prime Minister.** Dated Chelsea, 19 June, 1846. Carlyle sends a copy (not present here) of his "Oliver Cromwell...", calling him "the noblest Governor England ever had", and suggesting that "his story" "...may well have interest for all Governors of England..". He is profusely complimentary and grateful for Peel's "valiant labours", presumably his successful repeal of the Corn Laws, which was passed in Parliament on May 15. This is designated "copy" in Carlyle's hand above the salutation. It contains some differences from the version of the same date published in the Carlyle Letters Online [CLO]. Some words are crossed out, but still legible, and replaced with alternates which are kept in the CLO version; there are two suggested revisions in pencil in another hand, neither being adopted in the CLO version; and there are a few punctuation differences. From the source note in CLO, taken Feb. 24, 2023: "Froude says (in Froude, *Carlyle* v.3:375-76): 'There are two versions of this letter among Carlyle's papers, not quite identical,' but neither version now appears to be in the NLS (National Library of Scotland), nor were they listed in the main sale of TC's books and MSS belonging to A. Carlyle, at Sotheby's, 13-14 June 1932. They are at present untraced." One sheet folded to make four pages, each measuring 7 1/4 x 9 inches, three are used; folded once horizontally, then twice vertically. Some folds toned, else Fine. \$1750



The image shows a handwritten letter on aged, slightly stained paper. The text is written in dark ink. At the top, it says "Sir". Below that, "Your obliged fellow-citizen" is written. Underneath, "and [very humble] servant" is written, with "obedient" written in smaller, lighter ink above "and". The signature "Thomas Carlyle" is written in a cursive hand. At the bottom left, the address "To the Right Hon Sir Robt Peel Bart" is written, followed by "etc &c" on the next line.

Chelsea, 19 June, 1848 -

Sir,

Will you be pleased to accept, from a very private citizen of the Community, this copy of a Book, which he has been engaged in putting together, while you our most arduous citizen was victoriously labouring in quite other work. Labour, so far as it is true, and sanctifiable by the Supreme Worker and Word - Form - or, may claim brotherhood with labour; the great work and the little are alike definable as an extracting of the true from its imprisonment amid the false, a ^{withdrawing} ~~distilling~~ of order and fact from disorder and semblance of fact. In any case, citizens who feel grateful to a citizen an ^{unmistakable} and engaged to testify by their feeling, each in such manner as he can. Let this

poor labour of mine be a small testimony of that sort to a late great and valiant labourer of yours, and claim reception as such.

The Book, should you ever find leisure to read and master it, may perhaps have interest for you; - may perhaps (who knows!) have admiration, exhortation; in various ways, instruction and encouragement for yet other labours which England, in a somewhat but most impressive manner, still expects and demands of you! The authentic words and actions of the noblest Governor England ever had may well have interest for all Governors of England; they will be, as all "Scripture" is, as all genuine words and actions are, "inspired"; - inspired for reproof, for correction, and for edifying and strengthening intent! -

Hansard's Debates are not a kind of literature I have been familiar with; nor indeed is the Arena they borrow from much other than a witness to me in these times. Low-sounding clamour, and specious rhetorical vocables,

grounded not on fact, not even on belief of fact, - are known from of old whether all that, and what depends on it, is good! But by and by, as I believe, all England will say, what a - body many a one begins to feel, that whatever were the motion unscrutinized in Parliament, - and that an ^{new} many a one heart, lamentable to gods and men, - has a great respect - by been done in Parliament, ^{now} ~~undoubtedly~~ our greatest for many years past; a strenuous, courageous and manly thing, - to which all of us that so see it are bound to give our loyal recognition and such furtherance as we can.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Most obliged fellow-citizen
and very respectfully
obedient servant

Thomas Carlyle

To the Right Hon Sir Robert Peel Bart
etc &c

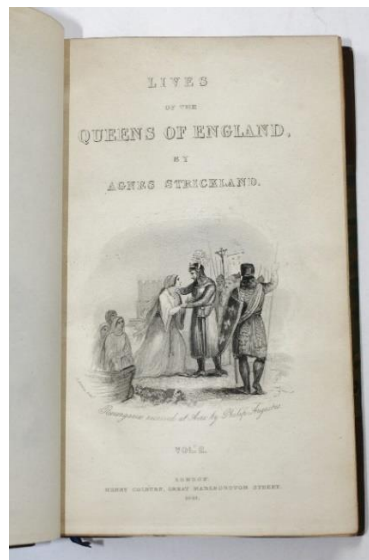
Sisters and Queens

Strickland, Agnes (and Elizabeth). ***Lives of the Queens of England, From the Norman Conquest. With: Two Autograph Letters, Signed.*** London: Henry Colburn, 1842-48. Twelve volumes, complete. Second edition of volumes 1-3, first edition of volumes 4-12. Beautifully bound (Tout Binders) in later 19th century green half-calf, marbled boards, lettered in gilt. Top edges gilt, ribbon markers (some detached). Frontis and one plate in each volume; Henry Colburn was well known for the quality of the illustrations in the books he published.

Lovely bookplate of Marie Hunt Story in each volume – her father-in-law was sculptor William Wetmore Story, her husband Marion Story was a miniature painter and Wall Streeter. "*Lives of the Queens....* was very successful and popular". Agnes' sister, Elizabeth, collaborated in the writing but, "having an invincible objection to publicity", her name did not appear on the title page (Elizabeth Lee in the *DNB*). Spine leather sunned to a beautiful brown, gilt lettering is lovely. Some rubbing to leather and boards. A Very Good set.

With: Agnes Strickland autograph letter, signed, Oct. 13, 1849, "Dear Madam....". One sheet folded to make four pages, all are used, about 200 words. Miss Strickland "shall have much pleasure if the designs in '*Lives of the Queens of England*' " can be issued as needlework projects. However, she suggests that Henry Colburn should be consulted, he being "the proprietor of the plates". Folded once for mailing, a Fine letter.

With: Autograph letter, signed, by Elizabeth Strickland. Dated Telford, May 21, 1864, responding to a friend, "Mrs. May", congratulating her on her marriage and new baby. She loves babies, but only from four months old until they turn three in boys and five in girls, "the angelic nature of babyhood lasting two years longer in the bettermost creature." She doesn't like writing letters, especially after "the mind is worn with proofs and ms's." Autographs are a "more than usual torment...how can I have an autograph when I have not committed my name to the public? Her sister Agnes is in negotiations for a new, cheap edition of the *Queens of England*. "We must not ask her for the letters you want...I can clip some beginnings and endings from her almost daily letters to me which are by mutual agreement all destroyed once the memorandums they contain are acted upon....the correspondence though often delightful is not for the world's pen". She then talks at length about several historical Scandinavian monarchs. Two conjugate leaves, very closely written, about 600 words. For the set and two letters: \$1200; for the letters only, \$600

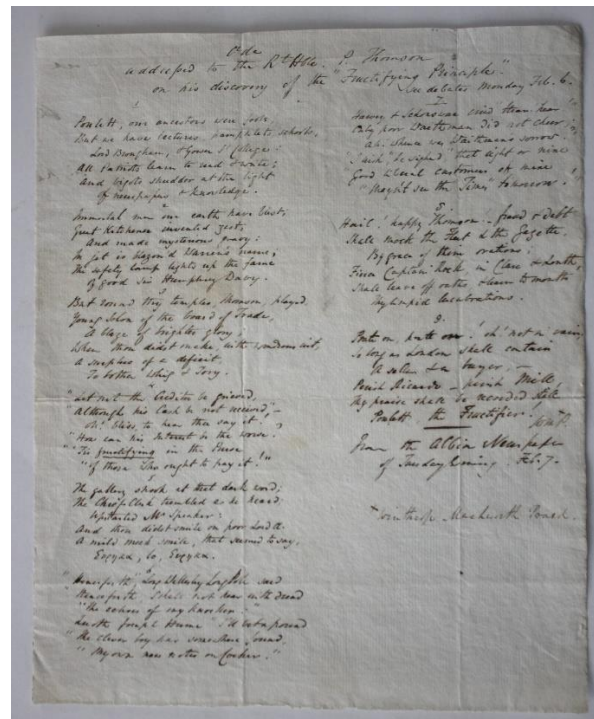
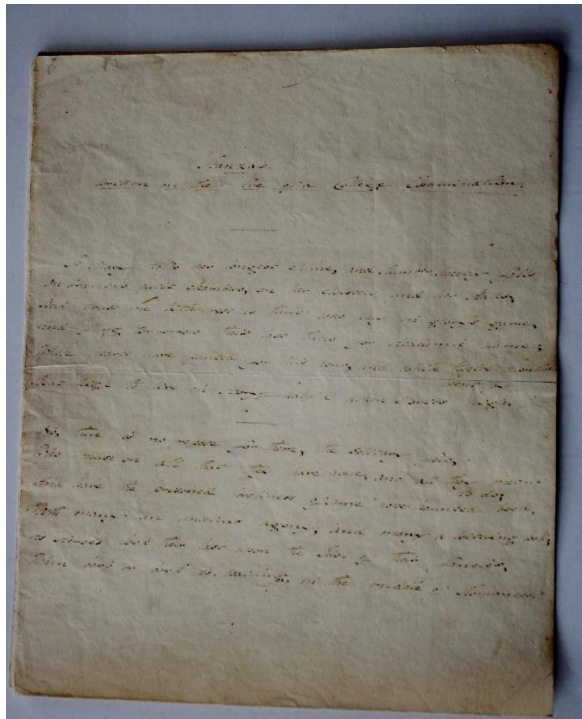


College Exams and The Fructifying Principle

Praed, Winthrop Mackworth. **Manuscript Poem, Unsigned. "Stanzas Written on the Eve of a College Examination"**. No date, but paper watermarked 1826. Nine six-line stanzas on four sheets, in Praed's hand in very light ink on the rectos only. Apparently an early draft, significantly differing from the version in the Derwent Coleridge 1864 collection of Praed's poems.

Praed entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1821, and obtained a fellowship there in 1827. He was politically ambitious, was called to the bar in 1829, and in 1830 bought a seat in parliament for 1,000 pounds. He died of tuberculosis in 1839, age 37 (Leslie Stephen in *DNB*).

With: a contemporary manuscript copy, in an unknown hand, of another Praed poem, "Ode Addressed to the Right Honourable P. Thompson on His Discovery of the Fructifying Principle", labeled "From the Albion Newspaper of Tuesday Evening, Feb. 7 (no year, but 1832). Thomson, when a massive deficit in a public fund was discovered, argued in parliament that there was nothing to worry about since the money had not been lost or stolen but had remained in the people's pockets, where it could remain active in the economy - a phenomenon he called "fructification" - and if the government needed money it could call for it later. Praed and his fellow conservatives ridiculed this theory and skewered Thomson for it (editorial remarks in *Political and Occasional Poems of....Praed*, 1888, ed. Sir George Young). There have been no less than twelve posthumous collections of Praed's poems, the first in 1844 and the last in 1953 (NCBEL, v.3, 411), and a Penguin Classic paperback, *Selected Poems of Beddoes, Praed and Hood*, in 2000. Provenance: The Roy Davids Collection, sold at Bonham's, 2013. Both items in Fine condition. \$350



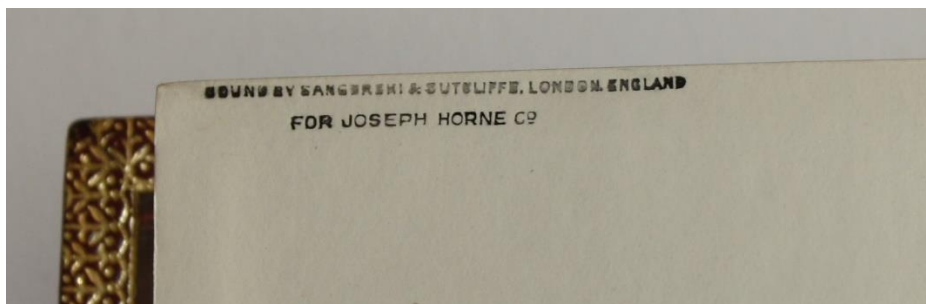
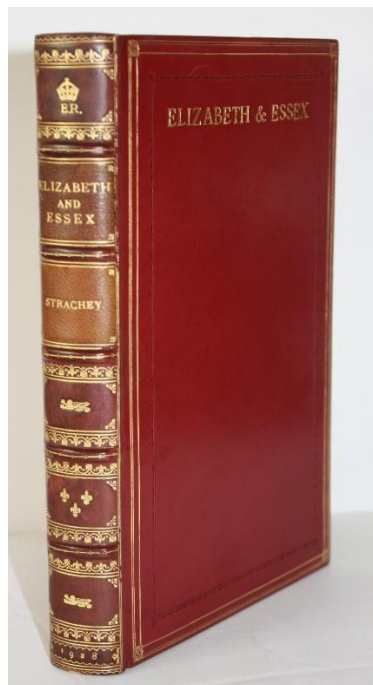
Martin, (Sir) Theodore. **Autograph Letter, Signed**. Dated 25 May, 1880. "Dear Madam (Miss Jackson), I return your memorial (no longer present), which I have signed." He is glad to hear, from Mr. Munby, that the Duke of Westminster is on board, for he is in the best position to influence Mr. Gladstone, the Prime

Minister, who has more power in such matters than the Queen herself. Sir Theodore stood solidly in two worlds, the political and the literary. "Martin's parliamentary business in London was extensive, profitable, and important....with him the Queen (Victoria) maintained until her death a very confidential intercourse and correspondence." (Adolphus William Ward in DNB). He published translations from Latin, German and Italian, most notably Dante's Vita Nuova and Goethe's Faust. One sheet folded to make four pages, one is used. Folded for mailing, a small stain at the foot, else Fine. \$90

Strachey, Lytton. ***Elizabeth and Essex***. London: Chatto and Windus, 1928. First edition.

In a signed binding ("Sangorski and Sutcliffe, London England for Joseph Horne Co." at the top of the front free endpaper verso. The Joseph Horne Company was regional department store chain based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; founded in 1849, it closed its doors in 1994).

Full purple-red calf, gilt lettered and decorated, with two brown leather labels for the title and the author's name, with much gold tooling including - dentelles bordering the spine panels, British symbols in the centers of the spine panels - "ER" (Elizabeth Regina) under a crown, two lions passant, and some fleur de lis, inner dentelles, all edges gilt, marbled endpapers, illustrated, ribbon marker, 288 pp. Ribbon marker in two pieces, one is still attached. A tiny (1/8 inch) abrasion at the middle of the front joint, and a bit of erosion to the two ultra-thin parallel gilt rules on each joint - both flaws require close inspection to detect. A Fine copy. \$200



The End