

JOHN F. COX: THOMAS WOOLNER'S LETTERS  
TO MR. AND MRS. HENRY ADAMS (II)

Mayfield  
Dec 4 '81

My dear Adams,

I meant to have written on receipt of your last at once; but am so demoralized by my house disarrangements that I can scarcely do a thing I ought.

"Foc'sle Yarns" are by T. E. Brown,<sup>1</sup> one of the Masters at Clifton College. A Manx man; and the dialect is native to him. -- It was I who sent you the book, and not the great Macmillan. I asked for 3 copies packed for post; and he sent them with his house name on them. 1 for you; 1 for Henry Dudley Adams of Sydney; 1 for Sir Henry Parkes,<sup>2</sup> Premier of New South Wales. So you see the Henry and the name of Adams are an important portion of my distant friends. H. D. Adams I do not know personally; but he is a most gracious kindly friend, and always doing some kind thing for me; all coming from his admiration of my poetry, and lately of my statue of Captain Cook.<sup>3</sup>

I hope Mrs. Adams will long ere this have received Pygmalion, for I gave her name to Macmillan a fortnight ago. I hope you will both like it, for I took every pains to make it a finished work. I know it is an original one, for I never yet met with an individual who understood the story. I am now at work on "Silenus"; another much misunderstood character; but I hope to show him in a different character from a mere Winebag, as the usual notion of him implies. A lady said to me "if you can make Silenus interesting I do not know what you could not do!" It was, you see, high time some one came to the rescue.

I have now to do all my writing, as my wife is not in Welbeck St., and I have my wrist tied up for a sprain of two years old, and the surgeon says writing is bad, so that I have to be careful of writing much, tho I have many things to write. So please ask Mrs Adams to forgive my not replying to her note added in your last. My wife is trying to get the "Sierra Nevada". I wonder if this Mr King wrote a book on the "White Mountains"<sup>4</sup> I have had for many years?

I dare say you have seen Palgrave has published a Vol. of Poems, "Visions of England". A difficult task to render in lyrics a vast space of time thro incidents in history. I have not read it yet and cannot say how he has succeeded.