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boodendgi letotu, 6/72

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I am Really some, that you should have have about their stone and are the more slight to for for taking it, or young, I had a von purply know I written to Mr. Watter, in hoper of spring you trouble: but perhaps he fall more adopt of the Chirch than the Pen, and so has transferred that heat of the business to your good offices.

I have to Mach you motoround for the Plan of the Show which you sould me to shape in the matter which I write quote from his determ.

I have mothering to drive except that I the thousand, I have mothering to drive except that I the thousand the words of some of says to took of Portland Thomas, of says to contain the words, and along itself to be I will be I would allow itself to be I would said friend, in the ground and I should motore if the Store on three Jides were

and only polished on its foweth side, when the letters are to be a I should quep that a good solid block of four, or 41/2, feet high amed his sufficient, and that a square, or squarish, form might be the suitablest "I you see, Dear Ini, that he mists on the most perfect single or three index. In the suitable of surface or three sides. And I have you will have a present in that you will perhaps agree with him you will perhaps agree with him you will perhaps agree with him that such a perhalty

I have then brouble you with a question which N. Wetter must answer, because he has communicated inter me through you there for a But it bele lemaini also for you to enswer , on the part of the Trustees, whether you and they approve of Soplain a Momument as we propose, and also of the Imeription we propose to put upon it. Unless the present generation et Naseby still know the precise Sport where the Graves which I fered 30 years ego, I much go over myself to point it out - as

E. Fitzgerald could do, blindfold almost. I suppose Northen plon, or brick, to the hearest points by Rail. But I wile beg you to answer me on the points mentioned, and & pleve me, with fresh Mariles for the trouble you take, your suicel Ehmel Frigues. I must spologing for making a Saint for in the address of the letters: beadfich my first has furfiely directed, accord; ABarbari orders: has I misseed your own I for It, and so went estray in my me bad all.

Woodbridge October 6/72

Dear Sir -

I am really sorry that you should have trouble about this Stone:
and am all the more obliged to you for taking it on yourself. I had (as you
perhaps know) written to Mr. Watts, in hopes of sparing you trouble: but
perhaps he feels more adept at the Chisel than the Pen, and so has transferred that
part of the business to your good offices.

I have to thank you moreover for the Plan of the Stone which you enclose me. But I <u>must</u> defer to my Master Carlyle's wishes in the matter: which I will quote from his Letter.

"As to the shape of the Monument, I have nothing to advise except that I think it ought to be of the most perfect simplicity — A Block of Portland Stone, of size to contain the words, and allow itself to be Sunk firmly in the Ground — and I should not care if the Stone on three sides were squared with the hammer only, and only polished on its fourth side, where the letters are to be — I should guess that a good solid block of four, or 4 1/2 feet high would be sufficient, and that a square, or squarish, form might be the suitablest" —

You see, dear Sir, that he insists on the "most perfect simplicity" of shape, and even of surface on three sides. And I think you will perhaps agree with him that such a rough and perfectly simple Monument is fittest to the commemorate a Cromwell Victory. Had the Royal Party triumphed, we might have indulged in ornament, but surely a "perfect simplicity" befits the Puritan Cause.

I must say then once more that what I want Mr. Watts to estimate, and you to let me set up, is - A perfectly plain square, or squarish, block of Portland Stone, unpolished on all sides but that on which the Transcription is; of sufficient height and depth to be sunk firmly in the ground, and carry its Inscription legibly above ground.

I have thus troubled <u>you</u> with a question which <u>Mr. Watts</u> must answer, because he has communicated with me through you thus far - But it remains also for <u>you</u> to answer, on the part of the Trustees, whether you and they will <u>approve</u>

of so <u>plain</u> a Monument as we propose, and also of the Inscription we propose to put upon it.

Unless the present Ceneration at Naseby still know the precise spot where are the Graves which I opened 30 years ago, I must go over myself to point it out - [1] as could do, blindfold almost. I suppose Northampton, or Crick, is the nearest point by Rail. But I will beg you to answer me on the points mentioned, and to believe me, with fresh thanks for the trouble you take,

Yours sincerely

EDWARD FITZGERALD.

I must apologize for <u>making a Saint</u> of you in the Address of my latter Letters: my <u>first</u> was perfectly directed, according to Barlow's orders: but I mis-read your own <u>H</u>.for <u>St</u>., and so went astray in my own bad MS -

When Carlyle was engaged in writing his "Cromwell" he visited the site of the battlefield of Naseby. He was misled by some of a the local marks, particularly by an obelisk erected by Fitzgeral's father (the property was owned by the Fitzgeralds) but meeting Carlyle in 1842, Edward Fitzgerald, by reason of some research, was able to set Carlyle right. In his excavations Fftizgerald discovered the remains of many skeletons closely packed together. At the spot where these remains were found Carlyle was very much interested in having a monument erected. There was considerable discussion of the subject, but nothing came of it, and for the time being it was abandoned.

time being it was abandoned.

In the summer of 1872 Carlyle again brought up the subject. In a letter to Fanny Kemble, August 9, 1872, Fitzgerald wrote:
"Perhaps I may have to go to my old Field of Naseby, where Carlyle wantsame to erect a Stone over the spot where I dug up some remains of those who were slain there over two hundred years ago, for the purpose of satisfying him in his Cromwell History. This has been a fixed purpose of his these twenty years: I thought it had dropped from his head; but it cropped up again this Spring, and I do not like to neglect such wishes." On September 18, 1875, he wrote again:- "I have been nowhere but for two days to the Field of Naseby. where I went to identify the spot where I dug up the Dead for Carlyle thirty years ago. I went; saw; made sure; and now-the Trustees of the Estate won't let us put up the Memorial stone we proposed to put up; they approve (we hear) neither of the Stone, nor the inscription; both as plain and innocent as a Milestone, says Carlyle, and indeed much of the same nature. This decision of the foolish Trustees I only had some ten days ago: posted it to Carlyle who answered from Dumfries."

The Naseby letters by Carlyle, by Fitzgerald's directions were left to the library of Trinity College, Cambridge.