

1240

at  
869

25/

Ewhurst

Rottingdean

Sussex

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> 1810

My dear Melville

A thousand thanks

for your gift of the  
"Seasons" & the inscription

to myself which I value  
very much.

I have also to thank  
you for introducing me in

the pleasant fustian of two  
delightful poems of Mr.  
Whitcomb Riley. I've never  
come across a volume of  
his, & have only seen stray  
fragments here & there, but  
they always strike me as  
among the most happy  
things in modern verse —  
breaths of the real open  
air, without any of the  
fustian of latter-day

"artistry," & as clean & wholesome  
as pine-woods.

Many of the other poems I  
knew before; but I've spent  
a very pleasant time in  
this reviewing of old  
acquaintance-ship.

With my sincere thanks to  
Mrs. Melville & yourself  
all mine,

Believe me  
very sincerely yours  
Alfred Hayes.