

6 Nov 1871

16 Cheyne Walk

Dear Swinburne

The charms of the Boshie Bawny  
~~is~~ no less than of the yet more  
qualified claimant of the  
same time - honoured initials  
(need I say Bob Buchanan?)  
Under your letter deliciously  
satisfactory. But really  
now, can you possibly  
persuade yourself that that  
particular Double B. did not  
deposit on that particular  
Dughead the contribution  
in question? I am just as  
confident as ever of the fact.  
Internal evidence, as well as  
external, is too strong to doubt  
it. I suppose you know the  
course of the matter. The first  
aperture <sup>with my knowledge,</sup> of the B.B. was  
Locker (who I know is intimate



with the whole ~~set~~ <sup>set</sup> to Ellis.  
He mentioned it as a matter  
of undoubted certainty. The  
course of events with Solomon  
must be owing to the editor  
(or whoever told S. in the  
first instance) having been  
then unaware, perhaps  
of the nature of the coming  
article, & certainly of B.B.'s  
intended pseudonymity, &  
and to the fact that after-  
wards the same informant  
saw he had made a mistake  
in telling too soon & relayed  
the information. What  
~~renders~~ all this wrong  
The certainty of all this  
to me is the fact that  
no one, amid all that is  
said, can say that he

knows the real Tho: Maitland  
who nevertheless would be  
known to some one (almost  
surely to Locker) like the  
other contributors, if he  
existed. I must get at  
Locker & ask him myself.  
I know him but feel lazy  
about the matter. Clean-  
- while I send you the  
beginning of an epistle  
to B. which I ~~first~~ struck  
off on first hearing of his  
identity with M. but  
afterwards fluffed in when  
I heard the report you  
wrote to the contrary -  
not that I was convinced  
but further enquiry seemed  
needed. If done at all,  
perhaps there should not be  
much more delay now



in publishing the letter,  
though the time needed for  
~~finding~~ digging one dead  
dog from under the carefully  
paraded corpse of the  
other wd excuse some  
delay. I want your sincere  
opinion whether, in event  
of established identity, it  
wd be well to print this.  
Of course most people say  
no, but I cant help feeling  
a leaning towards Yes.  
It is no good letting even  
an ape have the laugh  
of one if one can turn  
it against him. So I  
send you the first paragraph  
for your counsel.

The "Banner" seems deter-  
-mined this time to elevate



get higher the standard  
of the provincial prep.  
The extracts are sublime  
reaching their acme per-  
haps in the stupendous  
conception of the name  
"Inigo" & that grand  
development of a pe-  
haps markedly outsi-  
de-mental but certainly  
a pathetic school of  
painting, "Love's Young  
Dream." However, if I  
were quite sure of not  
seeming to view such fun  
on your part myself  
as anything but food  
for laughter, I would  
almost be inclined to  
suggest that the "Banner"  
has served its country  
long enough, and that the  
map of correspondence  
in which you celebrate



its beauties, if found  
in the future, might  
really serve the purpose  
of your enemies in a  
most provoking way to your  
friends, & lend plausibility  
to all said against you  
which they know to be most  
monstrous. My dear  
Swinburne, is it not almost  
time to give up what is  
mere madness, ~~and~~  
~~and~~, for the sake of  
cultivating the noblest side  
of yourself more exclusively?  
Pardon my saying this. No  
one enjoys the fun more  
than I, or is more likely  
(as you know) even to  
join in with it ~~so~~ so  
far as a leper spirit  
may; but if for its sake

all that I most love and  
admire in you suffers  
increased Detraction, then  
I would rather be able to  
say to your face that they  
lie in charging you with  
such freaks than ~~to~~ <sup>mean</sup>  
that the freaks mean  
nothing but high spirits.

After a fearful report I  
heard of the loss of your  
Prelude to Tristan by some  
accident (whether true or  
false report I know not,)  
I was of course glad to find  
that it was coming out -  
in however grotesque a  
surrounding - and shall  
rejoice above all things in  
really getting hand-hold  
of this, perhaps your supreme  
work as yet. At the same



time it seems almost a pity that the prestige of so important a poem should be in the least dulled by the appearance of its prelude beforehand, and that in such queer company. I should be almost disposed, in your place, to put a veto on the disposal of your work in quarters of this kind.

I have been, as you perhaps know, for 3 months in the country. The first two I painted a little & idled a good deal, & in the third I began writing & should have got a good lot done if I could have stayed longer away from my work in London. As it was, I wrote (besides a few small things) a poem (English form),



of some 160 5-line stanzas  
It is called "Rose Mary,"  
and is a story of my own  
about a Beryl or  
magic crystal; turning  
on the virginity required  
in the seer. I think  
the story is a good one,  
and those I have read  
it to - our chief  
intimates only - seem  
to think it perhaps  
my best production.  
I shall hope to read  
it you one day.

Did you see 2 illustrations  
of Brown's to a little  
poem of mine - a mere  
trifle - in the October  
Dark Blue? I sent  
it because he had  
been asked to do a



drawing & wanted  
something illustratable.

I never saw the North  
British notice of me you  
mention, but think  
it might possibly have  
been Hiffes's, as I  
know he used to write  
them sometimes. He has  
come to be almost my  
next door neighbour here,  
& is a fellow one really  
likes to be near.

Will you let me have a  
well digested opinion <sup>or advisability</sup> <sup>as</sup>  
regards the papers I send  
with this by Book Post, &  
let me have them again when  
done with. Your affec:

D. Deputti





A. C. Swinburne Esq

5 Holmwood  
Shiplake

Henley-on-Thames



ROSE MORGAN  
KU  
23 D. 3:10  
SSW

HENLEY-ON-THAMES  
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