

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),