

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