

THE SERGEANT JEROME PEIRCE COLLECTION

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DATE OF LETTER	[N.A.]
WRITTEN BY	Brother Jerry [Jerome]
WRITTEN TO	Abbie
WRITTEN AT	Could not be determined.
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ENVELOPE

This letter has no envelope associated with it.

LETTER TRANSCRIPTION

To Abbie

From her affect. [affectionate] "Bro. [Brother] Jerry"

Abbie,

These are some of the gems and I only add his epitaph by himself and an expression during his illness. He died in Italy at the age of 24. You shall see the whole volume sometime. His likeness is the very embodiment of poetry.

Epitaph

"Here lies one whose name was writ in water"

"I feel the flowers growing over me"

(I forgot this)

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter"

"He ne'er is crowned with immortality who fears to follow where airy voices lead."

Human Life

"But this is human life, the war the deed

The disappointment, the anxiety

Imagination struggles far and neigh

All human bearing in themselves this good

That they are still the air, the subtle food,

To make useful existence and to show

How quiet death is."

Vow of Chastity

"In that same void white Chastity shall sit
And monitor me nightly to lone slumber
With [??] lips I vow me the number
Of [??] Sisterhood and kind [??]
With the good help this very night shall
My future days to her [??] consecrate."

Evening

"The good night blush of Eve was waning slow
And vesper, risen star, began to throe
In the dusk heavens silvery"

Love

"There is not a sound
Melodious howsoever can confound
The heavens and earth in one to such a death
As doth the voice of love. There's not a breath
Will mingle kindly with the meadow air
Till it is planted round and stole a share
Of passion from the heart."

Transcriber's Note: The following note was written on the margin in a different handwriting:

These quotations must be from the poet Keats.

Lucy S. Peirce

TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE

John Keats (October 31, 1795 – February 23, 1821) was an English Romantic poet. He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets, along with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley, despite his works having been in publication for only four years before his death from tuberculosis at the age of 25.

John Keats died in Rome and was buried in the Protestant Cemetery, Rome. His last request was to be placed under a tombstone bearing no name or date, only the words, "Here lies One whose Name was writ in Water."