Writing in Time
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Between A 825 & A 829

Autumn–Winter 1860

Historic National Events

- November 6: Abraham Lincoln is elected president of the United States.
- February 8: Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States of America is ratified by a constitutional convention in Montgomery, Alabama.
- February 18: Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the president of the Confederate States of America under its provisional constitution.
- March 4: Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated president of the United States.

Writings Circulated

- ED writes Mary Bowles, soon after 7 November, “Don’t cry, dear Mary…” (L 216).154
- ED writes Louise and Frances Norcross, mid-September, “Bravo, Loo, the cape is a beauty…” (L 225).155
- ED writes Louise Norcross, December ?, “Dear Peacock, I received your feather…” (L 228).

Writings Retained

- None currently identified, though it is possible that “Mute – thy Coronation –” (A 825; Fr 133A) and “Did the Harebell loose her girdle” (Fr 134A), among others loosely dated to the second half or summer to autumn of 1860, belong to the autumn rather than the summer months.

154 Habegger convincingly re-dates this letter; see Habegger, My Wars Are Laid Away in Books, p. 717n422.
155 Although the manuscript of this letter has been lost, the internal evidence allows for some precision in its dating.

Winter 1861

Historic National Events

- February: Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States of America is ratified by a constitutional convention in Montgomery, Alabama.
- February: Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as the president of the Confederate States of America under its provisional constitution.
- March: Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated president of the United States.

Writings Circulated

- ED copies and sends “A feather from the Whippowil” (Fr 208A) to Samuel Bowles, ca. early in the year.
- ED copies and sends “I taste a liquor never brewed,” (Fr 207A) possibly to Susan Dickinson, ca. early in the year.

Writings Retained

- “Oh’did I offend it?” (Dickinson drafts the third extant “Master” document, A 829/L 248, ca. late winter–early spring).
- ED copies “Nobody knows this little Rose.” (Fr 11C), ca. early in the year; it remains unbound.
- ED copies “South winds jostle them.” (Fr 98D), ca. early in the year; it remains unbound.
- ED copies “My River runs to Thee –” (Fr 219A), ca. early in the year; it remains unbound.
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. early in the year: “Tho’ my destiny be Fustian –” (Fr 131B); “Tho’ I get home how late – how late –” (Fr 199A); “The Rose did caper on her cheek –” (Fr 200A); “With thee, in the Desert –” (Fr 201A); “Faith is a fine invention” (Fr 202B); “The thought beneath so slight a film –” (Fr 203A). [This sheet will become the second sheet of F10.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. early in the year: “I’ll tell you how the Sun rose –” (Fr 204A); “A little Bread – A crust – a crumb –” (Fr 135B); “Just lost, when I was saved!” (Fr 132B); “Come slowly – Eden!” (Fr 205A); “Least Rivers – docile to some sea.” (Fr 206A). [This sheet will become the third sheet of F10.]
- ED copies the following poems onto a sheet, ca. early in the year: “I taste a liquor never brewed –” (Fr 207B); “Pine Bough – A feather from the Whippowil” (Fr 208B); “I lost a World – the other day!” (Fr 209A); “If I should’nt be alive” (Fr 210A); “I’ve heard an Organ talk, sometimes –” (Fr 211A); “A transport one cannot contain” (Fr 212A); “Faith is a fine invention” (Fr 202C). [This sheet will become the first sheet of F12.]
- ED may have bound the sheets of F10 at this time.