

Please return L M. S. D.

AL/2432

MAX GATE,
DORCHESTER.

April 14. 1892

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I hope you will have guessed that the delay in my reply to you letter has arisen from my being away from home. I recollect quite well the pleasant meeting we had at Lady Portmouth's - as does also my wife, who wishes to be kindly remembered to you - She has unfortunately been far from well lately, but I think she is now getting stronger.

I am much gratified to learn

MAX GATE
DORCHESTER

That so good a critic as yourself
has found interest in Tess -
a book which, like so many books,
comes far short in its execution
of what I had hoped before hand
to make it.

With regard to your idea of
a short story showing how the
tripping with the physical element
in love leads to corruption: I
do not see that much more can
be done by fiction in that

direction than has been done
already. You may say the treat-
ment hitherto has been vague
& general only, which is quite
true. Possibly on that account
nobody has profited greatly
by such works. To do the
thing well there should be
no mincing of matters, & all
details should be clear & direct
given. This I fear the British
public would not stand just
now; though, to be sure, we are
educating it by degrees.

The other day I read a story
entitled "The Wages of Sin" by
Lucas Malet, expecting to find
something of the sort therein.
But the wages are that the young
man falls over a cliff, & the young
woman dies of consumption - not
very convenient, as I told the authoress.

I shall be in town soon,
& if you are likely to be at
home any afternoon I will
if possible give myself the
pleasure of seeing you. Believe me
Yours sincerely
Thomas Hardy.

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Strachey, Ray

Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1931)

p.169

This letter is printed in this book, but year not given, and 'the authoress' is referred to as 'the author' in the transcript.

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