

simple Monument is fittest to the  
commemorate <sup>the</sup> Cromwell Victory.  
Had the Royal Party triumphed,  
we might have indulged in ornament:  
but surely a "perfect simplicity" befits  
the Puritan Cause.

I must say then once more  
that what I want Mr. Watts to  
estimate, and you to let me set up,  
is — a perfectly plain square, or  
squareish, block of Portland Stone,  
unpolished on all sides but that on  
which the Inscription is; of sufficient  
height and depth to be sunk firmly  
in the ground, and carry its  
Inscription legibly above ground.

Woodbridge

E. Fitzgerald  
Feb 6/72

Dear Sir -

I am really sorry that you  
should have trouble about this  
Stone: and am all the more  
obliged to you for taking it on  
yourself. I had (as you perhaps  
know) written to Mr. Watts, in  
hopes of sparing you trouble: but  
perhaps he feels more adept at  
the Chisel than the Pen, and so  
has transferred that part of the  
business to your good office.



I have to thank you moreover  
for the Plan of the Stone which  
you enclose me. But I must  
refer to my Master <sup>Carlyle's</sup> makes in the  
matter; which I will quote from  
his letter.

"As to the shape of the Monument,  
I have nothing to advise except that  
I think it ought to be of the most  
perfect simplicity — a block of  
Portland Stone, of size to contain  
the words, and allow itself to be  
sunk firmly in the ground —  
and I should not care if the  
stone on three sides were

squared with the hammer only,  
and only polished on its fourth  
side, where the letters are to be —  
I should guess that a good solid  
block of four, or 4½, feet high  
would be sufficient, and that a  
square, or squarish, form might  
be the suittest"

You see, dear Sir, that he  
insists on the "most perfect  
simplicity" of shape, and even of  
surface on three sides. And I  
think you will perhaps agree  
with him that such a rough and  
perfectly



I have thus troubled you with a question which Mr. Watts must answer, because he has communicated with me through you thus far - But it ~~will~~ remain also for you to answer, on the part of the Trustees, whether you and ~~the~~ <sup>with</sup> the approval of ~~the~~ <sup>so plain</sup> a Monument as we propose, and also of the Inscription we purpose to put upon it.

Unless the present Generation at Naseby still know the precise spot where <sup>are</sup> the Graves which I opened 30 years ago, I must go over myself to point it out - as



E. Fitzgerald

could do, blindfold almost. I  
suppose Northampton, or Crick,  
is the nearest point by Rail.  
But I will beg you to answer  
me on the points mentioned,  
and to please me, with fresh  
thanks for the trouble you take,

Yours sincerely

Edmund Fitzgerald

I must apologise for making a saint  
of you in the Address of my <sup>letter</sup> letters: ~~headings~~ <sup>my first</sup>  
was perfectly directed, according to Barlow's orders:  
but I mis-read your own ll for st, and  
so went astray in my own bad ill.



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- Y

EDWARD FITZGERALD

Woodbridge October 6/72

Dear Sir -

I am really sorry that you should have trouble about this Stone: and am all the more obliged to you for taking it on yourself. I had (as you perhaps know) written to Mr. Watts, in hopes of sparing you trouble: but perhaps he feels more adept at the Chisel than the Pen, and so has transferred that part of the business to your good offices.

I have to thank you moreover for the Plan of the Stone which you enclose me. But I must defer to my Master Carlyle's wishes in the matter: which I will quote from his Letter.

"As to the shape of the Monument, I have nothing to advise except that I think it ought to be of the most perfect simplicity - A Block of Portland Stone, of size to contain the words, and allow itself to be Sunk firmly in the Ground - and I should not care if the Stone on three sides were squared with the hammer only, and only polished on its fourth side, where the letters are to be - I should guess that a good solid block of four, or 4 1/2 feet high would be sufficient, and that a square, or squarish, form might be the suitablest" -

You see, dear Sir, that he insists on the "most perfect simplicity" of shape, and even of surface on three sides. And I think you will perhaps agree with him that such a rough and perfectly simple Monument is fittest to the commemorate a Cromwell Victory. Had the Royal Party triumphed, we might have indulged in ornament, but surely a "perfect simplicity" befits the Puritan Cause.

I must say then once more that what I want Mr. Watts to estimate, and you to let me set up, is - A perfectly plain square, or squarish, block of Portland Stone, unpolished on all sides but that on which the Transcription is; of sufficient height and depth to be sunk firmly in the ground, and carry its Inscription legibly above ground.

I have thus troubled you with a question which Mr. Watts must answer, because he has communicated with me through you thus far - But it remains also for you to answer, on the part of the Trustees, whether you and they will approve



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EDWARD FITZGERALD

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of so plain a Monument as we propose, and also of the Inscription we propose to put upon it.

Unless the present Generation at Naseby still know the precise spot where are the Graves which I opened 30 years ago, I must go over myself to point it out - as could do, blindfold almost. I suppose Northampton, or Crick, is the nearest point by Rail. But I will beg you to answer me on the points mentioned, and to believe me, with fresh thanks for the trouble you take,

Yours sincerely

EDWARD FITZGERALD.

I must apologize for making a Saint of you in the Address of my latter Letters: my first was perfectly directed, according to Barlow's orders: but I mis-read your own H. for St., and so went astray in my own bad MS -

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When Carlyle was engaged in writing his "Cromwell" he visited the site of the battlefield of Naseby. He was misled by some of the local marks, particularly by an obelisk erected by Fitzgerald's father (the property was owned by the Fitzgeralds) but meeting Carlyle in 1842, Edward Fitzgerald, by reason of some research, was able to set Carlyle right. In his excavations Fitzgerald discovered the remains of many skeletons closely packed together. At the spot where these remains were found Carlyle was very much interested in having a monument erected. There was considerable discussion of the subject, but nothing came of it, and for the time being it was abandoned.

In the summer of 1872 Carlyle again brought up the subject. In a letter to Fanny Kemble, August 9, 1872, Fitzgerald wrote:- "Perhaps I may have to go to my old Field of Naseby, where Carlyle wants me to erect a Stone over the spot where I dug up some remains of those who were slain there over two hundred years ago, for the purpose of satisfying him in his Cromwell History. This has been a fixed purpose of his these twenty years: I thought it had dropped from his head; but it cropped up again this Spring, and I do not like to neglect such wishes." On September 18, 1875, he wrote again:- "I have been nowhere but for two days to the Field of Naseby . . . where I went to identify the spot where I dug up the Dead for Carlyle thirty years ago. I went; saw; made sure; and now the Trustees of the Estate won't let us put up the Memorial stone we proposed to put up; they approve (we hear) neither of the Stone, nor the inscription; both as plain and innocent as a Milestone, says Carlyle, and indeed much of the same nature. This decision of the foolish Trustees I only had some ten days ago: posted it to Carlyle who answered from Dumfries."

The Naseby letters by Carlyle, by Fitzgerald's directions were left to the library of Trinity College, Cambridge.