

burn the pamphlet.

And for your frankness
& your friendship
believe me to be ever
most gratefully yours

J. Dymond -

Again thank you. I
feel for nothing so
grateful as for sincere

& loyal words.

I am nevertheless
in the condition
of one sorely rebuked
and have had touched
me. yet I am not self-convicted of guilt:
for if you suppose that either of these poems
is written in sympathy with him you mistake the voice
of my art.

Clifton Hill House
Clifton Bristol

Oct 8. 1871.

Dear Clifton

Burn the unlucky
poems & receive my thanks
for what you had said
about them & about the
nobler hopes that out-pass
such sordid things. You
see now why I could not
render them up to Sloman.
But in self-explanation
I ought to tell you that
these two studies are but

detached morsels of a
long ~~historical~~ retrospect
over the history of this
much-abused passion
w. I had expressed in
verse & w. I intend to
crown with the
poems of the real &
pure & human
outcome to be revealed
in the future. The

sexual relations had
in the past gone
through similar
aberrations & periods of
abandonment to sin.
Only our literature has
been at last educated
with reference to them:
not so as yet with
reference to the
other.
Again I beg you

Oct. 8, 1871

Dear Clifford

Burn the unlucky poems & receive my thanks for what you have said about them & about the nobler hopes that out-soar such sordid things. You see now why I could not render them up to Soleman[?] But in self explanation I ought to tell you that these two studies are but detached morsels of a long retrospect over the history of this much-abused passion wh. I have expressed in verse & wh I intend to crown with the poems of the real & pure & human outcome to be restated [?] in the future. The sexual relations have in the past gone through similar aberrations & periods of abandonment to sin. Only our conscience has been at least educated with reference to them: not so as yet with reference to the other.

Again I beg you burn the pamphlet. And for your frankness & your friendship believe me to be ever most gratefully yours

J.A.Symonds -

Again thank you. I feel for nothing so grateful as for sincere & loyal words. I am nevertheless in the condition of one sorely rebuked & feel somehow as if I lance had touched me. Yet I am not self convicted of guilt. for if you suppose that either of these poems is written in sympathy with sin you mistake the voice of my art.

SYMONDS, John Addington (1840-1893)

Author and critic. Bristol.

A.L.S. to Edward Clifford. 8 Oct. 1871.

4p. (double sheet, octavo). With embossed address of Clifton Hill House, Clifton, Bristol.

He is most grateful to Clifford for his understanding criticism, but asks him to burn a pamphlet containing some poems.

The letter probably refers to an early, privately printed pamphlet in which Symonds published some work dealing with the then forbidden topic of homosexuality. He assures Clifford that if he thinks "that either of these poems is written in sympathy with sin you mistake the voice of my art."