

July 185

Harringford,  
Freshwater,  
Isle of Wight.

My dear Sir

I owe you golden thanks for  
your magnificent edition of Spenser,  
of which I count myself very unworthy,  
for I am very unlearned not only in  
Spenser, but in most of our old poets, &  
I delight (not being a bibliophile) rather  
in the 'contaminated fount' of a writer  
than in the whole of him, good & all,  
bad & good together.

Most of Vaughan with the exception of  
'The Bee' are all gone into the world of light  
I know absolutely nothing, but I accept

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have in your authority & willingly  
make one of your Committee.

Again thanking you

I am,  
Yours very truly

Tennyson

55 Tennyson. Autograph Letter of two pages, 8vo, dated from Farringford, Isle of Wight, July 7, '85, and signed "Tennyson."

\* Speaking of an edition of Spenser, he writes: "I am very unlearned not only in Spenser but in most of our old poets, and I delight (not being a bibliophile) rather in the 'consummate flower' of a writer than in the whole of him, root and all, bad and good together. And of Vaughan, with the exception of 'They are all gone into the world of light,' I know absolutely nothing," etc., etc.

Genuine Tennyson letters of this date are very difficult to obtain, practically all of his correspondence at this time being carried on by his son or his secretary, both writing in the poet's name.