

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers

Digitised images: *Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt* (BXB-08-LE)

Notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

Introductory notes:

The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers, containing various Carrollian items, was donated to Christ Church Library by Robert Vernon Harcourt in 1984. He was the second cousin of Augustus George Vernon Harcourt (1834-1919), Lees Reader in Chemistry at Christ Church, who was a good friend of Dodgson. Many of these items were presented to A. G. V. Harcourt by Dodgson. The items are:

BXB-01-WK, Notes by an Oxford Chiel: The Dynamics of a Parti-cle

BXB-02-WK, The Blank Cheque

BXB-03-WK, The Game of Logic

BXB-04-WK, A Method of Taking Votes on more than Two Issues

BXB-05-LF, Scenes from an Unfinished Drama entitled Phrontisterion

BXB-06-WK, A Discussion of the Various Methods of Procedure in Conducting Elections

BXB-07-WK, The Vision of the Three T's

BXB-08-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt

BXB-09-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Mrs. Harcourt

BXB-10-LE, Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt written as a poem

BXB-11-WK, A Tangled Tale Knot II, Mad Mathesis

BXB-12-WK, A Tangled Tale, Answers to Knot II

BXB-08-LE. This item is a manuscript **letter from Dodgson to Harcourt dated 2 December 1872**. In the letter, Dodgson answers a query from Harcourt about methods of dealing with speech problems. Harcourt's enquiry appears to be for scientific reasons; he did not stutter himself. Dodgson had a speech hesitation which he suffered from throughout his life. Dr. J. H. Lewin was an American speech therapist from Virginia. He published *Method of Curing Stammering and Stuttering* in 1858 with a revised edition in 1871. Dodgson attended a lecture given by Dr. Lewin at Nottingham in June 1872 staying with a fellow-sufferer, George Thomas Hine (1841-1916), architect, and his wife. The full text of the letter follows:

[Christ Church, Oxford] December 2, 1872

My dear Harcourt,

I shall be very happy to come on Friday. Dr. Lewin is the man. I have no idea where he is – most likely gone ~~back to America~~ to the Continent. The most hopeful way of getting a letter to him would be to address it

“care of G. Hine, Esq,
Park Valley,
Nottingham.”

He is a great friend of Dr. Lewin's, and would very likely know his address.

Ever yours sincerely,
C. L. Dodgson