**Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection**

**The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers**

Digitised images: *Letter from Dodgson to Harcourt written as a poem* (BXB-10-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-10-LE. This item is a manuscript letter written in the form of a poem, accepting an invitation to visit, dated 5 March 1872. The full text of the letter follows:

[Christ Church, Oxford] March 5, 1872

O come to me at two today,
   Harcourt, come to me!
And show me how my dark room may
   Illuminated be.
Though gondolas may lightly glide,
   For me, unless you come,
No friend remains but cyanide
   Of pale potassium!

   Though maidens sing sweet barcaroles
   (Whatever they may be)
To captivate Lee’s-Readers’ souls,
   Yet, Harcourt, come to me!
Yes, come to me at two today,
   Or else at two tomorrow,
Nor leave thy friend to pine away
   In photographic sorrow. C.L.D.