

Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

The Harcourt/Dodgson Papers

Digitised images: *A Tangled Tale Knot II, Mad Mathesis* (BXB-11-WK)

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-11-WK. Preliminary off-print from *The Monthly Packet* of Dodgson's "*A Tangled Tale Knot II, Mad Mathesis*." This appeared in the July 1880 issue of *The Monthly Packet*, edited by Charlotte Yonge, pp. 76-78, but this differs in content and pagination making it a very rare item, probably the only known version. Dodgson later combined his ten knots from the *Monthly Packet* into a book entitled *A Tangled Tale* with six illustrations by Arthur B. Frost (Macmillan, 1885) together with answers to solutions he received from the initial readers. In the book, this section became Knot III. The mathematical problem embodied in the text consisted of two railway-travellers on a circular route starting at the same time but going in opposite directions. The trains travel at different speeds. The question was to calculate the number of trains each traveller passes on their journey.