

much in advance. I shall always be glad to hear from you and to further your wishes in any possible way.

Very sincerely yours,

BAYARD TAYLOR.

(Bayard Taylor to Charles Heavyside.)

Kennett Square, Penn., 19th July, 1865.

*My Dear Sir*,—No doubt you have wondered at the non-appearance of any article upon your poems, in the "Atlantic Monthly." I wish to assure you, therefore, that the article has been for some time in the hands of the Publishers, is accepted by them, and will appear very soon—not later, I think, than September. My sister's marriage and other domestic occurrences prevented me from writing it before May, as I wished to read all your works carefully over again, and make a paper which would interest and attract the reader. I will confess to you, in advance, that I have very frankly judged your poems, according to *my* point of view (that of a single individual, and therefore by no means infallible), measuring them by what is my highest standard. Though I have not given indiscriminate praise, I hope you will not be disappointed with the *spirit* of the criticism. The article was written *con-amore*, and I sincerely hope that it may attract attention to your genuine qualities as a poet.

I shall be very glad to hear your impression, after its appearance, and beg that you will write to me, not only then, but whenever you are willing to exchange your views of literature or life for mine.

Always sincerely yours,

BAYARD TAYLOR.

(Bayard Taylor to Charles Heavyside.)

Cedarcroft, Kennett Sq., Penn., 6th Oct., 1865.

*My Dear Mr. Heavyside*,—I have just received your letter, which has given me great pleasure.

My experience of authors has taught me that candour is more or less a risk; and the article in the "Atlantic" was candid, if nothing else.

I gave my sincere and deliberate opinion as to the merits and faults of your poetry, judging it, of course, by my highest standard.

I should have made a better article, but that I was limited as to space, and particularly requested not to quote much.

Under these restrictions, I could not make a very complete *critique*; but I hope it will at least have the effect of calling attention to your poems.

The article, I am glad to see, already has attracted notice: I have seen several references to it in the newspapers.

It is possible that I may visit Montreal, sometime between now and next spring, on copyright business; if so, I hope to have frequent opportunities of seeing you.

I have just completed a poem of over 3000 lines—an art-Idyl, called "The Picture of St. John," but do not expect to publish it for a year yet.