

Middlebury, Vt., April 9, 1919..

Dear Mr. Deane:-

Your kind note of April 3d and letter of yesterday, with your generous offer of Furness's Variorum edition of Richard III have touched a tender spot in my heart, and I cannot deny myself the happiness of accepting the gift as a token of your long and valued friendship. Many years ago (I think in 1866) I had the pleasure of seeing Forest in Richard III at the Boston theater, and it made a lasting impression on my memory. I was not very well at the time, in fact soon after had to call in a doctor. When he heard I had recently seen Forest in Richard III, he said it was enough to give a man nervous prostration. I have since made a critical study of the play. You know for 12 years (1868-1880) I was professor of Eng. Lit. in Middlebury College.

It is a unique play, in which the genius of Shakespeare has faithfully presented the monstrous conception of a wicked king, that seems to have had a morbid fascination for the English people. I think it comparable to the conception of Mephistopheles ^h which arose in the Middle Age in the legend of Dr. Faustus; or, to come down to more recent days, to the conception that Jonathan Edwards' remorseless theology compelled him to form regarding the deity. I have just been reading in O.W. Holmes's "Pages from an old volume of life" his paper on Edwards.

I am interested to hear of your fine photograph of Dr. Kennedy at the age of 21. Oddly enough I have one of myself at that age. We both graduated in 1864; but he was 3 yrs. 2 mos. older than I.

I may possibly get down to Cambridge before May 10 to see my brother John and my dear nephew Barron. If so, you may expect a call from me. But if I do not see you, be assured that I shall always keep a warm place for you in memory.

With kind greetings to Miss Brown, and best wishes from Mrs Brainerd and myself,

Your old friend Ezra Brainerd.



Brainerd, Ezra. 1919. "Brainerd, Ezra Apr. 9, 1919." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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