



12 Beaufort Gardens. S.W.  
London. March 25<sup>th</sup> 1882.

My dear Aunt,

Let me assure you of my sincere sympathy for you in the loss of your good and honoured brother, who has been to you so faithful and kind, and whom you will miss so much – No one can feel his loss more than you will, and no one knows better that he had even nobler qualities than the divine voice of poetry which has made him so famous and beloved through the world.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
Maine Historical Society

MMN #36108

Date: March 25, 1882

Description: Josiah Pierce on death of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Only a few days since I received from you  
and in several other ways notices of the  
celebration of his last birthday - I hope  
he was as much pleased with this great  
proof of the honour and affection felt for  
him by his countrymen and especially by  
the citizens of his native place as they  
could have wished - and am sure you  
must have been pleased. No one except  
Victor Hugo has received anything like such  
honours in his life-time.

I send you the Times and Daily News  
of today, as showing something of the feeling  
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papers I find, as may be expected, something  
still better, will send them to you —

When such a man leaves this life, it is  
a loss to nations — but as he has himself  
well said the prophet does not die but has  
departed — and it is wonderful to think  
how his poetry and his name will live  
like Horace's as long as his language —

In England no doubt his simple and strong  
poetry is more loved and more known than  
any even of their own poets, who write for  
and from the class to which they belong:  
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I think he is more admired than any other English poet. The late Empress of Russia, a very noble woman, was very fond of his works, and read them all -

But I am sure you must now be feeling more what a good man he was than of his distinction as a poet: and I hope this will console you most in your great loss - You will have much sympathy from your many friends - and I trust my poor expression of that I very sincerely feel for you may not be unwelcome with the love & respect which goes with it, from  
Your affectionate nephew  
Josiah Pierce.

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