

Copy. 2 Richmond Terrace.
Tunbridge Wells. Nov. 30. 1883.

My dear Mr. Bennoch,

You will kindly excuse, I am sure,
my troubling you again regarding the disposal
of the letters of the Committee for the Longfellow
Memorial, when you read the enclosed letter
from Mr. Houghton to the Pres^t of the Maine
Historical Society, dated Sept. 17th ult. -

You will see that Mr. Houghton has
strangely misunderstood your delivery of the
letters to him for safe-keeping, to be disposed
of as the Poet's family might desire; and
although he admits that he is informed that

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MMN #38238

Date: Nov. 30, 1883

Description: Josiah Pierce to Francis Bennoch

the wish of the family is that the letters
should be delivered to the Historical Society,
he declines to comply with the request for them,
on the grounds that they were given to him by
you with directions that they should be
handed over to the Cambridge Memorial
Association: and makes his disposal of them
as the family & the Historical Society desire
contingent not only on a letter from yourself,
but also on the consent of the Cambridge
Association -

I hope you may already have written
to Mr. Houghton, in reply to the letter he
proposed to send you, such an answer as

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I hope you may already have written
to Mr. Houghton, in reply to the letter he
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would correct his mistake on the Subject:
but as he may not have informed you fully
of his views, I think it right to send you
enclosed, his letter to the Pres^t of the Historical
Society - Recalling the very different expression
you kindly gave in your previous letter to me
of Mr. Houghton's charge in the matter, may
I hope that you will answer the letter of the
Pres^t of the Historical Society to yourself, and
enclose him a note from yourself to Mr. Houghton,
renewing your directions for the disposal of the
letters in accordance with the wishes of the
Longfellow family?

I remain, with sincere esteem,

F. Bennoch Esq^r

Very truly yours
(signed) Josiah Pierce.

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