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April 2016

Nathan A. Tefft Correspondence

Maine State Library

Nathan Appleton Tefft 1868-

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TEFFT, Nathan A.

Born at Bangor, 1868.

Died November 23, 1943.

Maine

First to greet the glad sunrise,
With outstretched mountain arms,
Her placid lakes like big blue eyes,
And a graciousness that charms;
And fairer tresses ne'er did blow,
In breeze on hill or plain,
Than silver streams that toss and flow,
Beneath the pines o' Maine.

Clothed in beauties of the land,
So modestly, serene;
Spring-rose garlands in her hand,
Against a robe of green;
Her summer gown, a floral maze,
Then Autumn tints her train;
On mantle white 'tis fair to gaze,
When Winter comes in Maine.

At her feet Atlantic, fair,
Kneels proudly, and to woo
And humbly lavish riches rare,
His wooing to pursue;
And by the sea to toil and spin,
She labors not in vain,
To harbor well her kith and kin,
Along the shores o' Maine.

Vast her stores in harvest time,
Fruits of a fertile north,
A golden share for every clime,
Nor a whit for scorn or scoff.
First to give in a sister's need,
First to a world in pain,
For love is planted with the seed,
In the garden plots o' Maine.

Model of hospitality,
Her latchstring always out,
Wide her portals by the sea,
Her way-gates swung about.
With open arms and friendly hand,
On highway, trail and lane,
She welcomes guests from every land,
To the playground o' Maine.

Mother of noble sons, and free,
Who honor the name she bears;
Daughters of love and liberty,
Their reverence voice in prayers;
Who wander far, and of her kin,
For little or for gain,
Know where to find, a place within
The heart o' dear ol' Maine.

—Nathan A. Tefft.

May 14, 1937

Mr. Nathan A. Tefft
17 Pond Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Tefft:

Recently we discovered that although we have a copy of your delightful book, NEEDLES FROM THE WHISPERING PINE, in the Maine Author Collection, we lack JOURNEYS OF A SOUL and DAUGHTERS OF FATE. This is of course a regrettable omission, and we hope it can be rectified.

As you probably know, the Maine Author Collection contains several hundred volumes, inscribed and presented by the authors, who are Maine persons, and are for exhibit purposes only. Their interest and value increase steadily, and the books form a fascinating background of Maine's contribution to contemporary literature.

We hope you will want to inscribe a copy of both JOURNEYS OF A SOUL and DAUGHTERS OF FATE for the Collection. We assure you that such generosity and interest in the project would be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY

The Bangor Daily News

PUBLISHED BY

Bangor Publishing Company

170 EXCHANGE STREET

BANGOR, MAINE May 21, 1937.

PURCHASED AND MERGED
THE DAILY WHIG AND COURIER
ESTABLISHED 1834

Hilda McLeod,
Secretary,
Maine State Library,
Augusta.

Dear Miss McLeod:

Pardon my delay in replying to your kind letter of May 14, but I have been trying to locate copies of my JOURNEYS OF A SOUL and DAUGHTERS OF FATE. These books have long since gone out of print. My brother, however, came to the rescue, he having found extra copies in his library.

I doubt if you find these little books very much, so to speak, nor do I believe they will enhance the value of your Maine Authors collection, but they will fill up a little space for you. They are the work of ambitious Youth, who long since has seen with bigger eyes, and whose opinion of poetry has changed. However, they are what they are---relics of the past, and I trust you may get a little enjoyment out of reading them.

I am mailing them under separate cover.

Yours very Truly,

Walter B. Reed

May 22, 1937

Mr. Nathan A. Tefft
17 Pond Street
Bangor, Maine

Dear Mr. Tefft:

DAUGHTERS OF FATE and JOURNEYS OF A SOUL have been received, and we are delighted to be able to add them to the Maine Author Collection. Indeed they do afford enjoyable reading, and we can only hope that some day you may publish another book.

Thank you very, very much for your kind generosity. May we extend to you a cordial invitation to visit the library and the Maine Author Collection whenever you are in Augusta.

Very truly yours

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