Supplement

News from the Russell Editorial Project

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PERPLEXITIES

Everyone concerned with the Project is committed to the belief that the careful preparation of the papers and the editorial apparatus is a worthy activity. But no one is immune from an occasional anxious moment wondering how Russell himself would react if he could observe our work. Certain aspects of our labours seem so tedious and even picayune as to deserve his unmitigated scorn. Yet a passage in a letter to Lucy M. Donnelly gives assurances of some fellow-feeling:

> It is amusing to think how much time and trouble has been spent on small points in obscure corners of the book [*Principia Mathematica*], which possibly no human being will ever discover. (18 Oct. 1909)

Determining Russell's exact intentions about such small points as paragraphing and punctuation can be an exacting task for us when the manuscript is ambiguous. In comparison to the large issues that the papers address, these concerns are no doubt trivial, but there is encouragement to precision in the knowledge that Russell had some interest in such details. When an editor once took the liberty of reorganizing his paragraphs, he expressed a degree of annoyance:

> In some cases it didn't seem to matter much, but in others it destroyed the style. I generally put quite a different sort of sentence at the end of a paragraph from any that I should put in the middle—I make the ones in the middle obviously incomplete. (To Gilbert Murray, 9 Nov. 1911)

Although the vastness of Russell's output required a measure of noncha-

lance, he was not entirely indifferent to such matters.

Because he was often casual about documentation, we find ourselves perplexed about some of his obscure references. In the last newsletter, queries were raised about a Chinese poet and about George Chatterton-Hill. Since then, the Chinese poet was discovered by Sheila Turcon and Catherine Funnell to be Ch'en Tzu-Ang (656–698 A.D.). His poem, titled "Regrets", was translated in *Gems of Chinese Literature* by Herbert A. Giles. Thanking Lucy M. Donnelly for the gift of this anthology, he wrote:

> The Chinese poems are interesting: often very artistic, with a peculiar quaint quality; the only thing that is disappointing about them is that they are not more unlike our poetry in sentiment. (2 Jan. 1910)

We know Chatterton-Hill's birthdate and the titles of his books, but we do not yet have the date of his death. Also, we have found a passage in which Russell calls him a "scoundrel".

We would appreciate assistance with the identity of Norman Pearson. Russell reviewed his book, *The Soul and Its Story*, in *The Nation* of 3 February 1917. Pearson also wrote *Some Problems of Existence* (1907) and *Society Sketches in the Eighteenth Century* (1911). The review of Pearson is scheduled to appear in Volume 8, being edited by John G. Slater.—M.M.