

. . . What a wonderful person you are'.⁷ Gullick's verse, deferentially submitted, is admired for 'its sturdiness with which the desired expression is forced . . . from the language' and likened to Hardy's; and Gosse goes on, 'I have always had an instinctive feeling that you were born to succeed . . . I only regret that I can hardly hope to witness the blossoming of the aloe'.⁸ (Had Gosse been reading 'The Prelude'?) By October, 1922, Gullick's collection of Gosse's work is clearly substantial, for Gosse describes Wise's collection as 'not nearly as complete as yours',⁹ and at this stage Gosse must have given Gullick 'the real first edition of *From Shakespeare to Pope*'¹⁰ in the form of the Lowell Lectures – the volume bears Gosse's note of gift – and also introduced Gullick to Wise.¹¹ As the collection expands, Gosse's letters become an interesting mixture of personal and minor bibliographical information, leading in the direction of Gullick's intended Bibliography of Gosse's works which so deeply touched him; 'When you are as old as I', he writes, 'may you possess a young friend as devoted to your service as you have shown yourself to be.'¹² In October of 1924 he advises Gullick to write the Introduction himself, and to ask Wise to write the Preface;¹³ but from that point on the project seems to lapse, and it may be that it became too formidable a task. One further bibliographic activity is, however, undertaken, the private publication of Gosse's first essay on Swinburne of 1875¹⁴ which had previously only existed in translation in Danish, Dutch, German and Swedish, the English manuscript of which had been given to Gullick. This, the redirection of the *Times* and its *Literary Supplement* to the surprising number of hotels and country houses to which Gosse had resort, and the occasional exertion of influence behind the scenes, was all that Gullick could now do for the rapidly ageing master, while Gosse regularly despatched the successive volumes of the collected Swinburne edited by Wise and himself to his protégé.

Taken all in all, the correspondence of fifteen years shows the more attractive and humane side of Gosse, agreeing to act as godfather to Gullick's daughter,¹⁵ generously sending him £20 for a holiday of convalescence,¹⁶ advising the use of sulphuric acid on boils;¹⁷ at the end of a long and busy life susceptible to, and grateful for, the admiration of a younger man, and free from the irritating superficiality and occasional malice of his other correspondence.

Wise's correspondence with Gullick is brief, and relates to his interest in Gosse, who had effected an introduction at the end of November, 1922, the meeting taking place on 4 December. Wise's response was characteristic: 'You evidently care for and appreciate good books, and by a natural consequence mine are at all times at your disposal. The enclosed will add one really interesting and important item to your "Gosse" collection. Why not get Mr Gosse to add his name