

*On the Back Cover:*

## WHITMAN TO CURTIS ON TASISTRO: AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER

ON 26 APRIL 1872, WHITMAN INSERTED an appeal in the *Washington Daily Morning Chronicle* for “pecuniary assistance for a man of genius” (*Corr* 2:173-174n). This person was Louis Fitzgerald Tasistro (1808-1886), an Irish-born journalist, actor, State Department translator, and lecturer (*NUPM* 2:901). Among those who responded to Whitman’s appeal was George William Curtis, author and an editor of *Harper’s Magazine*, who gave five dollars. Whitman’s letter of thanks to Curtis is now at the Fruitlands Museums and is printed below by permission.

Washington | Sunday  
forenoon. | April 28 [1872].

My dear Mr. Curtis,

Thanks for your kind contribution & note. The help I seek is for Louis Fitzgerald Tasistro—he has paralysis—& has had a miserable winter, cold & hungry—(I have myself been absent great part of the winter)—But he is now up & comparatively better—your kind \$5 will truly aid in ameliorating his condition—

Walt Whitman

*University of South Carolina*

JOEL MYERSON