

Henry James, Sr., to Henry James, [late August 1872], from [Cambridge]

TLC fragment, Houghton, bMS Am 1092.9 (4196)

1 I send you *The Nation*, though there seems nothing of yours in it. A notice of
2 *Babolain* by S. I suppose. I read the book the other day, but this fumbling in the cadaver
3 of the old world is only disgusting to me when so unrelieved as in this case by any
4 contrast or any soufle of inspiration such as you get in Tourgenieff. It's curious to observe
5 how uncertain the author's step is in this story—how he seems always on the look out for
6 some chance to break away. But it has mastered him—he can't lay the ghost he has
7 conjured.....

Notes

2 *Babolain* • *Babolain* by Gustave Droz (Paris: Hetzel, 1872), reviewed anonymously in the *Nation* 15
August 1872: 108-09

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