

Transcription, January 2015:

*Daily Chronicle and Clerkenwell News* No. 13085 (4 Feb. 1904): 3d.

[p. 3d]

‘The Mysterious Poe Poem.’

To the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle*. Sir,—“The Mysterious Poe Poem,” is, after all, no mystery. Our American cousins will be amused to see this old imposition resuscitated after so many years, and once more introduced to the reading world. Had it not been brought forward under so famed a godfather, and presented by Dr. A. R. Wallace as “never before published,” no student of Poe’s writings need have troubled about staying it on its progress to oblivion. Anyone who cares to unearth the first appearance of “Leonaine” in the English Press may be satisfied by reference to the “Daily News” of April 28, 1886; its advent in America was somewhat earlier. As the “Daily News” remarked, “Perhaps many of us could write as good Poe as ‘Leonaine’ if we tried.” No student of Edgar Alan Poe’s poetry could for one moment believe that he had anything to do with this twaddle of a “smile of white,” or “bloomy moonshine,” or “Heaven’s glory...adorning earth with its esteem,” or such stuff. Poe in his younger days wrote some rubbish, as most poets have done; and I have refrained from publishing some hundreds of juvenile lines by him; but even in his poorest verse there are certain traits the authorship of which cannot be mistaken. It is difficult to understand how Dr. Wallace can deem the lines “to have all the best character of Poe’s style.” I have studied Poe’s styles for years, and believe that any other student of them will agree with me in deeming “Leonaine” utterly unlike them.—I am, &c.,

Feb. 3.

John H. Ingram.

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*The Alfred Russel Wallace Page*, Charles H. Smith, 2015.