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To Arthur R. Gledhill - October 11, 1891

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

Harvard University.^a

717 Cambridge St.

Cambridge, Mass., Oct^b 11 *1891*^c

My dear Art,--

My impression is that you owe me a letter, but I may be mistaken and will drop you a few lines ere I take me to my downy couch and dream of Saxon verbs. I suppose you will naturally expect me to tell you how I feel and what I am doing, but I hardly know what to say.

After considerable trouble I managed to get registered as a first year special with a load of advanced studies on my shoulders. I am carrying them, but they weary me. The trouble is, I have done no ~~w~~ compulsory work in this line for over three years, and it comes hard. The worst dose I have is Anglo-Saxon,

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which I took more for discipline than anything else. I also take elementary French, English A, (Comp. & Rhet.)--English 10 (Shakespeare), Eng. 9, (Prose writers of sixteenth century). To give you some idea of what Harvard is like, the English A. class numbers over five-hundred and is divided into five sections. The whole gang meet together twice a week for lectures (which don't amount to Hannah Cook) in Sander's Theatre.

I have attended five recitations in French, and for to-morrow's lesson am to translate, as well as I can, the first two pages of L. Halevy's L'Abbé Constantin.¹ That is what I call rushing business. But it is the

^a WA omits this.

^b WA adds a period here.

^c Everything in red here is part of the printed Harvard stationary. The month, date and "1" for the year were written in black.

only practical way. It makes me sick to think of the manner in which they teach (!) Frech [=French] at the G.H.S.

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I am not fairly settled yet and can hardly tell you how I like [it.] Things do not seem half as strange as I expected, but they may when the exams come around.

Everything has been quiet since I came, until tonight; now the Freshmen are practicing their yell and making night most damnably hideous. I wish I were with them, however.

My room (furnished) costs me \$180.00 and is not a palace at that. If you want a comfortable nest in this locality you have to line it with bank-notes: they range from \$150 to \$400. Of course there are cheaper ones but they are not what a person of my temperament would care for. I like to "take mine ease in mine inn",² like Falstaff. ^dI wish you were here with me tonight, but as you are not, you will please write as soon as convenient, and greatly oblige ^eYours league-ally (whew!)
Robinson.^f

HCL

NOTES

1. Novel published 1882 by Ludovic Halévy (1834-1908). (SL)
2. *Henry IV* 3.2 (SL)

^d WA omits this space.

^e WA starts the salutation on the next line.

^f WA omits the period.