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To Harry de Forest Smith - October 23, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

#38 Commonwealth Ave.,
Boston, Oct. 23 - '92

My dear Smith,

Well, I have had my ear
bored out, and cannot say that I feel
much the worse for it. I took the
ether yesterday afternoon about half past
three, and was under it about an hour.
Three hours after I "came to".

^a I was
hungry and about eight o'clock in the evening
I ate some crackers and drank some tea—
which kept me awake about all night.

This hospital life has few attractions
for me. About the only pleasant thing

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about it is the expectation of getting out
sometime. I shall me [=be] mighty glad when
to-morrow morning comes (I expect to
be released to-morrow afternoon) but I
suppose I ought not to complain when
I think of those in the house who
are so much worse off than I am.
That does not help matters much
however. About all I can do is to
pity them, and ache to get away
myself. There is a big operation of
some kind just about to be begun
now in some room on the fourth floor.

When I awoke last night a nurse
felt my pulse and took my temperature,
recording the same on a "Clinical Chart,"

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--all of which made me very tired.
This red tape in such cases as mine
only goes to make one feel needlessly un-
easy. The doctor tells me that I
may go out for an hour's walk this

^a WA reads a comma here instead of a period.

afternoon. Why I cannot keep on and walk (or ride) to Cambridge I cannot tell. Perhaps he would feel cheap to give the house such a poor job.

I am not altogether affecting my levity, for I really feel encouraged. The bones were removed—hammer and anvil, I suppose,—and about half of the anvil was gone—eaten up. The fact that he left the third

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one is enough to make me feel as if I were not in quite so bad a condition as I supposed. I can't tell you much about it yet, however, as the doctor has not made any detailed statement regarding my condition, nor has he given me any particular directions. I shall learn that to-morrow.

I hope we shall get that paper business settled after a time. If the thing is agreeable to you as it stands now—then go ahead with it. The "Critic" is not all I looked for, but I guess it is as good as we can get. Write to Cambridge as usual.

Sincerely
Robinson.^b

HCL US, 73-74.

^b WA omits the period here.