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To Joseph S. Ford - December 21, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO JOSEPH S. FORD

Dear Ford,

My letter went off to Latham Sunday night, so I suppose he got both of them about the same time—as we arranged it [t] probably tickled him more or less to read them—particularly mine, for my handwriting, I am told, is sure to be good for two shirts at any Chinese laundry. I say this for your benefit for some day you may be hard up and in need of fresh linen.

I got my fiddle to day and shall soon be making strange noises. I cant hold the thing very well yet

and this morning I burned the end of my left third finger, so it will be a little awkward at first. But I'll be a maestro so [=or] something of that kind in two or three weeks, and when you come to see me again I'll entertain you with a kind of music you never heard before.—I suppose you are by this time well into Jack¹ and I am confident that you will like it. The first chapters

are a little slow and not
altogether pleasing. But that is only for a few pages. Give my regards to Hubbell when you see him.

Very truly yours

E.A. Robinson

Gardiner Maine
21 December, 1895.

UVA Written on a printed rejection slip from The Chap-Book:

“The Editor of the CHAP-BOOK presents his compliments, and regrets that he is unable to use the manuscript [L’Imperieuse Bonte] which you kindly offered.”

NOTES

1. Novel by Alphonse Daudet, 1876. See EAR’s letters to Harry de Forest Smith for March 4, 1894 and April 28, 1895.