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11-14-1895

## To Chauncey G. Hubbell - November 14, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO CHAUNCEY G. HUBBELL

My dear Hubbell,

In reply to your kind and very friendly note of the tenth, I can say that I came home sooner than I expected, but that of course, considering the fact that I was in Cambridge for more than a week after I saw, is no excuse for my not seeing you again. The real reason was I think ~~was~~ on account of my queer feeling about the seriousness & apparent certainty of your work compared with my own. There seemed to be a kind of gulf between our two positions that I could not get across without a tremendous effort. I know it was all nonsense on my part, but the temporary change which your work has wrought in you made me feel so like a creature of the earth that I wondered over and over if I were ever to amount to any thing [more] than a man of schemes. Such men, I suppose,

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are the most pitiable things God ever made and the sooner I feel that I am something else my friends will find me better company—at any rate, I hope they will. I pass for "a queer cuss" here in Gardiner, but I trust that I do not deserve the title. My last desire is to pose for a freak,—though I do not think I could possibly become what we call a "sociable" person. I am not sure that I should care to be.

If I know a little better than a man needs to what Thoreau meant by saying that most men lead lives of quiet desperation, I would not have you, or any one, think for one minute that my surroundings are all but intolerable, for they are not. I [=In] some

respects they are almost ideal, but  
in others they are something else.  
That is all there is to it.

I should be glad to hear from  
you once in a while, though of  
course I know you are too busy to

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[do] much of that sort of thing. Latham sent me a letter  
the other day, telling me that you had written some-  
thing about me. When he said that I thought of what  
I wrote to him about you and wondered what kind  
of sport the two views must have given him

I have not read much of any thing lately, but am  
working away as usual and hope to see the light sometime.

Yours very truly

E.A. Robinson

Gardiner, Maine

14 November, 1895.

TRN

Hubbell was Robinson's Swedenborgian friend from Harvard days. See EAR's letter to Ford for  
October 28, 1895.