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1-3-1890

## To Arthur R. Gledhill - January 3, 1890

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

Gardiner Jan 3 - 1889 [:1890]

Dear Friend Art:--

I have just received your urgent letter and the feeling expressed therein is pleasant to note; but while I would be the first person in Gardiner to-day to start for Mass. if that diabolical fiend Circumstance ~~would~~ would permit it I fear you will be obliged to-do without me at present [=present]. But yet I trust that we may run across each other at no distant date.

For some reason or other I was glad to hear that you had discontinued canvassing and resumed your vocation<sup>1</sup> as ~~Knight of the Knight of the Birch--~~("Garter" is I was going to say, mechanically, but that would be "a lie—an odious damned lie.") Perhaps I am wrong. How soon ~~to~~ do you expect to don your ministerial garb? Is it true that you are contemplating such a scheme, and wont it break you all up when in the midst of some imperial flight your thoughts, falling from glory to godlessness, find a practical simile in the pulpit and cellar? Heu pietas!<sup>2</sup> Pie and Pinnacles! Oh, the glorious days of youth!

I dont see a great deal of Gus<sup>3</sup> lately. Item: Miss

-2-

McFadden is stopping with her friends in Randolph. By the way I have been trying for the last six months to find our the name of your Glycera.<sup>4</sup> Dont get married just yet, Art, for I am devilish poor and am afraid I should be in a bad strait for a wedding present; but you can bet your boots that I would get one if I had had to purchase it with reunion money --but cease, idle fancies!--There's none left. I am afraid you would have to wait.

J. C. Barstow has a job with the Plymouth Cordage Co.; so you may possibly see him some day. Gracie and he are no longer the happy pair that they were once on a time. Fletcher Harmon seems to have filled his place. I suppose that you have heard by this time that the Lennan-Smith union has taken place. I suppose Frank's turn comes next--"Mary!" Such is life.

Better finish the Aeneid.<sup>5</sup>

Yours

Edwin A. Robinson—

6



<sup>a</sup>HCL EAR misdated this letter.

#### NOTES

1. The letter was addressed to Prof. A.R. Gledhill.
2. Alas for his piety! (Virgil, Aeneid, VI.878). (SL)
3. Ed. G. Moore, another high school classmate, the third member, with Gledhill and EAR, of the League of Three, organized for social and convivial purposes during their last year together at Gardiner High School. EAR is said to have been fond of Moore's sister Mabel.
4. EAR is being roguish here and showing off his classical knowledge. Glycera was a mistress of Menander and a favorite of Horace.
5. In his text of Virgil, now housed in the Robinson Treasure Room at Colby College, EAR, in a clear bold hand, wrote: "Finished Book VII, Jan 31. 1889." The completion of the entire work was also noted: "Finished Aeneid, May 12, 1889. E. A. Robinson."
6. The insignia of the League of Three.

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<sup>a</sup> On the first of two yellow note pages for this letter WA makes the following note to himself in pencil:

"NB

Letter from Ed. Moore to Gledhill Feb. 19/90

Print as note. Incidentally ltr. verifies 1890 date for ~~HR~~

EAR ltr misdated January 3/1889"

A scan of this letter by Moore, found in the Harvard collection of EAR's letters to Gledhill, can be found in the "additional files" for this letter.