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12-15-1890

## To Harry de Forest Smith - December 15, 1890

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

Gardiner, Me, Dec 15(?) 1890.

Dear Smith:

Do you remember one day that we were speaking of Matthew Arnold's "Fragment of a Deianeira"<sup>1</sup>--and were wondering what or who Deianeira was? I find the following in Berens's<sup>2</sup> Mythology—page 254 under the subject "Heracles:"

"Heracles now proceeded to Calydon, where he wooed the beautiful Deianeira, daughter of Oeneus<sup>a</sup>—King of Aetolia; but he encountered a formidable rival in Achelous, the river god and it was agreed that their claims should be decided by single combat. Trusting to his power of assuming various forms @ will, Achelous felt confident of success; but this availed him nothing, for having at last transformed himself into a [bull?]<sup>b</sup> his mighty adversary broke off one of his horns and compelled himself him to acknowledge himself defeated.

"After passing three happy years with Deianeira etc., etc."<sup>3</sup>  
The whole story of Heracles is most interesting.

Yours very truly

E.A Robinson

HCL Omitted from *US*.

NOTES

1. "Fragment of Chorus of a *Deianeira*," published in *New Poems* (1867). (SL)
2. Actually, "Berens"—*The Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece and Rome*, by E.M. Berens (Longwood, 1880). (SL)
3. See p. 254-255 of Berens' text for the rest of the story. (SL)

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<sup>a</sup> Berens' text reads "Oeneus."

<sup>b</sup> Berens' text reads "bull".