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To Arthur Gledhill - January 18, 1891

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

Gardiner, Me, Jan 18 – 1891

Dear Art.

What the devil do you mean by my melancholy? If you could see me now you would say that I was the very soul of jollity. 'Tis about ten o'clock PM. and the wind is howling about my window in a most cheerful manner; I have just stowed away a terrible jag of sardines and apple-pie and I am most diabolically sleepy. In fact it is only with difficulty that I keep my eyes open to write this, but I cannot resist the desire that burns within me to protest against your charges. No, my friend, I am not melancholy—only a little dissatisfied^a; my brain is tolerably clear, my digestion heroic and I weigh 172 pounds^b (before shaving). If anyone should get hold of one of your letters they would put me down for a Timon,¹ or at least an Alastor;² but such is not the case. I find considerable ~~of~~ in life worth the living and smoke my pipe three or four times a day with infinite relish. The pipe is a wonderful agent of contentment: if I should go to college I imagine my dissatisfaction would take on a cerulian tinge the greater part of the time. If you still suck the tube dont, by (I told you I was sleeply—put in a "u") prepared mixtures—they burn the tongue like a Methodist's hell.

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I guess it is about time for me to stop this business and go to bed. Will write again sometime after I wake up and try to be more rational. Dont call me melancholy any more,,, and write me a few lines when you have nothing else to do. Burn this thing after you read it for I don't know half that's in it myself. I shall not read it over—if there are any mistakes change them to Hyphens.

Goodnight
EA Robinson

HCL

^a WA has "dissatisfied", although it would seem that this is not merely a typo, as EAR actually appears to cross the top of his "f" in the holograph. However, as EAR has a habit of crossing his t's (when he crosses them at all) somewhat *beyond* the vertical axis of the letter, and since the preceding "t" here is not otherwise crossed, it is possible that the "cross mark" on the "f" here is actually the belated horizontal axis of the "t."

^b WA has "pounts".

NOTES

1. The misanthropological protagonist of Shakespeare's *Timon of Athens*.
2. The frustrated idealist in Shelley's *Alastor, or The Spirit of Solitude*.