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To Arthur R. Gledhill - October 11, 1891

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

Harvard University.

717 Cambridge St.

Cambridge, Mass., Oct 11 1891^a

My dear Art,--

My impression is that you owe me a letter, but I may be mistaken and will drop you a few lines ere I take me to my downy couch and dream of Saxon verbs. I suppose you will naturally expect me to tell you how I feel and what I am doing, but I hardly know what to say.

After considerable trouble I managed to get registered as a first year special with a load of advanced studies on my shoulders. I am carrying them, but they weary me. The trouble is, I have done no ~~w~~ compulsory work in this line for over three years, and it comes hard. The worst dose I have is Anglo-Saxon,

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which I took more for discipline than anything else. I also take elementary French, English A, (Comp. & Rhet.)--English 10 (Shakespeare), Eng. 9, (Prose writers of sixteenth century). To give you some idea of what Harvard is like, the English A. class numbers over five-hundred and is divided into five sections. The whole gang meet together twice a week for lectures (which don't amount to Hannah Cook) in Sander's Theatre.

I have attended five recitations in French, and for to-morrow's lesson am to translate, as well as I can, the first two pages of L. Halevy's L'Abbé Constantin.¹ That is what I call rushing business. But it is the only practical way. It makes me sick to think of the manner in which they

^a Everything in red here is part of the printed Harvard stationary. The month, date and "1" for the year were written in black.

teach (!) Frech [=French] at the G.H.S.

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I am not fairly settled yet and can hardly tell you how I like [it.] Things do not seem half as strange as I expected, but they may when the exams come around.

Everything has been quiet since I came, until tonight; now the Freshmen are practicing their yell and making night most damnably hideous. I wish I were with them, however.

My room (furnished) costs me \$180.00 and is not a palace at that. If you want a comfortable nest in this locality you have to line it with bank-notes: they range from \$150 to \$400. Of course there are cheaper ones but they are not what a person of my temperament would care for. I like to "take mine ease in mine inn",² like Falstaff. I wish you were here with me tonight, but as you are not, you will please write as soon as convenient, and greatly oblige Yours league-ally (whew!)

Robinson.

HCL

NOTES

1. Novel published 1882 by Ludovic Halévy (1834-1908). (SL)
2. *Henry IV* 3.2 (SL)