1-10-1892

To Arthur R. Gledhill - January 10, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

Harvard University.
717 Cambridge St., a
Cambridge, Mass., Janb 10 1892c

My Dear Art,—

It is now almost midnight, but
I will drop you a line just to keep up our
acquaintance. It has been so long since I have
heard anything from you that it seems like writ-
ing to a stranger. But then, I guess you you {sic}
were the last one to write, so I had better not
begin to kick. I am in agony when I have noth-
ing to kick against—and sometimes when I
have. At present I have a "whoreson" com-
plaint of some kind that is playing the very
devil with my peace of mine d (=mind) and my avoirdu-
pois likewise. It is something like the grip mixed
with the "old-fashioned yellow jaundice" of which
the venerable Giles spoke in the days of yore when
I was perhaps a little bigger fool than I am now.
I am not sure on that point however. When my
dear friends ask me what I am "studying
for" at Harvard and "what I propose to do
Mr. Robinson", I say, "Go to." I have fits
of dreaming wherein I kill hundreds "in buck-
ram" as said Sir John the mendacious and
puissant—the Sir John1 who fought Hotspur
"a long hour by Shrewsbury clock"2 and was pricked
in the rump by the jovial Hal. Something

Sometimes I think of the time we wasted
so magnificently during our term at the G.H.S.
I know it is time to give over thinking of such
things, but you know it is my nature to pick
over any bones and growl. I also have a faint

a WA has "St., ".
b WA adds a period here.
c Everything in red here is part of the printed Harvard stationary. The month, date and "2" for the year were written in black. WA omits "Harvard University."
d WA has "mind".
vision of Cooper's Virgil and sundry fires in the "Pines". But those days are all over, and there is no use in calling them back. They will not come, and what good would it do if they would? One cannot always be a callow school-boy begging ten cents from his friends to buy a plug of "check"; no more can he always build fires in the laboratory and smoke juvenile pipes with Sawyer, Moore & Gledhill. I can almost see "Doc" now pulling that new T.D. out from under the vestry steps and waving it triumphantly in my face. "Gad, let's have a smoke!" he said. That was some time ago, and poor Doc has had a hard time since then. If we ever see him again—and I trust we shall—there will be a difference. I have been intending to write him a letter for the past two years, and if it were not so late would do it now. As it is, I will bring this affair to a close, as my eyes have an inclination to shut themselves in sleep, etc. 

By the way, how about that story you were going to write for your college paper? If you write it, don't forget to send me a copy. I have often thought of writing one for the Advocate, but have never succeeded in pinning myself down to the task. I do not find a great deal of time for such diversion—

My English and French are about all that I can well attend to. And I will say here that you need not be a damned bit alarmed as to my mailing you French letters. I may have said this before, but this will do for further emphasis. Well, good night, and let me hear from you whenever you see fit to scratch off a line or two to your unsettled friend in Cambridge. When I spell "two"

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6 WA omits this space.
7 The intended "two" is written directly over the originally-written "too".
8 WA has "Cambrigde"
with a double "o" it is time to stop.
    Sincerely,
    Robinson

HCL

NOTES

1. Falstaff. The allusion is to Sir John's obviously made-up story about his killing of conflicting numbers of "rogues in buckram". 1 Henry IV 2.4. (SL)
2. 1 Henry IV 5.4.143. (SL)
3. EAR is of course making a *double entendre* here, but apparently he wasn't joking when he first said it. See his letter to Smith dated February 7, 1892.

\(^h\) This is note 1 in WA's manuscript.