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To Harry de Forest Smith - February 15, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

Cambridge, Feb^a 15 '92.

My dear Smith,

I am afraid that irregularity in my correspondence is getting to [be] characteristic of me. I was greatly disappointed in not finding a letter from you to-day, but [since] I have not written myself, I can hardly complain. Your last one was vastly entertaining. I was greatly interested in the gentleman who revealed his "masculine prerogatives"; he is doubtless a fellow of excellent parts and differences, but unfortunate in his eccentricity. There is no real sin in what he has done; custom merely objects to it, that is all. But then I cannot uphold him in shaking them; i.e., the borders prerogatives,--that bordered upon vulgarity, and leads me to believe that he is a realist.

Well, the mid-years are over at last, but I cannot tell you how they have left me. I am afraid that I set my estimate of marks too high, however, as I said in my last letter. But I do not fear any great difficulty. I enclose you one of the venerable Prof. Child's concoctions to show you what the mid-years are like. If I get a "C" on that paper I shall do well. When I left the examination room I felt sure of a B, but the more I think it over.^b the less confident I grow.

Here are a few questions from "English 9:"

-2-

- 1 Explain Scotts^c relation to his age. What was his most important contribution to its intellectual life?
2. Compare the character of Grace Nugent (Miss Edgeworth) with one of Miss Austen's heroines.
4. Sketch of life of Coleridge. (Made a big bluff.
- 5 Date of birth and death of all the authors studied.
- 7 DeQuincey and the Romantic movement.
- 8 Divide Hazlitt's essays into two classes, justifying briefly your classification of each essay.
- 9 Define the aim and summarize the characteristics of realistic fiction.

I expect a fairly good mark on this, as I was

^a WA adds a period here.

^b Read the period as a comma. WA has a comma.

^c WA has "Scott's".

pretty well prepared. Mr. Gates is a stiff marker, however, and I may be disappointed. ^dI am not in the mood to-night for writing a decent letter and think I had better stop here. Have got to read Robinson Crusoe this week, with an eye for style; also the Journal of the Plague. This comes in English A, which will not be quite as much of a snap the second half-year. Prof. Hill himself has it now. The more you look over the Shakspeare paper, the more I think you will realize its diabolical qualities. Be sure to read the fine print at the top.

Good night,
Robinson.^e

HCL Omitted from *US*.

^d WA omits this space.

^e WA omits the period.