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5-11-1892

## To Harry de Forest Smith - May 11, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

**Harvard University,  
Cambridge**

May 11 – '92

My dear Smith,

I rec'd your card this noon but will not be able to give you a very satisfactory answer. The Coöperative Society cannot legally import the book and they tell me that the only chance I have of getting it is either to ask the Harpers to import a copy or to send the money to England myself. I do not know just how the new copyright law<sup>1</sup> works and cannot seem to find out. The book is published by James R. Osgood, Mc Ilvane<sup>a</sup> & Co., 45 Albemarle-street, London, W. Tess of the D'Urbervilles, 3 vols.<sup>b</sup> octavo, cloth, 31s 6d. This seems to be the regular price of English three-volume novels.

The expurgation of Harpers<sup>c</sup> editors consists

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McIlvane<sup>d</sup>

-2-

of one complete chapter, which it is said does not materially affect the book. I should advise you to buy it, together with Emile Zola's "La Terre".<sup>2</sup> The latter will make up for the missing chapter.

Sincerely,  
Robinson.

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<sup>a</sup> WA has "McIlvane" (no space).

<sup>b</sup> WA reads a comma here after the period.

<sup>c</sup> WA reads "Harper's."

<sup>d</sup> EAR added this at the bottom of the page in relatively clear printed letters, most likely so that Smith would have no doubt as to the spelling when he wrote to the publisher. WA, not preserving EAR's page breaks, places this at the end of the letter, after the closing.

HCL US, 63-64.

#### NOTES

1. The International Copyright Act of 1891 was the first U.S. copyright law aimed at protecting international works. This is most likely the "new" law to which EAR is referring. (SL)
2. A highly sensational and controversial Naturalist novel published in 1887. An English translation followed in 1888. (SL)