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To Harry de Forest Smith - May 15, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

1691 Camb.

Harvard University, Cambridge

May 15 '92

My esteemed Smith,

It is Sunday evening again and this time I will try to be on time in my correspondence. I have nothing to say in particular except that I went to town last night and kept Barnard company until morning. We went to the Museum and saw the Colleen Bawn. After that we went to the "Museum Exchange" and Vercellis. I have more or less of a liking for Dublin Stout and last night I surrounded four bottles of that beverage. It was too much for my personal comfort and peace of mind. There was no jag but something very like "that tired feeling" so liable to overtake one in the spring. In short it made me sick. I ate beans this morning, however, and am all right now. It is the next thing to impossible for me to drink beer nowadays. I let Barnard & Whitney drink it for me and watch[ed] the effects upon them. They are both tanks—fearfully and wonderfully made. Sometimes I am frightened in watching them. Then I suck a creme de menthe and feel like a Charley for doing it. These fancy drinks are rather effeminate affairs—if you don't drink too many of them. Since I have been here I have drank most everything—excepting the standard "hard stuff"—from a pousse-café to bottled cider, and have come to the conclusion that I do not care a tinkers dam for any of it except Guiness's stout—and that does not amount to much.

a WA omits "Harvard University, Cambridge."
b WA reads "Baun."
c WA reads "Vercelli's."
There is no fear of my ever becoming a

-drunkard unless by circumstances of a most un-
toward nature. I like the Bohemian atmosphere
and the smoke. One glass of beer will last me an
hour: two, if I had my own way. If you
come do up this spring we will go down to
the Old Elm and I will show you what I
mean. You cannot get anything really like it
in Maine. If you wish to make an "in-
spection tour" I shall not kick, although
I have not seen the inside of a den since
my return and do not expect to unless
you & George come up. I hope you will
both be able to come—think you would en-
joy it.

    Last Friday I had a surprise in the form
of my thesis\textsuperscript{d} returned with an A-
on the cover. I do not quite comprehend how I got it, but
will not worry. If I can do as well at
finals my career in English 9 will be a
success\textsuperscript{e}--as far as marks are concerned.
You know about how much they signify. The
day before I received my mark in the hour-
exam. in English A held some four weeks ago.
It was C- and I am afraid it made me
smile rather than weep. That was wrong, but
I couldn't help it.

    The Yale freshmen played with our children
yesterday in more senses than one.\textsuperscript{c}--13 to 2.
The Varsity team beat Dartmouth 5 to 0 the
same day. That gives Hanover 2 out of 3 with
the N.H. men.--I am afraid that this
letter is one of my characteristic spews and
the sooner I stop the better. Letter writing
seems to grow harder & harder for me every
week. Trusting you have written by this time,
I will close.

    Sincerely

    Robinson\textsuperscript{f}

\textsuperscript{d} WA reads a comma here before the dash.
\textsuperscript{e} WA reads a comma instead of a period here.
\textsuperscript{f} WA omits the underline.
NOTES

HCL    Omitted from US.


2. Boston's "first Italian restaurant, opened by Joseph Vercelli opposite the public garden on Boylston Street in 1868. Vercelli's was a high-style destination for several decades" (O'Connell, 114). (SL)

3. Alternative form of "Charlie," i.e., a fool. (SL)

4. On *Pendennis*.

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⁸ WA had indicated in pencil that he wanted to write a note here, writing "1. Colleen Baun" in the left margin in the notes section. He never completed it, however.

⁹ This is WA's note 2. He did not indicate it in the text with a superscript numeral, so my placement of one there is based on context.