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10-19-1892

To Harry de Forest Smith - October 19, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

1716 Camb.

Oct 19 - '92

My dear Smith,

I would have written before this, but I wanted to know what you thought about the periodical business, so I waited. And now I will say that I am not altogether satisfied with the arrangement as it stands. The "Mahogany Tree" is a very neat little paper in its way and in the course of a year would doubtless contain a

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good deal of interesting matter, but when we pay four dollars for it with such papers as Harper's Weekly and others at the same price, the thing does not seem altogether satisfactory. I have ransacked the shelves in the library and the counters of every bookstore in Cambridge, but cannot seem to find anything to suit my taste. I never knew there was such a scarcity of literary papers. If you prefer Harper's Weekly to the "M.T"^a I am quite agreeable. Or, if you can suggest anything else, I shall be glad to hear from you.

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Just at present, however, I shall not be able to attend to it, for two reasons: I am decidedly short, and my time bids fair to be pretty well taken up for the next week. That ear operation has got to come and I have made arrangements to submit myself to the carver's hands on

^a WA adds a period, i.e. "M.T."

Saturday next at 3.00 P.M. You
can think of me then stretched out
for all the world like a corpse,
filled with ether and letting
Dr^b Green and two assistants (probably
Harvard Medics) do whatever they
think will give them the highest

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satisfaction. Shall be obliged to
keep dark in a private hospital in
the City for four or five days, and
then by the grace of God (if the ether
does not kill me) I may be on
my feet again. I have not much
faith [in] the business, though; I have had
an idea all along that the necrosis
has got in beyond the small bones.
If it has I may hear a trumpet
blow a little sooner than I would
ordinarily—that's all. I am reading
Blackmore's *Alice Lorraine*,¹ it is very fine
like all of that author's books. Will
write next Sunday if I can wiggle
my fingers. Be sure & write yourself.

Yours E.A.R.

HCL US, 19-20.

NOTES

1. *Alice Lorraine, A Tale of the South Downs* by Richard D. Blackmore, published 1874-75.

^b WA adds a period here.