

Colby



Colby College
Digital Commons @ Colby

Edwin Arlington Robinson Letters and
Transcriptions

The Letters of Edwin Arlington Robinson: A
Digital Edition

3-13-1893

To Harry de Forest Smith - March 13, 1893

Edwin Arlington Robinson

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/robinson_transcriptions



Part of the [Literature in English, North America Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Robinson, Edwin Arlington, "To Harry de Forest Smith - March 13, 1893" (1893). *Edwin Arlington Robinson Letters and Transcriptions*. 97.

https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/robinson_transcriptions/97

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the The Letters of Edwin Arlington Robinson: A Digital Edition at Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Edwin Arlington Robinson Letters and Transcriptions by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby.

TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE.

March 13 '93

My dear Smith,

To quote from you, it is now the witching hour of eleven PM.^a and I will try to write you a little something before going to bed. I have been hammering away at French and loafing all the evening, by turns. (Another one of my lose {=loose?} sentences, but please excuse it).

I sent you a Nation and some Crimsons this morning. I must confess that I am sorry that I ever subscribed for that paper. It is a kind of feeble imitation of the English reviews, and the pedantry of its book-reviews is amusing rather than entertaining. The Athenaeum would have been far better, and the Specker or Spec-

-2-

tator better still. Of course the political part of the Nation is all well enough, but the party spirit runs too high—if possible, worse than the Boston Journal. The J^b is getting to be a creditable rival to the Globe, and is rather a sad spectacle upon the whole. The Boston daily papers are decidedly second-class. I wonder why it is?—Irishmen?

I am reading About's *La Mère de la Marquise*¹ and find it rather dull. I am coming home on the 5th or 6th of April and during my stay shall read Balzac's *Eugenie Grandet*, which I suppose is one of the world's great novels. I am totally ignorant of Balzac, which is hardly a good thing for a man to say in these days. This summer I intend to fill up some gaps in my reading. By the way, it may interest you to know that I have bought a full set of Lowell's² writings—

-3-

^a WA has "P. M."

^b WA has "J."

prose and poetry, including the Later Literary Essays and the Old English Dramatists. If you have any leisure through the summer months we can have several symposii (?) and good ones too. ^cHave you seen Thomas Hardy's "Pursuit of the Well-Beloved?" I am told it is quite a thing—rather fatalistic and the decidedly human—perhaps too much so, for [^] Harpers, to publish--^{1d} Blackmore's "Perlycross"² and Black's "Wolfenberg"³ are also interesting to anticipate.

Well, you must excuse me this time:^e I am about ready to turn in, so will close. I hope you will come to-morrow.

Sincerely,^f

E.A.R.^g

HCL US, 91.

NOTES

1. French novelist, dramatist and journalist Edmond François Valentin About's (1828-1885) short novel *La Mère de la Marquise* was published in 1856, in the collection *Les Mariages de Paris*. (SL)
2. That is, James Russell Lowell (1819-1891), the important American poet. (SL)
- 3.^h Published serially in the *Illustrated London News*, October-December 1892.
4. *Perlycross, A Tale of the Western Hills*, was not published until 1894.
5. Published in 1892.

^c WA omits this space.

^d WA reads this dash as a period.

^e WA reads a period here.

^f WA has a comma here.

^g WA omits the underline.

^h This and the following two notes are WA's notes 1, 2, and 3, respectively.