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6-8-1894

## To Arthur R. Gledhill - June 8, 1894

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

I suppose you are a well known citizen in Plymouth by this time, but I shall put this letter in your father's care—to make sure of it.<sup>1a</sup>

R.

Gardiner, Maine,  
June 8 – 1894.

My dear Gledhill,

It is so long since I have written to you that it hardly seems natural—and that is a thing that should not be. But since I now know where you are, I trust that there will be an end to this silence, which almost seemed to be the beginning of a separation. The "League of Three" seems to be growing to a League of Two. Something has been for the past three or four years gradually pulling me away from Moore—or pulling ~~me~~ him away from me—and the result is that I hardly ever see him, and then only in a passing way. His getting married seemed to settle  
more

the matter, and than that, the gradual development of character, which finally destroys so many early friendships, has made him a person wholly out of my sympathies; and if I am to judge by his equal indifference, I am also merely a person to him. You may be interested to know that he has been baptized and is

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a fine church man. I do not go to the house now so cannot tell you anything more definite. I remember of more than once paying my respects to immersion when talking with him two or three years ago, so perhaps that may have something to do with his feelings toward me. But to be honest about [it] he never was a man I could take into my soul as I took you and have since taken Smith. You know why as well as I—there are some things that we can feel but not explain.

Speaking of Smith, I suppose you know that he is master of the Rockland Grammar School. He has a good position, receiving about your salary--\$100 a month, I think, during the school year. Next year his salary is [to] advance to \$1500;<sup>b</sup> though I suppose I

<sup>a</sup> WA places this note beneath the signature.

<sup>b</sup> WA has a comma instead of a semicolon.

hav{e}<sup>c</sup> no right to tell of it. I am glad for Smith, as he is a fellow who deserves all he can get—a totally different man from the Smith you know—and I think y{o}u<sup>d</sup> will say that he was a good fellow then. So two of my friends are pretty well fixed. Though I am still in the dark, I am glad for those who can see the light; and, in the words of R. Robinson, I hope you will have a good time and make lots of money. I fancy Moore is not

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prospering so well, but I cannot speak except from observation. I have always had an impression that his going into Wileys<sup>e</sup> shop was the worst thing he ever did, and I hav{e}<sup>f</sup> yet seen no reason to change my opinion. He has gall and independence enough, however, to feel no need of my sympathy or concern. His assurance is something awful—worse than his eternal reference to "my girl" before he was married. If there is one thing that I cannot stand it is the parading of the "girl" before all ones<sup>g</sup> acquaintances. But then, I have my ~~erøt~~ crotchets and peculiarities, and you must take my ideas for what they are worth.

I judge from your last letter that the time has come for you to read the third (3d) chapter of Herbert Spencer's "Education".<sup>2</sup> If you have not yet read it--<sup>h</sup> do so by all means. You will find suggestions in it that will help you amazingly, unless you are already strangely matured in that direction. Excuse me for not minding my own business.

I expect to go to Cambridge for Class Day week, leaving Gardiner about June 20. We ought to get together in some way—perhaps you had better come up to Boston for a day and let me go back with you to Plymouth for another or vice versa. At any rate, we ought to have a day in town

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together if possible. When I get there we can make

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<sup>c</sup> WA transcribes the "e".

<sup>d</sup> WA has "you".

<sup>e</sup> WA has "Wiley's".

<sup>f</sup> WA transcribes the "e".

<sup>g</sup> WA has "one's".

<sup>h</sup> WA has a comma here instead.

more definite plans. My great trouble is absolute poverty. I am poorer than a church mouse, so must draw the strings pretty tight. I am going to live on my uncle and my friends as far as possible and frankly tell them so, in a good natured way. You will not quite understand this, but I can explain it in a few words to you in person far better than on paper. I purpose, however, to drink a bottle or two of beer for old times<sup>i</sup> sake and treat myself to one or two "Pop" concerts, which are one of the features of Harvard life when spring comes in. Even though I am only half a Harvard man, I drew in enough of the spirit of the place and shall look upon it as a kind of home. It was there that I met, with one or two exceptions, the friends of my life, and it was there that I discovered and cultivated what is best and strongest in my nature—which, I fancy, is not much.--I am in a little bilious fit just now, which makes me rather uncomfortable for the time, and perhaps affects my chirography. If you cannot read it, try to make the best of my good feeling and good intentions. Have you read "God's Fool?"

Most sincerely,  
E.A.R.<sup>k</sup>

HCL

#### NOTES

1. The letter was addressed to Mr. Arthur R.<sup>l</sup> Gledhill, Plymouth, Mass. c/o Rev. J.S. Gledhill.
2. Chapter 3, "Moral Education," concerns "the true aims and methods of [the] moral education" of children. As a recently married young man, Gledhill was presumably contemplating the various problems of fatherhood. (SL)

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<sup>i</sup> WA omits the apostrophe.

<sup>j</sup> WA omits the dash.

<sup>k</sup> WA omits the underline.

<sup>l</sup> WA has "S."