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8-19-1895

To George W. Latham - August 19, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO GEORGE W. LATHAM

My dear Latham,

acknowledge

I sat down to ~~answer~~
your book the day it came, but
was interrupted and so the thing was
put off till now. My eyes are in
bad shape again, so I cannot read
it just at present; but I shall
know that I have it and where it
came from, and that is a great deal
to me.

I shall write you a letter in
a day or two and send you a yellow
covered copy of Une Vie, which
you may read or not, as yo{u} choose.
It is a great novel, though I hard-
ly think it deserve{s} the tremendous
praise that Tolstoy gave it some
time ago.¹

In the meantime, accept
my most sincere thanks for Dr.
Hill's book and believe me.

Yours most sincerely,
E.A.R.

Gardiner, 19 August. '95

HCL

NOTES

1. In *The Works of Guy de Maupassant* (1894), Tolstoy wrote, "*Une Vie* is an excellent novel, not only incomparably the best novel by Maupassant, but almost the best French novel since Hugo's *Les Misérables*. Besides the remarkable power of his talent, that is, of that peculiar, strained attention, directed upon an object, in consequence of which the author sees entirely new features in the life which he is describing, this novel combines, almost to an equal degree, all three conditions of a true artistic production:

1. the correct, that is, the moral, relation of the author to the subject,
2. the beauty of form, and
3. sincerity, that is, love for what the author describes."

(See *The Complete Works of Count Tolstoy*. Translated by Leo Wiener, vol. 20, J. M. Dent, 1905.)

(SL)