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9-22-1895

To George W. Latham - September 22, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO GEORGE W. LATHAM

My dear Latham.

I send to-day—or rather to-morrow—the copy of "The Vie", which I hope you will read as carefully as you can I know your attitude towards fiction and also wish to alter it as much as I can. It was with that end in view that I kept hammering you with L'Idée de Jean Têterol, which, however, I would not send you now for worlds. If you ever read that book I shall be very glad, but tremendously surprised. There is nothing great about [it], but it is abnormally clever.

I send with this a newspaper clipping which I think will make you smile. It is a joke, but ever since you planted

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the kid's black flower-pot hat on Main Street I have inwardly maintained that you are a humorist. This joke is a pretty good one and I rather pity the man who lost his wager.

As a substitute for "Im Paradiese" I have thought of R.G. Moulton's "Ancient Classical Drama". You probably know the book but if you do not I can assure you that there is a world of good reading in it—Clarendon Press binding and splendidly printed.

Yours sincerely.

E.A. Robinson

Gardiner Maine

22 September, 1895.

P.S.—

I always make my "g's" like "j's", so if you have put me down for an ass in the past on that account you may

think a little better of me for this explanation.

R.

{Insert – Newspaper Clipping;}

Took Chances and Lost.

"If you're the man that answers the questions," said the lanky personage in the faded brown suit who had climbed four flights of stairs in search of information, "I wish you would tell me who it was that shrieked when Kosciusko¹ fell."

"Freedom," replied the answers to questions editor, glancing up at him and resuming his work.

"Then I've lost a good hat," rejoined the lanky caller, sighing heavily and turning to go. "I thought it was Marcos Bozzaris."²—Chicago Tribune.

HCL

NOTES

1. Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817), a Polish-Lithuanian leader and national hero who led an unsuccessful uprising against Russia and Prussia in 1794 in an effort to liberate the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. (SL)

2.^a Marcos Bozzaris (c. 1788-1823), hero of the Greek War of Independence against the Turks. He was commander of the Greek forces at Missolonghi.

^a This is WA's note 1.