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11-10-1895

## To Harry de Forest Smith - November 10, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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### Recommended Citation

Robinson, Edwin Arlington, "To Harry de Forest Smith - November 10, 1895" (1895). *Edwin Arlington Robinson Letters and Transcriptions*. 193.

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

My dear Smith,

I am afraid that I can't write you much of a letter to-day but I must send something to partly mak{e} up for the long delay. I was out to eat beans with your father and mother a week ago last night and had a good smoke in the evening. Joe and I may go out this afternoon if the wind does not discourage us It is blowing now like the very devil, but it may stop sometime.

It was my impression that I once referred to my own surprise at finding Lanman so young a man;<sup>1</sup> but I suppose I did not. Did it strike you disappointingly?—I am making all sorts of poems nowadays, and do not dare to stop for fear I might realize what a damned fool I am. That is not a pleasant experience and {one?} I do not intend to go through more times than are necessary. The stuff will be put to-

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gether, I think, by the first of February.—Schuman{'s} sonnet in the Bookman<sup>2</sup> was to him like a long drink of the stuff that Ponce de Leon didn't find. You see he had [heard] nothing of it since he sent it on in June and had long since given it up. I am glad for him, for it is a good thing in a good place.

I have not read anything since I got back and hav done little save to torture my gray matter with this scheme of mine. I doubt if it amounts to any thing but do not let that discourage me.

Your father is better from his last trouble (that fall in the cart) but I can see that he is

slowly breaking up I tell you  
this because I want you to keep  
it in mind—not because I think  
there is any sign of immediate change,  
for there is not. He says the  
government ought to appoint a com-

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mittee to knock men on the head when they are fifty  
years old. Give my regards to Mrs Smith, and  
beware of alcohol.

Very truly yours  
E.A.R.

Gardiner Maine,  
10 November 1895.

HCL US, 234-235

#### NOTES

1. Charles Rockwell Lanman (1850-1941), professor of Sanskrit at Harvard.
2. "When William Shakespeare Wrote His Plays," *Bookman*, II (November 1895), 190.