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To Joseph S. Ford - December 10, 1895

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO JOSEPH S. FORD

My dear Ford,

I hope you will forgive me for the rather dirty little trick I played on you with that poem. I was so abnormally good natured on account of your coming to see me that I did not stop to think of the possible seriousness of the thing. Now I can see that it was a very poor sort of joke indeed and I am honestly ashamed of it.

Schuman doesn't find any tragedy in "London Town", though he partly agrees with you in calling it obscure. But it is all so plain to me that I shall let it go, if only out of curiosity.—Don't forget Latham's letter.

Most sincerely,
E.A.R.

Gardiner, Maine
10 December, 1895.

I sent the _Rosny stuff_ yesterday.

UVA

NOTES

1. One of EAR's Tavern Songs intended for publication in his first volume, which he originally planned to call The Tavern and The Night Before. He later embodied the poem in Captain Craig as Killigrew's "A Ballad of London."
2. EAR's review of L'Impérieuse Bonte. See EAR's letter of April 10, 1895 to J.S. Ford and his letter of April 14, 1895 to Harry de Forest Smith.