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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",¹ 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.—Dont forget Latham's letter.

Most sincerely,
E.A.R.

Gardiner, Maine

10 December, 1895.

I sent the Rosny stuff yesterday.²

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.