

HCL

Gledhill, a boyhood friend and high school classmate, Gardiner High School, Class of 1888. Gledhill took the college course; EAR did not. After graduation Gledhill left Gardiner; EAR remained, taking an additional year of high school to study Milton and Horace, and at home furthering his study of Virgil. The mocking tone and the inflated language of the Latinate allusions in these early letters to Gledhill belie the underlying seriousness of purpose in EAR's study of the classics. It was during this year, 1889, that he realized, as he later wrote, that he "was doomed, or elected, or sentenced for life, to the writing of poetry."

1. Gledhill had moved to Spencer, Mass.
2. See EAR's letter to Gledhill dated April 17, 1890. Two years earlier EAR had become "violently excited over the structure and music of English blank verse." In order to find out more about it, he had made a blank verse translation of Cicero's *first oration* against Catiline, no longer extant.
3. Giles Stuart, principal of Gardiner High School, had added an extra year to the high school program.
4. Sport of nature.