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Mr. H. de Forest Smith,

Rockland, Maine.



132

W. A. ROBINSON  
MAY 11 1881  
CAMBRIDGE MASS

Exeter, N. H.

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My dear Smith,

Ford has gone to a Faculty  
meeting and as I was in his room  
to pass the time as best I may, I have  
been a long time since I have written a letter  
in the evening but it seems to me that I  
ought to send you one now before you are  
embarrassed so I had run the risk of obtaining  
my eyes and told you that I am somewhat  
taken back by this visit. Ford is just the  
same and is obviously glad to see me, but  
his prosperity fills me with something like  
discontent and dismay. I say this, but I  
must ~~write~~ <sup>write</sup> his and yours together.

It was when I was young his being to  
say nothing of holding a position of responsibility  
and respect has a peculiarly depressing effect upon  
me just now. It may make you laugh to  
think that you have often been the cause of  
such feelings in my mind, when you consider the  
relations we have had but it is true all  
the same. I know I am a damn fool to  
be distressed by the power of others, but  
I can't seem to help it. I am trying to get  
desperate, but there is perhaps no good reason  
why I should.

Ford goes to France in a few days and will  
be here I suppose, a good time. He has un-  
usual advantages, among which a personal in-  
vitation from Paul Bonaparte to call and see  
him. He made Bonaparte's acquaintance last  
year at Harvard. The possibilities associated  
with such good fortune to which such a  
man, likely called for him, for he is a fellow  
who deserves all he can get, just now he  
seems to be getting considerable but it may  
not always last. His position here is much  
more prominent than he ever gave an account  
to possess, but it is not enough influence  
and almost phenomenal influence of that.  
That you be to drop this history and let  
Gwenen in its place. That language met  
French in the two things he can do.

But you don't care about Ford, for you  
don't know him, as I met him back to him-  
self's promise. How do you feel about it?  
And how is your courage? If I can be  
your place I think I should be better to  
skip the state. But then, you are not  
troubled much with my misdeeds or small  
things, like getting married, so you will get  
right at all right. - Accept my best  
wishes, and read this stuff if you can.  
I should try it. To be sure matter it with  
a few so far as this is all you can ask of  
me.

Most sincerely  
E. A. R.