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To Harry de Forest Smith - February 15, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

Cambridge, Feb
a 15 '92.

My dear Smith,

I am afraid that irregularity in my corres-
pondence is getting to [be] characteristic of me. I was greatly
disappointed in not finding a letter from you to-day, but [since]
I have not written myself, I can hardly complain. Your
last one was vastly entertaining. I was greatly interested in
the gentleman who revealed his "masculine prerogatives"; he
is doubtless a fellow of excellent parts and differences, but
unfortunate in his eccentricity. There is no real sin in what he
has done; custom merely objects to it, that is all.
But then I cannot uphold him in shaking them; i.e., the
borders
prerogatives,--that
bordered
upon vulgarity, and leads me
to believe that he is a realist.

Well, the mid-years are over at last, but I cannot
tell you how they have left me. I am afraid that I set
my estimate of marks too high, however, as I said in my
last letter. But I do not fear any great difficulty.
I enclose you one of the venerable Prof. Child's concoctions
to show you what the mid-years are like. If I get a
"C" on that paper I shall do well. When I left the
examination room I felt sure of a B, but the more I
think it over, b the less confident I grow.

Here are a few questions from "English 9:"

1. Explain Scott's c relation to his age. What was his most im-
portant contribution to its intellectual life?
2. Compare the character of Grace Nugent (Miss Edgeworth) with
one of Miss Austen's heroines.
4. Sketch of life of Coleridge. (Made a big bluff.
5. Date of birth and death of all the authors studied.
8. Divide Hazlitt's essays into two classes, justifying briefly
your classification of each essay.
9. Define the aim and summarize the characteristics of
realistic fiction.
   I expect a fairly good mark on this, as I was

a WA adds a period here.
b Read the period as a comma. WA has a comma.
c WA has "Scott's".
pretty well prepared. Mr. Gates is a stiff marker, however, and I may be disappointed. I am not in the mood to-night for writing a decent letter and think I had better stop here. Have got to read Robinson Crusoe this week, with an eye for style; also the Journal of the Plague. This comes in English A, which will not be quite as much of a snap the second half-year. Prof. Hill himself has it now. The more you look over the Shakspere paper, the more I think you will realize its diabolical qualities. Be sure to read the fine print at the top.

Good night,

Robinson.

HCL Omitted from US.

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\(^d\) WA omits this space.

\(^e\) WA omits the period.