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10-19-1892

## To Harry de Forest Smith - October 19, 1892

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

1716 Camb.

Oct 19 - '92

My dear Smith,

I would have written before this, but I wanted to know what you thought about the periodical business, so I waited. And now I will say that I am not altogether satisfied with the arrangement as it stands. The "Mahogany Tree" is a very neat little paper in its way and in the course of a year would doubtless contain a

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good deal of interesting matter, but when we pay four dollars for it with such papers as Harper's Weekly and others at the same price, the thing does not seem altogether satisfactory. I have ransacked the shelves in the library and the counters of every bookstore in Cambridge, but cannot seem to find anything to suit my taste. I never knew there was such a scarcity of literary papers. If you prefer Harper's Weekly to the "M.T"<sup>a</sup> I am quite agreeable. Or, if you can suggest anything else, I shall be glad to hear from you.

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Just at present, however, I shall not be able to attend to it, for two reasons: I am decidedly short, and my time bids fair to be pretty well taken up for the next week. That ear operation has got to come and I have made arrangements to submit myself to the carver's hands on

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<sup>a</sup> WA adds a period, i.e. "M.T."

Saturday next at 3.00 P.M. You  
can think of me then stretched out  
for all the world like a corpse,  
filled with ether and letting  
Dr<sup>b</sup> Green and two assistants (probably  
Harvard Medics) do whatever they  
think will give them the highest

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satisfaction. Shall be obliged to  
keep dark in a private hospital in  
the City for four or five days, and  
then by the grace of God (if the ether  
does not kill me) I may be on  
my feet again. I have not much  
faith [in] the business, though; I have had  
an idea all along that the necrosis  
has got in beyond the small bones.  
If it has I may hear a trumpet  
blow a little sooner than I would  
ordinarily—that's all. I am reading  
Blackmore's *Alice Lorraine*,<sup>1</sup> it is very fine  
like all of that author's books. Will  
write next Sunday if I can wiggle  
my fingers. Be sure & write yourself.

Yours E.A.R.

HCL US, 19-20.

#### NOTES

1. *Alice Lorraine, A Tale of the South Downs* by Richard D. Blackmore, published 1874-75.

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<sup>b</sup> WA adds a period here.