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To Harry de Forest Smith - January 31, 1893

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE.

Jan. 31/92 [=1893]

My dear Smith,

You must excuse the light character of my correspondence this week, but I will try to do better next time. I say this almost every time I write, but this time I mean it. There will be no excuse for my not writing a half-decent letter, at least as far as length is concerned, on next Sunday. Until then my time will be pretty well taken up, as it has been all the week. This forenoon I took the mid-year in German, and read about 120 pages of Hauff in preparation for it. I killed

-2-

the translation, but am not so sure about the composition. I always split here in languages. Next Thursday Fine Arts comes and it will be nothing but read, read until then. Wish you were here to see Lady Windermere's Fan.¹ I sent programme with Nation, which may interest you. Friday night Saben holds a literary smoke (and drink^a for those who feel the need of it) and Schuman ~~th~~ is to be there. Wish you could be present. There will also be a Mr. Mohun an Englishman and Mr^b Knight a grey-haired Boston lawyer who quotes Homer and Horace in the original. Rather good company I think don't you. All I am afraid of is the^c {=that} Saben will get drunk and do all the talking.

Sincerely
Robinson.

-3-

These Columbus stamp[s]² ~~reminding~~ remind me

^a WA reads "drunk".

^b WA adds a period here.

^c WA reads "that".

of the time I wore a porous plaster on my lungs for a cough. I think the country will be tired of them before Fall—though I must confess I rather like the look of them.

R.

HCL US, 82-83.

NOTES

1. This 1892 comedy by Oscar Wilde had made its American debut in Boston, at the Columbia Theatre, just the previous week, on January 23, 1893. It went on to Broadway in February of the same year. (SL)
2. Officially titled the "Columbian Issue," a set of sixteen stamps issued in January of 1893 in commemoration of the Chicago World's Fair ("World's Columbian Exhibition"), which itself was a commemoration of the 400-year anniversary of Columbus' discovery and held the same year, between May and October. The Columbian Issue stamps depicted various scenes from the life of Columbus. (See "additional files" for this letter for an image of the 2 cent stamp.) (SL)