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## James E. Edmonds to Major & Mrs. J. E. Edmonds (27 March 1898)

James E. Edmonds

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Cambridge University.  
March 27. 1898.

My Dear Mother and Father:-

And it is over at last!

The second term examinations are past after as unterminable two weeks work as ever I did. I discarded all my session all save in Latin. That is I stand purely upon my examination marks. They are the only grades that go down against me. Usually they add the sessional and the examination together and divide by two. This gives the average. But if a person has been sick and has been hindered in the daily recitations the faculty will allow him to throw out the daily marks and stand on the merits of the examination alone.

I have heard from the studies so far Senior History, which I took in place of Sophomore Math. I couldn't take it any other year and I could take Math. so I swapped. It comes at

two o'clock three days out of the week. I have  
some thing at that hour both next year and  
year after. The last two terms of Math. I will take  
next year. I attend the History class the day  
they had the last regular lesson. I got over the  
book of 250 pages twice and stood second in  
the class on the examination. The man who beat  
me is a senior who graduates first in his class  
this year. I made 87 and he 95.

I have heard from Physics in which I made 98  
on my exam. In Freshman Chemistry I  
had no time to review and only made 84. I  
made 95 in it last term giving me so far an  
average of  $89\frac{1}{2}$  or as they give the student the  
half points, of 90. I have yet to hear from Elocution  
Rhetoric, English Literature, Latin and Logic.

Elocution this term has been very entertaining, being  
a study of Shakespeare and as my sessional was  
thrown out I am looking for a very good mark.  
So I am in Rhetoric and English but in Latin  
and Logic I am uneasy. They are my hardest

$\frac{84}{95} = 87$   
 $\frac{2119}{10}$

studies and in them both the professors  
put up extra hard exams.

Here is an example from the Doyle.  
State the kind of argument, and whether  
regular or irregular, valid or fallacious of  
the following syllogism

"A wise man is never surprised because he  
is never disappointed; and this is because  
he never forms any expectations save upon the  
most secure basis." Of course you can see the  
thing is irregular and fallacious but to beat it  
into logical form and then show the error as  
when the rub comes in. I have spoken to  
seven different members of the class and no two  
got it into the same shape. I am convinced my  
answer was correct but am waiting very  
impatiently to hear the result.

But Exams. are over until you thank be  
to heaven and a new, clean term commences.

I'll say "sleep in face" to the one that has passed.

How is the river? The papers say it is very high

But you have not mentioned it save in a casual way. The letter from you containing the twenty-five dollar express order came Saturday and was gratefully received. I will tell you what I need for spring in the course of a week or two. It has turned cold again and I have a touch of sore-throat but just enough to keep me from reciting for Miss Tom in the morning.

If I can manage to keep well during the next term I think I can get distinction in about four of my studies. I am one of the members of the executive-committee and committee on the constitution of the Anti-judging Association. I was elected vice-president of my Literary Society - "Hermes" just before the examinations. The "Anti-judging Assn." is an organization for the repression and extinction of unfair dealings or excommunications and retaliation. We have some opposition. Not so much from those who would

use unfair means (for they are afraid to speak)  
as from those who would not "fack" but say it is  
none of their business how much a man "facks"  
or cheats once say they think it would be dishonorable  
to report him. I would hate to report a man  
to the faculty once would not do so, but would  
report him to our own executive committee.

We wish to bring in the system which prevails  
at Princeton where the boys themselves deal with  
a dishonest man. There is very little unfairness  
here save in certain clubs. We hope to head it up by  
next year.

Tell Cousin Will it would seem like  
"old times" to him Oxford now. Miss Maynard  
(Katy Lee) has been visiting Mrs. Puce's since Miss  
Minnie Clefton is gone now.

Remember me to Puce once Sarah and her mother  
and give my love to Cousin Lily and tell her to give  
my best to her sister. Also tell Cousin Lily not  
to believe every thing Mrs. Eggeston says about me  
for Will Hamner didn't know when she spoke

in at least one piece of information he gave  
his cousin and presumably on others.

Nevertheless you, both of you can believe  
every thing Will said and can think him  
a most excellent & informed young man.

From your loving son  
James E. Edmunds.

P.S. Am trying to get a job to go to Cuba on  
a newspaper war-correspondent's staff. Wish me  
success.

JEE

P.S. Perhaps my next will be from the site of war.

JEE

P.S. Don't get scared.

JEE

CARROLLTON  
MAR  
2  
FRIDAY  
R.P.O.

Mrs J. Edwards  
Bolivar  
Mississippi