

S. M. BAYLIS  
3574 UNIVERSITY STREET  
MONTREAL, QUE.

February 20, 1928.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

As it may have escaped your notice, I venture to enclose copy of a letter printed in today's Gazette.

You will notice the omission of a significant paragraph, whether in the interest of the paper or myself or both, I can't say. I trod warily, as I felt I had to, but the more I read see and hear of this phase of the question, I am convinced that much more might be said, but it will not be printed. If you are of the Fraternity, you will know if we are right, even if you "cannot tell".

With respect to the traditional viewpoint, you will recall that in the McGill Shakespeare Exhibition a couple of years ago, the compiler, who, as he says, is merely "non-committally interested", was at least broad-minded enough as very properly to exhibit a whole case of the controversial literature loaned by me, some of it rare and valuable 17th century originals.

How far he was supported or opposed in this, I do n't know, and he evidently did n't care; but when I told a very eminent gentleman in the Department of English Literature in McGill that this was being done, his scornful reply was; "Oh! we do n't want any of the stuff!" and I inferred that if he could he would prevent it even being shown!

In marked contrast to the obscurantist attitude of our Professors of Literature in the Universities, who should rather take the lead in the search for Truth, was the invitation extended to me by our mutual good friend, Dr Atherton, Professor of English Literature in l'Universite de Montreal, who, while avowedly opposed to my point of view was, nevertheless, willing that his students should hearixx it. I held the close attention of his class of about 100 students - male and female, "Religious" and lay - in my little talk, and to mark a memorable occasion I there and then offered a little prize of \$25 for the best essay on the anti-Shaksper point of view as outlined. This brought out a number of excellent papers, mostly from pupils of the Ladies College of Notre Dame, with the full approval of their teachers, some of whom were interested listeners on the occasion. The prize-winning essay was printed in the College Journal, conducted by an able Editorial Board of the young lady pupils of the Institution, of whom the writer of the essay was one.

Compare this with the attitude of the Censors of the University Magazine in the incident referred to in my letter and consider if all this does not provide "food for thought".

Sincerely yours,

Paul M Baylis