

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Box #476, Charlottetown, P. E. I.,
August 10th, 1923.

Sir Arthur Currie, G. C. M. G., K. C. B.,
Principal, McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

Mr. Wilson Macdonald, mentioned in the letter forwarded to me on the 6th inst, is a writer of verse, but I do not think that he is "one of our greatest living Canadian poets", as Mr. Lorne A. Pierce, Literary Advisor of the Ryerson Press, Toronto, states in his letter to you. Some years ago Macdonald published a book of poems entitled "The Song of the Prairie Land"; a revised edition of this book has just been issued from the Ryerson Press. The author, I am told, is an interesting but unusual person, extremely egotistical, and, I judge, somewhat abnormal. He is interested in spiritualism, and professes to be able to "call spirits from the vasty deep". His verse has little or no popular appeal; his audience is a "high-brow" audience; and he seems to please only those who foolishly believe that literature is only good when it is unintelligible. A few months ago Macdonald wrote the words and music of an operetta called "The Girl from Bohemia". He rehearsed himself and attempted to produce it with local talent in a small Ontario town, but the inhabitants thought that the costumes resembled too closely the garb of the Garden of Eden, and the production had to be abandoned. Thereupon Macdonald gave many interviews to the press in which he spoke of himself as a martyr "in the cause of Art", as "the best-hated man in Canada", and in which he made other equally ridiculous statements. While he may, perhaps, do good work in the future, I do not think it would be wise to endorse too strongly his work or his literary type. I enclose a copy of a photograph; he seems to be somewhat of a poseur.

I was glad to see Dr. Nicholson today on his annual pilgrimage to the Island.

With kindest regards, I am, Faithfully yours,

Cyrus Macmillan