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Continuation of letter to Arthur Meighen Esq., dated 27th March, 1935.

McEachern at the University, I quoted your remark about Shakespeare :

"No mind ever travelled farther than his into the darkness."

Rodney went to his room and brought back "The Story of Philosophy" by Will Durant, from which he quoted :-

"Shakespeare has an impressive smattering of many sciences, and a mastery of none; in all of them he speaks with the eloquence of an amateur.

He accepted astrology: "The huge slate...whereon the stars in secret influence comment". He is forever making mistakes which the learned Bacon could not possibly have made. He understands Caesar about as profoundly as Caesar is understood by H.G. Wells. Carlyle calls Shakespeare the greatest of intellects, but he was rather the greatest of imaginations. He is not consumed with the reconstructive vision that ennobled Plato".

Rodney went on to say that what the University was interested in was a search for the truth, and that the poets sometimes allowed their imaginations to run wild.

My answer to this was to quote Robert Lynd in his introduction to an Anthology of Modern verse:

"The function of poetry is to make the life of man more full and real. It is to make him an independent hunter of the facts by which man live - the facts of the world and the facts of the universe. To scorn the imagination is to be a blind man deliberately refusing the miracle of sight. It is imagination that cleanses the scales from our eyes, and awakens our senses to the real things that surround us".

This was all received with the cynical smile of youth, you can, therefore, imagine how pleased I was when the New York Times Book Review came to hand last Saturday giving a review of Sir Arthur Eddington's book "The New Pathways of Science", to find this quotation :

"In the end it may turn out that the priest and the poet, the mystic and the artist are nearer than the scientist to the truth that we call reality. The fierce beliefs of martyrs,

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 5 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 193)

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