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SHA - SHH, 1919- 1937

FILE 588

SHA - SHH

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

THE SHAKESPEARE PROBLEM

3574 808 S. M. BAYLIS
UNIVERSITY STREET
MONTREAL, QUE.

February 16th, 1928.

To the Editor of the Gazette,
Sir:-

Your thoughtful article of the 14th instant is evidence that this question is a live one and of necessity "bound to reappear ever and anon" until the day when the world will wake up to wonder why there should ever have been any "Question" about it.

The growing adhesion of great names, from Lord Palmerston down to Lord Sydenham in support of the modernist view, lends encouragement to the many lesser voices "crying in the wilderness" against the reactionary Fundamentalists who would impose their out-worn creed upon the credulous mind.

When people accept the Emersonian doctrine of Individualism, do their own thinking, and stand by their reasoned conclusions in face of the dicta of so-called Authority, the coming of "The Day" will be speedily hastened.

With due respect, your caption, "Dethroning Shakespeare", is somewhat inept. It is a matter rather of Dethroning Shaxper and En-throning "Shake-Spears" - the crowning of the King and the elimination of the Pretender whose claim is supported "with a skill and plausibility that excels the evidence in sight".

It is not a question of the skill of the Elizabethan Dramatists, whose productions the London theatre manager - if such, indeed, he was - may or may not have been instrumental in putting on the stage; who never claimed fellowship in the Craft, assumed no rights of authorship, or interfered with the activities of piratical printers trading on this supposition. When the Plays attributed to a "rural yokel" were printed in the Great Folio of 1623, seven years after his death, amended, enlarged and improved from their Quarto form - perhaps connived at or permitted by the "Grand Possessors" of the MSS - as "Mrx William SHAKESPEARES/ Comedies Histories & Tragedies/ Published according to the True Original Copies", they were sponsored by wholly unauthorized persons, prefaced by equivocal and false statements in prose and verse, and disfigured by a palpably "fake" Portrait, the whole cleverly designed to mislead and deceive the uninitiated or those ~~not~~ wilfully blind.

Nor is it a question of that supreme gift - call it "Genius", if you like - which enabled the "tinker Bunyan" to "ascend to the splendid realm he has glorified" nor to "the list of mysterious examples of rapt elevation", which, as you well say, might be almost indefinitely enlarged".

These, extraordinary as some are, may all be accounted for by the natural working of some impelling force influencing a mind predisposed to receive such impressions. Heredity, environment and training all contribute to great achievement, without resort to the obsolete doctrine of Plenary Inspiration, on which some are constrained to rely in attributing to an untaught, uncultured, untrained, "rural yokel" the stupendous, ~~far~~ unparalleled achievement which we know and revere under the significant pseudonym, "Shake-Speare", stored with all the learning of the ages, crammed with the accurate technique of the Law as set forth by a trained legal mind, vibrant with the intimate air

THE SHAKESPEARE PROBLEM (2)

3574

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

of courts and palaces, and set in a frame of exquisite beauty by the skilled hand of the perfect craftsman!

No! "Genius", poor overworked jade, which jauntily carries the impoverished Lady Clara to the hunt on Saturday and wearily drags her in the old family coach to church on Sunday, cannot account for the anomaly. Genius may inspire natural or acquired gifts but it cannot impart knowledge, nor can Inspiration move an irresponsible clod.

If, as it is held, this illiterate "rural yokel" who rose to ~~an~~ affluence by the profits of his theatrical ventures and invested his money in London and Stratford property, did, in some unexplained way unknown to history, acquire this learning, knowledge, technique and craftsmanship and really is the super-man of all time, let the student read his life-story laboriously compiled by indefatigable researchers, which, shorn of all its imputations, conjectures and assumptions, from his lowly birth, riotous youth, forced marriage and unlovely death, ~~is~~ is a sordid tale, then compare it with his alleged achievements in literature and enquire with Emerson if they "match".

It's a lonesome road to travel with little sympathy for the wayfarer. Our libraries are poorly supplied with informative literature, and such evidence as I wanted I had to procure for myself. Our Professors of Literature, unlike their adventurous colleagues in Science and Medicine, are steeped in traditionalism and wedded to preconceived opinion, discourage enquirers, and suppress discussion of opposing view-points. Writers have alleged that even custodians of records and sources of information have gone so far as to place obstacles in the way of their researches. Others have declared that they were warned that anything which they might write would either be distorted or refused publication, or informed that friendships might be severed and a career impaired if further study of this "closed question" tainted with charlatanism were persisted in!

I myself, with the tacit acquiescence of the Editor, had procured from an eminent English writer a specially written, non-controversial, 3000-word article on Ben Jonson, with reference to his Shakespearian connection, but it was returned to me with the information that his over-lords of the Editing Board of the collegiate publication for which it was intended had refused to print it!

I am happy to say that my own communications have received generous welcome in your columns and elsewhere; but a section of the Press, unsympathetic to the modern view, except to poke fun at, or heap ridicule upon, those who advocate it, are keen to seize upon and feature contributions and drawings, however fantastic, supporting the traditional.

Beyond and behind this, moreover, it is alleged, is the weighty influence of a certain widely-known Brotherhood in fostering opposition, some of whose carefully guarded, if perhaps unimportant, "secrets", might, if they were divulged, be useful in clearing up if not solving the question. Some personal observations of my own would seem to lend this idea some support, as in conversations with eminent members of the Fraternity, I find that the mention of a certain ~~XXXXX~~ NAME is received in silence - whether of reverence or aversion it is impossible to say - that the conversation is diverted and direct questions met with evasive answers, not, "I do'nt know!", but in the accepted for-

Cut out
by
Editor

THE SHAKESPEARE PROBLEM (3)

3574 898 S. M. BAYLIS
UNIVERSITY STREET
MONTREAL, QUE.

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mulae: "I can't tell!" or "I'll enquire!". If these allegations are unfounded, authoritative denial is called for; if, indeed, the time be not ripe for such disclosure and assistance as may help to solve the vexed question of "The Shakespeare Myth".

Where the trail may lead when the Stratford ghost is laid, it is premature to discuss until this be finally done. Suffice it to say that an author worthy of our highest admiration will yet be found, and light be thrown on the activities of his associated "Illuminati" in their endeavors to spread "Light, Liberty and Truth" through darkest Europe by means of the printed page of the inspired book and the spoken word on the subsidized stage. Following the gleam, new paths would be opened to exploration in the fruitful fields of the political, social, and literary movements of the period at present undreamed of and now barred to the traveller with the warning sign: No Thoroughfare!

SAMUEL M. BAYLIS

MADE IN U.S.A.

February 21st, 1928.

S. M. Baylis, Esq.,
3574 University Street,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Mr. Baylis:-

I am much obliged for your letter of the 20th of February. I had read your letter which appeared in the Gazette.

The controversy over the authorship of those works ascribed to Shakespeare is something about which I know nothing. I dare say it forms a very fascinating study for those who have the time to indulge in it. I suppose people will be arguing about the same matter a hundred years from now and no nearer to a solution. Of the Fraternity of which you speak I know nothing and so there is nothing I can or cannot tell.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

February 25th, 1924.

Dr. George Shanks,
Professor of Pathology,
Medical College,
Calcutta, India.

Dear Dr. Shanks:-

Let me thank you on behalf of
the University for your letter of the 19th of January
enclosing draft for \$10.00 on Lloyds Bank Limited.

It is indeed gratifying to the
University authorities to know that our graduates,
no matter in what distant lands they may be living,
are not forgetful of their Alma Mater. I note that
you wish your subscription to be applied primarily
towards the erection of a new gymnasium. The
Governors recognize the pressing need of such a
building and sincerely hope that in the not distant
future its erection may become an accomplished fact.

I feel sure that could you
find time from your professional duties to give us
some account of the work of your department in the
Medical College, Calcutta, it would be received here
with a great deal of interest. I am certain that
the editorial staffs of the McGill News and the
McGill Daily would welcome such a contribution to
their pages.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

No. 16/P.R.

Pathological Laboratory,
Medical College,
Calcutta, the 19th Jany. 1924.

To

The Principal & Vice Chancellor,
McGill University, Montreal.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in sending you the sum of
ten dollars as my first annual subscription in
aid, primarily, of the new gymnasium.

I hope the amount asked for may be over
subscribed.

Yours faithfully,

George Shanks

M.D., Capt. I.M.S.,
Professor of Pathology,
Medical College, Calcutta.

(B.A. 1904 M.D. 1908,
McGill)

Abolition of War -

By Will A. Shenley.

When War's unholy fury flares, -
"This incubus of thousand years," -
This horrid monster that impairs
The peoples' peace with fulsome fears; -
Engenders aftermaths of spite
From the embattled misery, -
Intolerable, cruelty to invite, -
Calumnious rampage sanguine;
How long, how long, shall "Adam's sin"
Still linger on in Martian shame, -
Perturb with its destructive din
Imperiled Civilization's name? -
Shall Christianity seem to fail, -
The Saviour's doctination vain
Appear, with muskets', cannons' hail, -
Respect for manly life disdain? -
Let those placed in authority
Conserve a peaceful attitude, -
Consider, weigh, and be imbued
With unrestrained tranquillity; -
Shirk full resort to arms, and strive
To further Human Brotherhood; -
Its blest irradiance keep alive
With love of God and man endued!

~~McNEE UNIVERSITY~~
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~~SEP. 26/225/1/1~~

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"Abolition of War"

by Will A. Skewley

Ca. 1919

R.5.2, C.49

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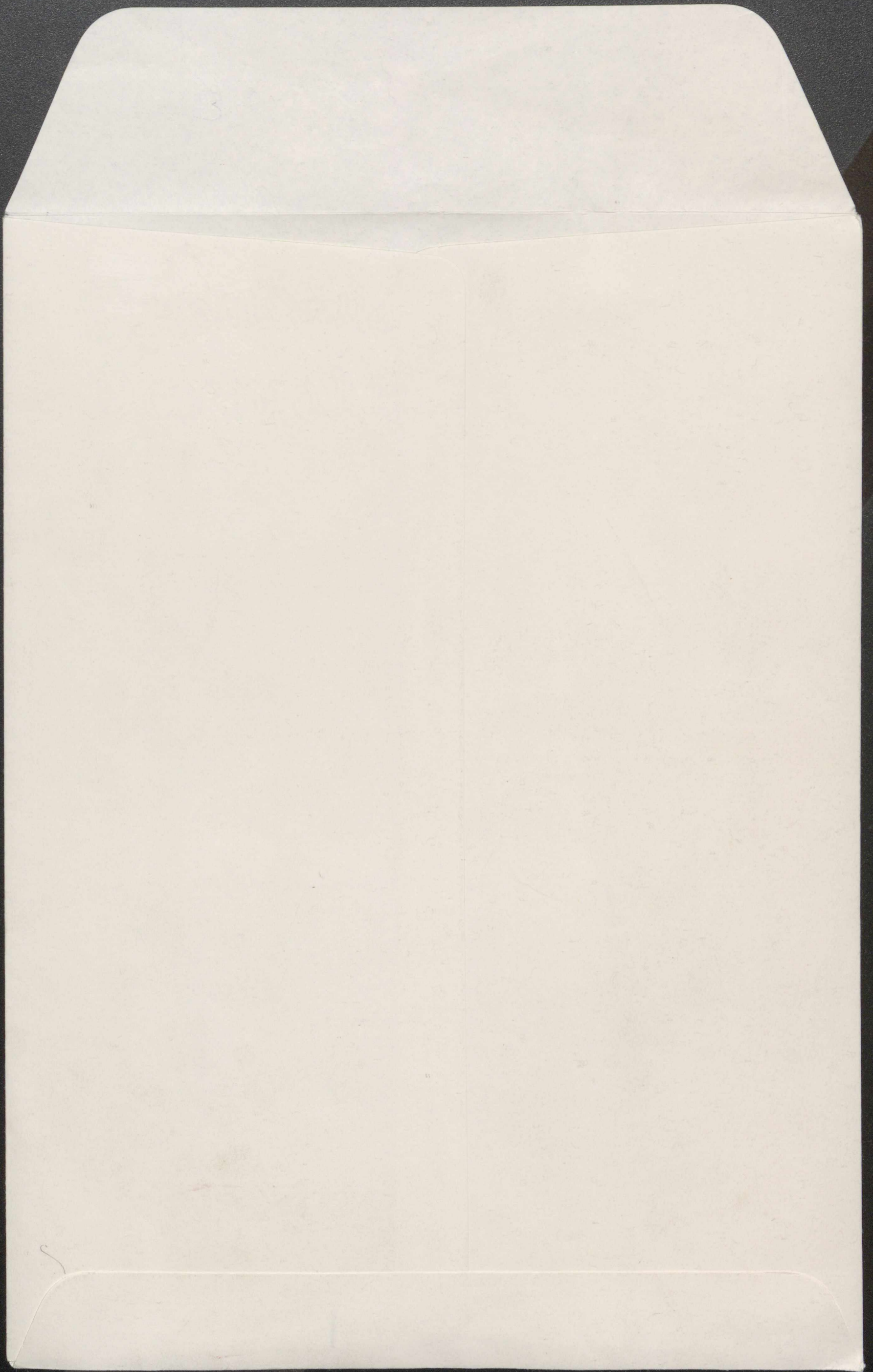
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November 4th, 1919.

Miss Elizabeth Murray Shepherd,
Ritz-Carlton Hotel,
Montreal.

Dear Madam:-

Replying to your letter of the
second instant addressed to Sir Auckland
Geddes, I wish to say that Sir Auckland
Geddes is not at present in Montreal and
will not be here until May next.

Yours truly,

Acting Principal.

February 9, 1926.

Dr. F.J. Shepherd,
152, Mansfield Street,
Montreal.

Dear Dr. Shepherd:-

It is with the greatest regret that I find myself compelled by a previous engagement from which it is impossible for me to escape to be in New York on Saturday, and that therefore I cannot be present at the presentation of your picture.

Your many years of service at McGill have left in the pages of her history memories just as enduring as could be any portrait, yet it is a pleasure to know that there will be left also a visible testimony of the regard in which you will always be held by your colleagues so many of whom were also your students.

Yours faithfully,

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR
A. E. MORGAN

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

Mr. Fletcher

26th April 1937.

I enclose a letter which the Principal has had from a Mr. Shaw
in Halifax. If you think this should be more suitably sent to Miss Heasley,
would you please pass it on?

Principal's Secretary.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

A. E. MORGAN

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

27th April 1937.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Principal to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of the 22nd April which has been referred to the Secretary of the Students' Society and will be brought to the attention of any students who might be interested in a trip such as you outline.

Yours faithfully,

Principal's Secretary.

W. A. Shaw, Esq.,
Shaw Steamship Co., Ltd.,
Halifax, N. S.

SCHOOL AT SHAWBRIDGE, QUE
C.P.R. LAURENTIAN
MOUNTAINS

MAJOR RALPH WILLOOCK, B.A., SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE
LONG DISTANCE
SHAWBRIDGE

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HON. PRESIDENTS

J. R. DOUGALL, J. T. McCALL

SECRETARY-TREASURER

OWEN DAWSON, 620 TRANSPORTATION BLDG
MONTREAL, PHONE HARBOUR 8515

620 TRANSPORTATION BLDG.
MONTREAL

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June 16th, 1930.

Sir Arthur Currie,
McGill University,
MONTREAL.

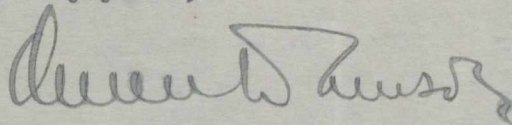
Dear Sir Arthur:-

We are all delighted that you propose to be with us at the Boys' Farm on Saturday next, and I am very glad to know that Lady Currie and her sister will probably accompany you.

With kindest regards,

I am,

Sincerely yours,



Secretary-Treasurer.

OD/LJ

October 2nd
1935

Dear Major Willcock,

I should have written earlier to tell you how greatly interested I was by all that you were good enough to show me on Saturday. I think the organisation and spirit of your colony are wonderful. I have not ceased to speak to my friends with admiration of the work that you are doing. It is scarcely credible that boys with the origins of those who come under your care should develop into such magnificent specimens of humanity as I saw.

Will you please give my thanks and warm greetings to the young friends I made on Saturday. Thank them for having shown me and my party so much of all that is done and accomplished at the farm.

Yours sincerely,

Major Willcock, D.S.O.,
Shawbridge Boys Farm,
Shawbridge, P.Q.

