

4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,

Vancouver, 8 B.C.

April 3, 1962

Dear Mr. Leeman :

I have carefully gone over the first draft of your delightful and scholarly introduction to "The Man and the Book" and have found it in general agreement with my own analysis of Democritus to the Reader. You are indeed to be congratulated on the accomplishment of so difficult and delicate a task.

In accordance with your instructions, an ancient but still critical eye has been cast over the MSS and a few alterations suggested, most of them quite minor. These are indicated by first placing a red dot • to attract attention and then writing in whatever alteration seemed to be desirable. Care has been taken to avoid damage to the MSS and a lead pencil has been used so lightly that its marks could easily be erased.

It troubles me, however, that one suggested alteration is by no means minor and that you may not approve of it. Nevertheless, my editorial conscience constrains me to bring it to your attention. So here goes: It applies to the last fifteen lines on page 7 of the MSS in which further reference is made to the remote possibility that RB committed suicide --- a topic already treated with far greater tact and sympathy on page 5. Could you find it in your heart to give RB the benefit of the doubt and to allow him to bid the potential reader farewell after his own fashion and in his own words:

" If through weakness, folly, passion, discontent, ignorance, I have said amiss, let it be forgotten and forgiven. If hereafter anatomizing this curly humour, my hand slip, I lance too deep and cut through skin and all at unawares, make it smart and cut awry, pardon a rude hand, an unskilful knife, 'tis a most difficult thing to keep an even tone, a perpetual tenor and not sometimes to lash out."

If this suggestion seems presumptuous (and I can well understand that it might be so regarded) please believe that it is well-meaning and comes from the heart of one of the

