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An Alabama Student...5.

From Dr. E. L. Trudeau to W.O.

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My dear Dr. Osler,

I want to express my thanks for the pleasure I have just had in your clear and comprehensive glance of three such different and striking lives as those of Thomas Dover, John Keats and an Alabama student. That of the Alabama student and his brave words as he neared his end touched me deeply, and I could not but feel a real regret that his letters and your interpretation of his life showed nowhere a single gleam of hope in the future "Truth" which was the only ideal he so honestly worshipped, evidently included for him nothing beyond the "demonstrable facts" of life in all their bare contradiction and cruelty. I could not help regretting that so strong and brave a spirit who peopled "that vast forever" with the spirits of martyrs for "Truth" could not have been sustained by the teachings of the greatest of all Martyrs for Truth and inspired by the ideal of self-sacrifice for others which he left to a suffering world as His legacy! Perhaps he was! At any rate, whatever a man's belief or unbelief may be, we may learn from the same source the meaning of the word Charity and as you put it in a foot-note

"God be merciful to us all".

Most sincerely,

E. L. TRUDEAU.

P.S. I enclose my pamphlet in return with regrets that it is not so interesting as yours.

E.L.T.