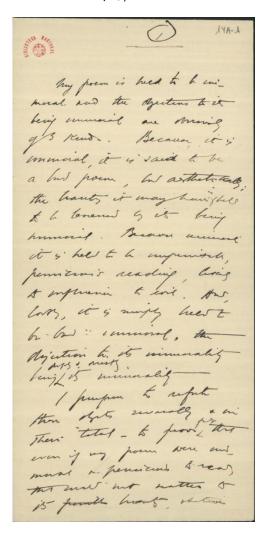
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Arquivo Virtual da Geração de Orpheu

BNP/E3, 14A - 1^r



Transcrição

My poem is held to be immoral and the objections to its being immoral are obviously of 3 kinds. Because it is immoral, it is said to be a bad poem, bad aesthetically; the beauty it may have is held to be lessened by its being immoral. Because immoral it is held to be unprintable, pernicious reading, likely to influence to evil. And, lastly, it is simply held to be bad because immoral, the objection to its immorality being simply and directly its immorality.

I propose to refute these objections severally and in their total - to prove first that even if my poem were immoral and pernicious to reading, that would not matter to its possibl beauty, whatever

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BNP/E3, 14A - 2^r

that may h; to prom, must, that ever if it won't imme it would not have any to per, long, ter it is at municif at all of the tenue of the preceding & sufficiently supply, I shall, in the while coming the argument, give the adversary ale advantage. This though 1 shall prove that my prem 5' not munal, I shall when depriving that it inmoralit " in we way affer is arthetic when, volum mein is, top end, concer to the untignes that it is numining and the 15 wohnen s' peniais. for, the I she prove the it is not spectale as a onse The content - ty is

Transcrição

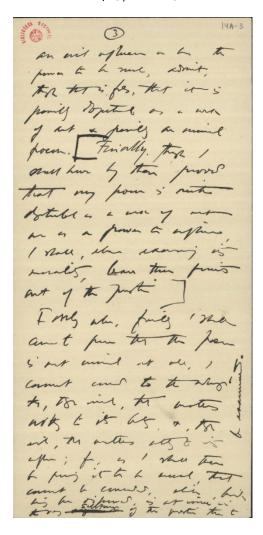
that may be; to prove, secondly, that, even if it were ugly and immoral, it would not have any pernicious influence at all; to prove, lastly, that it is not immoral at all.

As the tenor of the preceding paragraph sufficiently suggests, I shall, in the whole course of the argument, give the adversary all advantages. Thus, though I shall prove that my poem is not immoral, I shall when des proving that its "immorality" in no way affects its aesthetic value, value willingly, though angrily, concede to the antagonist that it is immoral and that its influence is pernicious. And, though I shall prove that it is not objectionable as a work of art nor immoral at all, I shall, when discussing refuting the contention that it is

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BNP/E3, 14A - 3^r



Transcrição

an evil influence or has the power to be such, admit, though that is false, that it is possibly objectionable as a work of art and possibly an immoral poem. [Finally, though I shall have by then proved that my poem is neither objectionable as a work of art or as a power to influence, I shall, when examining its morality, leave these points out of the question.]

[Only when, finally, I shall come to prove that the poem is not immoral at all, I cannot concede to the adversary that, though immoral, that matters mostly to its beauty, and, though evil, that matters mostly to its influence; for, as I shall then be proving it to be moral, that cannot be conceded, which, besides being here dispensed, is at issue in the very subject substance of the question then to be examined.



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