

Professor Philip Williams

It is a great honor to be asked to write a few words on the occasion of the retirement from Doshisha of my very close friend and honored colleague, Dr. Philip Williams. Since he is one of the best known scholars of English and American literature in Japan, he needs no commendation from me. His many books and articles, his long and dedicated service of teaching and guiding at Tohoku Gakuin University, Doshisha University, and many other universities, and his high attainments in scholarship and research are familiar to his many friends and and hundreds of former students all over the world.

Rather than comment on his many publications, I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Williams as a man. He is one of the kindest persons I have ever met. I have seen him spending hours helping a student to understand a text, to improve a paper, or to find the best materials and the best methods to do research on a subject. I have worked together with Dr. Williams in the writing of three books, and he has helped me immensely in improving and correcting my manuscript and in giving new insights into areas which were unclear to me. His helpfulness to others has been so great that I sometimes think that he has sacrificed his own work and publications by giving all his time to others. And yet his publications are truly impressive in their number and the careful scholarship and original interpretations.

We are all thankful for the great contributions which Dr. Williams has made to scholarship in Japan, and fortunately we can look forward

to even more. For although Dr. Williams is retiring as a full-time Professor of Doshisha University, he will continue to teach and write here and elsewhere. I am reminded of Tennyson's "Ulysses" in which the hero, though he had labored long and achieved many honors, was not willing to take his well-earned rest. "How dull it is to pause, to make an end,/To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use!" he said. "Some work of noble note, may yet be done . . . 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

And so our honored friend and colleague is not ending his work and leaving us, but going on to other work in other fields. We do not bid him, "Good-night" as the curtain falls, but "Godspeed!" as he goes on to welcome another dawn.

B. D. Tucker