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OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI Trappist-Cistercian Abbey TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

April 16th 1951

Dear Mr Thompson-

Many thanks for the conference on Schopenhauer which I have read with great interest-- the more so because you touch on some of the fundamental questions that occupy me in the book Ascent to Truth. This business of a fusion of intellectualism and "voluntarism" in the greatest minds is extremely important. The superficial rationalism of the "age of enlightenment" does not really deserve to be called "intellectual" -- any more than decadent scholasticism. At the same time, our Schopenhauer and his "will" leads, through Nietzsche to Hitler... Although I am sure Schopenhauer never foresaw Hitler. Personally I think St Augustine had more of both sides than is generally thought. So at

did St Paul. But above all I have found, in working on the new book, that St John of the Cross-- a mystic more perfectly developed than any I ever heard of-- places a tremendous emphasis on reason and intelligence. This is due to his dependence on St Thomas Aquinas, who himself was also a mystic. Really, it seems to me more and more apparent that St Thomas holds the key to all our problems.

I shall keep your article on file. It will remain for me a point of reference in the confusion of nineteenth century thought which is to me personally a wilderness. You certainly have courage to come out for Schopenhauer when the fashionable man (may God forgive us) is Hegel. My progress with your delightful Kentucky books is slow-- you understand how little time I have for "light reading". But I mean to take advantage of your offer of more, in due time. God bless you always.

Sincerely in Christ

*J. M. Lewis.*