29th April, 1957.

My dear David,

I never had any doubt that in your review in Endeavour (I am sorry that Discovery was put in in error, though I do not think that can have misled you) you had praised and buttered me far beyond my worth. The rather acrid sting in the tail was the more striking and emphatic for this circumstance. It caught me by surprise and I therefore wrote to enquire what its intention was. You put up a man of straw in saying that you had a right and duty to express your genuine opinion. Really nothing in my letter could have suggested otherwise, and it is something of a blow that your genuine opinion should seem to imply such grave temperamental weaknesses as marring what I have been able to offer in the book. I do not think I made any personal criticism of Neyman at all, but exhibit his ideas with the reasonable expectation that those who understand them will reject them.

I wish you had, as you say in your letter, mentioned what seemed to you one or two unfortunate comments on other people, for then I should know which particular few remarks you thought were unfortunate, and I am in the habit of respecting your
opinion and should certainly not have regarded it as impertinence if it had occurred to you to give a hint for the guidance of the author. In fact that was the most sensible interpretation I could put on the last words of your notice, for I do not think it helps to guide the reader; but you merely say that certain personal comments mar the book, i.e. I suppose diminish materially the pleasure or utility to be gained from it.

Your last letter, for which I greatly thank you, is of course infinitely courteous and friendly but does not get very near the particular questions which I should like you to ask yourself.

Sincerely yours,