

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO ASSIST AND ENCOURAGE EDUCATION?

We are often asked: "Why is it necessary to assist and encourage colored boys and colored girls in securing an education when all the schools, high, normal and technical schools are open to them without charge, as they are to all other children?"

To answer this question requires a series of answers. In the first place it is highly necessary that we awaken a desire for an education on the part of our children for the reason, from the very nature of things in this country, there seems to be no special reason why they SHOULD educate themselves. Because there have been some who have prepared themselves, through education, but who were forced to accept manual position or else go to the United States to find positions more in keeping with their training. This, of course, is true in many cases of other races but it is about 100 per cent. true in cases of colored youths. It is a difficult problem to have them believe that they should educate themselves, not so much to secure better positions, but in order to become well-balanced, well rounded and more useful citizens. It is somewhat difficult to have them see that an educated citizen is capable of being a far more useful citizen than an uneducated one although both may be engaged in digging ditches.

However, such is our mission. We are finding specially talented boys and girls here, there and everywhere. We are urging upon them to cultivate such talents. We are holding out to them future hope of better days, better things. We are telling them that education will find a better way or make a better way. We appeal to their sense of patriotism as well as to their race pride. We remind them of the fact that we are all anxious to see our dear old Canada one of the grandest countries on which the sun shines or the moon sets and in order to make it so all citizens, every one of us, from the most high to the most lowly, must do his share. There can be no backward classes no uneducated class, but there must be a common and intelligent ideal which calls for intelligent striving on the part all.

Our reason for giving financial aid to deserving and talented youths arises from several causes. In the first place the average earning capacity

of our family man is small, much smaller than that of the average white man. Where there are three or four children in a family it takes all the father's small earning to supply bodily necessities, fuel and to keep up his payments on his small home. After this, although, our educational system is free, there is little left to supply extra clothing, books, care fare and so forth for the children of school age. The tendency is, therefore, to send the children out to work just about as soon as they are big enough to go to work in order that they may add to the family budget. If course we understand that the same condition exist to some extent among SOME white families but they are the RULE among our own people. For, except in but few cases the best paying positions are not open to our people. And so in order to keep our children at home, in order that there shall be no talent lost which will serve to make our country a better and grander place in which to live, The Canadian League for the Advancement of Colored People has decided, so far as in its power lies, to open the doors of opportunity to deserving colored youths where otherwise it would ever remain closed.

Philosophy in a Wood Lot

The former writing, Oh my friend, was made to enlighten thee as to the manner of my discomfiture of a certain ill-begotten bird, to wit a crow.

Knowing thee to be one zealous in learning the better wisdom of thine elders, I venture to set forth a subsequent matter which has befallen me, trusting thy edification will be my reward.

Know then, that after that singular controversy with the mis-informed crow I bethought me of adding to this experience other like adventure, but could not come by an occasion to compass this result, the reason being of such household duties thrust upon me by my excellent, but at times distressfully zealous housewife, as to frustrate my carefully laid plans. Indeed I think it quite singular, the capacity aptitude of the feminine mind to contrive trivial occupations for a man, occupation of no particular import when examined, but nevertheless of some embarrassment in the aggregate to the contemplative temperament. However as the supply of wood billets was somewhat depleted, I made bold to suggest a visit to the wood lot, to be in the interest of the household, to replenish the supply, and was much pleased to be commended for this thrifty thought.

So then perceive me with our domestic animal securely attached to a suitable vehicle, with certain other preparations duly made, and further furnished with a hamper of delectable edibles to refresh the jaded body, wending my way to the scene of my former adventure.

The merry tinkle of the bells sat sweetly upon the ear, as full breakfasted, content of spirit, I guided the trusty steed toward some new and noble enterprise.

In such knightly spirit we came presently to the wood. Here duly entered I looked eargerly around, if perchance I might glimpse that bird we wot of. Not perceiving which, al-

though I called loudly, and in so insolent tones as I deemed compatible with our diverse stations in life, I finally turned me diligently to my domestic errand and lustily swinging my axe, sank the good blade thereon, eye deep into a log which I judged suitable to my purpose. Whereupon to my great surprise from thence on a sudden, darted a furry fury, of no great dimensions to be sure, but seemingly magnified by indignation.

His grey coat and bushy tail, which was agitated to a most extraordinary extent, while he at the same time kept up an interminable chattering, gave me to understand he was of the species of squirrel common to our latitude.

"Nuts and shells! tail of a pig!" I finally made out he was saying. "Truly thou art as great an ass as our theiving uncle, the crow, called thee but yesterweek." "Ha" cried I much astonished, but keeping my admirable poise of mind, "You then heard and gathered the sense of that discourse." "I heard," said the squirrel, pert enough, "but as to the sense, in a sentence, the only sense I was sensible of was that the crow, who is, in a sense a liar, truly called you an ass." "Beshrew me, little one," I replied soothingly, "I had no thought of disturbing your home, I did but think to get me wood for the house fire." "And who gave you the wood, thou worm in a nut," said he, "this log be mine and all it holds."

Now holding as I do strong views on the rights of property, I set myself to discuss the matter in a seemly manner, and also unpacked my hamper for refreshment, though to be sure it was not long since breakfast. "You should know," I began, "this wood is held by me in freem hold, being bartered for good coin of the realm from one Jobes Whitfold as can be easily proven." Upon this the squirrel seemed to take a greater interest, eying me and my basket very closely as he replied, "Thou and other two legs like thee, would own the earth, yet thou made neither trees, sky, waters or aught else.

Thou canst neither fly, jump, nor run; thy skin will neither keep out wet, cold nor heat, and I am told even thy teeth and eyes are made for thee, In the wood thou art altogether helpless; in the water you drown, truly you are conquerors indeed. Why look you," and he drew closer, "your young are the worst trained of all animals; one third of ye all work that one third who cannot work, and other third that will not work, may eat, Lords are ye of noise and smoke and stench, of work houses of mad-houses of sick houses and bad-houses. One could laugh."

Whereupon I took it on me to correct such false ideas and did so at some length pointing out the superior being of man in a fitting manner and being at length completed, turned me about to refresh me with the toothsome dainties of my basket, and was chagrined to find that the ungrateful squirrel had completely carried off, my store, leaving no whit behind to stay my hunger.

So being justly indignant I vented my spleen on that same log in which was his store of nuts, but found of them no trace whatever, getting only for my pains, somewhat indifferent wood for my fire.

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