

PROSE and CON

BY J. D. CASTELL

The Satantis Theme in Literature and Arts

Of Frosh's first disobedience, and the copying of themes whose mortal pleasure brought failure into the English 1 Class, and all our woe, with loss of first class marks, till one great Freshman regain the blissful seat, sing, Literate Muse. Chiefly thou, O English 2 Professor, that dost prefer before all themes the upright heart and pure, instruct me, for thou know'st; thou from first wast present, and, with mighty armes out-spread, dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast College Campus; what is dark in me illumine, what is low raise and support; that, to the height of this great argument I may assert Eternal Providence, and justify the ways of the Head of the English Department to students.

Say first — for English 2 hides nothing from thy view, nor the deep tracts of Engineering — say first what caused our predecessors, in that happy state, favoured of Literature so highly, to fall off from their professor, and transgress his will for one restraint, head students in the class besides. Who first seduced them to that foul revolt?

The infernal Cheater; he it was whose guile, stirred up with envy and revenge, deceived the first freshette, what time his pride cast him out from English 2, with all his host of rebel Sophomores, by whose aid, aspiring to set himself in glory above his peers, he trusted to have equalled the Most High, if he opposed, and with ambitious aim against desk and classroom of Professor Godly, raised impious argument in English 2 and holler loud, with vain attempt. Him the Almighty Power hurled headlong flunking from the Faculty of Arts, to endless Engineering, there to study in adamantine mathematics and penal science, who durst defy, the Professor in studies.

Of the creation of English 1, now sing, Knowing Muse, and the one order given to the first freshman, Adam, and his sweetheart, Eve. English 2 opened wide her gates, harmonious sound on metallic hinges moving, to let forth Professor Godly, in his powerful Word and Spirit coming to create new classes.

"Let there be a classroom!" said Godly; and forthwith a classroom, first of things, sprung from the Campus. Godly saw the classroom was good.

Again Godly said, "Let there be desks throughout the room, and let the rows divide the space equally!" and Godly bought desks of solid wood pure and sturdy built to withstand much strain.

The class was formed, but in the room as yet, students immature, appeared not; when Godly said, "Be gathered now, ye workmen in this place, and bring a blackboard here!" Immediately the men huge appear, and on their broad bare backs carry the blackboard into the room. And he saw that it was good, and said, "Let bookstoreman put forth the textbooks, scribblers, pencils, and pens!" He scarce had said when the bare shop, till then desert and bare, unsightly, unadorned contained books of many colours filled with poetry and prose.

Six days and six nights did Godly work and strive. The sixth, and of creation last, arose with evening harps and matins; when Godly said, "Let the enrolment bring forth average students, and creeping things, and students of the class, each in their kind!" The registrar obeyed, and,

straight opening her bountious doors, teemed at a birth innumerable living creatures, perfect forms, limed and full-grown. There wanted yet a master-work, the end of all yet done — a student who, not prone and idle as other students, but endured with sanctity of reason, might lead the class and perfect themes write. This lack did Godly fill with Adam a student who in intelligence did resemble the Professor. From Adam's High School Godly also brought Eve, great in intelligence, though not equal to her sweetheart, the great Freshman. To the two the professor gave but one command, "Be honest in your themes; do not copy"

Woe to the students of English 1! For now Satan, now first inflamed with rage, came down, the tempter, ere the accuser, of Freshmen, to wreak on innocent frail Freshmen his loss of that first exam, and his flight to Engineering. Now Conscience wakes Despair that slumbered; wakes the bitter memory of what he was, what is, and what must be worse; of worse deeds worse suffering ensue, so on he fares, and to the door of English 1 comes.

I now must change to tragic notes — foul distrust, and breach disloyal, on the part of freshman revolt and disobedience; on the part of the English Department, now aliented, distance and distaste, anger and just rebuke, and judgement given, that brought into this class of woe, Wrong Answers and her shadow Failure, and Misery, Failure's harbinger.

Eve first to her sweettart thus began: — "Let us divide our studies — thou where choice leads thee, or where most needs, whether to read of Wordsworth, or of Charles Lamb; while I in the Library look up information for my theme on Modern Poetry."

To whom mild answer Adam thus returned: — "Sole Eve, associate sole, to me beyond all compare above all living creatures dear! Well hast thou mentioned, well thy thoughts employed how we might best fulfill the work which here Godly hath assigned us. Go in thy native innocence; rely on what thou hast of virtue; summon all; for Godly in giving one command has done his part; do thine."

This said, from her sweetheart's hand her hand she soft withdrew. O much deceived, much failing, helpless Eve, of thy presumed return event perverse! Thou never from that hour in English 1 found'st either sweet reaps or sound repose: such ambush, hid among the bookshelves, waited, with hellish rancour imminent, to intercept thy way, or send thee back despoiled of innocence, of faith, of bliss. The corrupt Fiend and Tempter with eloquent words and fiery argument convinced innocent Eve that she could best marks obtain in her theme, if she word for word would copy from a reference book.

Eve with countenance blithe to Adam her story told; but in her cheek distempir flushing glowed. On the other side, Adam, soon as he heard the fatal transgress done by Eve, amazed, astonished stood and blank, while horror chill ran through his veins, and all his joints relaxed. Speechless he stood and pale, till thus at length he silence broke: —

"How art thou lost! how hast thou yielded to transgress the one act forbidden? Some cursed fraud of enemy hath beguiled thee, yet with thee certain my resolution is to fail. How can I pass without thee; how forgo thy sweet converse, and love so dearly joinfed?"

But when the marks were read, to Eve did Adam give sole blame for their fall from top position in English 1. Eve him blamed equally. Thus they in mutual accusation spent the fruitless hours, but neither self-condemning; and of their vain contest appeared no end.

PETER HAYDEN'S OPINION

This article is a comment on and extension of a recent article in the **Canadian Commentator** by J. C. Lewis entitled "Jim Crow in Prince Edward Island". The article was directed against the rejecting of a negro doctor and his wife from a tourist resort in Prince Edward Island. The author criticizes Premier Shaw for saying that discrimination will not be allowed in P. E. I. when Shaw has no legal power to prevent the practice of racial discrimination at hotels or tourist resorts in the Province.

The author also criticizes Colonel J. D. Stewart, P. E. I. Minister of Tourist Development, for accusing the Thompson press of furnishing details of the discrimination incident to the Canadian Press and thus giving the P. E. I. tourist industry bad publicity. The question is posed whether or not Colonel Stewart prefers a snobish racial policy which will bring business to the island's tourist industry.

Colonel Stewart was trying to do what most Canadian politicians do when they are faced with this question to deny the existence of discrimination other than in isolated incidents while at the same time refusing to do anything about the wide-spread discrimination which is known to exist in many areas.

In fact, the operator of the resort concerned admitted that he not only turned down Negroes but others as well because he had almost ruined his business by accepting such guests some years previously. And to be realistic it cannot be denied that many tourist resorts would lose much business if they began to accept certain races as customers.

This points towards the real problem which is that many Canadians, perhaps a majority, are not yet ready to accept the Negroes as equals when it comes to actually patronizing a tourist resort which caters to other races. And no-one would deny the legal right of any citizen to refuse to patronize a business establishment which caters to any person of whom that citizen does not approve, for whatever reason. However, one may deprecate such behaviour on moral grounds.

We have three conditions bearing on the problem. The resort operator desires to make a profit and to do so he must attract the highest number of customers possible. The citizen wants to appear non-discriminatory but is unwilling to go to the extent of associating with persons of other races to achieve this appearance. The politician, in reflecting the views of his constituents, attempts to maintain appearance of non-discrimination but is forced to attempt to rationalize the inconsistency in the attitude of his constituents, and can not do so.

As a result of this inconsistency either the Negro must suffer by being turned away from the resort or the resort operator must suffer through loss of business if he is forced to accept a Negro guest.

It can be speculated that if the non discrimination laws of the provinces and the Canadian Bill of Rights were strictly enforced all tourist resorts, and other establishments prone to this type of discrimination, would be at the same disadvantage and thus none would benefit from discrimination. This is unlikely because strict enforcement is very difficult since it requires the cooperation of local officials who have been neglectful in bringing actions in this area in the past. Secondly, in the tourist industry, many American and Canadian persons who now patronize Canadian resorts would patronize American resorts where similar discriminating policies are in effect.

The problem that we are faced with is whether Canadians and their political representatives will have the guts to take a stand for or against discrimination of this type. To retain a policy of attempting to appear non-discriminatory when in fact we are so, will not only make us look foolish but will increase the likelihood of our dealings in the future with serious issues by pretending there are no issues.