MARCH 15, 1966

400 years later Shakespeare, Comedy and Twelfth Night

BOOK DATA ?

By DAVID PIGOT

TWELFTH NIGHT AND SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDY by Clifford Leech. University of Toronto Press, 1965. 88 pp., \$3.50

(This book consists of the three lectures given at the Neptune Theatre last summer by Prof. Clifford Leech as part of the programme arranged by Dalhousie and Neptune to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of Shakespeare.)

I have often felt that a man Apart from the fact that the nadoes himself a disservice by ture of the expertise, of the ted to closer scrutiny in print. For obvious reasons a lecture will exhibit a certain diffuseness, and make less intellectual demands than material intended for reading.

It is impossible to say how reworked these lectures for pubto be, they make very suitable contributions to Shakespearean scholarship. Somehow we expect more from the printed word; we expect new ground to be broken, or at least, a fresh approach to old topics. It is not easy to know, therefore, exactly what standards of judgement should be applied to this publication.

As his title implies, Twelfth Night gets the most attention in these lectures presumably because that play current at the Prof. Leech's visit to Halifax. His view of the play seems to be that it does not contain a great deal of laughter; instead, it offers "delight" which, ac-cording to Sir Philip Sidney, is preferable: "Delight hath a joy in it; Laughter hath only a scornful tickling."

We rejoice or delight in the gracefulness of the spectacle. "And yet", warns Leech, "the idea of such a comedy brings with it a necessary doubt." Then follows this assertion: "The more expertly the dramatist writes, the more difficult it is to prevent our mental reservations from getting in the way of a full response to the comedy." I quote this passage for two reasons: It points, in Prof. Leech's view, to an important aspect of the play -- the dramatist's own dubiety; but also, it represents for me a type of statement fairly typical in these lectures. It sits on the brink of significance; as part of the fleeting elements of a lecture, it hints at meaning, but it seems

having his spoken word commit- reservations, and of the expectlong, not to Shakespeare's delighted audience, but to the 'dubmuch, if any, Prof. Leech has Perhaps there is a trace of irony coming to age, of discarding

here: does this publication tempt lication, but the plaintruth seems us to criticize Prof. Leech's performance using a standard by lectures, but are rather thin as which the lectures were not created?

The view of Troilus and Cress- in A Winter's Tale. ida is especially interesting and

refreshing in the face of repeated, laborious critical articles examining the work as a 'problem' play, or dismissing it as a disunified miscarriage of genius. clever statement on the nature of Time. "Time will destroy all other is an unwillingness to rethings -- the love of two young sist snide remarks about other people, the city of Troy, even the lives of Troy's conquerors." Troilus is in the unenviable position of cherishing unchanging

ideals in a world in which change is fundamental. Prof. Leech has a valuable donation to make to the "We should have an easier world if we could equate love and fidelity.

cussed together with A Winter's Tale in the third lecture. This is an interesting and justifiable linking: they are both, in their

own way, statements on Time and these plays are forms of comedy "where the notion of 'delight'

He emphasizes that the play "implies a need for the application of Art to the general conduct of across Canada.

life" -- a rather vague concept which he does spend time explaining, but he seems to miss the opportunity of drawing valu-

able parallels with Troilus and Cressida, and of making more pertinent observations concerning the play and its theme of Time. There is much to be said about the effect of Time on Leontes. ed, response, is misty and fluc- on the nature of change in the tuating, there is the hint here love of Leontes for Polixenes, -- as elsewhere in the book -- the necessity of the much-crithat the mental reservations be- tisized sixteen-year gap'' in the long, not to Shakespeare's de- play, and so on. There is a beautiful statement implicit in the play iety' of his academic critics. about the necessity of a youth the pure boyhood loves for the love of woman. The impersonal laws of mutability attack the state of innocence, and replace

that innocence with a capacity Nevertheless, there are many for evil as well as for the posfine observations in these lec- sibility of greater bliss. Milton tures. While they are hardly new knew this theme -- it is one of and startling, they provide stim- the great topics of literature, ulating and sound interpretation. and receives superb expression

There are at least two signs of the academic times in these lectures which could with profit be avoided. One is the tendency to pigeon-hole for easier identi-Neptune Theatre at the time of Prof. Leech sees the play as a fication -- "the comedy offestival", "plays of exclusion"; the

> critics. Prof. Leech shows little charity towards Leslie Hotson,

who has brought considerable new life and interest -- as well as sound, scholastic comment -to subjects and events long covereternal debate over the character ed with pedantic dust. Even if of Cressida: she expresses her Hotson's enthusiasm does somelove for the Troilus she will de- times lead him into untenable ceive; that it does not last, does positions, Prof. Leech does not mean that the love is false. neither himself nor Dr. Hotson justice by saying things like, "Dr. Hotson's laughter (over Twelfth Night) is altogether too ready.

Troilus and Cressida is dis- He is anxious not to miss a single joke, and we may feel that he misses almost everything else."

In all, these lectures make pleasant enough reading and raise Love. Prof. Leech's opinion that some stimulating if not profound questions about Shakespearian comedy. I do not believe that Prof. is no longer dominant" seems to Leech will claim that they conbe a point capable of debate, stitute a valuable contribution to as is his claim that, in both Shakespeare criticism; on the it hints at meaning, but it seems of these plays, Shakespeare ach- other hand, he need not disown unfit to withstand re-readings. ieves "full mastery of his aim." them as capable lectures.

Hamilton -- "Don't throw ency," he said. Canada into the melting pot and

nomic integration with the United ate governments." States is in Canada's interest," replacing Model Parliament, last month.

speakers both concentrated on abolishing tariffs as a means of revitalising Canadian industry. Prime Minister Dave Woolford said North America as a whole would be a more viable economic unit than Canada alone.

"You are being taxed for patriotism. Our industries have too

for a Nation has stirred debates as the Canada Pension Plan and to save a Canadian identity. are only an incentive to ineffici-

Opposition Leader Chuck blend it with the so-called 'Great Donley said research, unions, and Society', pleaded the Tories at the industry would be dominated by McMaster Debating Union. the States. "We have two separ-The resolution, "That eco- ate societies, we need two separ-

The second Tory speaker said was defeated by an audience vote he feared the political influence in the first of a series of debates of right-wing extremism and anti-socialism could make Canadians "parrots of American

The Liberal Government policy." Deakers both concentrated on TORONTO -- "No Canadian would spend one Hershey Bar a week to save Canada," Hugh Innis, head of Ryerson's social science department has told students. Debating in favor of contin-

ental union with the United States. Mr. Innis said pursuit of Canmany different products, and too adian nationalism was "friv-

George Grant's book Lament economic. Tariffs cost as much and the Canada Council wanted turous." Canada should remain anglosaxonism, a lack of re-

Massey said Canada's search for American, but took the best fron makes a poor critic. each,

gas and no brakes."

"America as a continental

as a check and friendly critic on sponse between French and En-Nationalist proponent Hector American action, Massey argued. glish, and a lack of mobility for In rebuttal, Innis cited Canada's minority groups." He also said a personality throughout its his- inaction on the Vietnam conflict Canada lacks "an adventurous tory had produced a Canada which to show that a country which sits economic policy to develop the was neither English nor back and doesn't contribute country. Too many people use

Canada's personality, he said, a better critic of American policy is cautious, slow, but experi- than Canada, said Innis. "We are running the country. What we need mental. "We don't have to be all a Canadian body with an American is more new blood ... like that soul." Massey countered that Massey.

government for their own ends

Any state in the Union would be not for a Canadian entity." "We have too many old men coming from Quebec," said

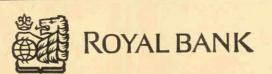


ALWAYS **REMEMBER**

SPORTSWEAR

Certificate of Eligibility to the bank branch of his (or her) choice. Royal Bank, with over 1000 branches across Canada, offers you convenient service combined with practical counsel. Visit your nearest branch.

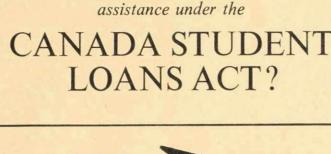
Under this Act, each qualifying student may present a





THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE





Are you a candidate for



423-7600

OPPORTUNITIES and CAREERS

Summer Position in Public

Half-price to college students and feaculty: the newspaper that newspaper people read. . .

At last count, we had more than 3,800 newspaper editors on our list of subscribers to The Christian Science Monitor. Editors from all over the world.

There is a good reason why these "pros" read the Monitor: the Monitor is the world's only daily international newspaper. Unlike local papers, the Monitor focuses exclusively on world news - the important news.

The Monitor selects the news it considers most significant and reports it, interprets it, analyzes it — in depth. It takes you further into the news than any local paper can.

If this is the kind of paper you would like to be reading, we will send it to you right away at half the regular price of \$24.00 a year.

Clip the coupon. Find out why newspapermen themselves read the Monitor — and why they invariably name it as one of the five best papers in the world.

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE	MONITOR
FOCUS I.S. goals: Where and beau?	
The Christian Science Monitor	

Please enter a Monitor I am enclosing \$	 an, Massachusetts 02115 subscription for the name below. (U. S. funds) for the period 9 months \$9 □ 6 months \$6
Name Street	Apt./Rm. #
	State Zip Year of graduation P-CN-65

Relations and Sales Promotion

for Female

Age 21 - 24

Must be Resident of Maritimes

Desirable summer job open for May, June, July for personable, attractive girl, to travel the Maritimes for major company. Entails demonstrating and modelling new line of fashions to public. Candidates must be dress size 10 or 12, medium height and bilingual if possible. Should have flair for modelling or experience in dramatics, possess a warm outgoing personality and be able to converse comfortably and intellingently with people.

Salary \$75 weekly, plus expenses while travelling throughout Atlantic Provinces and car supplied.

Reply in first instance with history of self and what you feel qualifies you to fill this position. Include two photos, one full length and one head and shoulders, to: University Placement Officer or your nearest NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE.

Better worlds don't just happen. They're made.

tter worlds. The kind 've come to know. he kind it takes hard work to make. The kind some people in this country may never experience. They're the kind of worlds that are made. They don't just happen.



That's why The Company of Young Canadians was formed. They are joining The Company of Young Canadians s formed to help make a better world. other Canadians doing what they can to make that better world. You can have that same opportunity.

The Government of Canada has announced to Parliament its intention of introducing legislation giving formal approval to the name and structure of The Company of Young Canadians.

You can start by working right here in Canada. It's work that's not easily accomplished. The steps are slow and faltering. The goal sometimes will seem impossible to reach. But it's there, and the effort is worth every scrap of energy available to achieve it for Canada.

enough to help.

Good old prosperous Canada. How would you feel if you were hearing about the "good times" and that "things have never been better" and you're wondering what you're going to eat? Or what your kids are going to wear? Or what will keep the place you live in warm this winter? How would you feel?

It's this kind of thing that we're work-ing to alleviate. It's this kind of thing that makes you realize that being in The Company of Young Canadians is no two year fling with a picnic hamper and a few relief items. It's 730 days of someone else's life.

It's tough. You'll face problems you've never faced before. There's absolutely no money in it for you. You'll make maybe a couple of dollars a day and survive if all goes well. You might end up some place near the Arctic Circle, in one of the bigger Canadian cities, or in some other area where there is a strong need for help. But no matter wherever you are you will learn about yourself and from the people about you.

What kind of person do you have to be to join The Company of Young Ca-nadians? You have to be young. Not so much young physically, but young in spirit and attitude. You have to have initiative. You have to be dedicated to a purpose. Most of all, you have to care.

You also have to qualify. You must be over 18 years of age and be willing to give two years of your life with a minimum of financial return. You might be a carpenter, a secretary, a teacher, a mason, a a day. nurse, a plumber, a doctor, a gymnastic instructor, or anyone who can work well with people.



There's a simple way to find out more about The Company of Young Canadians. Write to us and we'll send you our booklets and brochures. Then you spend some time thinking it over. And when you do, remember, better worlds don't just happen, they're made. By you

Further information can be obtained from The Company of Young Canadians P.O. Box 1520 Ottawa, 4, or any local office of the National Employment Service.

THE COMPANY OF YOUNG CANADIANS Better worlds don't just happen. They're made.