

Dawn of Tomorrow

Published in the interests of and for the Advancement of the colored people of Canada.

J. F. JENKINS—
Telephone Metcalf 6860-w
95 Glenwood Ave., London
E. C. Jenkins, Advertising Manager

Subscription Rates

One year\$2.00
Six months 1.25
Three months75
Single Copy05

The Dawn of Tomorrow Publishing Co.

**CULTURE: A REAL DIAMOND,
NEVER HAS TO FORCE ITSELF
TO SPARKLE**

by LANGSTON HUGHES

I don't think real culture is very much concerned with appearing to be culture. Some of the most learned people I have ever met did not wear their knowledge on their sleeves. Truly smart people do not have to act smart nor waste time convincing others of their intelligence.

When you meet somebody who immediately tries to impress you with his brilliance, you can just about be sure he is not very brilliant. A real diamond never has to force itself to speak. Only fake diamonds need to be turned this way and that to snatch a little light from without in order to shine within.

True culture does not depend, as a great many people seem to believe, on college degrees. Thousands of Americans have been through college, yet have no more culture than a dog. In fact, many have not as much, because a dog makes no distinction as to color, for example. But there are Princeton and even Harvard men who do not know how to behave decently toward a Negro or a Mexican or a Jew. Even with Ph.D.s such men could hardly be called cultured. Even with Dr. in front of their names, they are no cure for anything that ails humanity.

Pseudo-culture, however, is not limited to the white race. Dan Burley's Dr. Theodore Bill-Dog with his big car and large income from poor patients, putting on the Ritz in Tulsa, Okla., or Buffalo, N.Y., but not really knowing how to behave decently to a cat, being snobbish and ultra-conservative in a world moving steadily toward greater democracy everywhere, is not a cultured man. For Negroes to ape all the nouveau riche vices of wealthy whites, shows no signs of true culture at all.

A cultured man may have ever so much learning, but he does not lord it over persons who have less learning than he. A genuinely learned man does not use his learning to humiliate others or to put anybody "in his place." Culture, in the great and good sense that gives the word its dignity and respect, means using knowledge for the well-being and happiness and decency of mankind.

It does not mean using what knowledge one may acquire through good fortune, money, or college, to low-rate and look down upon others. The people looked down upon are the foundations of culture, anyhow. The millions who do the ordinary work of the world are the ones who support culture. They are the base of civilization's pyramid.

Without the Toms, Dicks, and Harrys of the work-a-day world, whose dollars and dimes pay the doctors and lawyers whose incomes permit them time and study to "pursue" culture, where would the refined and learned folks of this world be? They would be working for small salaries, too, and would remain as unlearned as the rest of us. So it ill behooves any of us to scorn the rest of us who may not be too clear about who Stravinski is, or Jean Paul Sartre.

Not everybody can afford to subscribe to the "Atlantic Monthly" or buy the latest books at three to five dollars each.

It's too bad colleges do not teach young people from non-intellectual homes that politeness is also a part of culture, and that parents who did not have an educational chance, but nevertheless made sacrifices to see that such a chance is given their children, deserve more than scornful toleration when the children come home full of book-learning—but too often, regrettably, no sense.

It is too bad more colleges do not teach good common sense and simple common sense. It is not intelligent to think that because one knows a little, one knows enough to look down one's nose at persons who may know less. In knowing less but better, sometimes folks who know the least are wisest after all.

LONDON NOTES

On Saturday, July 16th, Mr. Frank Howson and Mr. Jack Davis celebrated their birthdays, at a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howson. Mr. Howson and Mr. Davis throughout the last four years have made this celebration an annual event. Tables were set upon the lawn, illuminated by gay coloured lights. A delightful lunch was served. The evening was spent in sing songs. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Davis and family from Toronto; Mrs. Mallot from Brantford, Mrs. Parker from Toronto and many others.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Fisher and family from Inkster, Mich. visited with Mr. and Mrs. W. Berry and family for a few days.

On June 24th the young people of the B.M.E. Church took their choir and a host of entertainers to put on a programme at the 13th Concession Church. Among the entertainers were the Heavenly Choir Quartette; Hawaiian Quartette pupils of Miss E. Hill Adams, soloists Mr. Van William of Detroit who gave some splendid readings. Mr. Henry Edwards played a piano solo. Mrs. Rumble of Wellington United Church also gave some amusing readings. Mr. Frank Howson did a capable job as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Among the Londoners who attended the B.M.E. Annual Conference, which was a profitable one both spiritually and executive, at Brantford, were: Mrs. H. Fountain, Mrs. M. Harris, Mrs. E. Brooks, Mrs. B. Fountain, Mrs. W. Mallot, Mrs. G. Coursey, Mrs. H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. B. Corray, Mrs. M. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. F. Howson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Louis; Misses Betty, Alethia and Elinor Mallot, Elinora Groat, Dorena Butler, Dorothy Fountain, Marion Jenkins.

On July 1st the Young People of the B.M.E. Church spent a very enjoyable day at Port Stanley where they held their closing picnic for the season.

Miss Marilyn McCurdy, Windsor, has been the guest of Mrs. Pearl Brown, 711 William St., London for the past few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson of London visited friends in Brantford over the week end.

We are sorry to hear of the illness of Miss June Anderson and her smaller brother Stephen. Both children are in Victoria Hospital. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Moxley are spending their vacation visiting friends and relatives in Toronto.

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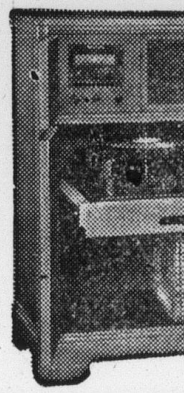
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