

ENGLISH OR DOG-LATIN?

BY JUSTIN PASSER

Two Languages, "Aggie" and English, Are Contrasted, and "Aggie" Suffers A Handicap

What do you write, English or Or do you write? What do you speak, English or Aggie? Or do you know? A sophomore (here) writes **this**:

THE PAGEANT OF PRIDE

The pageant of pride was the six deadly sins with the devil and Duessa on the wagon. The first was idleness upon an ass, which represents laziness and lack of energy. Gluttony upon a swine which represents fiith and greediness. Leachery upon a wolf represents sneaking and loathsome ways of doing things. Aves on a Camel which represents greed of money or a miser.

Another bursts forth in the flower of genius:

THE PAGEANT OF PRIDE

The Characters of the Pageant

First came Idolness on an ass leading the procession; Second came Gulutery on a swine, he was very fat and displeasing looking; third came Letchery on a goat, had red eyes was not the sort of man you would think a woman would fall far; fourth came a Miser on a Cammel, he had gold in great bags and never spent any of it; fifth came Envy on a Wolf, the wolf was chewing a frog and green blood was running from his mouth, he was glad to see people sorry, and sorry to see them glad; and Six came Rath on a lion who was roaring & foaming at the mouth.

And still another:

AMERICAN SCHOOLS

America has set the world on wheels. She has made more progress in her short life than any other country. Just a few years back America was one of the wild countries of the world. The white man said he came for freedom. He cleared the land, built cities, factories, railroads, highways, and many other thing a importance. Now they say they want the freedom they had a hundred or a hundred and fifty years ago, which is imposible. America can never be as free as she was fifty years back.

American school have pushed her this far and wil cintinue to push her forward. It is true, America has the most compleat network of schools and holds second place in extension service. The sun never sets on American research. She has men all over the world looking for something to improve their country. Men are in North Africa now looking for the reason why grass makes the cattle fat there and not here. These men could not do this work if there were no schools to tran them.

Could America improve her schools? If she would follow some of the Danish ideas, which we know, she may make much more headway than before.

In spite of himself, this last fellow raises a worthwhile question: "Could America improve her schools? If she would follow some of the Danish ideas, which we

know, she may make much more headway than before."

"—, she may make much more headway than before"—that sounds rational, common-sense. Undoubtedly it is true.

But I doubt if the Danish school system, applied here, could prove sufficient remedy. English, spoken or written, is a **habit**, seldom altered in form by classroom drill. It is schooled in the main by environment excepting that of professional writers and speakers, of course.

We write and speak "Aggie"—instead of English—unconsciously. We do not substitute "if I was" for "if I were" because we think it sounds better, or even because we are afraid we'll sound snobbish, but mainly because we do not hear "if I were" anymore. We come on the A and M campus, and we learn a new language—in the same manner we first learned how to talk when we were babies.

We spend three hours a week learning English in the classroom, and sixteen hours a day learning "Aggie" in the dormitories. No wonder our professors fight a losing battle! It's a wonder some don't talk "Aggie" themselves (**Be honest, Passer a lot of them do!**).

Well, now, by talking this way, are we cheating ourselves out of more than a good English grade?

Yes! we are. We are doing nothing more or less than turning a can of **polish** remover upside down over our heads, and letting the liquid drench us from head to foot.

Well—maybe there is no use in being polished anyway.

Oh, yes there is! First there is your intellectual self-respect to consider. Oh, you don't care about that? Well—let's see—

Why do you shave? Why do you have your trousers pressed? Your shoes shined, and so on?

Oh, you want to look good? Why?

Aha, I see now. For a moment you had me stumped. You fix yourself up to look nice so that people will form a good opinion of you.

I see more light, too. You think that the good opinion of people is an aid to one's success don't you?

Well, now I believe you've miscalculated a bit here, sir.

A well-dressed voice surely ought to be as important as a well dressed person. Personally, I'd rather talk to any man (and I'd put more faith in him) of educated speech—regardless of his attire—than to the

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