

Stop Press

The Graduates' Society of McGill University, with uncanny acumen and an astounding sense of timing, recently made a significant contribution to the store of knowledge at its Alma Mater. As part of the Homecoming Weekend this Fall, the Society chose Don Harron as its Guest Lecturer at the Leacock Luncheon. Professor Harron is well-known for his seminal (if not unique) works such as *Histry of Canda*, *Jogfree of Canda*, *the Whirld and Other Places* and, most recently, *Charlie Farquharson's Allmynack*.

The claim that these are, indeed, seminal works can be readily substantiated by any doubting academic who takes the trouble to consult, or even flip through, any one of them. For example, perusal of *Jogfree of Canda* will unearth places undiscovered by other explorers of the atlas, will exhume ideas unknown to mere philosophers, and conjure up words to bemuse the most erudite of lexicographers. Who but Harron could clarify those perennial misty misimpressions of the Atlantic Provinces with such accurate definitions as:

Nose Kosher is what yer old-timer Latins say when they mean yer Noo Scotch-land. Mind you, the reel Noo Scotch is over in Newfieland and called Screech, on accounta that's what ya do when ya gets a mouthful. (p. 26)

Harron's incisive description of "Sittydell Hill" and other Eastern resorts, his careful examination of "Trawntuh," his painstaking investigations of "Yer Prayerly Provinces" (Manytober, Sasquatchyouwan, and Elberta) finally lead him to a consideration of "Yer North Waste Terrortory: Our Froze Asset." *En route*, the redoubtable Professor Harron, a master of niceties of scholarship, touched upon such rare places as Camel-oops and Harrissing Hot Springs (both splendidly illustrated on pp. 78-9). While these exotic outposts may be known only to the most thoroughly initiated cognoscenti of geographers, most members of the McGill community in post-Olympics Montreal will readily recognize Harron's "Cubec: La Bill Pro-Vaunce."

Clearly, with its local and national interest, *Jogfree of Canda* is a gem of Canadian learning, uncut (uncouth?) though it may be. It must, however, be admitted that, while this book is mercifully free of jargon and almost entirely liberated from footnotes and bibliography, it does contain an occasional malapropism — doubtless the fault of a sleeping editor or careless typesetter. Nevertheless, its contribution to knowledge far outweighs the temporary literary lapses (as Leacock might have said) and the academy can be grateful for this exceptional and encyclopaedic work. Indeed, so comprehensive is the professor's treatment of the subject that we are left with only one substantive question: Was it chance, serendipity, or a great geographer's unflinching sense of place that brought Professor Harron to Montreal and to the notice of the *McGill Journal of Education* just as we were grappling with this issue on the Social Studies? While some cautious academicians may hazard subjective estimates, preliminary hypotheses or tentative calculations, only the Graduates' Society knows for sure.

M. G.