

documents struck the entrenched powers in colonial times, he is commenting on modern verses impact on the literary tradition and society. As these documents registered and became steering notions for the colony, a statement "more bellicose, came on." It is interesting that Stevens should call the Constitution a "prolegomena" in this poem in the midst of such a playful discursion on America's origins. The imagination has definitely been of the nature that adheres and readheres to reality in the long block of 75 lines that starts "The Idea of a Colony", but the use of prolegomena brings to mind the strictures of Kant's "Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics", and the German mind of the budding industrial revolution and modern scientific age. Crispin's and Stevens' comic interpretation of the constitution is only half "new intelligence" because Stevens sees Crispin inscribing laws of "commingled souvenirs and prophecies." These concerns with the dynamics of the political and artistic are a reoccurring concept for Stevens. Twenty years later his adhering and vital imagination, for him reality, is yet concerned with vast sweeps of time and world such as is Crispin's mind above a continent."

The Russians followed the Victorians, and the Germans in their way, followed the Russians. The British Empire, directly or indirectly, was what was left and as to that one could not be sure whether it was a shield or a target. Reality then became violent and so remains. 9 Stevens comic discussion of the American mentality and its place in the vast sweep of things is mixed with the soil it sprang from throughout Part IV. Crispin's writing, still underlaid by an old ethic, seems an organizational catchall for the diversity of the hemisphere's inhabitants. "Abhorring Turk as Esquimau" the missionary forms his own new indigenous esthetic. A strict conversion to the old staleness is out. A Georgian native for Crispin needs to be a "pine spokesman", the Floridian "Should prick thereof, not on the psaltery, / But on the banjo's categoric gut." Stevens is giving qualities to an America bold in its newness in comparison to a slowly self-restructuring vision of history from the Old World. A fixed ecclesiastical order will not do for America any more than would the chaotic rule of mescal bibbling natives. The phenomena of synthesis is Crispin's ordering principle. He can be seen as a conceptual overlord of a dawning new era, but with enough sense of order to police the action as he has "Shrewd novitiates / (Should) be the clerks of our experience." Crispin learns the diversity and opportunity fortunately can be controlled. Stevens' vital imagination keys on substance as an ordering principle, and mere appearances of ideas as well as leaders are suspect.

He could not be content with counterfeit,
 With masquerade of thought, with hapless words
 That must belie the racking masquerade,
 With fictive flourishes that preordained
 His passion's permit, hang of coat, degree
 Of buttons, measure of his salt. Such trash
 Might help the blind, not him, serenely sly.
 It irked him beyond patience.

America, as Crispin, is "an aspiring clown" a dreamer, but a dreamer realistic enough to dream "in a gingerly way." The three lines standing out at the end of "The Idea of a Colony" fix the realism of Crispin's efforts. His play on the world stage is not to be a rehash of past history covered up with a blue sky