Quite true, as a ripoff, the schools produced educated men, but what was the value of this education?

In the main, the schools were supposed to supply man-power to the junior civil service,

and later, to create a narrow elite to replace the colonialists at independence. Today, apart

from standing solidly in

the way of change,

those so-called educated people posses the sole value of being capable of speaking English.

When they complain that the standard of education is falling, what they really mean is that present day stu-

dents speak less Eng-

Unpopular Essays

BASSEY EKPO BASSEY

THIS column is not just starting, it has been here before. In the months preceeding November 1975, I had an exciting time by the agency of this column, challenging notions and ideas that had always been taken for granted. Ideas that have long acquired the protective garbs of sacriledge.

The break? It could only be explained in terms of my nomadic inclinations. But that is not important.

I found upon return, that Calabar has not changed. It is still the darling resort which on account of it's grave yard peacefulness, continues to invite the wary traveller. Economic activities take a dive at 3,30 p.m. I have called on friends whose HOUSE BOYS announced to me were taking their siesta and so could not be DISTURBED.

By the way, I have discovered, most to my happiness, that they have done very well for themselves. Or how do you explain the siesta, or the parade of house boys, maids and so on?

I have also found the new university very refreshing. Because I do not have ominous threats of examinations hanging over me, I have discovered that I am capable of walking on a university campus with confidence. The university has brought all sorts of interesting people into the town.

Finally, my homecoming has enabled me renew my acquiantance with a writer I have enjoyed reading so much. Sunday CHRONICLE's columnist, Jenudo Oke, is a fine writer with whom I hardly ever agree.

Over time, I have searched, my mind for what might be the un-

"FINALLY, my home-coming has enabled me renew my acquiantance with a writer I have enjoyed reading so much. Sunday Chronicle's columnist, Jenudo Oke is a fine writer with whom I hardly ever agree."

There are academics, good and poor, but more important, there are a group of percer tive students who will ask questions and demonstrate, not only over their campus affairs, but also over things that affect us outside.

If you travel to the campus, you cannot ignore the women, little girls who, having heard giris wilo, naving neard so much about how the "acada" is supposed to carry on, are busy try-ing to act an uncomfor-table (and amusing) part.

The vagaries of life have blown me hither and thither. In the process, I have met all sorts of people, but the university type, I shall never tire of meeting. So, to the campus I shall return again and again for both inspiration and ideas with which to go into battle in this column.

derlying cause of our constant disagreement. constant disagreement.

I put it down to some fundamental difference in temperaments. And, I assure you, this has nothing to do with age. It is just that we operate from very different from very differe theoretical positions.

I would however say this for the guy, he is a perfect gentleman. I recall once having to take out a full page in the... CHRONICLE to call him names for an uncharitable comment he made about a former teacher of mine. He "replied" with dignified silence!

I have never met him. but he sounds to me like the likely lad who has remained loyal to his upbringing. You know, the good church member who says his prayers, pays his tithe, does his easter duty and stays at home with the

Glad To Be Back

wife; gets elected into offices of the town's clubs, never uses a swear word.....a real pillar of society.

It was therefore in that character character that when Jenudo Oke last wrote, his subject was the church. He was calling church. He was calling for purity, pleading that the church's finances be put to proper use. But the article did not start on that pious note. There was this thing about what the church on has done for Nigeria.

"The churchmen." whom he described as the "true witnesses of Christ," in the past, "served as social welfare officers, in village farms, plantations and fought for social justice in all fronts."

He had earlier claimed that "Of all the secondary schools and teacher training colleges established in the southern part of the country between 1859 and 1930, only three of them were government schools, while 22 were church-owned.

Of course, I do not agree with the above. This damnable distinction between govern-ment and mission is possible only if we repossible only if we re-move that era from its correct historical con-text. It is not enough to complain that the go-vernment left the business of education largein mission hands, it ly in mission hands, it is important to go fur-ther and ask: what government?

What was the socioeconomic formation of our society at the time and what was the government's role and position in that formation?

The fact about colonialism was exploita-tion. The church, the government, the educational system were all cultural and legal agen-cies for exploitation. If by historical antecedent, the church was more thorough and efficient in the business of preparing the natives' paring the natives' minds to accept dependence as natural, it was only logical that education be left in their hands.

"IF by historical antecedent, it was established that the church was more thorough and efficient in preparing the natives minds to accept dependence as natural, it was only logical that education be left in their hands."

lish.

For our purpose, it is important to see the setting up of schools as more functional to the purpose of the colonia-lists than the real welfare of our society.

To this point and others, we shall return again and again. For now. I am glad to be back.



Patching Up Relations

THE deterioration of political relations between France and Israel caused by the Abu Daudsaffair has been eliminated at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of France and Israel at Brussels recently, Our picture shows: (left), M. Louis de Guiringaud of France and Mr Vigal Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister at their meeting in Brussels when a financial agreement between Israel and the European Economic Community has been signed.