

"Colonization in Reverse"

Louise Bennett (1966)

Wat a joyful news, Miss Mattie, I feel like me heart gwine burs Jamaica people colonizin Englan in reverse.

By de hundred, by de tousan from country and from town, by de ship-load, by de plane-load Jamaica is Englan boun.

Dem a pour out a Jamaica Everybody future plan is fe get a big-time job an settle in de mother lan.

What a islan! What a people! Man an woman, old an young Jus a pack dem bag an baggage an tun history upside dung!

Some people doan like travel But fe show dem loyalty Dem all a open up cheap-fare-To-Englan agency.

An week by week dem shippin off Dem countryman like fire, Fe immigrate an populate De seat a de Empire.

Oonoo see how life is funny, Oonoo see de tunabout? Jamaica live fe box bread Out a English people mout'.

For wen dem ketch a Englan, an start play dem different role, some will settle down to work an some will settle fe de dole.

Jane say de dole is not too bad because dey payin she Two pounds a week fe seek a job Dat suit her dignity.

Me say Jane will never fine work At de rate how she dah look, For all day she stay pon Aunt Fan couch an read love-story book.

Wat a devilment a Englan! Dem face war an brave de worse, But me wonderin how dem gwine stan Colonizin in reverse.