Campbell, the freed servant character jailed for a white man's crime in Charles W. Chesnutt's *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901).

Barbara Ryan
University of Missouri, Kansas City

Reply:

I thank Barbara Ryan for her response to my essay. Her attention to the dandified figures (black and white) that appeared before the publication of Stowe's novel serves as an important reminder of some of the gaps that still exist in our historical and cultural knowledge. The texts and authors Ryan mentions may indeed have influenced Stowe (known for her voracious reading) and may help to contextualize her characterization of Adolph. I am grateful, then, for Ryan's overview of other antebellum representations of the dandy figure that anticipate Stowe's depictions.

Ryan's comments also helpfully underscore one of my essay's primary arguments: namely, that modern-day definitions of identity categories may prevent us from coming to terms with characters like Adolph. Race, sexuality, and gender were in flux during the period in which Stowe wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, yet the ways in which we read nineteenth-century texts often blinds us to some of the unconventional intersections among such categories. Ryan's examples thus usefully remind us that authors and texts need not serve as inevitable representatives of particular social positions.

Because texts, like bodies, often have specific identities routinely attached to them, we would do well to consider how such literary and social categorizations continue to shape contemporary scholarship. By linking "what we see" to texts as well as to bodies, we might begin to appreciate more fully how "what we know" is historically specific and constituted by changing strategies of representation—a fact highlighted by the texts and authors Ryan mentions. Critical study would thus benefit from methodologies that consider how identity categories may be constructed but that nevertheless acknowledge their real social repercussions. Otherwise, as my essay suggests, we risk ignoring figures like Adolph altogether.

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