

brief visions of THE SCHOOL being consumed by flames; but these attacks of irrational behavior could usually be explained away by the fact that a new hunting season had just opened or that the fishing was exceptionally good down at the stream. In general, THE SCHOOL was regarded with no more dangerous attitudes than excessive community pride and complete faith in its ability to educate. This pride and this faith were deeply imbedded in the people of Millvale and Mill Township. But this was quite natural because, after all, THE SCHOOL was the biggest thing in town.

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## EX NIHILO

John R. Foutty

The sun is bright but there are those  
 Who would deny its light,  
 And turn their backs upon the day,  
 To walk into the night.

The tavern doors are opened wide,  
 A solace for their need,  
 And man can take the cup for bride  
 To satisfy his greed.

The cup they lift and drink as if  
 Each drink would be their last,  
 As if they could forget the fate  
 Their Maker had forecast.

They laugh and soon forget their fear  
 Within the dingy hall.  
 A shadow beckons but they turn  
 To spurn its luted call.

The golden maidens dance and shout,  
 Removing all from gloom;  
 They sway and flirt and twirl about  
 As music fills the room.

But then at last the tune goes false  
 And all the laughter fades,  
 For the dawn has crept upon them  
 To bare their masquerades.

They stagger out into the dawn  
 And feebly curse their plight.  
 They walk into the troubled day  
 And wait again for night.