

man, sitting over the fire, smoking away industriously at a huge pipe; he looked like a jolly fellow, and his first greeting convinced me that he would be good company.

After we had chatted on general matters for a short time, the conversation naturally turned on college affairs, and I found out that Hugh's guest, Mr. Arthur Drummyer, was an Arts graduate. He had a lot of interesting information regarding Old McGill in her younger days, so that I was very well pleased to have met him.

Some incident which he told reminded me of a rather peculiar accident which had occurred in my freshman year, and which I recalled to Hugh's memory.

"Talking of funny things happening in one's first year," broke in Drummyer, "reminds me of a bad break that I made in mine, and one which I have never forgotten. Wait till I fill my pipe again, and I'll tell you about it."

After he had accomplished this, and emitted a huge cloud of smoke, he started:

"In the old times in McGill we quite frequently used to get up theatricals amongst ourselves, and give the public the benefit of them for a small consideration, which was devoted to some college society. We prepared a play which we acted one January during my first year, and in which I was to take the part of a girl.

"Of course we had a considerable amount of fun at our rehearsals, although there was quite a bit of solid hard work connected with it.

"As you can imagine, I felt very proud at being selected, in my first year, to take part in it, and used to be greatly amused by the big seniors coming around when I was in ladies' dress, and carried on a lively mock flirtation with the 'girl student' as they nicknamed me.

"During our first rehearsal, when I was waiting to 'go on,' a pleasant, rather elderly-looking man, who, I was informed by someone, was a graduate, came up and chucked me under the chin in quite a *chic* manner, and when I squeaked out in feminine tones, 'Go way, you great big rough man,' he laughed to beat four of a kind. We became quite friendly before our play came off, and although I did not then know his name, I felt more than proud, when I happened to meet him, at getting a cheery nod from a graduate, for at that time, as you can well understand, a graduate appeared to me to have reached the pinnacle of human greatness.

"What the cause of it had been, whether I had given too much time to studying up a play earlier in the session, whether it was that the period before Christmas had been too greatly occupied by heroic efforts, insisted on in spite of unpleasant obstacles to acquire the tobacco habit, as it is now called, or whether it was through laziness due to nothing else but "pure cussedness," I cannot say, but the melancholy fact was, that I had come considerably short in my exams at Christmas, and I was under the painful necessity of bothering the professors to give me 'supplementals.' These came off the week after our play. How I hated those beastly 'supps.," perhaps you fellows may have some idea, but they had to be taken.

"Our theatricals had taken place successfully on the 30th of January, and the 'realistic drama' of 'supps' was due three days later.

"With the logic so peculiar to the freshman, I convinced myself that I was performing a highly meritorious act in sloping all the lectures during these three days to plug up, so that I might have the evenings to devote to the many attractions that new life in a big city offered me.

"A conscientious adherence to this idea caused me to be snugly seated in the library the day previous to the dreaded 'supps.' grinding away for dear life, and I was so busy that I forgot to look up as anyone passed through the room.

"However, I was quickly aroused by hearing a lady's voice say, 'Why, there's Arthur Drummyer.'

"I looked up to meet the smile of an elderly lady, whom I at once recalled as having shown me great kindness at Cacouna the previous summer, and to whom I had once with boyish pride confided my ideas of what I was going to do 'when I went to McGill.'

"When I came forward to speak to her I was surprised at seeing her accompanied by my graduate friend, of whom I have been speaking. I replied to her kind enquiries that I was getting on swimmingly in college, but, unthinkingly, explained my presence in the library, by stating that I was preparing for exams on the following day. She immediately exclaimed: 'Why, I did not know that you had exams at this time of the year.' I saw my mistake at once, and also noted the grin on my graduate friend's face.

"Well, you know, boys, a fellow can't always tell the truth, and as I recalled the hopes I had confided to her, I thought it might disappoint her somewhat to know that I was plucked, so I at once tipped the wink to her companion not to betray me, and stammered out: 'Well, you see, these are our *'Intercessionals.'* The man turned away quickly, but an oscillating motion of his shoulders shewed that he was stirred by deep emotion of some kind. Alas! my little white lie was not destined to stop there. She said: 'Well, but do you all have to take these examinations?'

Here was a fix, and the only way out was to lie even more cheerfully, so I answered, with another wink at the graduate, who appeared more than interested, and who I knew had 'spotted' me: 'No, these exams are not what you would call obligatory on all of us,—in fact, you need not take them, but, on the other hand, they are a great help, I might almost say that some of us could hardly get along without them, although as a matter of fact they give rise to a great amount of extra work. But,' I added virtuously, as I walked with them to the door, 'there is no doubt it is absolutely useless for a fellow to come to college if he is going to shirk a little hard work, and as these are of great assistance to me, I don't hesitate to avail myself of them.'

"Why the graduate passed out of the door so quickly, and very impolitely preceding the lady, I don't know; but as she was saying good-bye, she added: 'I must say I am very glad to find you so industrious. I