

of the house, danced war dances and sang the old University song book, including God Save the Queen, from end to end.

Oh, they were jolly, but I wasn't. At three o'clock in the morning, the only sound that can waken and at the same time please me, is the ringing of a fire alarm. Never a word did they say about any reason they had for wanting to get in, but I could not help coming to the conclusion that their visit boded no good for me. Some joke was surely in the air.

"What in the deuce do they want, Archie? Are they after me because I didn't join them to-night?" I asked my companion, now hurrying about the house putting away his plates and apparatus.

He stopped. "Gad, that must be what they are after. Get up, or they'll pull you out of bed anyway."

Not a second did I lose, but quickly arrayed myself in fighting attire—no more, for I hadn't time. Of course I was going to fight. Archie swore he would, too. The noise they made would drive any man to a pugnacious desperation. I thought at the time that it would drown the reports of a hundred Boer guns. So Archie and I mustered up the courage of besieged Ladysmithians.

Archie opened the door and I, ready to resist an onslaught, appeared at the entrance, which was darkened by the verandah. But only the one figure was in sight—the solitary guard. The rest were in hearing.

The guard did not fight, he spoke. "Boxer Baker is sleeping in here, isn't he?" I recognized the voice as that of Bert Broadfoot. His eyes were bleary, his brain was muddled, so he did not recognize me. I was supposed to be in bed sleeping. Egad! who could have slept through that noise?

Astounded I only said "Yes."

"Well, say, we're going to give him a "dip." "Are you all through?" "Yes," came the answer from the lips of his intended victim.

"We can come in now?" "Yes."

"Well, I'll get the other boys." With this he tiptoed (lest he might wake me) down to the other adventurers, to bid them come silently and steadily to the execution. I walked out the door and without any remarks slipped around the other end of the house, ran as I never ran some distance down the lane they had come up and perched myself down behind an evergreen on the edge of the bank to wait for my pursuers to give me my "dip," to satiate their vengeance upon a temperance crank, as they doubtless chose to call me, and then to return home. The view seemed to be gloomy. Doubtless I had a beautiful view of the lake and starry sky before me, but I never saw it. I was congratulating myself at my escape from "seeing stars." 'Twas chilly, so I just huddled myself together into a frightened little heap, tried to warm my bare feet by a friction process, waited and listened.

Really I did not realize that I had duped them till I saw their sheepish faces by the light of their own lantern as they went sullenly home like a crowd of Boer prisoners. Then I jumped up and went back to Klondyke, laughing to myself.

We had to make all the beds over again. They had ransacked them through and through in the search for my sleeping carcass, that at three o'clock in the morning they realized so keenly needed a bath. Archie Allan had been threatened with all sorts of torture if he didn't tell where I was, but he didn't know.

The rest of the night was quiet in Klondyke.

Next morning at 6.30 I went up to our camp and

pulled every mother's son of them out of bed. I learned later that some one had put thistles in my bed the day before. Revenge was plenteous.

Since then I've been a prohibitionist, and in my mind *periculum fortitudine evasit* has appreciated.

ERNEST H. COOPER (Gerry).

THE EVILS OF A STATE UNIVERSITY.

The University of Toronto to all intents and purposes is a State University, that is to say, as at present constituted, it is legally subordinated to the supreme control of the Province of Ontario. This is a fact that admits of no contradiction, inasmuch as it is clearly affirmed by an Act of the Provincial Government. The University, then is a State institution. Why? Because, in the first place, it depends exclusively and finally on a Provincial statute for its constitution; the senate, the council, the corporation and the president are, by the above Act—which anyone may read in the Statutes—each assigned their respective powers and duties, and the powers thus assigned and distributed are plenary only so far as they are within the limits of the Constitutional Act of the University; the powers of the senate, of the council and of all constituent bodies in connection with the University are derived, and therefore un-sovereign.

A second reason for calling the University a State institution is found in the fact that the University of Toronto is financially, as well as constitutionally, a government institution. This statement is essentially true, because, through a second Act of the Provincial Parliament, the Province of Ontario now exercises entire supervisory control, not only of the finances of the University but of the relations and dealings of the subordinate University authorities with third parties.

Assuming then, that the University of Toronto is ultimately controlled by the State, what are some of the evils growing out of that relation? Now, in asking that question, I do not desire to give the impression that I am entirely opposed to State control of education or to a national education scheme. But circumstances do undoubtedly change opinions. A State-owned University, if efficiently administered and managed, is desirable; but the moment the Government attempts to shirk the responsibilities attaching to its position as supreme regulator of the keystone of our educational system, then a change is rendered necessary.

There are two evils which appear to be more prominent than others.

The first one is this: the staff of the University tend to become civil servants of the Provincial Government. The section of the Provincial Act relating to this subject is as follows: "The president, professors, lecturers, teachers, officers and servants of the University shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, after such examination, inquiry and report as he considers necessary, and shall hold office during his pleasure." The Provincial Government then possess the right of appointment and of dismissal, and as a result, the members of the staff of the University of Toronto are as much civil servants of the Government as are the clerks who work at their desks in the Parliament Buildings.

A "civil-servant" staff in a University is all right so long as merit enters into its appointment or dismissal, but the undoubted tendency of a State-owned institution like our University is for it to degenerate into a place for the distribution of political patronage.

Now, in making the above assertions, I do not wish to be misunderstood. I do not wish at all to refer to the