

enough to render his neighbour's joy perfect; compliments and gifts are interchanged without end; and the result is that everyone is made exceedingly happy.

Soon, however, the curtain of night is drawn upon the scene, too felicitous not to vanish rapidly, and the student returns again to less boisterous delights in the regions of slumber.

When he again opens his eyes, he finds the sun already shining in upon him, for there has been a *sleep over* and it is now half-past seven. Breakfast—letters—and oh! what a number of richly figured envelopes, of delicate tints, send forth their odoriferous fragrance, in token, no doubt, of their more mellifluous contents! Each little pink wrapper is securely locked by an artistically designed seal; the address is penned by a hand no less delicate than the colour of the envelope itself; but further than this, eye will not see what precious things lie hidden beneath that seal; but it may easily be conceived what gems of thought and sentiment are generally wrapped up in such brightly-tinted folds. After breakfast, the students retire to the recreation hall, as usual; but on this morning, the hall is richly decorated with green boughs, banners, streamers and mottoes. Here they are met by their professors, who have come down to wish the boys a Merry Christmas. Another general shaking of hands takes place, and the students scatter about freely, some indulging in one pastime, others in another, but all finding ample means of amusing themselves.

It was on a morning like this that the Preps., assisted by their kind Disciplinarian, had gotten up a beautiful Christmas Tree in their own department. It was loaded with all kinds of candies and sweetmeats, and adorned in a most artistic fashion. Oh, it was a magnificent sight—one calculated to make the mouth of the oldest senior water. And, in fact, it did have the desired effect, when the exultant Preps. invited their big brothers down to behold the issue of their night's labours, and the object of their morning's delight. A slight misunderstanding, it seems, arose between the visitors and the good master of discipline. The latter requested them to "gather around the Christmas Tree, and sing a song, and, that there should be no discord, he unfortunately counted *one*,

*two, three*. But the admiring group misinterpreted the signal, and, at the word *three*, made a violent charge upon the unoffending Tree, upsetting and demolishing everything, not, however, until they had filled their pockets with the choicest of the fruits. What a wail of anger and despair was sent up by those sorely abused Preps! To pay the damages, a collection was, shortly afterwards, taken up; but, since that unfortunate occurrence, never has a university man been invited to feast his organs of vision on the preps' Xmas Tree.

The forenoon of Christmas always passes rapidly. Solemn High Mass is sung, in a manner fully in keeping with the spirit of this glorious Feast; and, at last, the dinner hour arrives.

The appetizing fumes from the kitchen betoken something good, and fill the imagination of the ever hungry student with glowing pictures of roast turkey and cranberry sauce and all that goes to make up an enviable board. It is only now that the novice in English Literature fully understands why Charles Dickens never had any two of his characters meet, without having first placed on a side-board a stuffed turkey and a dusty bottle of pure old Madeira.

There is more freedom than usual in the college during Christmas week; and this accounts for the number of unassuming freshmen, aye, and even seniors that are seen "smoking their first cigar." Perhaps it is also owing to the fact that professional smokers are, at this time, more amply supplied with cigars than at any other, and are accordingly generous. Be this as it may, those who never had the moral courage to taste the "pleasure and pains" of tobacco are seen sitting in a comfortable attitude, with the longest cigar ever made tightly wedged between their upper and lower set of dentals.

One wonders, at first, why they have chosen a cigar of such large proportions, and becomes almost bewildered, when the amateur fumigator happens to be a short, chubby little fellow; but, after a moment's reflection, his wonder gives way to admiration, for admire he must the far-sight displayed by him who purchases a long cigar, knowing that it will be subject to consumption from two causes: fire at one end and mastication at the other.