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Students and the Law. The arrest and punishment of two McGill College students for disorderly conduct in a public street was recently made the motive of a demonstration by the undergraduates whose indignation had been aroused by a report that the College authorities had requested the Recorder to punish the two offenders with severity. After holding mass meetings in a large hall, as well as innumerable private ones in boarding houses, it was learnt from the Principal, that there had been no communication with the Recorder by the College authorities. Such a report was declared by Principal Peterson to be gratuitous and insulting; especially to the judge who was there to administer justice impartially, and who would be unworthy of his office if he took instructions from anybody. In speaking of this affair the Principal commented with some warmth on the conduct of the students in taking a mere rumour of the ground for holding a mass meeting, into which his name had been most unwarrantably dragged, and at which he understood the suggestion had been made that he should be sent for to render an account to the students. The Principal further stated as his opinion that it was neither fair nor courteous that the meeting should have been held first, and that the attempt to learn the facts should have been only made afterwards.

The Principal's words might well be kept in remembrance by the students all through life, more especially the rebuke for taking action on "a mere rumour." The suggestion that he, the Principal of a great university, "should be sent for to render an account to the students," is too ludicrous for serious comment. The actions of some few students of McGill need sternly repressing, as they bring scandal on the College. They imagine students have freedom to clear passangers from sidewalks by force; to "make night hideous" by violent noises; to damage property; to even take control of a street car; and generally to use the streets any time at any hour for demonstrations that give serious annoyance to the citizens. As Principal Peterson said: "There were some students who certainly did not seem to know the

difference between fun and rowdyism." One object of an academic career is to teach this distinction. A college which does not teach good manners has a defective curriculum. The scattering of fireworks through the streets on a recent demonstration was exceedingly dangerous; it ought not to have been tolerated.

Commercial Agents and Insurance. Enquiry was made by a commercial agent in Brooklyn whether, on receiving goods on consignment from a certain house, he is held responsible for the merchandise as regards fire insurance, he having made no special arrangement relating thereto? It is obvious that in the absence of express instructions to insure goods consigned to an agent his responsibility must be judged by trade custom and ordinary prudence. An agent is entrusted with goods on consignment in the confidence that he is familiar with the usages of trade in such matters and is a person of careful and prudent habits, who will take due care of the goods with which he is entrusted. An agent, for instance, who left goods exposed to frost when he knew that this would ruin them, was held responsible for the neglect to store them safely. The judgment of the New York "Bulletin" is quite sound when it says:—

"Aside from the matter of insurance, the agent is bound to take such care of the goods as a prudent man would take of goods of like kind and value belonging to himself; the jury is to judge whether such care has been exercised or not. If the goods are damaged or lost as the result of the action of fire, water, robbers or any other cause, and the damage or loss could have been prevented by the exercise of such a degree of skill and care as we have described, the agent is liable. If the damage or loss occurred in spite of his exercise of such care he is not liable."

Fire insurance of stored goods is clearly, and is admitted by trade custom to be, a necessary precaution against loss by fire, so that an agent entrusted with goods is highly culpable who neglects this protection.