

so many 'grave and reverend' fathers in Israel in the house. I suppose they preached at you half the time."

"Not at all dull, I assure you. Nor did they preach either, yet I hope we are all the better for their visit."

"What were they like, anyway? Tell me all about it."

"Well, in the first place, we had a distinguished Doctor of Divinity."

"A Doctor of Divinity! Did he wear his gown and bands in the drawing-room? You never thought of smiling in his presence, of course."

"Didn't we, though? I wish you had been here. Although he is very learned, and very eloquent, yet he was the wittiest man I ever met. He seemed fairly overflowing with fun. He was like the electrical machine at school, you couldn't touch him but you got a spark. But it was altogether of the harmless and playful sort, as innocent and gleeful as the laughter of a little child."

"Well, that is rather extraordinary. Who else had you?"

"A returned missionary, who told us the most interesting stories about the Indians, and the great North-west, and his adventures on the prairies and in the forest."

"Poor man! he must have been glad to get away from such savage surroundings."

"Not at all. He was full of enthusiasm about the future of that great country, and was all eagerness to return to his heroic work and to take a number of missionaries with him. He quite inspired with the same zeal our third guest, who was exceedingly anxious to return with him."

"That was a strange taste. I suppose he could get no better place."

"Wrong again, Marion dear. The Dr. said they wanted their very best men for the mission work, and that he was one of them. He is just from college, such a clever student, knows no end of Latin and Greek and all the-ologies. Yet you would never think it. So different from that conceited young Tomkins, just returned from Paris, who is continually using scraps of French."

"Indeed I think Mr. Tomkins a very elegant gentleman. But did your hero go to lavish his learning on the Blackfeet?"