
PREFACE

Many years ago when I was a boy at school, we had over our class an ancient and spectacled schoolmaster who was as kind at heart as he was ferocious in appearance and whose memory has suggested to me the title of this book.

It was his practice, on any outburst of gayety in the class room, to chase us to our seats with a bamboo cane and to shout at us in defiance,—

Now, then, any further foolishness?

I find by experience that there are quite a number of indulgent readers who are good enough to adopt the same expectant attitude towards me now.

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Montreal,
Nov. 1, 1916.