It happened this way. The Lounger went to church last Sunday, and being of a generous nature and anxious to contribute to the collection, he felt in his pocket for the necessary "long green," "spondulix," "wherewithal," "milled comforters," "ready bits," or "Rand's Delight," as it is variously called in different dialects. He found there nothing but a brass M. I. T. check, on which was checked a copy of "American Machine Tools," or "Peter Schwamb's Revenge for Having Sold His Mechanism Notes at a Reasonable Price." Without a moment's hesitation he dropped the brass check in the plate and thereupon felt so small that he was enabled to crawl through a chink in the wall on Tuesday and take notes of the Faculty meeting going on there. As The Lounger entered, he heard the voice of Professor Allen saying:

"I don't approve of it. To give up the exams in the last term of the last year is to omit the cafè noir of Course I. And, besides, you would be taking away my last whack at the fellows. Spare the rod and spoil the child. In the same way, spare the exam and spoil the student."

"While exams," said Harry Clifford, smiling suavely, "are a good thing, I do not think they are, as the little boy said, 'the entire cheese.' Often times teachers use them rather as a sword to suspend over the head of the student Damocles, than as an endimeter to measure the efficiency of the student as a thinking machine. Exams will never be a perfect success until we can get all the teachers in an institution to rate them of uniform importance. One thing to consider is whether the graduate will be a thinking machine. Exams will never be a perfect criterion to measure the efficiency of the student as over the head of the student Damocles, than as an endimeter to measure the efficiency of the student as a thinking machine."

"Speaking of examinations," said Professor Faunce, "there are many imitations but no perfect substitutes. To give an illustration: During a vacation students are not supposed to study. But I have a little scheme of my own. I give an examination immediately after they come back, and so, instead of using all the vacation time for foolish amusements, my pupils have to plug. Drawing is a funny thing, anyway, and I would like to know Professor Park's views on the subject."

"I agree with Professor Faunce," said Charles Smiley Park, rising. "Drawing is a funny thing. Don't require any examinations from my students I draw, because I can give them a ten-hour drawing which will hold them for a couple of months."

"Did you ever know any student to do your drawing in the required time?" asked Professor Clifford.

"No, I never did," replied Professor Park, "but I think it is possible, because the other day I tried one of the drawings myself and worked only a little over time on it."

"Gentlemen," said Gaetano Lanza, "I have been thinking over what Professor Clifford said a little while ago. I don't know what that reference to the Dam-Damocles is, but I ain't going to agree with him. What we are trying to do here is to turn out good engineers. We ain't Princeton; we ain't Columbia; we ain't Harvard. I claim, gentlemen, that a man ain't any good unless he can figure out the stress in a beam by my method on page 174. No Professor Clifford takes altogether too wide a view of matters. He ain't even read my book and—"

"Gentlemen," said Professor Clifford, with his delicate satire, "I claim that Professor Lanza did not write that book because there ain't no 'ain'ts' in it."

At this point Professor Peabody arose. "I may be old-fashioned," said he, "but I think this school is getting to be too new-fangled. I think they are trying to work the social-life gag too much. The other day I actually met a student who could not draw a good exam. He ain't even read my book and—"

"Er — er — er," said Professor Dewey, by way of introduction. "It is an awful bore for me to speak er — but I suppose I have to — er — so I will. I flunked a student once because he had blots all over his exam paper. It was slipshod to have blots er — and I gave him an F through the term because he has passed a good exam. On the other hand, I know of a fellow who did good work during the term with a certain teacher and passed also, although he had written nothing but the Lord's Prayer in his examination book. I do not think that the book knowledge which even the best student will carry away with him will weigh at all heavily upon his mind. What we want to consider is whether the graduate will be a credit to the institute."

"I move we adjourn," said Professor Dippold.

"All those in favor signify in the usual manner," said the chairman.

And the usual manner was a dash for the door.

[Image of a page with text and diagrams]