

CORRESPONDENCE.

It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not by inserting letters convey any opinion favourable to their contents. We open our columns to all without leaning to any; and thus supply a channel for the publication of opinions of all shades, to be found in no other journal in Canada.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous letters, nor can we undertake to return letters that are rejected.

All communications to contain the name and address of the sender.

Letters should be brief, and written on one side of the paper only. Those intended for insertion should be addressed to the Editor, 162 St. James Street, Montreal; those on matters of business to the Manager, at the same address.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—Mr. Hugh Niven has called the attention of the public to me in your last issue in the following terms:

I, therefore, now respectfully request you to give publicity to said letter or letters (whose contents are corroborated by the Provost (Anglice, Mayor) of Lochmaben and the Rev. Wm. Graham, of Trinity, Edinburgh) during the present week, or to announce to me in any way you choose your refusal to do so. In the event of refusal, I shall in that case be at liberty to ventilate the subject in some other direction, with a view to vindicate my original assertion,—namely, that the Bruce memorial statue was *absolutely free of debt at the time the Rev. Mr. Mackie, assistant minister of St. Paul's, requested, through your columns, the Scotchmen of Montreal to hand over to him subscriptions for the purpose of liquidating a debt which did not exist.*

I regret being thus compelled to ask you to publish the letters I have received from Scotland bearing on this matter:—

(1) THE MANSE, Trinity, Edin., 28th October, 1879.

DEAR MR. MACKIE,—The Bruce monument was unveiled at Lochmaben on 13th September last, by Miss Alice Hope Johnstone, of Raehills. It was a fine day, and from ten to twelve thousand people saw the ceremony. The statue is a splendid one, and is universally admired. Could you not bring it before the St. Andrew's Society, in Montreal? They might help us with £5 or £10, to reduce the debt, now under £80.

Yours, &c.

Wm. Graham.

(2) LOCHMABEN, 5th Feb., 1880.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging receipt of £2 8s. 1d., and beg to tender the hearty thanks of the Committee to yourself and to those gentlemen who have so generously contributed to the Lochmaben Bruce Statue Fund. I may mention that I have forwarded your letter along with the contribution to the Rev. Mr. Graham at Trinity. The statue is really a work of art, and everyone is pleased with its appearance. With compliments,

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

John Johnstone.

Rev. Mr. Mackie, 168 Mansfield Street, Montreal.

(3) THE MANSE, Trinity, Edin., 6th March, 1880.

REV. MR. MACKIE,—I should have written you sooner, in reply to yours of 29th Dec. last. Ex-Bailie Johnstone, Lochmaben, received your £2 odds safely, and wrote me that he had acknowledged the receipt. He sent it to me, and I returned it to him as our local treasurer. The Marquis of Bute sent us £100 since I wrote you, which cleared the statue of debt at once. Since then a Wallace window is placed in the new Town Hall, opposite the Bruce one, and it too is paid. There is only on the whole thing now a balance of £2 10s. on the pedestal, which will be wiped off this Spring easily. Should you and your friends send us an additional gift, it will go for a window for Burns in the Hall—should you so approve—or in aid of a Bruce Bowling Green, on the northwest shores of the Castle Lock, for the benefit of strangers.

Yours truly,

Wm. Graham.

(4) THE MANSE, Trinity, Edin., 29th April, 1880.

DEAR MR. MACKIE,—Ex-Bailie Johnstone, Lochmaben, wrote me on Saturday last he had got your £7 odd, and had drawn it. I sent the subscription list which he sent me to the Lockerbie paper, copies of which you will get in course. It will be applied to a Bruce Bowling Green, at the Fancy well at the Castle Lock,—the Statue, and Wallace and Bruce windows, and new Hall being all now free of debt. Will send the papers anent the students direct to the Minister you name.

Yours truly,

Wm. Graham.

The first three of these letters were known to Mr. Niven before he wrote the letter you have seen fit to give to the public. By the courtesy of the editor of the *Star* two letters written by Mr. Niven for publication in that paper were sent to me, as they were thought to reflect on personal character. The first letter which appears above, and the date in which was a misprint, was explained as to this error in the *Star* and privately to Mr. Niven by the Editor. Copies of the second and third letter were also sent to Mr. Niven with fuller explanations. I despair therefore of being able to satisfy Mr. Niven who, if he had wished to be satisfied, would have communicated with me privately before writing to the newspapers.

I wish, however, to say to those gentlemen who intrusted their money to me and who are quite able to look after its destination without Mr. Niven's help that the deviation from the specific object of a statue to the wider commemoration of the name of "the Bruce" at Lochmaben—the royal burgh of "the Bruce"—is in full sympathy with the spirit of the undertaking and certainly cannot in fairness be fastened upon me who, at the time of asking them to contribute, knew no more of the altered condition of things than themselves. I may not have an opportunity of going into particulars with each of these gentlemen. Enough for me that they are men of honour in whose hands therefore I can safely leave this wretched affair. For them alone I send you this explanation. To none but to them will I take any further notice of the matter, least of all to Mr. Niven whose position and character are so well known in this community that no intelligent and right minded person will give any weight to this letter or to any other he may choose to write. I am permitted to say that John Rankin Esq, John C. Watson Esq, have concurred with me from the beginning in the several steps I have taken.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully.

James Mackie.

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	Period.	1880.			1879.	Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
		Pass. & Express	Freight	Total.		Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
*Grand Trunk.....	Week May 22	67,368	124,170	191,538	155,114	36,424	.....	21 wks	541,098	.....
Great Western.....	" 14	31,999	55,214	87,213	71,007	16,206	.....	20 "	223,196	.....
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 15	6,776	19,001	25,777	18,546	7,231	.....	19 "	78,838	.....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 7	1,201	1,676	2,877	2,958	.....	81	18 "	75,511	.....
Midland.....	" 14	1,714	5,711	7,425	5,370	2,055	.....	19 "	27,013	.....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 15	1,504	1,669	3,173	3,823	.....	650	fm Jan. 1	913	.....
Whitby, Pt. Perry & Lindsay.....	" 21	425	1,029	1,454	1,083	371	.....	"	8,502	.....
Canada Central.....	" 14	2,326	5,126	7,452	5,857	1,595	.....	19 wks	14,013	.....
Toronto, Grey & Bruce	" 15	1,985	5,625	7,610	6,447	1,163	.....	19 "	17,549	.....
†Q., M., O. & O.....	" 8	7,463	3,705	11,168	5,796	5,972	.....	18 "	50,241	.....
Intercolonial.....	Month April.	52,278	116,844	169,122	109,137	59,985	.....	4 m'ths	152,943	.....

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$40,624, aggregate increase \$628,498 for 21 weeks.

†NOTE TO Q., M., O. & O. Rv.—Eastern Division receipts not included in returns for 1879.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 May 26, 1880.	Price per \$100 May 26, 1879.	Last half-yearly Dividend.	Per cent. per annum of last div. on present price.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$135	\$133	4	5.93
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,756	100,000	78½	60	3	7.64
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	82½	77	3	7.25
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	125	106½	3½	5.60
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	71	34	2½	7.04
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,518,933	475,000	93¾	76½	3	6.40
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,382,837	200,000	99½	95	3½	7.04
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	121½	103¾	4	6.53
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	95	103	4	8.42
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	.....	39	40¾	.....	.....
City Passenger Railway.....	50	.....	600,000	163,000	93¾	80	15	5.35
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	.....	121½	110¾	5	8.23

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund. ‡Per annum.

From April 1st to the 8th inst., the British Exchequer receipts amounted to £9,120,002; last year, with two days more of income, the sum reached was £9,622,249. The expenditure has been £10,482,483.

The *Provisioner* publishes the following:—"Some idea of the extent of the milk trade in the metropolis may be obtained from the particulars given in one of the trade journals of milk businesses sold during the present month by one agent (Mr W. Jones, of Walbrook). Amongst these are quoted the following:—One in Lambeth, 8,000l.; Kew, 3,000l.; Chelsea, 2,800l.; Newington, 1,200l.; Kennington, 876l.; Clapham, 800l.; Rotherhithe, 800l.; Sydenham, 670l.; Poplar, 650l.; Nottinghill, 530l.; Kensington, 510l.; Hornsey, 400l.; Dalston, 400l.; Old Kent-road, 300l.; Forest-gate, 250l.; besides 20 more from 150l. to 20l.

A Parliamentary return on Irish relief loans, issued on Wednesday, the 12th inst., shows the amount of loans applied for by landed proprietors in scheduled unions under the notices of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, with the result of the application to the 20th day of March. The total applied for was 1,184,058l.; the amount sanctioned, 354,520l.; and the amount issued, 69,955l. The total amount of loans applied for by sanitary authorities was 141,079l.; the amount sanctioned, 31,807l.; and the amount issued 2,569l. A memorandum is annexed explanatory of the unavoidable delays which occur in sanctioning loans applied for sanitary works. In many of the cases of the applications since the 22nd of November last, difficulties as to property rights arose, which up to the present time have been found insuperable by amicable arrangement. In many the scheme proposed was opposed after the first proposition. In others it turned out on investigation that the work could not possibly be deemed a sanitary work. In some cases the scheme appeared altogether beyond the requirement of the locality. In almost every instance the plans, estimates, and specifications have had to be returned for amendments and corrections; having been so badly and insufficiently prepared (either through haste, or ignorance of what was needed, although the forms supplied by the Local Government Board showed, if carefully read, everything that was required) that it was impossible to act on them.

* The receipts of Live Stock at New York for the last four weeks have been as follows:—

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
May 17.....	15,841	55	6,429	33,969	32,922
May 10.....	11,504	27	5,286	25,162	35,781
May 3.....	17,035	122	5,740	29,370	33,362
April 26.....	13,611	88	4,800	27,723	34,973
Total 4 weeks.....	57,991	292	22,255	116,224	137,038
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879.....	41,581	242	19,430	96,157	132,797
Corresponding week 1879.....	12,263	87	5,860	25,805	30,281
Weekly average, 1879.....	10,933	142	2,998	29,005	33,089
Corresponding week 1878.....	12,395	34	5,452	36,327	34,244

*From New York Produce Exchange.