

CORRESPONDENCE.

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.

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.

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.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—By a typographical error in the Historical Sketch of Queen's University which appeared in your last issue, the name of the second Principal, is given as the Rev. Dr. Maclear instead of the Rev. Dr. *Macchar*, a clergyman long well known in Kingston and in the history of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

A. M. M.

Kingston, November 6th 1880.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—In your last issue you say that it is generally conceded that Montreal East shall be represented by a Frenchman, Montreal Centre by an Irishman, and the Western division by an Englishman or Scotchman. I think they ought to be represented by *the best* man that can be found, no matter what his birthplace or creed; I am sorry to see you even tacitly consenting to any such ridiculous arrangement.

You also seem to think it difficult to find an Irishman capable of representing the Central division, forgetful of the fact that both it and *the Anglo-Scottish West*, are at present, and have been for years past, represented by Irishmen. Is it not time that this sectional nonsense should cease, and all citizens of Canada be called and looked upon as Canadians?

Quis Separabit.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—As several communications have appeared in the SPECTATOR concerning a proposed Illustrated History of Canada and the capabilities of the artists and engravers of the country, permit me to say, that the writer was established here as a wood engraver and draughtsman long before your correspondents were heard of, and it would be a strange thing that if in all these years of constant practice he could not acquire skill sufficient to make original drawings and engrave the same in a satisfactory manner. To labour for a work of the kind proposed would have been a source of pleasure, as my ambition would have been to excel in such work, but my existence has been ignored—never having been applied to for a design or specimen of work. It would have shown a *sincere* desire to encourage native talent and industry and benefit themselves as well, on the part of the publishers, to have first made themselves acquainted with the ability of those already here before going to England or elsewhere for engravers—to starve—but the fact of a man's name not appearing as a member of an art society, together with the amount of very inferior drawing and wood engraving (mostly commercial work) that is done in Montreal, would seem to have caused this Mr. O'Brien to jump at conclusions. It would also seem that they have applied to the wrong persons for the kind of drawing required, but it is to be hoped that the whole thing is not an advertising boast merely.

Yours truly,

Montreal, November 8th, 1880.

J. H. Walker.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—The subject of Anglo-Israelism or the identification of the lost tribes of Israel, with the Britain of to-day, is exciting much comment in the parent country, and is supported by a strong and increasing party which has already extended its ramifications to the principal colonies and the United States. In this city also an association has been formed for the study of this interesting subject, and for once the various Protestant denominations are united in the search for knowledge, and a prominent Congregationalist is shortly to lecture upon the subject under the chairmanship of an Anglican Bishop; while leading Presbyterian and Methodist laymen will support both. The clergy however are, as a rule, opposed to the theory, some laughing it to scorn, others ignoring it *in toto* while more are alarmed and regard it as rank heresy.

No more suitable means for a public discussion of the matter can, I think be found than the columns of the SPECTATOR, and if you, Sir, deem the subject of sufficient import, I am willing to take up the cudgels in support of the theory and will lay the subject before you in a series of letters, providing that I am not set upon by an unlimited number of correspondents. I should nevertheless be pleased to meet with one champion who would agree that unsupported assertions are not to be made on either side, that the discussion shall be free from personalities, and conducted in a fair and amicable spirit. Should this

challenge be accepted I am prepared to abide by the foregoing conditions myself and while writing over the subscribed assumed name, will have no objections to my own being given to my opponent provided a like favour be accorded me.

Lia Phail.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Allow me again to ask space in your paper for the enclosed relating to the formation of a Domestic Training School in this city. I address myself to the ladies of all denominations relative to their interest in its establishment. This article is written by an old housekeeper who has had many years of experience under circumstances peculiar, varied and favourable, combined with a natural taste and desire for knowledge in Domestic Economy; I can therefore speak practically, and seeing the great want of instruction in our domestics, and having at the present time leisure, I am willing to impart my knowledge to the rising generation of this community, if only as reasonably supported as the nature and character of the work deserves. Advocated as the plan has been during the past 18 months or more by the Press and others of this city, the writer is encouraged to hope for success in this appeal to the mothers of every household. So far little has been done and progress has been very slow towards the desired end, if we except the happy event recently inaugurated by Mr. A. Joyce, of this city, in establishing a School of Cookery, to whom the public should feel much indebted. However greatly to be desired is good cooking, there are so many other domestic duties of consequence to be performed in every household, to relieve the hundreds of weary mothers of families who strive to make their homes comfortable and happy, and who do their best to protect their husbands' pockets and spare their digestions. At present the ignorant waste for want of some training is enormous, besides is not the amount of irritation incident to being obliged to pay high wages for so poor an equivalent in the shape of the most miserable and ill-performed work worthy of consideration, and this, too, at a time when perfection in all other branches of labour sought for and obtained, and let me ask is this branch, that of domestic work, to be neglected? and again I ask, why should it be the only one left to chance and itself to do as best it may? one upon which all our comforts depend daily and hourly through life, and be sure, ladies, it is high time for you to be up and doing, as I feel sure very many of you know and have felt. I am sure mutual benefits would accrue to the employer and employed, if this association were formed. I am also persuaded that no effectual remedy will prove permanent in any other form than in a Training School which, if judiciously arranged, would in a short time, like the National School at Kensington, England, become self-supporting. One of the many things to be done would be: A lady should visit, during the summer vacation, the most populous rural districts for the purpose of explaining the object of the school and the many advantages which must accrue to the mothers and daughters of every family, whether their children are, or are not, destined for domestic service. This institution would necessarily improve and raise the standard of servitude, which is now admitted greatly to be desired.

It is to be understood that the writer of this article is impressed by a higher motive than that of self-interest in any way whatever, and that her main desire is to promote this philanthropic work, even if it can be effected only on a small scale. It is devoutly to be wished that many ladies will be willing to assist in so good and necessary a work to the performance of which the writer is able and willing to devote herself. Details of her plan would be too long for this article, but she will be happy to see any lady or ladies at her domicile, from 2 to 4 p.m. daily, at No. 20 Lorne Avenue, Montreal.

Harriet Smith.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—Recent events in Canadian educational circles have brought education in its varied aspects more prominently before the public mind, and the question of the relative values of certain branches of study has been widely discussed. The study of the Classics, which in the minds of many has long held an undue prominence in college courses, begins to be less popular. As we know, the Principalship of Toronto University has passed from the Professor holding the Chair of Classical Literature and been conferred on the Professor of History. Now, I think that besides the fact of the known ability of Dr. Wilson for the position, there is, in this appointment, an acknowledgment of the high place that course should hold in a college course. The instruction in history at Toronto is ample, and under the teaching of its distinguished Professor is not the least among the many attractions at University College. While we have good reason to be proud of our own University (McGill), there are some defects in the course of study which need to be remedied. The most glaring defect is, to my mind, the course in History in the Faculty of Arts, which course is confined to the Honour Lectures of the fourth year, and consist of a little constitutional and English history. Now, there is at McGill a gentleman with the high-sounding title, "Professor of History," and the college calendar dignifies the above-mentioned lectures as a "History Course." This forming a History Course at a distinguished university cannot be otherwise designated than as a perfect farce. The advantages