

tion in regard to the general increase in quality of the pictures and the number of visitors, and also that the artists may be rewarded by the liberal and extensive patronage of the public, whose duty it is to provide a maintenance for the ministers of art, in order that they may grow and ripen into maturity.

Thomas D. King.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—Will you permit me to explain, for the benefit of "Reader" and many others like him who deplore the degeneracy of the Press of the Metropolitan City of Canada, "why it is the daily papers are at present so inferior to many of the dailies issued in the small towns of the States." But first, I must take strong exception to classifying the *Witness* in the same condemnatory terms as the other journals of the city. I do not agree altogether with the principles advocated by your religious contemporary, but I unhesitatingly assert that as a newspaper it is not inferior to any evening journal on this continent outside of New York and Boston. Its local columns are always full to repletion of news grammatically written. It is spicy, without being sensational, and it is almost a phenomenon when any information worth mentioning is omitted from its columns. With telegraphic news, both foreign and Dominion, it is singularly well supplied. The letters of its outside correspondents are always highly interesting, and in a literary point of view will favourably compare with correspondence in papers of far greater pretensions. There are other most creditable features which I might also refer to in giving credit to the *Witness* as a progressive newspaper, but I must not unnecessarily trespass upon your space.

In regard to the "arrangement," "type," and "get up," your correspondent is most unjust to the *Witness*. I do not think there is a journalist in Canada or the United States who will agree with "Reader." As I have always heard practical newspaper men, incomparable judges too, eulogise the *Witness* as a model newspaper in all these respects, and after a long experience in almost all civilized countries, and an interested observer of newspapers, I can honestly endorse those views.

Before leaving this part of the subject, which is a rather long introduction, I am quite willing to make a concession in one respect to the views of "Reader." I think there is a weak spot in the management of the *Daily Witness*. In a large city like Montreal the public is greedy for news, and looks to the columns of a daily journal for a liberal supply. When it finds, however, column after column filled with "goody stuff" to the exclusion of absorbing news from America, England and other countries, it is naturally disappointed, and the disappointment finds expression in indignant letters like that of "Reader." It is only fair to urge, in defence of the Editor, what newspaper men generally are well aware of, that this "goody stuff" is forced into the daily paper from the necessity of having matter for the Weekly, and not from choice. My own opinion is, however, that the proprietor of the *Witness* would find it to his advantage—although there might be an immediate pecuniary loss—to keep the miscellaneous matter intended for the Weekly entirely free from the Daily. It would immensely enhance the value of the daily paper to city readers by affording more space for important news. As it is at present, the Daily is made subservient to the Weekly, destroying to a considerable extent the character of the former as a news medium.

With regard to the cause of the admitted inferiority of the other daily papers, it is not far to seek. A newspaper cannot be made to prosper and develop into a great organ of public opinion without talent and enthusiasm being employed to advance its interests. For acknowledged talent the other Montreal daily journals will not pay, and some of them are obliged to keep standing advertisements for "country boys" to learn the duties of reporters, and who are rewarded, after proving their unfledged ability, with \$5 or \$6 per week—scarcely a labourer's wages. These are the "beardless boys" referred to lately by a member of the City Council.

Is it any wonder, then, that the matter supplied by such caterers for the reading public of this great mercantile city is the "quintessence of literary weakness"? It is no secret that journalists of brains must either leave Montreal for the great cities of the United States, where many who were formerly attached to our local press are now filling responsible positions at high salaries, or turn their attention here to other pursuits to make a respectable living. There is probably no profession or calling in life that requires such a combination of qualities as a successful journalist. He must be possessed of singular versatility, great experience of men, with a deep insight into character, and an ever-increasing enthusiasm in his work. Without these qualities all the learning in the world will not make a successful journalist.

Another reason for the decadence of the Montreal papers is the absence of men of ability at their head. It requires something more than the knowledge obtained at the counting-house ledger to fit a man for the responsible position of editor or conductor of a great journal, and yet it is not uncommon here to see men placed at the direction of daily papers who have had no training or special ability to qualify them for such positions. It is by no means a matter of surprise to those who have been close observers of the conduct of our local journals to see them making rapid strides towards decadence and senility. A newspaper, to be healthy and vigorous, must be making progress. From the moment its onward march has been arrested, its death-knell has been sounded. It is evident to those who watch the circulation of once prosperous papers in our midst, that they are rapidly descending into the oblivion from which it is hoped some of them, at least, will never emerge.

I agree with "Reader" that a good opening presents itself in this city for a paper like the *Toronto Telegram*—an independent, honest, fearless journal, that is never afraid to strike in the cause of freedom and justice. Money alone will never make a newspaper successful. It requires a clear head and a steady hand at the helm to direct it, with the indomitable courage of the great chief, whose untimely death, at Toronto, this Canada of his—he made it a nation—now mourns.

A Citizen.

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1880.				1879.		Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
	Period.	Pass. Mails & Express	Freight	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se	
	Week	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$	
*Grand Trunk.....	May 8	56,881	104,029	161,810	151,916	9,894	....	19 w'ks	455,515	....
Great Western.....	April 30	34,550	56,664	91,214	74,308	16,906	....	18 "	194,294	....
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 30	8,760	20,800	29,560	20,518	9,042	....	17 "	60,420	....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 21	1,308	1,883	3,191	3,375	....	184	16 "	8,004	....
Midland.....	" 30	2,221	6,395	8,616	4,546	4,070	....	17 "	21,366	....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	May 1	1,753	1,399	3,152	3,142	10	....	16 "	1,883	....
Whitby, Pt Perry & Lindsay.....	April 30	576	1,523	2,099	1,399	700	....	"	7,156	....
Canada Central.....	" 30	3,763	3,428	7,191	7,324	....	133	17 w'ks	11,407	....
Toronto, Grey & Bruce	" 17	2,292	4,838	7,130	5,247	1,883	....	16 "	10,682	....
†Q., M., O. & O.....	April 23	6,506	4,339	10,845	6,197	4,648	....	16 "	39,210	....
	Month				(Month)		Month				
Intercolonial.....	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 \$14,094, aggregate increase \$534,515 for 19 weeks.

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

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 May 12, 1880.	Price per \$100 May 12, 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	\$137½	\$139	4	5.82
Ontario.....	400	3,000,000	2,996,756	100,000	79	63½	3	7.59
Molsons.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	80	77	3	7.50
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	127½	110	3½	5.50
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	73	34½	2½	6.85
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,518,933	475,000	95½	80¾	3	6.27
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,460,600	1,382,837	200,000	92	100	3½	7.07
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,900,000	425,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	121	103¾	4	6.61
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	94	103¾	4	8.51
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	.....	39½	41	.....	.....
City Passenger Railway.....	50	.....	600,000	163,000	93½	81	15	5.35
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	.....	120½	108½	5	8.30

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

A return was issued on the 29th ult., of railway accidents reported to the Board of Trade as having occurred in the United Kingdom during the year ended Dec. 31, 1879. The total number of persons killed on railways during the year was 1,032, and the number of persons injured was 3,513. Accidents to trains, rolling stock, permanent way, &c., caused the deaths of 84 persons and injury to 720. By accidents from causes other than accidents to trains, rolling-stock, and permanent-way, including accidents from want of caution or misconduct, accidents to persons passing over level-crossings, trespassers, and others, 504 persons were killed and 960 injured, 85 of the killed and 705 of the injured being passengers; 444 servants of companies were killed and 1,833 injured otherwise than by accidents to trains, while engaged upon their duties on railways. In addition to the above, 42 persons were killed and 2,315 injured upon railway premises by accidents unconnected with the movements of vehicles exclusively used on railways. These bring up the total number of accidents for the year to 1,074 persons killed and 5,828 injured.

A Parliamentary return, just issued, shows that during the year 1878 inquests were held in England and Wales on the bodies of 2,389 males and 814 females whose deaths were caused by drowning in inland waters; in Scotland on 399 males and 83 females; and in Ireland on 285 males and 84 females.

The question of the export of frozen meat is seriously occupying public attention in the Australian colonies. An official statement just issued shows that there are 6,000,000 sheep and 3,000,000 head of cattle in Queensland. This, after deducting the home consumption of meat, admits of a weekly exportation of 2,000 tons, provided, the necessary shipping facilities were available. Refrigerating works are to be immediately erected, and arrangements made to obtain the shipping necessary for the requirements of the trade. A thousand sheep have been recently boiled down for tallow at Rockhampton, and cattle are almost unsaleable.

From the 1st to the 24th April the British Exchequer receipts were £5,886,914., as compared with £6,520,298, in the corresponding period of last year. The expenditure has been £7,715,168.

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

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
May 3.....	17,935	122	5,740	29,370	33,362
April 16.....	13,611	88	4,800	27,723	34,973
April 19.....	13,575	75	3,850	23,703	39,180
April 12.....	11,669	47	2,199	24,260	36,145
Total 4 weeks.....	55,890	333	16,889	105,056	143,660
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879.....	38,640	194	16,017	86,602	125,232
Corresponding week 1879.....	11,033	75	4,722	23,647	34,002
Weekly average, 1879.....	10,933	142	2,998	20,025	33,089
Corresponding week 1878.....	10,527	25	4,461	24,600	32,966

*From New York Produce Exchange.