

TO WILLIAM WORKMAN, Esq.,

PRESIDENT OF THE MONTREAL LITERARY CLUB.

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MY DEAR SIR,—

The kindness and consideration with which you have been pleased to permit your name to stand before the following pages, very greatly reconcile me to the many difficulties and trials under which I have, during my residence in this city, pursued my favourite study, and laboured in my endeavours to advance a taste, and to establish a proper appreciation and respect for Musical Literature.

Some professors of severer wisdom in this city have affected to depreciate the science of musical sounds, as something appealing only to the ear, and affording nothing more than a momentary and fugitive delight; others of more cultivation and refinement have with justice admitted that the Art unites intellectual with corporeal pleasure, by a species of enjoyment which gratifies the mind and the sense without weakening reason; and which therefore the learned may study with advantage, and the good enjoy without degradation.

Those who have most diligently contemplated the state of man, have found it beset with vexations which can neither be repelled nor eluded by obscurity: to the necessity of combating these intrusions of discontent, the ministers of pleasure were indebted for that kind reception which they have too indiscriminately obtained. Pleasure and innocence ought never to be separated; yet we seldom find them otherwise than at variance, except when Music brings them together.

By the election of one of the musical profession to be a member of the Council, the Montreal Literary Club have very gracefully added their testimony to the power and humanizing influence of Music and its cultivation. By such a course, they have done very much to assist in raising Music from that desponding condition, in which it has been for so long a period existing in Montreal; and of elevating it to a standard by which it is better known and understood in the neighbouring States, and in European countries.

To those who know that Music is among your recreations, and the study of your children, it is not necessary to say much in behalf of its purity, or in assertion of its dignity. That Music confers delight and happiness on all around is undoubted. To the people (if placed upon an intellectual basis) it administers a pleasure and a fund of enjoyment at almost all times and all seasons. Even children are pleased and delighted with