

room to spare. What commercial necessity it is that is threatening the city walls and towers of Nuremburg, designed by Albert Durer, I have not been able to learn, but to some their destruction will seem a greater piece of Vandalism than it would be to destroy his etchings, which could at least be faithfully copied. The French have perhaps been the greatest sinners of modern times in this way, and this may perhaps be attributed to the spirit of *diablerie* let loose at the time of the 1st Revolution and never since quelled. In England the commercial or other necessity plea has often been advanced, but there too "Philistinism" and ignorance have a great deal to answer for. Among our neighbours to the South a spirit of rampant democracy, akin to that which sent the French chateaux "skyward in flame," has, until recently, made the destruction of everything out of date seem a service to the commonwealth.

We Canadians have to some extent caught the infection of a democratic contempt for the old and the merely vulgar admiration for the new—the "glare and glitter," which a certain writer has said is characteristic of American civilization. It is true that our Philistines and Vandals often advance the "necessity" plea too, a plea which nine times out of ten is absurd; if there is anything of which we have an abundance, it is room, for old and new communities, for old and new cities, for old and new art, for old and new culture, for old and new institutions, even for old and new ideas. The things which we chiefly lack are men and what men produce, and though men inevitably pass away, their best works remain, or would do so, if they were not purposely destroyed.

Fort St. Gabriel, though by no means one of our most important buildings, is or was a fairly good example of the permanence of really good work, however plain and unpretending, if only let alone. *Le Vieux Montreal* by Messrs. Beau-grand and Morin, gives the date of its erection as 1659, and speaks of it as being a wooden fort—in fact a mere stockade,