

## 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.

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.

HIAWATHA SECUNDUS.

(After Longfellow—a long way.)

A friend sends the following hitherto unpublished fragment, supposed to have been picked up by the sweeper after a meeting of our City Fathers:—

Should you ask me whence these stories,  
Whence these very queer traditions,  
Of the chattering and the gossip,  
Of the chattering and the nonsense,  
Of the scribbling of reporters,  
And the quarreling of members,  
And the very petty twaddling,  
I should answer, I should tell you:—  
From the City of Mount Royal,  
From the Road Committee's pow-wow.

\* \* \* \* \*

In the big chair sat the Chieftain,  
Very old and eke sententious,  
Very suave, too, in his manner;  
But, when members waxed unruly,  
Very stern and dignified he.

\* \* \* \* \*

Round their Chieftain sat the Sachems,  
Very foolish, addle-pated;  
Very wise, though, in their own eyes,  
Sat the ancient, twaddling baldheads,  
Talking much and much discussing,  
Dropping many of their I's,  
Pondering deeply and contriving  
How Mount Royal might be prospered,  
How the drains should be constructed,  
How the salaries might be paid, too.

[The remainder of the MS. is, unfortunately, illegible.]

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Anticipating that you will cheerfully say a word of encouragement to the energetic ladies of this city who have established "The Montreal Society of Decorative Art," I write to state that the object of this Society is briefly:—To enable the poor home-toiler to sell her work; to teach her how to improve her taste and style; and to encourage "home manufactures." About one hundred and twenty ladies, who pay a small annual subscription, have been enrolled, and the Society charges a commission of ten per cent. on the proceeds of sales to cover the cost of maintenance. A Hall has been opened in the "Art Gallery" building, and the management is (under the direction of a Board) specially intrusted to the lady who proposed this organization here, and whose heart and energies are evidently in the work. Classes for instruction in Decorative Art are being formed, application for an Act of Incorporation is being made, and from this central institution it is anticipated that branches will spring up throughout the Province of Quebec.

You will at once appreciate the advantages which may be secured under this system, which, although unpretending, may become a powerful agent, economically and socially, in this Province.

Similar Societies have lately been established in some of the large cities of the United States, which have proved successful in affording a market for articles of use and beauty, made by accomplished and willing toilers, who are thereby saved the loss of time and the unpleasantness of personal interviews and solicitation to effect sales; have afforded instruction in Art decoration, and have further realized in the aggregate large returns on the sales. No branch of trade or industry is interfered with, no rivalry is raised with other benevolent or industrial societies; but a gap is filled by these Societies. This work of philanthropy and education is peculiarly fitted for woman. Adopting the lines of Scott, truly is it said of her:

"When pain and anguish rack the brow  
A ministering angel thou."

Without saying more of the philanthropic aspect of the case than to solicit the sympathy and support of all whose hearts and purses respond, allow me to suggest a few considerations as to the industrial effect of this system, were it extended throughout the Province and generally adopted. We are striving to encourage "home manufactures"; our Government has wisely established "Art Schools" in the chief centres in this Province to teach "industrial drawing." These Art Schools are working admirably. The American States

are making "industrial drawing" an obligatory course in their Normal and State Schools. The British Government has also established "Art Schools" with money prizes as life pensions paid during residence in Britain; and did space permit it would be instructive and interesting to give the testimony of the Directors of the American State Schools of Art who have adopted the system introduced by Professor Walter Smith of Kensington. However, the necessity of instruction in Art decoration has been forced on the great manufacturing nations who are competing for supremacy in commercial manufactures. This is no time to lag behind in the commercial struggle which is the characteristic of this age. It is one of peculiar importance to all nations, but for Britain it is a necessity, and Canada has her national policy and interests to further. In Switzerland, France, Prussia, Austria, and Italy one of the main factors in their national wealth is the industrial handicraft of the people, who with their natural taste for colour and design, mainly the effect of Art culture among the masses of the people, have forced this issue on the Saxon race. Our people are wanting in training or education, but not in capacity or industry, and this is the very point which should be borne in mind. As an instance of the effect of encouragement and training on a small scale among our own countrywomen, I may mention a case which I observed a few years since at Riviere du Loup *en haut*. There all the girls were busy and had full purses as the manufacturers of so called "Indian work," which finds a ready sale in the shops of Montreal and Quebec. All these girls were French Canadians, and a more tasteful and industrious set of lasses it would be hard to find. Some art educator (possibly a native) had set them the example. That the Canadian women are industrious is evidenced by their making all the clothing and stuffs used by the household. They have the taste for colour and design of their French ancestors, and during our winter season the whole population might imitate the Swiss in home industries. The social and religious characteristics of our people favour the introduction of this course; and ever obedient to their clergy, and working under their municipal heads, both of whom would willingly encourage this system, the peasantry of the Province of Quebec might be easily trained to home industries.

The effect of want of education is evident here, but should any one visit Nova Scotia and Cape Breton he will find in the outlying districts among the English, Scotch and Dutch settlements a much greater backwardness than among our own French Canadian peasantry, and from a like cause.

I would gladly see in every village an Art School, and in every household an industrial home where peace, occupation and competency would make the fireside cheerful and Canada prosperous. Although machinery can in many cases be only utilized in buildings specially adapted to it, still the factory system has many objectionable features, particularly on the morality of the operatives, and the cost of labour. Certainly labour strikes are peculiar to large manufacturing centres, and should the great labour question be solvable by the distribution of labour and the transfer of it to the fireside of the manufacturer, as is both possible and probable, then will there be great relief to States and people.

But I shall stop, having made these few suggestions, as the subject is one worthy of careful consideration and study, and cannot be fairly treated in a cursory manner, remarking that our sweet Princess, emulating the example of her noble mother, and of her wise and benevolent father, is the head and front of this Institution as its patron, and I trust that from this first offering of her bounty may spring all and more of the blessings on this Province which I believe and hope the Montreal Society of Decorative Art has initiated in Canada.

Yours truly,

Wimbel.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

Sir,—With reference to "Touchstone's" article on "Good wine needs no bush," I would say that I do not see how the phrase "yet to good wine they do use good bushes" can be said to mean or refer to the use of sprigs of rosemary, fennel, or rue, with the wine. The meaning I take from it is, that good wine will become known without the aid of *bushes* (as a tavern-sign), and yet good wine is to be found in places where they do show the *bush*: just as Shakespeare says good plays need no epilogues, yet prove the better by the *help of good epilogues*; in like manner, good wine will be the better known by the aid of *bushes*. "Touchstone" says that Shakespeare does not use the word *bush* in the sense of *bunch* or *sprig* or *spray*: is it to be inferred from that statement that other writers have so used it? I would like "Touchstone" to give an example. I would suggest that the different force given to quotation by the use of the preposition *to* in preference to *with*, be studied. The following lines are to the point as to the use of *bushes* by taverns:

"What needeth a garland which is made of ivie  
Shewe a taverne winelesse?"

—Hackluyt Voyages.

"Twenty to one you find him at the bush."

—Beaumont and Fletcher.

"Touchstone" speaks of additional light being thrown upon this comedy; does he think it obscure? If he would state in what particulars, perhaps some aid might be rendered by

Marik.