

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.

All communications to contain the name and address of the sender.

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.

THE MOUNTAIN PARK AND ITS RANGER.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—It is as easy to conceive a circle without a centre, or a general concern for the whole human race without a greater regard for our friends and neighbours, not to say for ourselves, than that there should not be some little jobbery and abuse in municipal institutions.

With some would-be philanthropists self claims their first and most especial regard, and self must be the nidus and nucleus of their affections,—the focus of all the rays of their benevolence.

While admitting that we owe much to the promoters of the Mountain Park for giving us such a delightful place for recreation, even though we are heavily taxed for the privilege, and while admitting that the Park Ranger is to be commended for the great care he bestows upon the preservation of the varied and beautiful vegetation which ornaments the green nooks and shady groves of the Mount Royal Park, preserving the wild flora and the ferns from the sacrilegious touch of children who are desirous to decorate their straw-hats in the spring time with a wreath of trilliums and cryptograms, we do not think we poor tax-payers should have to pay for the erection of a conservatory and the wages of a gardener for the cultivation of choice flowers, for the benefit of the Ranger, who, having neither fuel, taxes, nor skilled labour to pay for in the production of funeral wreaths, or bridal bouquets, can not only under-sell the professional horticulturist, but rob him of his trade. Were the flower-garden and the conservatory kept for the benefit of the public, like those of Kew, and the Jardin des Plantes, or even like that of Halifax, we should not begrudge, as tax-payers, the few flowers bestowed upon Messieurs the Mayor and Aldermen, and their Excellencies, Royal Highnesses, Right Honourables, and Honourables, who occasionally pay ceremonious visits to the city.

I can scarcely give credit to the accusation that the Park Ranger is not only thus privileged, but that he is allowed free pasture for his cattle, and to sell milk without either license, or analysis by the Government Food Inspector, thereby interfering with another class of tax-paying tradesmen, and I fervently hope that I have been misinformed. If so, the Park committee and the Ranger can emphatically deny the imputation; but if, upon the other hand, there is any foundation, in fact, for this free floriculture and dairy work, I shall offer no apology for appealing to the columns of the SPECTATOR for a ventilation of the question, believing that it is the duty of a free and enlightened Press not only to approve every good work of the Corporation and Legislature for the happiness, and health, and morality of the people, but to censure all jobbery and unfair conduct in official quarters, and to counteract the destructive and demoralizing effects of injustice, no matter whether the authors be ecclesiastics, politicians, or aldermen.

Yours obediently,

Tax Payer.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR,—I am much relieved, upon taking up your issue of the 21st inst., to find it does not contain a single letter purporting to refer to the Old Masters or to the Academy of Arts from the pen of "Mahpop," "Popham," "Euphrosyne," "Thomas D. King" or "Clio."

Now that all these good people have done quarrelling and have exhausted their satirical powers, will some one competent to do so, inform the public as to whether the paintings, said to be from the brush of Rubens, Palma il Vecchio and Corregio, are authentic or not?

As far as I know, no one but Mr. Hill is in a position to furnish the public with proofs as to their authenticity, and he is in honour bound to do so. No one in Montreal will accept either Mr. Popham's or Mr. King's *ipse dixit*, either pro or con on a subject of that kind.

I write this in no cavilling spirit, and do not want to draw out a wail that I am attacking merely for the pleasure of giving annoyance. The matter is one of public interest.

Yours truly,

Caroline.

P.S.—The foot note appended in your last paper to a letter signed "A Lover of Truth" is specially applicable to the correspondents I have referred to. They lost sight of the subject, about which by the way they were all equally ignorant, and ventilated their mutual spite in your columns to the disgust of lovers of art and the general reader.

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
*Grand Trunk.....	Week	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	8 w'ks	\$	\$
Feb. 21	42,871	152,196	195,067	173,353	21,709	...	...	7 "	85,534	...
Great Western.....	" 13	26,241	59,249	85,490	98,085	...	12,595	6 "	38,989	...
Northern & H. & N.W.	" 15	5,505	9,070	14,575	13,365	1,210	...	5 "	4,914	...
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 7	1,232	2,035	3,267	3,184	83	...	5 "	8,350	...
Midland.....	" 7	1,579	1,933	3,512	3,365	147	...	5 "	2,746	...
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 14	1,669	1,400	3,069	3,009	...	...	fm Jan. 1	2,505	...
Whitby, Pt. Perry & Lindsay.....	" 15	460	1,225	1,685	976	709	...	"	2,356	...
Canada Central.....	" 14	1,742	2,148	3,890	3,455	435	...	6 w'ks	4,769	...
Toronto Grey & Bruce	" 7	2,043	2,911	4,954	6,204	1,250	...	5 "	2,907	...
Q. M. O. & O.....	" 15	3,579	2,298	5,877	4,153	1,724	...	6 "	3,236	...
Intercolonial.....	Month	36,512	77,401	113,913	80,866	33,047	...	1 m'th	35,047	...

*The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$25,969, aggregate increase \$119,134 for 8 weeks.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up	Rest.	Price per \$100 Feb. 25, 1880.	Price per \$100 Feb. 25, 1879.	Two last 1/2-yearly Dividends.	Equivalent of Dividend based on price of Stock.
Montreal.....	\$200	\$12,000,000	\$11,999,200	\$5,000,000	\$137 3/4	\$134 3/4	10	7 1/2
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	71 1/2	60	6	8 1/2
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,905	77	81	6	7 1/2
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	125 1/2	116	7	5 1/2
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	58	28	5 1/2	9 1/2
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,511,040	475,000	91 1/2	76 1/2	6	6 1/2
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,381,989	200,000	99 1/4	95	7	7
Quebec.....	100	2,500,000	2,500,000	425,000	...	...	6	...
Commerce.....	50	6,000,000	6,000,000	1,400,000	117	100 3/4	8	6 1/2
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	...	...	...	...	...
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	94 1/2	98 1/2	7	7 1/2
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	...	37 1/2	40 1/2	4 1/2	12
City Passenger Railway.....	50	600,000	600,000	163,000	94	74	5	5 1/2
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	...	121 1/2	116	10	8 1/2

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

Summary of week's exports of wheat and corn from New York, Boston, Portland, Montreal, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New Orleans for week ending February 14th, 1880. To United Kingdom—482,000 bushels wheat and 732,000 bushels corn. To the Continent—472,000 bushels wheat and 746,000 bushels corn.

BOSTON'S IMPORTS.—The imports at Boston for the week ending February 20 were valued at \$1,778,767, against \$834,054 for the corresponding week last year. The value of imports for the year to same date were \$9,549,069, against \$4,775,609 for the corresponding period last year, showing an increase the present year of \$4,774,460.

The following official table of the expenditure and loss of resources sustained by the French through the Franco-German war has been drawn up:—War expenses, 1,315,000,000f.; indemnity to Germany, 5,315,000,000f.; sustenance to German troops, 340,000,000f.; indemnities to departments invaded, 1,487,000,000f.; loss of revenue during the war and of revenue of Alsace-Lorraine, 2,024,000,000f.; reconstitution of war material, 2,144,000,000f.; military pensions, &c., 1,314,000,000f. Total, 13,939,000,000f. The annual charges on the Budget have been increased by 632,000,000f.

From April 1st to January 31st the Exchequer receipts of Great Britain amounted to £62,794,030, as compared with £64,243,815 in the corresponding period of the previous twelve months. The expenditure has been £69,755,483; and from April 1st to February 7th the receipts amounted to £65,497,082, as compared with £67,596,857 in the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The expenditure has amounted to £70,722,858.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—A statement issued by the Bureau of Statistics shows that the total values of the imports of the United States for the month ended December 31, 1879, and for the twelve months ended the same date, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1878, were as follows: December, 1879, \$59,749,429; December, 1878, \$31,516,331; for the 12 months ended December 31, 1879, \$513,745,748; for the 12 months ended December 31, 1878, \$431,812,483. The total values of domestic exports (mixed gold and currency values) were: December, 1879, \$79,763,983; December, 1878, \$66,454,421; for the 12 months ended December 31, 1879, \$754,656,755; for the 12 months ended December 31, 1878, \$729,023,238.

*Summary of exports for week ending February 14th, 1880:—

From —	Flour, brls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	53,676	408,422	411,151	6,457	12,879	7,676
Boston.....	23,711	121,136	133,780	...	...	...
Portland.....	1,001	9,600	...	...	...	5,518
Montreal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Philadelphia.....	1,200	23,488	259,022	...	...	...
Baltimore.....	3,573	331,463	146,543	115	...	...
Total per week.....	83,161	954,109	911,496	6,572	12,879	13,194
Corresponding week of '79.....	109,947	1,102,757	1,815,959	24,359	189,158	36,378

*3,000 bushels Barley.

*From New York Produce Exchange.