

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

SIR.—There is nothing in "Caroline's" letter in your last issue to which I wish to take exception on my own behalf; on the contrary, I am rather flattered in being classed with Messrs. Popham and King as an art critic—a position I never claimed. My part in the discussion was merely to rebuke impudence and personalities when indulged in by anonymous writers towards those who write over their own names. I find that Othello's occupation is not yet gone, as I am again called on to castigate, and this time the impudence is unparalleled, since "Caroline" takes it upon herself to state that "no one in Montreal will accept either Mr. Popham's or Mr. King's *ipse dixit*."

Indeed! but who constituted "Caroline" the mouthpiece for all Montreal?

As usual with Caroline, the pith of her letter is in the postscript. Now, I do not know if "Caroline" is an artist—possibly being a Caroline she paints—but who will stand sponsor for her ability to pronounce upon the ignorance of others? Why not give her credentials in a footnote, as has already been done? But, no doubt, "Caroline" wrote as she did on the principle that a "cat may look at a king," and a "Caroline" may write about Messrs. Popham and King. O, ye gods and (very) little fishes! *Euphrosyne.*

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR.—The writer in the SPECTATOR of February 28th, signed "Caroline," appears anxious that some competent person "will inform the public as to whether the paintings, said to be from the brush of Rubens, Palma il Vecchio, and Correggio, are authentic or not."

To give an answer to this I firmly believe beyond the ability of any artist or connoisseur in our goodly city, and I might even venture to say in the Dominion; for, of all hard tasks, that of deciding upon the originality of a work of art like those in question is a most difficult one. And only men whose whole life under the most favourable opportunities has been spent in this direction (and even they are subject to be deceived) will attempt it with any degree of certainty. It is easy for any one who may have seen much of art to say this picture is in the style of Rubens, Correggio, or Rembrandt, as all eminent artists are recognized by what is called style. But then artists in their lifetime may change their method of working, as Turner, who had during his life three distinct styles, and even the great Raphael changed his after seeing the works of Michael Angelo. Yet there still remains a peculiar individuality about the works of all eminent artists by which their pictures are distinguished from those of every other painter.

The degree of perfection to which the art of copying pictures has been carried is astonishing. So many tricks are employed, and so much skill brought to bear upon the toning and imparting age, that unless something definite is known about the picture or pictures, it is next to impossible to detect a copy from an original; nor is the deception confined to the pictures. Plausible histories are manufactured, and pictures and histories are heralded to the public under the most favourable circumstances. Knowing these facts, many may have been led to believe the pictures belonging to Mr. Hill are not originals.

Now, let us look at the other side of the question. We find from time to time discoveries are made of valuable works of art supposed to be lost or destroyed. A writer in the *London Art Journal* gives a description of one found in a small town in Italy. The picture is supposed to belong to the best period of Greek art, and is spoken of as being beautiful, and also in a good state of preservation.

And not many years past (it may be fresh in the memory of some of your readers) an eminent writer upon art, and also an artist, J. J. Jarvis, secured what were considered a valuable collection of original pictures by some of the old masters. Mr. Jarvis sold them to Yale College for, I think, forty thousand dollars and few who have read the works of this author but will admit that he is not one who could easily be deceived.

"Caroline," I hope, will see by this how hard it is to decide, and it is sometimes dangerous—if we think of the anecdote related by Passavant—(when making a tour of the English galleries before publishing his work) he states "that he met a gentleman who requested him to come and give his unbiassed opinion upon an original picture and gravely informed him, that a person had pronounced it a copy, and he had kicked the scoundrel down stairs." Nor must "Caroline" blame any one if they do not come forward and follow the example of the writers mentioned in her letter, they were both busy in their judgment; had their experience been greater they would not have touched the subject, and I think Mr. Hill would have been better pleased had they not. I am afraid "Caroline" must be content to leave the question open, unless Mr. Hill can enlighten her. For it amounts to this, as far as the judgment of any one amongst us present in art matters is concerned, that it is just possible that Mr. Hill may have been deceived; and again it is not impossible that he may have been fortunate enough to secure a number of original works, and if he possesses the proof of their originality it is to his advantage, and I for one am thankful to the council and Mr. Hill for the opportunity of viewing the pictures and will endeavour to see their beauties and defects regardless of the opinions expressed by the writers named by "Caroline."

Yours truly,

J. W. Gray.

TRADE—FINANCE—STATISTICS.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

COMPANY.	1880.				1879.	Week's Traffic.		Aggregate.		
	Period.	Pass.	Freight	Total.	Total.	Incr'se	Decr'se	Period.	Incr'se	Decr'se
		Mails & Express								
	Week	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$		\$	\$
*Grand Trunk.....	Feb. 28	41,317	159,423	200,740	167,354	33,386	.....	9 w'ks	118,920	.....
Great Western.....	" 20	28,282	57,936	86,218	89,786	.....	3,568	8 "	35,421	.....
Northern & H. & N. W.	" 22	5,414	11,174	16,588	13,970	2,618	.....	7 "	7,532	.....
Toronto & Nipissing..	" 21	1,278	2,202	3,480	2,883	597	.....	7 "	10,331	.....
Midland.....	" 14	1,381	1,887	3,268	2,816	452	.....	6 "	3,198	.....
St. Lawrence & Ottawa	" 21	1,347	1,299	2,646	2,646	.....	.....	fm Jan. 1	2,505	.....
Whitby, Pt Perry & L.	" 11	552	903	1,455	1,359	96	.....	.....	2,452	.....
Canada Central.....	" 14	1,742	2,148	3,890	3,455	435	.....	6 w'ks	4,789	.....
Toronto, Grey & Bruce	" 21	2,128	3,710	5,838	4,641	1,197	.....	7 "	6,080	.....
Q. M. O. & O. West. D.	" 23	3,161	3,280	6,441	6,028	413	.....	7 "	3,650	.....
" " East. D.	" 14	3,223	4,312	7,535	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Month				[Month]	Month	.....	.....	.....	.....
Intercolonial.....	Jan.	36,512	77,401	113,913	80,866	33,047	.....	1 m'nth	33,047	.....

*NOTE TO GRAND TRUNK.—The River du Loup receipts are included in 1879, not in 1880; omitting them the week's increase is \$37,586, aggregate increase \$156,720 for 9 weeks.

BANKS.

BANK.	Shares par value.	Capital Subscribed.	Capital Paid up.	Rest.	Price per \$100 March 3, 1880.	Price per \$100 March 3, 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	\$141	\$132	10	7 3/4
Ontario.....	40	3,000,000	2,996,000	100,000	7 1/2	57 1/4	6	8 1/4
Molson's.....	50	2,000,000	1,999,095	100,000	85	80	6	7 1/2
Toronto.....	100	2,000,000	2,000,000	500,000	124	115	7	6 1/2
Jacques Cartier.....	25	500,000	500,000	55,000	60	28 1/2	5 1/2	9 1/4
Merchants.....	100	5,798,267	5,511,040	475,000	94 1/2	76 1/2	6	6 1/4
Eastern Townships.....	50	1,469,600	1,381,989	200,000	99	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	118 1/2	100	8	6 1/4
Exchange.....	100	1,000,000	1,000,000	...	...	...	...	...
MISCELLANEOUS.								
Montreal Telegraph Co.....	40	2,000,000	2,000,000	171,432	92 1/2	100	7	7 1/2
R. & O. N. Co.....	100	1,565,000	1,565,000	...	37 1/2	41	4 1/2	12
City Passenger Railway.....	50	...	600,000	163,000	93 1/2	70	5	5 1/2
New City Gas Co.....	40	2,000,000	1,880,000	...	116	107	10	8 1/2

*Contingent Fund. †Reconstruction Reserve Fund.

From April 1st to February 14th the Exchequer receipts of Great Britain amounted to £68,465,516, as compared with £70,205,135 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The expenditure has been £71,914,185.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Midland Railway Company on Tuesday, 17th ult., the shareholders, in recognition of Mr. Allport's long services as general manager, made him a grant of £10,000, and placed him on the directorate in the place of the late chairman, Mr. Ellis.

*THE FARMERS' DELIVERIES of home-grown Grain in the 150 towns in England and Wales for the week ended February 7th, 1880, and for the corresponding weeks of the previous nine years and the weekly average prices:—

	WHEAT—		BARLEY—		OATS—	
	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.	Qrs.	Price.
1880.....	37,315	44s 2d	63,354	36s 10d	7,181	21s 3d
1879.....	36,733	38s 1d	59,881	35s 7d	5,127	20s 0d
1878.....	39,717	51s 5d	56,594	44s 3d	6,594	24s 10d
1877.....	44,764	52s 2d	59,072	40s 3d	6,011	25s 4d
1876.....	46,362	43s 2d	87,673	33s 7d	4,556	24s 5d
1875.....	58,983	41s 11d	49,623	44s 5d	4,589	29s 6d
1874.....	43,016	63s 2d	54,520	48s 9d	5,665	28s 1d
1873.....	50,989	56s 8d	46,965	40s 6d	6,197	22s 8d
1872.....	45,746	55s 7d	57,504	38s 8d	5,216	22s 0d
1871.....	77,992	53s 7d	57,511	35s 8d	7,237	23s 9d
Average 10 years.....	50,862	49s 9d	59,270	39s 10d	5,837	24s 3d

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

	Beeves.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep.	Swine.
February 23.....	9,592	166	770	22,636	25,626
February 16.....	11,122	213	800	25,626	36,627
February 9.....	11,494	185	860	30,672	37,227
February 2.....	12,462	169	1,138	36,580	32,715
Total 4 weeks.....	44,670	733	3,568	115,514	132,195
Corresponding 4 weeks 1879.....	40,636	332	3,140	96,941	147,453
Corresponding week 1879.....	10,870	74	760	20,628	39,809
Weekly average, 1879.....	10,933	142	2,998	29,005	33,089
Corresponding week 1878.....	9,333	88	732	23,854	36,370

*Summary of exports for week ending February 21st, 1880:—

From—	Flour, bbls.	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Rye, bush.	Pease, bush.
New York.....	69,697	772,333	755,402	6,189	9,499	1,466
Boston.....	11,398	182,990	48,269	20	...	...
Portland.....	1,300	21,200	...	11,795	...	10,000
Montreal.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Philadelphia.....	6,270	3,001	395,721	...	...	...
Baltimore.....	10,662	315,542	292,839	150	...	...
Total per week.....	99,327	1,295,066	1,494,231	18,154	9,499	11,466
Corresponding week of '79.....	111,807	1,396,314	1,995,919	4,617	105,818	42,371

*18,133 bushels Barley. †1,810 bushels Barley.

*From New York Produce Exchange.

SCOTTISH COMMERCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The Agency of this Company has been placed in the hands of Mr. Thos. Simpson (late of the firm of Simpson and Bethune). A better appointment could not have been made, Mr. Simpson has been known for 20 years as a successful Insurance agent. The Company is well known, too, at home and in Canada, for prompt and liberal settlement of claims.