

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor of THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY :

SIR,—The moving of the waters, which has drawn the attention of Canadians to the possible disaster of having the Plains of Abraham submerged in the present progressiveness of the city of Quebec, has much or little in it as a public movement according to the standpoint from which it may be viewed. If the intersecting of a portion of the famous battlefield (which has for so many years somewhat erroneously taken to itself the name of the Plains of Abraham), with streets and building lots and the paraphernalia of country residences, is to be taken as a serious disaster, then such a disaster has already befallen the Plains of Abraham, since much of the ground where the shock of the battle and the final rout took place has already been intersected with streets and partly built upon. And as far as calling such an extension of the city of Quebec a desecration, there may be much more serious desecrations than that in some of the gatherings at present tolerated on the grounds referred to, and about which there never has been a word said by clergyman or historian. But disaster or no disaster, desecration or no desecration, any enterprise that would lead to the adornment of this portion of the ancient capital in commemoration of the great quarrel between Great Britain and France—in commemoration of the peace that had for its object the blending of French and English Canadians into one people, one federation, one nation—cannot but be worthy of commendation. An effort was made some years ago to adorn as a city park the large field so long known as the Plains of Abraham, but the undertaking failed to mature, possibly on account of the expense involved ; and, as I have said in writing elsewhere about

this matter, unless a wider scope be given to any future enterprise in this direction, it is more than likely that nothing will again come of it. In the hope that something will be done, and that immediately, I would suggest that instead of making the little bit of the Plains of Abraham that has so long usurped a name that rightly belongs to the plateau from the city walls to Wolfe's Cove, instead of making this so-called Plains of Abraham a city park, I would suggest that an international park be arranged for, extending from the Citadel to the steep where Wolfe gained footing on the great area whereon the long-continuing quarrel between the two greatest powers in Europe at the time was to be fought out. Part of this territory, the finest in the world for such a purpose, has already been surveyed by Mr. Taché, the Deputy-Minister of Crown Lands, and, as far as the plans prepared by that gentleman indicate, there can be no difficulty in starting from the Cove fields and extending the great international work along the river, even beyond the field now known as the Plains of Abraham. Such a park would form the finest international undertaking of the kind ever seen, and the reason for doing something in this direction seems to be imminent. Indeed, the time is a fitting one, historically speaking, for the inauguration of any movement that would tend to the unifying of the sympathies between Great Britain, the United States, and Canada, and such a magnificent tribute to the spirit of the times as that I have suggested would become a permanent peace-token—a consummation, possibly, of the labors of the Washington International Commission, whose negotiations were first and auspiciously opened at Quebec last summer. And, when I