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GENERAL NOTES.

A correspondent sends us the following plea for the poor man:—

SIR—The distinctive feature of the SPECTATOR has been an English love of fair play, and the giving everybody who clothes his thoughts decently an opportunity of being heard. May I be permitted to intrude upon your columns, with a word or two addressed to the gentlemen of the Citizens' Committee in connection with the coming Exhibition.

It seems to me that they are to a great extent wasting the money so generously subscribed by our wealthy firms and private individuals in "side-shows,"—who will care for the balloon and fireworks, &c., beyond the momentary pleasurable excitement? I think, Sir, that the gentlemen who have the conduct of the Exhibition from first to last ought to aim at a higher standard of usefulness; it is true that the proposal for a baby-show found no seconder, but I appeal to all right-thinking men whether the whole affair may not by mismanagement dwindle down to a "baby-show" altogether. I know the gentlemen of the Citizens' Committee keep in view the idea of finding amusements so as to attract a large number of visitors to the city, this may be laudable enough, but I fancy that the promoters of an Exhibition of the character purposed, should have a grander object in view; politicians never cease proclaiming that Canada has to compete with the more populous United States, our neighbour, friend, but powerful rival in progress; and surely one of the most effective ways in which this can be done, is improvement in machinery and a hundred useful inventions which the working men of Canada should have an opportunity of seeing and examining; and for this purpose some effort should be made to set aside one day, at least, for a civic holiday, so as to give everybody a chance of visiting the Exhibition, and furthermore, before all the money subscribed is voted away in gewgaws, could not some arrangement be made between the Committees for, say, one or two 10 cent days so that operatives in our factories &c., could at least have the Exhibition within their reach.

I know such a proposal will meet with opposition and suggestion of difficulties in carrying out, but a large number might be reached *thus*:—There are many hundreds of honest working men, aye and working women too, employed in our factories, to whom the proprietors might easily undertake the distribution of tickets. Employers of factory labour are well aware how important a factor in building up national wealth, are their "hands." Give them a chance, gentlemen! There are many workmen so loyal to their homes that they would not take a holiday for themselves, without their wives and children and they cannot afford the expense of such an undertaking. Gentlemen, trust the working people, and there will be no cause to regret it. Those who know anything about such matters can point with pleasure and pride to the behaviour of the hundreds of thousands of the working class who visited the great exhibition in London in 1851, and to the uniform good behaviour of the visitors to the British Museum, the gardens of Hampton Court Palace and every place of public resort, generously made free to "the people" by the British Government.

Think it over, Messieurs Committee-men, and I'll pledge my fellow-workers that thousands will remember with gratitude the chance that was placed within their reach of visiting the Exhibition; there is plenty of time yet to mature any plan, if heartily set about, and you may rely upon the co-operation and good behaviour of the class I plead for, if my suggestion is acted upon.

The English Poet Laureate has truly said:—

"Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood."

I am proud to sign myself,

A Working Man.

P.S.—I plead not alone for the toilers of our own city; the working people of Cornwall, Almonte, Valleyfield, Sherbrooke, &c. &c., all deserve a

chance; excursion trains at cheap rates might be organized, and thus one object at least, of the Committee would be attained, viz.: the bringing of numbers to the city; it is true there might not be a wide margin for the hotels, but I do not believe many subscribers to the fund would object to such a diversion of their subscriptions, and they would receive repayment in the happy faces and grateful hearts of the recipients.

We have read the "silly vapourings" of the *Journal of Commerce* in regard to the opposition of the public to the proposed arrangement of the City Passenger Railway with the City of Montreal. It tells us that "We own that when such influential citizens as the aldermen, who have had the advantage of considering the question with a full knowledge of facts, have arrived at the conclusion that the charter should be granted on the terms agreed upon, we think it is to be regretted that so much bitterness of feeling should have been manifested by the press and the public." We deny that there is any *bitterness* of feeling on the part of the press or the public, and can easily account for the fact that "such influential citizens as the aldermen, who have had the advantage of considering the question with a full knowledge of facts, have arrived at the conclusion that the charter should be granted on the terms," etc., by stating that to err is human. Other persons besides these immaculate aldermen have opportunities of knowing the facts in the case, and we remember well that when the C. P. R. was called upon a few years ago to reply to the statements of aldermen who had a very full knowledge of the subject—the City Passenger Railway repl'ed, by making through its President, a low, vulgar personal attack upon certain aldermen. It therefore appears to us, at this juncture, entirely uncalled-for that the *Journal of Commerce* should state that the press and public are actuated by "bitterness of feeling." It is rather the other way; there is much bitterness of feeling on the part of the C. P. R. incorporation towards those who desire to frustrate its attempts and efforts at securing a monopoly. We know full well that aldermen can be made to change their opinions as well as other people, and we can only trust and hope that the change of opinion has been made honestly and *sans reproche*.

In our issue of the 14th August we stated that—

"Messrs. Thos. White and John Crawford are sparring with each other about the City Passenger Railway; and Mr. Thos. White seems, so far as the correspondence is concerned, to have got the best of it. Many will not be simple enough to accept innocence as existing to the extent that Mr. Crawford would have us believe. We are much pleased to learn that Mr. Greene is not now hostile to the Company and will be much more pleased when we find that 'he has exacted the *utmost farthing* from the Company,' though if he manages to do this he will have executed a hitherto impracticable deed."

To this opinion we still adhere, though in justice to Mr. Crawford and Alderman Greene, we must say that we always have believed and still believe them in respect to "bribery or corruption" to be above suspicion. We may think them mistaken in their views without for a moment or in the slightest degree reflecting upon their honour or their honesty.

The Cornwall Regatta was, according to all reports, a fizzle, and was merely "run" for the purpose of making money. That Hanlan should have lent himself to such a scheme, we can hardly believe, and we can only wish that there has been some mistake. To all professional athletes the temptations to engage in "hippodroming" are very strong, and we have always had a very firm belief that the Canadian Champion was above it, but the Cornwall Regatta has a very fishy look as regards true athletics.