

secure, and fears no harm by way of retaliation. In this he is quite correct, for if directors of public companies, as well as ministers of churches, were to notice all the petty attacks and unkind things said of them, I fear their duties would be sadly interfered with. Hence it is the thousand and one trifling complaints of private individuals *cannot*, and *ought not*, to be noticed.

Churches, as well as public companies, are not created for the salvation or benefit of one individual, but of the *many*, and in the carrying out of the design there will, of necessity, be some *one or two* feeling aggrieved. This is *chronic* in our poor humanity, and no one, I am sure, has seen more of this than the bold, outspoken Editor of the SPECTATOR.

The "Conductors" of the C. P. R. Co.'s cars appear to enlist very deeply your sympathy, and a shadow of *satisfaction* is evinced at the fact that those who have been convicted as dishonest were found "too much for the Company." Now, so far as I can ascertain, the conductors on the C. P. R. Co.'s cars are better paid now than ever before, their salaries having been raised to encourage honest, deserving men; and so far from their being dissatisfied, I happen to know of one who has been on the line for over *nine* years, and judging from the appearance and condition of the horses, neither one nor the other appear to suffer much at the hands of the directors, even if the *public* do, which I have yet to learn.

I am no apologist for the C. P. R. Co., nor am I one to join in the hue and cry against public companies, simply because they *are* such. At the same time I freely admit a public criticism of their acts and duties is a wholesome safeguard against encroachments on private rights, but such criticism is only of any force or value when based upon a competent knowledge of the details of their working. What say you, Mr. Editor, if the C. P. R. Co. would throw open their cars for the free use of the public, say on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, these being the days on which the British Museum, in London, opens its doors to the public free of charge. Do you think this would atone for the many shortcomings of the C. P. R. Co. and satisfy periodical croakers? I trow not.

19th October, 1878.

Yours,

"CITIZEN."

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—I have read your sparkling articles. I relish some of them like a Roman epicure did the choicest morsels that we read about in Livy or Tacitus. I am not going to say much, but to confirm what has been stated by your Toronto correspondents on the bad state of the Toronto Corporation. I could use very strong language, such as "venal" and "corrupt," and they would be none too strong for some of the members and officials of that notorious body. I may here say that a copy of your issue of the 12th and one of the 19th, were in the City Council on Monday night last, and created quite a flutter among the charmed circle. The eloquent and clever Chairman of the Executive Committee, Ald. Turner, read the articles, in his usual inflated style, to a number of the aldermen. All kinds of comments, complimentary and otherwise, were showered down on your devoted head; and Ald. Turner was very loud, and promised to make you dance for your wild and reckless statements about the Toronto Corporation, which, according to that "*celebrated Corporation financier*" is a model of propriety. I heard he was going to send you a peppery letter. I assure you there is more truth than poetry in your statements; and, what is more, if your competent person knows his business he will unearth facts and figures about the Toronto Corporation that are anything but complimentary to them or creditable to the citizens.

Mr. Editor, will you believe me when I state that we have got a City Engineer who is a better Tory than an engineer, and would not be in that situation if he was not. He has a fat salary of \$3,500, and has the privilege of going out of the city and doing professional work and getting paid for the same, and is sometimes away for days. This gentleman was requested by resolution of the Council to make, or procure, plans and specifications for a new bridge across the Don on South Park Street. His office hours are from 11 to 3 o'clock, and on Board days till 6 o'clock. He tells the Board of Works he has not got *time* to make these plans, but must have extra allowance to get help. He is provided with a secretary and a bookkeeper; two foremen, one for the east and another for the west; one foreman for each of the nine wards; and several foremen for the overseeing of sewers and local improvements. Besides this he has had extra help at an immense expense to the city for clearing the buildings of the Exhibition, and for getting bench boards for the sewers, to the extent of thousands of dollars. Does your engineer do this kind of a thing?

Then the next officials that are a model and a credit to any municipality are our City Solicitors. One is a Member of Parliament, and a good deal of his time is taken up by that means; he is good-natured and affable, but one cannot say much for his knowledge of the law; he also is a good Tory, or he would not be there. The Junior Solicitor is a young man of some pretensions, and is a kind of thirty-first cousin to the other man; he is also a member of one of the political clubs; his knowledge of the law is very limited, and you might draw his teeth before he would give you his opinion on any simple question of law affecting the Corporation of Toronto; he has also been very active in the interests of the different railways who would bonus—he was always to be found when the bonus-hunters came on to the happy hunting-ground of the Toronto Corporation. These gents get \$3,500 per year, and some uncertain perquisites but no one can find out what they amount to. Besides all this, the liberal-minded Council voted them for legal expenses \$6,000. They are seldom to be found in their offices; and both have outside legal work on their own account, which conflicts very much with the Corporation. Have you any of this class of limbs of the law in your Corporation? If you have, I pity you.

The next is our obliging puss-like Treasurer. He gets \$3,000 per year; he works very well, and his office is kept in tolerable good order; he lives well, and seems to thrive on the fat of his office; but he is everlastingly complaining that he is over-worked, and that he cannot afford to stay in his office so long at so small a salary: must have a horse to take out-door exercise to recruit his health. Have you anything like this in Montreal?

The next is his Worship the Mayor, elected by the popular vote (salary, \$3,000 per annum), kind and good-natured,—a pet of the ladies and the

Licensed Victuallers; and he owes the "high office" he now holds through this influence and not to any merit he possesses as a municipal legislator. *No*, *no*! He also is very seldom in his office. You know the old proverb, "When the cat's away the mice will play." There is anything but good order and time kept in the Corporation offices. Take this as a whole, I need not say any more about this high municipal dignitary. His many failings have wrought much mischief on humanity.

Toronto, 22nd Oct., 1878.

MAPLE.

## MUSICAL.

### WANTED—A MUSIC HALL.

It is apparent to all who attended any of the large concerts which have been given this season, that Montreal is in need of a commodious music hall. We have one or two public halls already it is true, and Mr. Nordheimer is at present fitting up another; but none of these are large enough for first-class concerts, and the only places in which sufficient people can be accommodated are the Academy of Music and the Skating Rink. The first of these has (exclusive of the upper gallery) a very limited seating capacity, and, though passably good for opera or the drama, is not at all adapted for concerts. The latter is large enough for anything, too large in fact, and, with a little alteration, would make a fair concert hall; but it is not available in winter, when most of our principal concerts are given, and then the cost of seating and arranging the building is enormous. We have no doubt that many excellent concert troupes are deterred from coming to Montreal on this account, and that if we had a suitable hall, we would have good concerts more frequently and at lower rates.

Whilst seated in a rickety wooden chair at the Philharmonic Concert, the thought suggested itself—how long would the citizens of any other city in the world continue to attend concerts in such a place, when, by a little exertion, they might erect a commodious and substantial building, properly heated and lighted, with platform, numbered seats, and every facility for both seeing and hearing in comfort?

It is a great mistake to suppose that a music hall must necessarily be an expensive building, of grand and imposing appearance externally. Many concert-rooms (notably the Boston Music Hall) are hidden behind a group of plain brick buildings, and are, as regards their internal arrangements, fitted out with the greatest plainness. What we want is a brick building, capable of accommodating about two thousand people, where, for a moderate rental, anyone who chooses may give a concert or lecture, without being obliged to spend hundreds of dollars in erecting a platform, fixing sounding-boards, and hiring seats. It would, of course, be a *sine qua non* that the acoustic properties of the building should be as near perfection as possible, but as that would depend almost altogether on its *shape*, it need not involve any extra expense.

In Cincinnati, Mr. Reuben Springer erected a magnificent Music Hall at his own expense (the Corporation giving the ground) and handed it over to a committee for the use of the citizens; the revenue derived from its rental is expended in producing the finest musical performances, and by this means Cincinnati has risen, from being a fourth or fifth-rate American city, to the proud position of musical centre of the continent of America. Theodore Thomas has left New York to establish a College of Music in the Western city, and from the enterprise shown by Mr. Springer and two or three other citizens in the one matter of music alone, Cincinnati is becoming famous all over the continent, and even in Europe.

We are afraid there are not many Springers in Montreal, indeed we question very much if even a company could be found to build a hall at present; but this we *could* do, and easily. Let every lover of music contribute even a dollar or two to a fund for this object, and the thing could be done at once. Then we would not only have the hall in our city, but the revenue derived from it could be used to develop our musical resources, and we would soon have a fine local orchestra, fine local concerts, &c., without having to import both vocalists and instrumentalists on every occasion of importance. Montreal would be the musical centre, if not of the continent, at least of this Dominion, and we would not need to go abroad to hear good music, but would in this simple way, bring the music home to us. Who will take the initiative?

### ART CONVERSAZIONE.

The public are under obligations to Mrs. Lovell for successfully inaugurating a series of Art Conversazioni at her own residence. The first was held at her house on Friday last, at which were present a large number of those interested in the arts.

Mr. Gray read a paper on the principles of art, which, though too long for such an occasion, was listened to with great attention. To illustrate the lecture there was a fine display of ceramics, antique bronzes, majolica, Sevres, &c., besides paintings and water colours. Songs by Mrs. Thrower in her usual excellent style, added much to the enjoyment. The most animated conversation was kept up without cessation till near twelve, when after simple refreshment the company separated, highly gratified.

Mrs. Lovell deserves thanks for having inaugurated such a sensible and entertaining mode of passing the evening.

It is very gratifying to know that Mrs. Lovell's classes for young ladies desirous of pursuing a "higher education" have proved highly successful. It is fifteen months since the commencement was made, and now there are young ladies from all the chief cities of Canada, besides many from town, who are members of Mrs. Lovell's classes, pursuing a full or partial course. It is doubtful if any European school of this kind furnishes better advantages for a young lady than those obtained by the course pursued at Mrs. Lovell's.

THE TARIFF of the future will be a prohibitive one. This ought to satisfy the "total abstainers."—*The Jester*.

"SPEAKING of the excellent stroke pulled by some of our college boys," says an exchange, "we wonder if any of them could pull a sunstroke." That might depend on the *skull*.