

The Cambridge Review, 18 October 1888

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editors of the Cambridge Review.

SIRS,—Allow me through your pages to protest against the Circus at present on Midsummer Common. Transitory circuses we were used to, and the irritation produced by the strange noises of a menagerie at feeding time was mitigated by the knowledge that the annoyance would not last long. But this term a circus has taken up a position at the corner of Midsummer Common nearest the road, and, judging from the character of the building, intends to pay us a prolonged visit. Six nights of the week my rooms are made almost uninhabitable by the brass band and the rowdies outside. I already know all their tunes by heart and my life is being made a burden to me. Is this entertainment 'by kind permission of the Vice-Chancellor?'

I enclose my card, and beg to sign myself,

JESUS LANE

The Cambridge Review, 8 November 1888

THE CIRCUS.

To the Editors of the Cambridge Review.

SIRS,—As you allow an anonymous correspondent to protest against the circus on the Common, permit me in fairness to protest against the false and malicious statements contained in the letter signed 'Jesus Lane,' which appeared in your issue of October 18. Allow me to say that I have erected over forty similar buildings in the principal towns of England in the main streets, and have appeared in circuses on the Continent erected in the grand squares and principal boulevards, and in the palaces of Moscow, Constantinople, Madrid, Nizni Novgorod, Teheran, and St. Cloud, before the principal royal families of Europe, and the Monktz Platz of Germany, where circuses and the Stadt Theatre holds[sic] a higher position than other buildings, and never until now was informed that a well-conducted establishment was an annoyance to any person. Your correspondent states his rooms are made almost uninhabitable by the band and chorus of rowdies outside. As to the band, ye lovers of Apollo, what say ye to this? It would be folly to argue with a man that loves not music, and as to the chorus of rowdies outside, it is a gross libel on the principal families of Cambridge seeking a harmless evening's amusement where the most fastidious person, or Gilbert's sweet girl of fifteen, or child of the tenderest age, will not see or hear anything but what is of the purest nature. His Worship the Mayor and the leading residents of the town will bear out my statement; even the neighbours opposite, who opposed us before opening, not knowing the character of our entertainment, have withdrawn the memorial they presented against us, and are frequent visitors to our circus. Your correspondent also states he already knows our tunes by heart, but he omits mentioning about the music issuing forth from the same Jesus Lane houses by jovial young fellows who sit on the window ledge with windows open, singing to their hearts' content, accompanied by the banjo and concertina, 'Two Lovely Black Eyes,' long after our circus is closed. I defy any single unbiased person to prove our circus is a source of annoyance. Our expenses for a season in town exceed £1,200, which money, if taken, is mostly spent in the town. We give a performance which is appreciated by all classes, and we send our delighted audience home sober, with light heads and merry hearts, to battle afresh with their monotonous toil, which cannot be said of all

entertainments. Had your correspondent personally seen me I should have been happy to carry out any remedy he might have suggested, and should know how to deal with my opponent; but when a man who does not sign his name writes to a paper with the sole object of pecuniarily injuring me (as the arrangements for coming to Cambridge were made by me, on whom rests the responsibility), he cowardly strikes in the dark, not caring how he hurts; he must not be surprised (in speaking the truth) if I strike out in return and hit hard in reply. In justice to myself and partner, I must beg of you to insert this letter, and am not afraid to sign my own name,

CHARLES HENRY KEITH,

Descendant of the Earl Keiths, of Scotland, and Hon. Freeman of the City of London Goldsmiths Company;

And that of my partner,

WILLIAM TUDOR,

Of the famous Tudors;

For Keith and Tudor's Circus.

Cambridge, Oct. 29th, 1888.

The Cambridge Review, 15 November 1888

THE CIRCUS.

To the Editors of the Cambridge Review.

SIRS,—I see in your issue of last week a letter from Messrs. Keith and Tudor protesting against the 'false and malicious statements' of your correspondent 'Jesus Lane' in your issue of October 18, in connection with the circus at present on Midsummer Common. I have the misfortune to occupy rooms almost exactly opposite the circus, and can testify that between the hours of eight and ten at night my rooms are almost unbearable, as can any of my friends who have been there at that time.

Messrs. Keith and Tudor seem to think it remarkable that 'Jesus Lane' has not mentioned the 'jovial young fellows who sit on the window ledge, with windows open, singing to their hearts' content, accompanied by the banjo and concertina.' I should imagine that these jovial young fellows exist only in your correspondent's imagination; for my own part I can say I have heard nothing of the kind all the term; indeed, I can imagine no one but a lunatic singing on a window ledge at eleven o'clock at night at this time of year. Further, if such nuisance really exists, cannot Messrs. Keith and Tudor induce the Proctors to stop it? But we have no Proctors to send to stop the incessant noise which is made nightly inside the circus. The cities your correspondent mentions must be curiously constituted if buildings such as the circus here are allowed in the 'main streets.' Imagine such an erection in Regent Street or Holborn!

If your correspondent 'Jesus Lane' 'loves not music,' I most assuredly do, and I have heard none issuing from the circus. Is the noise there made the sort of 'music' Messrs. Keith and Tudor have heard in any 'Stadt Theatre' in Germany? If so, I should be curious know where.

I am not aware that any of the neighbours opposite have withdrawn the memorial they presented against the circus; at any rate, all who signed the memorial have not so withdrawn. In concluding this protest against the letter in your last issue, which has doubtless paid well as an advertisement for Messrs. Keith and Tudor's entertainment, I am not in the least ashamed of giving my name and address, and to remain,

Sirs, yours truly,

W. DUNN, Trin. Coll.

62, Jesus Lane.