

# TOWN HALL SQUARE.

## In Defence of Mr. Leith.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE STAR."

Sir,—My excuse for adding to the already bulky correspondence on the above matter is the departure by Mr. Solomon from the usual rules of argument in making a personal attack on Mr. Leith. It is insinuated that Mr. Leith, without due consideration of the matter, has "rushed into print" and unconsciously, nay, wondrously luckily, has hit upon the very scheme proposed by the Town Council. Had Mr. Solomon, who does not profess to be "delightfully ingenuous," given Mr. Leith's letter that careful consideration which he seems to expect from others, before himself rushing into print, he, with his remarkable sense of the "obvious" might have discovered that the said letter was a defence of the Town Council's scheme. All that Mr. Leith intended was to emphasise the inherent possibilities of that scheme. There was no intention to arrogate to himself "modifications contained in the municipal plan published over 12 months ago."

Now, sir, the whole discussion in my opinion seems to amount to this: Mr. Solomon, inwardly displeased with the scheme evolved by the Town Council, and regretting the fine opportunity lost to this and subsequent generations for beautifying our town and adding to the greatness of our nation, began to think. The result—how marvellous is the working of the human mind!—was, the "obvious scheme," a scheme so obvious that one marvels how the Town Council, with their fine tradition for striking the obvious, surpassed themselves, and suggested what was really an improvement on the "obvious."

The whole object of the Town Hall Square scheme is to ease the traffic in the affected portion of Harrison Street. Mr. Solomon suggests doing this by taking up the existing tram lines and putting them down again practically where they were before, and as far as traffic is concerned exactly where they were. Mr. Leith, on the other hand, readily saw possibilities in the scheme of the Town Council which, if properly realised, would not only solve the traffic difficulties but also satisfy aesthetic demands.

Why Mr. Solomon should describe a letter embodying these suggestions as "delightfully ingenuous" I cannot imagine. He must have been too busy calculating Mr. Leith's age to devote himself seriously to the latter's explanations. Surely Mr. Solomon's own experience has convinced him that age by itself—although it may enable us to acquire the "grand manner"—must always give way to sterling qualifications even when possessed by "the youngest of us."—I am, etc.,

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