



# THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb,  
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

## OUR MISSION

**First.**—That a number of our pupils may learn type-setting, and from the knowledge obtained be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

**Second.**—To furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf mute subscribers.

**Third.**—To be a medium of communication between the school and parents, and friends of pupils, now in the institution, the hundreds who were pupils at one time or other in the past, and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf of our land.

## SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps, or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us, that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires, unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted—If we know it.

## ADVERTISING

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions to  
**THE CANADIAN MUTE,**  
BELLEVILLE,  
ONTARIO.



SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1897.

## A Good Friend of the Deaf.

Mrs. McPhee, who has been visiting friends in the city and at this Institution, left for home last week. She spent most of her time in making friends for the cause of the Deaf. Having lived in the Territories, her interest in their sad condition was aroused, and she tried while here to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of prominent gentlemen in their behalf. We have no doubt that her efforts have been successful, and that great good will be the result. *Winnipeg Silent Echo.*

From the above it would appear that Mrs. S. A. McPhee, of Glen Souris, Manitoba, is still engaged in those tireless and disinterested exertions on behalf of the deaf to which she has devoted so much of her time and energy during the past fifteen years, and which have been crowned with so great a benediction to the deaf. Mrs. McPhee has a daughter who is deaf and who graduated from the Belleville and afterwards from the Manitoba Institution. So pleased was she with the beneficial results of an education in the case of her daughter that she was very desirous that all who are similarly afflicted should have a like advantage. At that time there was no school for the deaf west of Ontario, and Mrs. McPhee, who had made Manitoba her home, undertook the task of securing such an institution in that Province. As far back as 1883 she began her efforts in that direction. She interviewed the members of Parliament and the leading business men and enlisted their sympathy and co-operation. One of the first men she saw was Mr. Woodsworth, M. P., who approved of the project. She then went to Mr. Sifton, now Minister of the Interior, who drew up a petition which she herself circulated in Brandon and elsewhere, and which was duly presented to the House. Those in authority acknowledged the justice of the claim of the deaf for an education and promised due consideration. But,

as is frequently the case in such matters action was delayed from year to year with discouraging iteration. Mrs. McPhee, however, though often disheartened, did not despair but kept up the agitation and brought every possible influence to bear on the public men of the Province, and by means of letters to the press and public meetings and various other devices she succeeded in creating a public sentiment which compelled recognition; and at last, in 1889, she had the satisfaction of seeing her efforts crowned with success in the shape of a handsome school and a competent staff. Among others who gave her valued encouragement and influence were W. F. Luxton, Esq., then of the *Free Press*, and Mr. Somerset, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Such is a very brief account of the unselfish labors of one woman on behalf of those who had no claim on her, except those of common humanity, yet, strange to say, in the History of the Manitoba Institution as it appears in Vol. 10 of the Bureau's History of American Institutions, Mrs. McPhee's name is not mentioned nor is any reference made to the important part she played in securing the establishment of that school. This is manifestly unjust, and, knowing the facts of the case, and believing that honor should be given to whom honor is due, we are pleased to do what we can to place the credit where it properly belongs. It has been truly said that the saving of the world is in its nameless saints, and it has often transpired in the progress of human events that the needs of mankind have first been discovered, and the burden of the work in supplying those needs has been borne, by faithful but unobtrusive workers, and when the way has been cleared and success is in view others have stepped in and reaped the glory and the honor. But, after all, the consciousness of a duty well done, and the knowledge of benedictions bestowed, is a far greater reward than empty plaudits, and this reward is that which has been enjoyed by Mrs. McPhee. Nor does she yet seem to have tired of her labors but is now endeavoring to secure for the deaf of the Territories a like boon, and we hope that her efforts in this case may be crowned with as great success as—and much more speedy than—in the case of Manitoba, and that she will receive in this instance a fairer share of the meed of public credit than was given her in the former undertaking.

## Keep off the Railway Track.

Seldom a week passes in which there is not recorded one or more serious accidents to deaf mutes while walking upon or crossing over railway tracks. One of our contemporaries began the first of this year to keep tally of the number of such accidents and already the number noted has reached twenty-one. Warning after warning has been given by this and other papers on this subject, but, while a majority of the deaf give heed thereto and so prolong their days, a few foolishly ones refuse to be advised and court death or mutilation—in many cases too successfully,—by carelessness in this regard. A deaf person should never walk upon a railway track, nor ever cross one without first making sure that there is no train within striking distance. It would be better for even hearing people to heed this admonition, but for the deaf not to do so is almost inconceivable folly.

The Indianapolis School is suffering from an epidemic of measles, the third in three years. One case resulted fatally.

—A trip to "Muskoka" in November, will appear in a future issue.

## The Value of a Trade.

GOOD ADVICE TO BOYS.

To their shame be it said, a vast number of American boys don't want to learn a trade. The bare idea of such a thing seems to be utterly repugnant to them. They are anxious to be office boys or counter jumpers, or salesboys or clerks, or something of that kind. Too many of them dream of being great merchants, great financiers, great doctors, great lawyers, great statesmen, or, at least, some kind of a great man that will not entail anything savoring of physical labor. They want to wear fine clothes and spotless linen every day in the week. While it is, of course, a laudable ambition on the part of any young man to want to become famous in business life or in some one of the professions, and create a big stir in the world, yet it must be patent to the most casual observer that these avenues of endeavor are already greatly over-crowded. With thousands of brilliant lawyers eking out a from hand-to-mouth existence; with thousands of young doctors who scarcely know what a real patient looks like; with thousands of men in mercantile pursuits who cannot hope, in the face of the relentless competition of the big moneyed concerns, to ever merge from the nose-grinding rut of one horse shop keepers, with thousands of "statesmen" out of a job, is it not a matter of wonderment that so many of our American boys refuse to turn their attention to the more useful field of mechanics?

We copy the following interesting extract in relation to the above, from the *New York Sun*.—"It is to be regretted that so few of our American boys learn any trade, or are willing to serve as apprentices for the term of four or five years. Almost any good and smart boy can procure employment in some of the hundred skilled industries that are carried on at this city, and the boy who serves his apprenticeship faithfully gets a training that will be advantageous to him all through life, and that will very surely enable him to earn a living as long as he lives. We should suppose that any real sensible boy would think of becoming a skilled workman in a good trade, would like to stand forward to the time when he could stand up as an independent journeyman, for example, in the carpenter's trade, or the brass worker's, or the tailor's, or the stonemason's, or the watchmaker's, or bookbinder's, or the fresco painter's, or the weaver's, or the printer's, or the machinist's or the locksmith's, or the gilder's, or some other trade worthy of his manhood. It is a splendid thing for a young fellow to start out in the world with a good trade. He can be as stiff as he pleases, he does not need to knuckle down to anybody, neither the boss nor the foreman, if he minds his own business and steers clear of gallivanting. He can nearly always get a job at fair pay, and can often have a chance of travelling to some other part of the country to look for a better job at higher pay. What long-headed American boy would not like to have such a show in life? We say that boys who need to earn a living do well to learn a trade and then strike out in life, free as the American flag.

## Hope for the Deaf.

Professor Dussaud, of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, has invented an apparatus to enable the deaf to hear. The microphone he has just issued to the world magnifies the human voice in the same way as a lens magnifies a picture. It is simply a telephone connected electrically with a phonograph, but a far more sensitive phonograph than Edison's ordinary model. There is of course an electric battery, sulphate of mercury being used, and from one cell to sixty cells, according to the degree of deafness of the person. Of course the apparatus is useless in case of absolute deafness, but fortunately such an infirmity is far rarer than is suspected. 25 per cent of so-called stone deaf persons can be made to hear and understand by means of Prof. Dussaud's invention. How? You speak into the phonograph. You make it repeat your words, which are transmitted by a sort of microphone, and speaking tube into the deaf ear. Professor Dussaud in the same order is preparing for the Paris Exhibition of 1900, an apparatus which will enable 10,000 people who may be all deaf to follow a lecture.

## The Thrush's Nest—A Sonnet.

BY JOHN CLARK

Within a thick and spreading Hawthorn bush  
That overhangs a mole-hill, large and round  
I heard from morn to morn a merry thrush  
Sing hymns of rapture, while I drank the sound  
With joy and oft an unobtruding quest  
I watched her secret toils from day to day  
How true she waited the morn to form her nest  
And modelled it within with wool and clay  
And by and by, like health to the gilt wife,  
There lay her shining eggs as bright as tower  
Ink-spotted over shells of green and tan  
And then I witnessed in the summer hours  
A brood of nature's industrious ebb and flow  
Glad as the sunshine and the laughing sky

## Help One Another.

The way in which dumb animals, and especially birds, seek to help each other in distress, should teach us a lesson of kindness to each other and to them. They will help not only those of their own kind, but of different tribes and habits; and if their help is unobtruding their sorrow is great.

Birds have been known to help a young of those who had been destroyed. A gentleman had a young cock thrush brought to him early in the spring. It thrived and did well. Some time after a nest of helpless young blackbirds was placed in the cage with the thrush. The latter, as if aware that they needed his care, fed and brought them all up.

Mr. Crocker writes: "The tit that which last autumn was brought to me with a broken wing, and has remained with me ever since, this summer adopted and reared a young robin, the latter having left its nest much too soon. I fed it for a few days on bread and milk, with insects and grubs from the lark's box of mould, given him fresh every day.

He must have observed that the robin was fed with the same kind of food as himself, for he took on himself the task of feeding it, and when I gave him a large spider or caterpillar, would eat the robin, and, after dipping the morsel in water, drop it down the latter's gaping throat.

The latter can now feed itself but they are still on most friendly terms, dividing all large insects between them, while a deal of gentle, loving talk goes on. I had young canaries and sparrows about the same window, but the lark never offered to feed them, although sociable with all.

"I never before know of a bird feeding the offspring of another and totally distinct species."

Should not instances like these make us ashamed of our frequent indifference to the feelings of others?

My son, follow not in the footsteps of the loafer, and make no pattern of the example of him who is born tired, for verily I say unto you, their business is overstocked, and the seats on the corners are all occupied. It is better to saw wood at two bits a cord than to whittle in a loading match and curse the government. My son, while thou hast left in thy skull the sense of a bird break away from the cigarette habit, for lo, thy breath stinks like unto a glue factory, and thy whole appearance is less intelligent than a store dummy. Yes, thou art a cipher with the sun knocked out.—*Unknown.*

Another idea that you should begin to build up in your pupils is that they receive many things while in school not free, nor as charity, but as part of a bargain. They are to pay for them all by their good behavior, by being the very best citizens in the State, and they ought to begin now. The fine buildings and appliances are given to them in trust only. They must be handed over to another set of boys and girls, and those who have them now must use the best of care of them, so that the new set will have them in good condition. Books, slates, window shades, clean walls, everything that can be used up, broken, or defaced must be treated with the greatest care. They replace and repair these things to a great deal of money, and this money is just so much taken from the school fund. The school and everything in it is for them to use and enjoy, and the more care they take of it the more will enjoy it. Build up a strong sentiment against the senseless habit of defacing clean walls by writing on them. Riddle alone can entirely break this habit.—*Francis Everett, in Annals.*