

Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1895.

They are never alone, who are accompanied with noble thoughts. —Chaucer



HOME, SWEET HOME.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,
 Belleville, May 15th, 1895.

To Parents and Friends:

The present term will close on Wednesday, June 12th, 1895, and our pupils go to their homes on that day. An officer of the Institution will accompany those who are to travel on the Main Lines of Railway, taking care of them and their baggage, to the points agreed upon.

At the close of this session a number of pupils will have completed their term, but those who can be benefited by one or two extra years will be allowed to come back. If you know of any deaf and dumb children of school age in your neighborhood, kindly send the names of the parents, with their post office addresses to me.

The Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and Central Ontario Railway Companies have liberally arranged to issue return tickets for one first-class fare, good until September 19th, 1895.

The pupils will leave Belleville for home, on Wednesday, June 12th, by early train, under the charge of Officers of the Institution, arriving at the various stations agreed upon, and parents and friends must meet them, and be standing on the platform of the Station when the train arrives. This is important.

Be good enough to remit money for railway fares to Mr. Alex. Matheson, Bursar, by P. O. Order or registered letter, before the 1st of June, in order that final arrangements may be made for Railway Tickets.

The next term will commence on Wednesday, the 18th September.

With kind regards,
 Yours faithfully,

R. Mathison
 SUPERINTENDENT.

The Sickness.

The epidemic of La grippe which visited this Institution a couple of weeks ago, though annoying enough in most respects, yet presented some features that bordered on the ludicrous. On Friday, April 26th, there was not a sick pupil in the school. On Monday there was over twenty ill and the number rapidly increased till the next Friday when there were 110 on the sick list. Some of the classes were reduced to one third. Five of the teachers and several of the employees were afflicted, while one of the two nurses that were engaged was taken ill the day after she arrived here. However the epidemic subsided as rapidly as it came and the Institution now presents almost a clean bill of health.

Honor to an Old Pupil of this Institution.

The latest reports from Gallaudet College at Washington give the programme of Presentation Day there. This year it is of double interest to us, as one of our old pupils, who is well known to many of the deaf of Ontario, takes his Degree. We refer to Mr. A. H. Cowan, of London, Ont. We have watched his course with pride and pleasure, he being one of the very few whose circumstances favored his taking the College course, and now he has succeeded so well we know that his old school-mates will join with us in congratulations. The subject Mr. Cowan took for his graduating dissertation was "Common Sense." He was one of mine to receive the Degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Hints to Parents of Pupils.

In a few weeks our children will be sent to their homes scattered throughout the province, and our responsibility for them will cease for the time being. During the term our teachers and officers have laboured faithfully to impart knowledge and lay the foundation for an intelligent and useful manhood and womanhood. We would now ask the parents and friends of our pupils to join hands with us and lend their aid in helping them forward during the long summer vacation while they are at home. The following which we have clipped from the *Silent Messenger*, of Belfast, Ireland, will give some useful hints to parents and we commend it to their consideration:—

The parents and friends of the deaf and dumb are advised to learn the manual alphabet and to converse with their children by its means, or by writing on a slate. Parents who can read will soon learn this alphabet by practising it with their children. They will thus also improve themselves both in spelling and in reading, and will in time acquire rapidly as well as correctness of spelling.

In all cases where the parents can spell or write, they should inform their children of their names, trades, places of residence, &c. they should also inform them of the names of their brothers, sisters, and other relatives, as their uncles, aunts, cousins, grandfathers, &c. and of their occupations and residences. It is also very desirable that during the holidays the children should be made to observe the different industrial occupations which are carried forward in the town or district to which they belong, and that they should be taught the names of machinery, tools, implements, &c., used in such trades as they may thus be made familiar with.

If parents will attend to these few directions, they will help forward the progress of their children, and thus the names of many productions of trade and agriculture, and of many operations, will be taught them which cannot be shown to them in school, and which it would be difficult to describe. Signs should only be used when necessary to explain words, and parents are strongly recommended neither to use signing themselves nor to understand the signs made by their children, but to require them to write or spell, even if they are only able to write single words, and always to correct any mistakes made in writing. By parents also, attending signs, the children will be much more anxious when at school to acquire correctness in writing language, which is to them so very important.

Parents are also reminded that the deaf and dumb frequently suffer both in temper and character, from injudicious kindness and overindulgence. They should be neither treated more harshly, nor more indulgently, than others, but their general treatment should manifest to them that they are considered morally and mentally responsible in the same sense as others.

—Mr. Wills, the gardener, commenced working at the Institution 21 years ago or he is at the end of this month and he is hale and hearty still. We hope he will be with us 21 more years.

HOME NEWS

The past week has probably been one of the most lifeless weeks of the session, few of the teachers or pupils were feeling as well as usual, but returning health is infusing new life and energy all around and all are busy now.

Several of the teachers had to succumb to the epidemic and lay off for a few days; very few escaped a slight touch of it. Mr. Stewart also had to give up his class for a time; with him, a plague of boils made locomotion unpleasant.

Our teachers and officers were lately requested to hand in their photos to the office. We shall doubtless soon know the purpose to which they will be put, in the mean time some of the teachers have made a guess that it is a Rogues' Gallery Mr. Mathison is getting up—not quite so bad as that, wait and see.

Mr. Balis has just received the news that his house in Pittsburg has suffered severely from an explosion caused by defective gas mains. Much damage was done but his property was more fortunate than some of the neighbouring houses which were blown out and then burnt. Mr. Balis expects to be fully repaid for his loss.

The boys who do not belong to the shops have been kept pretty busy after school hours lately. Wood sawing, splitting and piling has occupied part of them, while a number of the elder ones have been usefully employed in the garden to assist in getting in the crops, which on account of the late spring are somewhat behind.

Mr. Campbell has pulled up stakes and moved to another home a little nearer to the Institution. He hopes that it will be a long time before he goes through the same experience again. Belleville seems to be filling up; formerly, good houses at a low rental were comparatively easy to get, but they are now hard to find on this side of the city.

On account of there having been so much sickness, the examinations which were to take place about this time have been postponed until June 3rd. The change is an agreeable one to teachers and pupils. Every class had a number of its pupils stricken and their absence from class when close review work was in progress was a great retardment.

A late visitor to the Institution was very favourably struck by the improvements made around the buildings since he was here some years ago. The isolated hospital and its neat surroundings especially took his notice, while the young maples, which were quite small when he was here, have now grown up into stately trees making delightful shady groves during the warm weather.

The boys have again got out the base-ball outfit which has been laid aside for three years. On commencing play they found themselves sadly out of practice. Of the crack team we used to have, only two members remain at school now. There seems little prospect of matches of any kind this spring as the city folks seem to have the bicycle fever, and will attend to nothing else until after the wheelmen meet on the 21th.

Our boys did not expect to be called upon to defend the Corby Cup this spring, foot ball seemed dead in the city. Perhaps the news that our boys were not at practice and might be caught napping, woke up the League. The officers called a meeting together on the 10th and the preliminary business was arranged for the usual round of games for the cup. The following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., H. Corby; Hon. Vice-Pres., R. Mathison; Pres., E. Shepherd; Vice-Pres., W. Conger; Secretary-Treas., D. Diamond; Referee, J. P. Thomas. Albert College, City, Centrals and our own team were represented at the meeting. A schedule of matches will be arranged in a few days. Our boys have now laid aside their base-ball, and foot-ball practice will be in order until the games are finished and the possession of the cup settled for another six months.

The grounds here now present a most beautiful appearance and it is hard to realize that a month ago the snow had not yet all disappeared. The winter remained long with us, as if loath to depart, and when warm weather came it came with a bound, the mercury rising from freezing point to ninety in the shade in about three weeks.

Vegetation has been very rapid and the leaves and blossoms have developed to maturity with almost unprecedented rapidity. Our spacious grounds are now one mass of bright green, relieved here and there with beds of varietal tulips, with the rippling waters of our beautiful bay for a background. The most disgruntled pessimist on earth could not look upon this scene without confessing that this is a beautiful world and that there is no more charming spot on it than that to be seen from this Institution.

PERSONALITIES.

—A good deaf-mute man would like a situation on a farm. Address Farmer, Care of 19 Garden Ave., Toronto.

—Miss Purdy, who formerly conducted a class in physical culture here, has gone to Orillia to take charge of classes there. We wish her success.

—Mr. W. J. Campbell and Miss Mary Boyd were married at Grand Rapids in February last; although a little late we congratulate them and wish them many happy days.

—Mr. I. G. Smith, formerly store-keeper at the Institution, has passed his third year in medicine in the Toronto University. All his friends here congratulate him and hope this time next year to hear of him being a full fledged M. D.

—R. M. Thomas arrived from New York last week, looking well. He spent the winter in the New England states, and the climate and surroundings were so agreeable that he returns to town much the better for his sojourn down by the sea. —*Oakville Star.*

—Mr. Jas. B. McKillop, of London, deputy county crown attorney for Middlesex County, brother of Mr. D. J. McKillop of this Institution, spent a day here last week. Mr. McKillop is a gentleman of fine legal attainments, and feels a warm interest in the Institution and the deaf generally.

—Mrs. Terrill had a happy time on Sunday last and her face has been beaming ever since with pleasure. Her daughter Mrs. (Dr.) Forster, of the Asylum, Kingston, was home for a visit, and to complete her cup of pleasure to running over point, her son, Alfred, City Editor of the *Peterboro Examiner*, came home at the same time.

—Miss D'Pensiere, and Miss McCann, of the Kingston Hospital, who were here for two weeks during the illness of so many pupils, have gone home. They both were attentive and gave us their best services, for which we are all thankful. This was Miss D'Pensiere's second visit and she was heartily welcomed, for her own sake and the good work she did a year or so ago in nursing the scarlet fever patients.

—The school received a visit Thursday last from a deaf mute, who called himself F. G. Jefferson. He said he was better known as the sailor, having been for many years one of those who "go down to the sea in ships." He was born and educated in England and expects to return to that far off land soon. He is at present living in Chicago. Mr. Jefferson looked the school over thoroughly. —*Wisconsin Times.*

The *CANADIAN MUTE* says: "The combined method of instruction still holds undisputed and undiminished sway. Of the eighty-two schools for the deaf in the States, sixty-one of the largest use the combined system." It might have added that all the important schools in Canada, Ireland and Australia use the combined system as well as the majority of schools in England and Scotland. —*Alabama Messenger.*

Letters from Former Pupils.

MR. MATHISON, DEAR FRIEND.—I am working the farm with my brother and have rented my house in the village of New Durham. Robert McKenzie and I live about a mile apart and we often visit each other. D. Sours also lives near us. A mute from New York State passed through here on his way to Woodstock last week; he was selling pictures. I thank you so much for the good time I had last summer at the Convention. Please remember me to my school mates and friends.
 MARSHALL SIMMONS.

Nine troubles out of ten will run when you look them squarely in the face.