

Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Wm. NURSE, LOCAL REPORTER.
 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1891.

There is a remedy for every wrong and a satisfaction for every soul.—*Amerson*

Thanksgiving.

Next Thursday, the 22nd inst., is the annual National Thanksgiving Day, when the loyal citizens of Canada are asked to express their gratitude to the Giver of all good things for all the blessings of the year. This is a very beautiful and appropriate recognition of our belief, as a people, in God and in His providence, and in His care over and active concern for His children, and it is to be hoped that the time will never come when Thanksgiving Day will be abolished. Ours is called a Christian nation, and even infidels and atheists admit that the principles of Christianity, as expressed in the Bible and as taught by the Church, are the foundations of our government, the bulwarks of our liberty, the essence of our civilization and the assurance of our future progress. Yet some men and even many professing Christians, cry out for the absolute separation of the church and state and demand that the government shall in no way even recognize the existence of God or the facts of His providence. This would indeed be inconsistent, unjust and ungrateful, and it is well, therefore, that on our annual Thanksgiving Day we have a formal acknowledgment of our belief in God and an appropriate prayer that we realize it is from Him all blessing flow.

Since every individual citizen has been a recipient of these blessings, everybody is expected to, and in duty bound must render thanks therefor; though many, sad to say, neglect this duty. But our remarks now are addressed chiefly to the deaf. In common with others they have partaken of the blessings of a bountiful harvest and an abundance of the necessities of life, yet as a class they have much else also for which to be thankful. They should be thankful, most of them, for the good health they have enjoyed, for the loving care of parents and friends, for the comforts of happy homes. They should be grateful that they live in a land where misfortunes excite sympathy rather than antipathy or repugnance, where those who are afflicted are the objects of love and solicitude instead of being regarded with superstitious abhorrence and treated with barbarity. And, chief of all, perhaps, the deaf mutes should be thankful that the means is placed at their disposal for securing a good education and for learning a useful trade so that they may be able to compete on equal terms with those who can hear and speak. The time once was, and not long ago, when the deaf were excluded from intercourse with their fellow men and were to a degree shunned and despised. But through the medium

of such institutions as those they have opened up to them all the riches of literature and now they can not only enjoy communion with the greatest minds of all ages, but also converse intelligently with all with whom they come in contact and the skeptical world has been forced to admit that deaf mutes are not a whit inferior to hearing people in all the best qualities of mind and heart. Such an institution as this is a distinctive outgrowth and a beautiful expression of the principles of Christianity, and for this great blessing, therefore, it is especially fitting that the partakers thereof should render thanks to Him from whom the Christian religion, and all its result and blessings, emanated.

Ingratitude is said to be the greatest of all sins, therefore let us all be thankful to the Giver of all good for all the favors he has bestowed upon us.

- For all that God in mercy sends
 - For health and children, home and friends.
 - For comfort in the time of need.
 - For every kindly word and deed.
 - For happy thought and holy talk.
 - For guidance in our daily walk.
 - For everything give thanks!
- For beauty in this world of ours
 - For verdant grass and lovely flowers
 - For song of birds, for hum of bees.
 - For the refreshing summer breeze
 - For hill and plain for streams and wood.
 - For the great ocean's mighty flood
 - For every thing give thanks!
- For the sweet sleep which comes with night.
 - For the returning morning's light.
 - For the bright sun that shines on high
 - For the stars glittering in the sky
 - For those and everything we see
 - O Lord! Our hearts we lift to Thee
 - For everything give thanks!

PERSONALITIES.

—William Bryco, of Hamilton, has a good situation with the Messrs. Copp Bros., of that city.

—Mr. Chas. Clark of the *Rockwood Review*, visited our model printing office on Tuesday. He wanted to take it home with him.

—Miss Lotta Henry, of Toronto, brought down a host of lady friends to the sanctum of *The Exponent's* editor, and entertained him with news about the deaf of Canada. Miss Henry is a young lady with winning smiles. She is on a short visit to this city but may reside here permanently. *Exponent*

—Albert Sepner, of Windsor, is well known among the homing pigeon fanciers, for he has been in that business five years, winning first and second prizes by liberating his pigeons from 200 to 300 miles. He is kicking the dirt off his trousers, for some one shot one of his best birds while in transit from Toronto. *Exponent*

Mrs. D. Beaton, who for many years has resided between this village and Oil City is reported to be very ill at present. Much anxiety is entertained, as she is well up in years. Her son, Mr. Douglas Beaton, who went to California about a year ago in search of health, is also very low, his death is daily expected from the dread destroyer, consumption. The above are mother and brother of Mr. H. Beaton, principal of the Oil Springs public schools. *Petrolia Advertiser*.

'Free Lance,' in the *New York Journal* thus refers to our old friend Mr. Bray:—'Robert E. Bray, a fine looking man, was present at Prof. Williams' Sunday School services, and made a most favorable impression upon everybody. He is a man of marked intelligence and independence. He has gone back to Quebec and Montreal on business, but expects to return and settle down in Boston. He will be a welcome addition to our little community. His business is that of a painter and decorator, and his card shows him to be an artist in his line.'

Mr. McAlony, of the Trenton, N. J., School, has formed an Athletic Association something after the pattern of our own, and has favored us with a copy of the rules they have adopted. It shows an earnestness of purpose, but we think that the rules are too limited to meet one half the complications that arise among the deaf members of an organization of the kind. Such is our experience. But we wish Mr. McA. a continuance of the success already gained. He sends his heartiest congratulations and a hand shake to each member of our club, and is as pleased over our again winning the cup, as he would have been had he been on the team himself.

HOME NEWS

Robert Clark, who was a pupil here for some time, has been sent to the Orilla Asylum for the Feeble Minded. His parents live in Hamilton.

—A convention of tramps met in our kitchen a few days ago. There were six of them, all showed the effects of the hard times, and were glad of a bite and sup.

—The most melancholy days of the year are now approaching, the interval between the close of our delightful Indian Summer and the setting in of winter.

A mother says: "I am so thankful that you are not having sickness to contend with this fall. It is the prayer of many a heart that it will be so all through the season."

—The Superintendent received a cabinet photograph of Wm. Sparling, former pupil here but now attending the Colorado Institution. Although he has grown up to be a fine looking young man, his former school mates had little difficulty in recognizing him.

—Thanksgiving Day on the 22nd. Our boys want the following bill of fare.—plenty of turkey with cranberry sauce, fine weather and a roaring foot-ball match. They are sure of the former, and leaving the weather to Providence they will hope for the latter.

—As the result of a thorough examination of our pupils eyesight by an expert, quite a number have taken to the use of spectacles. It was found that many of our pupils were suffering from defective sight, which retarded their progress in the classes. In some instances the defect was not noticed until the test was made.

—Mr. O'Meara is raising a fine flock of light brahma fowls which look quite the thing with his new barn and other buildings. The old flock of delapidated birds, which have for a long time amused visitors to the barn yard are now disappearing and clean presentable fowls roam the yard. This is an improvement all around.

—Last week, our cook was greatly mystified over the loss of pound after pound of her best butter. By keeping a close watch the depredators were caught. The hard way that the transgressors travelled was up and down the playground every afternoon after school, for a week. For in opportunity to ponder over one's misdeeds there is nothing like a quiet walk.

For the past week our assistant carpenter has been making himself very useful. The back doors have been taken off and made to swing out ards, and pulleys have been rigged to keep them closed. A notice to "please shut the door," would not be heeded by our hurrying boisterous boys. The storm washes and porches are also being put up, and other preparations made to face the blasts of the coming winter.

During the last month, labour has been engaged on the east side road embankment. Every spring, rivers of water rush down from the back lands to the bay. As it is but an ordinary ditch, it is quite inadequate to properly carry off the volume of water that rushes down every year. In consequence the road is being eaten away and our line of shade trees laid bare at the roots. A solid stone lined channel will probably be built next year.

—We know that the little missives which the pupils send home every three weeks are eagerly read. We hope that parents and guardians will not let one go by unanswered. The mail is distributed every day at dinner time and expectancy sits on every face as the letters are passed around. If parents could see the flood of joy which illuminates the faces of our children as they leavely receive a letter from home, few would wait week after week for the letter that never comes. A Sunday School illustrated paper or other little remembrance of the kind would cost little but give much pleasure. Try it often, please.

J. J. Kelso, Esq., Provincial Superintendent of neglected and dependent children was a welcome visitor to our Institution on the 3rd inst. It being Saturday, he did not have the opportunity of viewing the classes, but met the assembled pupils in the chapel and gave a short address. He expressed his pleasure at meeting the pupils. He is brought into daily contact with children

of all degrees, and thought that our boys and girls were the peers of any for bright looks and apparent intelligence. They should feel thankful and be appreciative of the comfortable school and home that has been so liberally provided for them. They are more favored than thousands of other children in this respect. The girls recited a hymn in the sign language, which pleased Mr. Kelso very much. He afterwards made a tour of the buildings and industrial departments.

—Hallowe'en, the one evening in the year when the boys feel privileged to kick up capers and make themselves generally unpleasant, passed off very quietly here. We have one hundred and fifty boys, and they are full of fun and as fond of mischief as any to be found anywhere, but it is kept within bounds by discipline. Years ago, pandemonium reigned on this night, and the boys and girls too, held high revel. Of late years this has been put a stop to, but amusements of a more elevating character have been provided instead. After supper on this auspicious eve, the elder boys dressed in their best, dined over to the girls' sitting room, where they were well entertained until 10 p. m. Amusements of various kinds were provided, and the pupils are unanimous in declaring that they spent a very pleasant evening, far better than in running riot in the wet and mud outside.

—We had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Clark and Mr. Shea, of the Kingston Asylum, to our Institution on the 12th inst. Dr. Clark has often been here before, and he seldom comes without arrangements for giving our pupils a magic lantern entertainment. The news that he was coming with a new set of views, was hailed with delight by our boys and girls, and all entered the chapel, where the apparatus had been set up, fully assured of enjoying a treat, for were they disappointed, of the many entertainments of the kind this was one of the best. The scenes opened with the familiar portraits of Mr., Mrs. and Miss A. Mathison, followed by those of several of our teachers and officers—Miss Walker, Mrs. Terrill, Miss Gallagher; Messrs. McKillop, Smith and Douglas were all clearly portrayed, as were the honored lineaments of the faithful teachers who have left us and gone higher. S. T. Greeno and J. B. Ashley. Next followed many scenes of silvan beauty, grand architecture, and lines of the sculptors art brought out in bold relief. Our crack base ball club of 1891 and Mr. Ashley's class of 1890 were also shod upon the canvas. In them we recognized the familiar features of many old pupils, not one of whom are here now. The humorous pictures, so dear to the children were not forgotten, but were there with more than usual abundance, and our little ones were delighted. At the close, Miss Justus moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Clark and Mr. Shea for their kindness which was heartily seconded by the pupils. Dr. Clark, in reply, was glad that the pupils had enjoyed the evening, he regretted that the gas pressure was so poor that the light did not do the pictures full justice. The assembly broke up with the hope of seeing Dr. Clark and his lantern here again before long. The special slides of the groups, officers and teachers of our Institution which were shown, were made by Dr. Buchan of the Kingston Asylum. Our thanks are due to him for the excellence of the slides, thus contributing to our pleasure. We hope he will come here some day when we can express our thanks in person.

Wants a Wife.

George W. Grant, of Fairfax, Manitoba, writes:—"Would you be so kind as to give the names of those who were formerly pupils of the Ontario Institution, at Belleville, that are married, and also the names of the deaf and dumb girls who have left the Institution and who are not married. I want to find a good deaf and dumb girl for myself to get married to her. For I am too lonesome in my place. I cannot find any girl in this country to have me for a husband. I want some deaf and dumb girl to come from Ontario to this country." George seems to be lonely out there in Manitoba and as he is well to do and only 12 years of age he is in a position to make some good deaf and dumb girl happy.

Office boy.—Here's two men out there wants to see yer, one of 'em's a poet, and t'other 'n's a deaf man." Editor—"Well, go out and tell the poet that the deaf man is the editor. —Pack.