

## THE EDUCATIONALIST

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### SOCIETY FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF THE DEAF AND DUMB, AND OF THE BLIND.

This Society, like philanthropic enterprises generally, has many difficulties to surmount before it can become efficient for the performance of the whole of the great work for which it was designed.— Its beginning was small, but during the period of about two years since its inception, it has been growing greatly in public estimation and bids fair to become one of the most noted benevolent institutions in Canada. Some three or four years since Mr. McGann, the present master of the society's School, commenced the instruction of the small number of four deaf and dumb pupils in Toronto. His exertions on behalf of this class of persons elicited the warm sympathy of certain persons of known benevolence, including the Rev. Dr. McCall, now president of the Society; and in a short time an establishment was formed which has since been worked with great success. The chief difficulty to be surmounted by any institution depending upon voluntary contributions, is that *res angusta domi* which so often proves fatal to the best of enterprises. For this reason it is that institutions of this kind,

which are designed for the public benefit should receive liberal patronage from the Legislature. The Government has already given aid to the Institution, but not so liberally as is desirable, and it is to be hoped that more will be given during the coming session. The amount received from various sources has been \$2,823.82, a sum quite inadequate to the wants of a Provincial Institution of this character. The result of this limitation of resources is the limited number of pupils at present under instruction. The number of pupils at present is twenty—ten of each sex, but fifty more have been refused admittance on account of the present imperfect state of the arrangements. The school is divided into three divisions, each having a teacher. The course of instruction consists of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Dictation, Geography, History, and the Bible. Appropriate mechanical labor is provided for the children of both sexes, so that they may be fitted for some occupation by which they may earn a livelihood.

We had the pleasure of attending an examination of a few of the pupils held not long since by Mr. McGann, in Whitby. The result was very satisfactory.— The knowledge shown by the pupils on this occasion bore witness to the thorough efficiency of Mr. M. as a teacher for this class of scholars. He possesses that versatility and fruitfulness in expedients for conveying knowledge so indispensable to a successful teacher, and is withal so kind and inviting in his manners, that he wins the attachment of those intrusted to his charge.

It is thought that there are between seven and eight hundred deaf mutes in Canada—about five hundred of whom are natives of this country. Not more than one hundred of these have been educated, and these have obtained their instruction in institutions of foreign countries. Only twenty-five are beyond instruction. What a field is here open for philanthropy!— what an extensive work for a large institution for the elevation to state of enlightened humanity of these two classes of unfortunates. Thus they may be trained to become useful members of society, so that upon going forth into the world they may be able not only to relieve others of the burden of their support, but to discharge those duties to which it may please God to call them, with a deep and happy consciousness of their responsibilities not only in this world but that which is to come.

## SEEING AND HEARING.

It has been a fault in our schools that pupils have not been taught to see and hear. Hence, we have hundreds of men who, "having eyes see not, and having ears hear not." They live and move in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and surrounded by the wonders of nature, and yet if they see at all, it is as "through a glass darkly." They discern no beauties in the works of creation, and the most enchanting landscape is to them simply a collection of pasture, woodland, field, and meadow, attractive only as a source of profit. They see no God in nature, nothing to awaken devotional feelings, nothing to excite admiration. The lofty mountains and the flowing river are often regarded as mere obstacles to man's progress,—or as the means of contributing to his material resources. Every object is viewed with a *dulcish* eye, and every flower is snuffed for its *copperish* scent.

How different it is with the man who has been trained to see, and in beholding the works of Nature, is led to adore as he looks "through Nature up to Nature's God." To such an one, every mountain, hill, and valley, every forest and river, is ever radiant with the smiles of Infinite goodness and wisdom. The babbling brook no less than the majestic river and the mighty cataract proclaim the power of the hand that made them. The springing grass, the waving grain, the stately forest and the opening flower, alike speak of the goodness and omnipotence of God. If he looks upward and beholds the "glittering stars that gem the sky, he is ready to exclaim:—

"Forever singing as they sleep,  
The hand that made them is divine."

The man of untrained ear hears no sounds except those of a discordant or utilitarian nature,—while for him who has been taught to hear aright, the world is full of music and sweet sounds. All animated nature is ever chanting in soul-stirring notes the wonderful goodness and wisdom of Him at whose command they spring into existence.

We may find in every community, men who have ears and eyes, and those who are virtually destitute of both. The former revel in beautiful scenery, listening to nature's sweet and varied music, while the latter grope their way as in darkness—bearing no harmonious sounds; the former are happy, ever breathing and diffusing a spirit of cheerfulness; the latter sad and censorious, ever complaining of the present and casting a gloomy horoscope of the future. We have all seen men of the latter class, and know what a chilling and depressing influence their mere presence imparts.

A man with trained eyes and ears—a man of refined tastes and cultivated judgment, is a prize to any community. Happy influences emanate from him, and his spirit of cheerfulness ever makes him a welcome companion, a cherished neighbor. We know of a man, whose correct taste and well-trained eye have done much toward beautifying the village in which he resides,—all unconsciously on his part, and, to a great extent, on the part of others. It is the result of his silent but