



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



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1895.

The Deaf-Mutes in India.

Mr. I. U. Banerji, who bids fair to become the Gallaudet of India, contributed to the last issue of the *Deaf-Mutes' Register* a very interesting and pathetic account of the woeful condition of the deaf-mutes of India. According to the census returns there are about 200,000 deaf mutes in that country, but Mr. Banerji thinks that there are many more than that. For the education of this vast multitude there are only two schools with a total of less than fifty pupils. That is, only one out of every four thousand mutes are attending school, a state of affairs that is almost inconceivable to Canadians. For the assistance of one of these schools the government, after much solicitation, was induced to grant the munificent monthly sum of \$25. To the other school they refused to render any assistance whatever. Of course we do not want to exaggerate the real or rather the comparative condition of these mutes of India, and when we say that only one in four thousand is being educated we make a comparison less invidious than the mere figures would indicate. It must be borne in mind that a large majority of the hearing people of India are also without any educational advantages; but even when all possible allowances are made for the difference in the educational status of India and America the condition of the deaf there is sad and hopeless enough.

The first school for the deaf was started in 1846 at Bombay under Roman Catholic auspices, but children of all sects are admitted. About 25 pupils, all boys, are in attendance. The other school is at Calcutta, and was organized in 1893, and there are now 22 in attendance. These, also, are all boys, so that the deaf girls of India are absolutely deprived of all school privileges. How

pitifully inadequate for the education of perhaps 100,000 children are these two small schools, struggling along under almost insuperable difficulties and aided by the government with the immense sum of \$25 per month! Yet it is gratifying to know that even this much of a start has been made, and it has always been from such small beginnings that great movements have grown, and doubtless the next decade will develop a story of remarkable progress in that country that is fast awakening to a vitality that will astonish the world.

Mr. Banerji details some of the difficulties under which the friends of the deaf in India labor. One is the complete absence of trained teachers, but of course this evil is self corrective, as the requisite knowledge will come with experience, while Mr. Banerji himself is now at Gallaudet College undergoing a course of training, for which thanks are due to the generosity of Dr. Gallaudet. Another difficulty experienced by our co-laborers in India is the apathy and even antagonism of public opinion. This arises chiefly from two causes. In the first place most people there think that the deaf are incapable of receiving instruction. This is an objection that has been common to all countries at the time the first efforts were made on behalf of the deaf, and of course it will disappear when people see with their own eyes that the deaf can be and are being educated. The other difficulty, however, is peculiar to India, and that the fatalistic sentiment that prevails there. Most of the Hindus believe that deafness and dumbness are due to divine retribution for some misdeeds of the child committed while in some previous stage of its transmigration; and that therefore the affliction must be borne with calm resignation. It is easy to understand how difficult will be the task of combatting such a belief as this, since it is an essential part of the prevailing religion of India.

But all obstacles, no matter how great, must disappear before intelligent, persevering effort, and we doubt not that every year will see marked progress being made in the cause of the deaf-mute education in India; and we would suggest that here is a grand field of labor for some of the educated and enthusiastic deaf mutes of Canada and the United States.

The time is passing swiftly by. Already two months, or nearly one-fourth of the session, are gone, and though earnest faithful work has been done in each class-room, yet the despair of each teacher is that what has been accomplished is so little compared with what each one would have liked to have done. But of course ideals can never be realized, else would they not be true ideals. A continuation of the persevering efforts so far made will ensure results that will compare favorably with those of any former year.

Last week was a bad week for murderers. Three of the worst criminals of this decade—Holmes, Durant and Shortis—have been condemned to death. The summary way in which judge and jury dealt with the various pleas and theories advanced by the defence was in marked contrast to that shown in the case of some other murder trials of recent date in this province.

We are sorry to notice that it has been decided to suspend the publication of the *Dakota Advocate* for a few months. The reason assigned is that there was not a large enough force in the printing-office to set the paper up. The *Advocate* was a useful, interesting and well-edited paper and its many friends will much regret its demise or suspension.



Miss Edith Charlton, St. George, Ontario.

We have pleasure this week in presenting a very good portrait of Miss Edith Charlton, whose very bright and interesting "Talks to Girls" have so much delighted our readers. Miss Charlton is also a valued contributor to the *Brantford Expositor*, under the pseudonym of "Ruth Raynor," a few of whose brightest paragraphs we have reproduced in these columns. Miss Charlton has always lived in Brant County, and was educated in the Brantford Ladies' College. She is a very graceful and facile writer and her articles are characterized by unusual felicity of expression, happiness of allusion, quiet play of humor and common sense.

The 1895 Christmas Number of *Saturday Night*, to be published in Toronto, promises to be one of the most superb numbers that have been issued by the Sheppard Publishing Company. The Christmas Numbers of *Saturday Night* have been usually excellent at all times but the eighth annual art number promises to eclipse any of those formerly issued. The publication will be Canadian in every sense of the word, the writers and artists being to the manor born. There are to be five beautiful pictures, the large one entitled "Champlain the Explorer," was painted by Mr. Kelly, one of the brightest and most esteemed young Canadian artists. The literary contents will be presented by some of the best writers in the country and altogether the 1895 Christmas Number of *Saturday Night* ought to find a place in every Canadian home. For sale at all the bookstores.

All friends of the deaf are much pleased with the excellent tone manifested so far this term in the various papers published in the interest of the deaf. The bitter controversies that have marked the past few years seem to have entirely given place to the spirit of peace and good will, despite the fact that two or three rather pugnacious editors have been trailing their coat tails on the ground and imploring someone to give a good *cane* bell. May harmony continue to prevail.

On October 26th an Institution for deaf and dumb girls in Bavaria was totally destroyed by fire. The Institution contained 170 girls who were obliged to take refuge on the roof from which they were rescued with great difficulty. Some of them were badly burned and all suffered severely from the shock, but there were no fatalities.

The peculiarity of a crank is that he always thinks it is his turn.

The following joke has been going the rounds lately:—A clergyman, speaking rather rapidly referred to the "duff and demb." Seeing what a hash he had made of it, he remarked:—"My hearers will readily see that I intended to say 'the demb and duff!'" Then he gave it up as hopeless. — *Ex.*

A medical journal recommends, as a means of saving the eyes from the effects of continuous use in sewing, type setting, reading, etc., a habit of looking up from the work at short intervals and glancing about the room. This practical every ten or fifteen minutes, relieve the muscular tension, rest the eyes, and makes the blood supply much better.

TORONTO TOPICS.

From a Correspondent

Martha Fetterly, now an attendant at the Willard State Hospital, New York, was in Toronto lately staying with her sister, Mrs. Boughton, and paid a visit to her home in the east, after twenty years absence, taking her sister and children with her. The visit lasted over two weeks at her home. The girls are healthy specimens and are giving a good show for a deaf-mute mother who had twice to combat sickness of them in the form of diphtheria.

Mr. J. W. Boughton is now a member of the Independent Order of Foresters and joins hands with Mr. Mathison and those who are willing to lead others into the realm of Forestry.

It has been remarked why there are no Canadian deaf-mute tailors. Messrs. Buchan and Darney, British deaf-mute, report steady work and good wages. A strange coincidence is that there are no British deaf-mute shoemakers here, the one is known in Ontario, that is, a local reporter of your paper, Robert Hanson, of Kingston, is a good tailor and a Canadian. — *Ed.*

Mr. Wodderburn, a smart Scotch lad, has had steady employment at the Toronto Railway shops helping to build the monster star coaches. He has his genius still keeps at work. He has a lathe on the bicycle plan, and at the time trying to smooth the running of the gearing, with the aid of his daughter, Jane, hearing, who has her beautiful long golden hair caught in the gear. Before her father could stop the wheel, Jane's hair was torn from her scalp. The pain was intense.

The Toronto Deaf-mute Association has been divided into three districts and are as follows:—West—Y. M. C. A. Dovercourt Road; Central—Y. M. C. A. Spadina Avenue; East—Y. M. C. A. Parliament Street.

From another Correspondent.

Guy Fawkes day was celebrated with many fires by mischievous boys, causing damage to extent of \$8,000.

Mr. P. Fraser received a letter from Mr. R. E. Bray last week. He has returned to Montreal.

Mrs. H. Moore has been visiting Mrs. McRitchie, in Berlin. Mr. and Mrs. M. will visit Belleville this week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Beale are well, and gave a party in honor of their oldest son, Miles, who attained his 21st birthday on the 10th of Oct.

We are happy to report that most of the mutes here have steady work this year.

Mr. Neil McGillivray is a rising ambitious young man and lucky is the young woman who should win his favor.

Miss Lottie Macou gave a party to a few of her little friends on Halloween.

Mr. J. C. Slater met Harry Ince near Brandon, Manitoba. He is now a strong, robust farmer, owns a farm and is on the look-out for a good wife.

Mr. J. J. Ormiston, of Regain, does an extensive business in the apple trade. He has already sold 68 barrels. He wishes to know if any muto-farmers can beat his turnips weighing from 20 to 25 lbs each.

Messrs. Pickard, Clark and Averall paid a visit to A. Bowen, of Fenville, recently. Arthur is glad to see his friends.

We received an interesting letter from Willie Kay. He is always glad to hear from a friend, and being possessed of wonderful memory, he could tell you much of past school days. We are sorry his eye sight is not better.

The friends of J. J. Peake would like to hear of his whereabouts. He seems to have vanished as if the earth had swallowed him.

Mr. C. Elliott has been practising with his new view-photo-camera and likes it very well.

Miss Alice Francis lives with Mrs. F. Starr, on Markham St.

Mr. W. Kiddle thinks of returning to the city when business is brisk. There is no place like Toronto.

Messrs. Darney and Buchan have steady work with R. Scors & Sons, one of the best tailoring shops in the city.

Miss Emily Halliday has our congratulations for her success in Art. She got no less than ten prizes for landscape paintings at the Harriston Fair. Miss Halliday graduated from the Belleville Institution a few years ago.

Mr. Richard "Dick" Slater, with the assistance of Mr. C. E. Wilson is having his birds stuffed to keep as relics of his trip. He also has a prairie wolf skin. Mr. S. regrets he was in some way unable to call at the Winnipeg Institution as was his intention.