



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-writing 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)

ADVERTISING

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

ROY V. SOMERVILLE, 103 Times Building, New York is our agent for United States advertising.

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



FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 1892.

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY.

The investigations of the Royal Commission on the blind and deaf in Great Britain reveal some interesting facts. Strong measures were recommended for the prevention of the intermarriage of deaf-mutes, and this, too, in the face of convincing evidence that such marriages do not result in the production of a deaf-mute offspring. A table dealing with the statistics of 'deaf mutism' shows that, in the district of North and East Lancashire there are twenty-one deaf men married to as many deaf women, having in the aggregate forty-six children not one of whom is a deaf-mute. Out of the 363 deaf-mutes of all ages, on the register of the North and East Lancashire "Deaf and Dumb Society" not one is the offspring either of a deaf father or mother. The one generation statistics of Lancashire are very remarkable, for out of 120 in the Liverpool School not one has a deaf father or mother. Only two cases out of 200 in the Manchester School can be found as exceptions existing to prove that deaf children are not the offspring of deaf parents.

With statistics like those before them, it is surprising that the Royal Commission could be so strongly influenced by prejudice, or Dr. Bell's contention. From published reports of the institutions for educating the deaf in Great Britain we are pleased to learn that an influential class, concerned in the work, take strong ground in opposition to the recommendations of the Royal Commission. They treat the question of deaf-mute marriages in the light of revealed facts, and as the figures show, they have the best of the argument.

The *Optic* usually contains a number of contributed articles on a variety of subjects, and signed by the writers' initials only. Will our sprightly southern contemporary please inform us whether these articles are written by deaf persons? If so, they represent a range of thought and finish of diction above the average production of this class.

"ZENON'S" EXERCISES.

Who is "Zenon?" This question has been frequently asked by teachers in our school. Several names have been mentioned, names of persons known to be prominent in the education of the deaf, but no one can positively identify the author of those admirable exercises that have appeared in *The Silent Educator*. The whole list extending over almost the entire language course of our schools, indicates an experience, ability and observation that few teachers of the deaf can claim. We have studied the exercises with profit, and have used many of them to the advantage of pupils and satisfaction of ourselves. They represent difficulties that all experienced teachers have met with, but few of such teachers have preserved and arranged them as "Zenon" has. We have frequently admired his ingenuity and simplicity in the construction of sentences for illustration. Some teachers may not endorse all he recommends, especially in the use of false syntax, but all must admit that the recommendations are original and valuable. They furnish hints that can be utilized in different ways, to suit the circumstances of cases. We presume no teacher of the deaf claims infallibility. All are liable to err in judgment, though guided by honest convictions. "Zenon" has given us a collection of exercises that should be preserved in book form and widely circulated among those interested in the education of the deaf. They would prove a valuable addition to what has already been published for such a purpose.

DR. GALLAUDET'S POSITION.

The *Companion* castigates the *Silent Educator* severely for its hostile criticism of Dr. Gallaudet's article in a recent issue of the *Annals* and declares that the editors will soon discover their mistake. We are disposed to attribute much of such criticism as the *Companion* complains of to a misconception of Dr. Gallaudet's position in the controversy. His article on "Our Profession" was an honest exposition of the principles he has so ably and faithfully upheld for many years, as the most prominent figure in the cause of deaf-mute education on this continent. He maintains that the work of educating the deaf is worthy of the loftiest ambition and best ability that men and women can give it. The highest grade of intellectual training will be more certain of good results. There are exceptions to this rule, as to all others, but the principle must be accepted as a safe one. Dr. Gallaudet advocates the formation of a high standard of qualification for teachers of the deaf, mentally and morally. If young men, after graduating from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, or any of the leading educational institutions of the country, determine to take a course at the National College, in order to qualify themselves for teaching the deaf, they should be applauded rather than discouraged. Their superior qualifications must result in a greater good to all concerned. Every college graduate will not make a successful teacher, but a thorough education is the safest guarantee of success. We are certain that Dr. Gallaudet did not intend to detract one iota from the merits of teachers of the deaf who have had no college training of any kind and who have won distinction in their chosen work. His pen, as well as his voice and acts, is devoted to the ennobling and the promotion of a cause that all must admit is dear to his heart, and of which he is a worthy champion.

The poem in our last issue, "The Cry of the Silent," first appeared in the *Silent Press*, of Dayton, Ohio, and should have been credited to that journal.

TEACHERS' DUTIES.

The *Missouri Deaf Mute Record* of the 5th ult. contained a lengthy explanation of the schedule, or time table, by which the moral, intellectual and manual instruction of the pupils of that Institution is conducted which concludes as follows:

It has been considered by those competent to judge that the nervous strain upon a teacher of the deaf is heavier than upon a teacher in the public schools. This arises from the nature of the work. The teacher of a deaf class must teach the pupils individually, the public school teacher instructs his class collectively. At the last teachers' convention held in New York a long death roll was read of those who had died the past few years. Moreover, a large number of instructors of the deaf are forced to retire from the profession on account of the breaking down of their nervous system.

Does the writer mean to enforce the truth that teachers of the deaf from "the nature of their work" are unable to be in the school room as long, without rest or recreation, as teachers of public schools? If so, will he please explain how the system outlined affords that relief to the teachers in the Missouri Institution? They begin their duties early and continue to a late hour in the afternoon. But perhaps we do not understand the working of the system as the explanations are intended to present it. "The school day" we are told "consists of seven and a half hours, divided into three equal parts of two and a half hours each. The classes of the school are arranged into three divisions. While one division is in the shops the other two are in the school. And again "In addition to their regular duties the teachers keep study and perform monitory and other duties incident to a boarding school." Such an arrangement would seem to multiply the cares and responsibilities of teachers, and hence increase the nervous strain. When classes are in the shops, are the teachers of such classes relieved from work and permitted to take exercise, or seek relaxation as they may desire? If so, the arrangements would be less burdensome. The *Record* will please further enlighten our benightedness.

The *Silent Educator* recommends the following truth set forth in a paper by Miss Bright of the Indiana Institution: "Any child can learn if led step by step, no matter how wanting in brightness. It is an axiom in our educational work."

The *Kentucky Deaf Mute* is respectfully informed that "The Canadian Mute" were published by private individuals, under adverse circumstances. We are now better prepared to battle for an existence as an Institution publication. Our Kentucky friend has our thanks for good wishes.

The *Deaf Mute Journal* comes to us with a bright and pleasant appearance. It is printed on better paper, which improves its columns considerably. The *Journal* is an excellent paper for the deaf, as it furnishes interesting news from all parts of the United States and Canada, and its editorials are carefully and ably written.

Mr. Nurse gave a humorous recitation in the sign language, interpreted by Mr. Ashley in the Belleville Opera House, on the evening of Friday last. It was thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience present.

James McDonald, a brother of our old pupil, George McDonald, Uptergrove, died at Muley Point a few days ago. He was a sober, industrious and popular young man and was highly and deservedly esteemed by all who knew him.

Mr. Thomas Wild, some years ago the Principal of the McKay Institution for the deaf in Montreal, is now missionary for the deaf in Southern California. Mr. Wild has always been an earnest and capable worker for the advancement of deaf persons. He has many friends in Canada who will be glad to know he is doing well in his new home. His address is: Station "R," Los Angeles, Cal.

MONTREAL, ITEMS.

THE MACKAY INSTITUTION

The pupils of this Institution enjoyed a grand treat on Friday evening, 1st ult. Their kind friend, Mrs. A. F. Couch gave stereoscopic views of the well known story, "Ben Hur," after which refreshments of every kind which had been ordered from Hall & Scott's, were partaken of. About twenty five visitors were present. As we were all familiar with "Ben Hur," we followed the story easily.

On Saturday, 10th, a raging, tearing March storm increased the height of the snow drifts in the rear of the banking to about 15 feet, the tops of the young trees being almost covered and the roads in the front of the Institution, impassable. However, the change in the weather to-day bids fair to do away with all the snow, and we are looking forward eagerly to the Spring days of proaching slowly but surely.

A new book has been introduced into one of our classes, "Great Truths Simply Told," and we like it better than MacLear's. It is also used in our Lip reading classes.

We have had our last skate this year on the Montreal Athletic Association's rink, and now that pleasure is a thing of the past.

Rush Aldrich will leave school next week to take up arms in the battle of life. He is a big fellow of eighteen, ought to be able to do well for himself as he has a fair education and is a good type-setter. A few more of the class pupils will leave before the close of school, to work on farms until September.

The latest addition to our number is Harry Haldane, who only entered school the first of March. Harry is four years old, and became deaf but a little over a year ago. He had already begun to lose his voice. He is obliged to acquire speech reading now, and is undergoing a series of lessons in voice training. Mrs. Ashcroft hopes he will be able to return to a hearing school after the expiration of another year.

A letter from Miss Bella Ker, of Toronto formerly one of us, states that she prefers living in Toronto to Niagara.

"La grippe" did not lay hold of any of our inmates this winter. The only one who suffered was a non-resident teacher who has charge of the drawing class. We consider ourselves specially fortunate in this respect.

The fierce storm that raged in the early part of March demolished our windmill. We are now having a new one erected. - H. M. W.

DETROIT, MICH.

Miss I. McMurray, a former pupil of this Institution, is working in Detroit. She has good health at present. Like many others, she is much pleased with *The Canadian Mute*, and hopes it will live and flourish for many years.

The deaf-mutes residing in Detroit have a society, which meets twice a month. They have been discussing the question "Should the World's Fair be opened on Sunday?" We are pleased to see that our old pupils, who took part in the debate, sustained the negative.

Miss McMurray thinks the pupils here should appreciate the facilities of the printing office. She wishes she knew how to set type, as it is a profitable trade.

MANITOBA.

The rebuilding of the Institution damaged by fire, is nearly completed. Frederick Day, a compositor, who claims to be a brother in law to Mr. Robert Greene, of Toronto, is employed in the *Free Press* office.

Remeth McKenzie, who has been in the Winnipeg hospital with frozen feet, has recovered, and is again at work on the railway.

Mr. Chas. Clarence has secured a good position in the land title office at Portage la Prairie.

Principal McDermid and his family of forty odd persons are getting along well but will be pleased to get back into their proper quarters.

A young girl aged 17 years, deaf and dumb, daughter of widow Narcissa Ferguson, of Blenville village, Lewis, was struck Sunday afternoon by a snow plough worked by two engines on the Intercolonial line, on the beach of the village, and killed.