



# 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 typesetting, 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 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 other wise 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 for steel at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

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



MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1895.

### The Dominant Language.

There is no longer a doubt as regards the aggressiveness and dominance of the English Language. It is gradually encroaching upon the rights and prerogatives of other languages, even where they are most strongly entrenched, and demanding a homage from all students. Not long ago there was some agitation for a new language for universal use, — a language that would be less idiomatic and difficult than the English, but equally as comprehensive and flexible. We heard something about an invention of phonetic simples and orthographic novelties that was called "Volapuck." This was to be made a universal favorite, and was to replace English in commercial and social circles, if not for all purposes. Its authors and admirers magnified its virtues and sang its praises through columns of solid minion and double-headed brevier. But it was the creation of no necessity, and its advantages were soon proved to exist only in the imagination of a few enthusiasts, who were relegated to the status of lingual cranks. Volapuck fell into disfavor, and is now referred to only in ridicule. In the mean time the English Language continues its aggressive march, and everywhere preparations are being made for its study and development. The people of Asia, as well as those of Europe and America, recognize its superiority, and demand facilities for mastering its difficulties. This being the case, we must devote our energies to a well defined purpose, as teachers of youth. Whatever can be done to improve our command of this mastering language must not be neglected. Let us drink copious draughts from that "well of English undefiled," which, in the sense here employed, means more than the literary productions of Dan Chaucer.

### Well Expressed.

Mr. H. L. Hastings, the uncompromising and pungent anti-infidel champion, thus accurately describes the character and attitude of the infidel:

An angel flying over the earth sees men and women and children in churches, he hears the voice of prayer and the songs of praise, he sees the heavens which declare God's glory, and the firmament, which showeth his handiwork. Over that radiant land says this infidel, and the only thing he sees is a dead mule or a poor rickety bones of a horse which staggers and falls and furnishes a feast for the buzzard and his friends. Each sees the things he is interested in, the eye catches what it has been trained to look for and recognizes.

Those who have ever performed the repugnant task of reading one of Col. Ingersoll's lectures know how true this is. He searches the Bible for apparent contradictions and picks out the worst specimens of professing Christians, and from these would have his hearers judge the whole. In the whole Book he fails to find one good feature. The magnificent periods of Job, the beautiful sentiments of the Psalms, the sublime imagery of Isaiah, the epitomized wisdom of the ages as found in Proverbs—all this is passed over unnoticed by him, while he dwells upon and gloats over a few isolated passages which to his narrow vision are worthy of condemnation. A buzzard is such as he in very truth.

### Prof. Bell Again

A recent despatch from Chicago says:—

Professor Alexander Graham Bell in a lecture here on the public instruction of the deaf, has advanced the idea that deaf children should be placed in classes in the public schools instead of secluded institutions. He said that the chances are that if the deaf are taught with other children many of them would speak, though they could not hear. Such a method, Professor Bell said, would lessen largely the tendency to intermarriage among deaf mutes, and thus materially decrease the number of those who are born deaf.

A hobby to ride—if a good one—is all right, but when a man ceases to possess the hobby and the hobby possesses him, it is very sad indeed. The trouble with Prof. Bell is, he walks on stilts. Having an intimate knowledge of vocalization himself, and judging all the deaf by his own estimable and talented wife, and a few others of rare ability, he of course arrives at very ridiculous conclusions. The vast majority of the deaf—like the vast majority of the hearing—are persons of very mediocre ability, and cannot acquire an education in the way advocated by Prof. Bell.

### Number In a Class.

Prof. Wilkinson, the veteran principal of the California Institution, and one of the most successful educators of the deaf, speaks as follows in his recent report with reference to the number of pupils there should be in a class.

The work in the classrooms during the past two years has been good, I may say excellent, but we labor under the disadvantage of large classes and inadequate apparatus. A teacher cannot do his best work with more than fourteen pupils, and then the class should be well graded.

This is certainly the extreme limit, and is considerably greater than the maximum in a majority of the American schools for the deaf. But very few schools still retain larger classes, and each year that number grows less. The Missouri school has just fallen into line. Heretofore the number of pupils in a class there has been twenty, but the law fixing this limit has just been repealed and the board has been empowered to engage a sufficient additional staff of teachers to bring the classes down to the standard fixed upon by all educators of the deaf.

The Kansas School has secured the enormous appropriation of \$15,000 for water. It has been such a long time since the residents of that State have come in contact with unadulterated water, applied either externally or internally, that they have forgotten how cheap it is.

### The Mackay Institution.

The twenty-fourth annual report of the Mackay Institution at Montreal has just been received, and we are glad to note that this excellent school for the deaf and blind is in a flourishing condition. Last year there were 57 pupils in attendance, four of whom were blind and the rest deaf. The reports of the directors, superintendent and examiner show that marked success has attended the efforts of the past year. The superintendent, Mrs. Ashcroft, sister of Mrs. Terrill, of this Institution, seems to be eminently qualified for her position. The expenditures for the school aggregated \$12,171.70. The trades taught are carpentering, cabinet making, joinery, wood carving and printing, and it is proposed to add to these painting and gardening.

### To Our Correspondents.

THE CANADIAN MUTE is greatly indebted to its various correspondents for the interesting budgets of news they furnish our readers at regular intervals. We would, however, request that in future all correspondence be posted to us at least five days before our day of issue. At present it is not uncommon for the bulk of our correspondence to arrive on the day of issue, and as a result we either have to leave it over till the next issue, or delay publication for a day or two longer.

We are very sorry that we hit the *Dakota Banner* so hard that it cannot get over it. Since our article appeared a very considerable portion of its space has been devoted to us, so that its readers are deprived even of those items of interest and value which on rare occasions formerly appeared in that paper. Our kindly and disinterested counsel to the *Banner* is that it take heed to the good advice we gave it, strive to be as courteous and veracious as its nature will allow, and that it devote the space now wasted in abusing us to providing the best mental pabulum for its readers that its capabilities will permit. Granting that it cannot do much in that direction, yet its duty is to do its little best. We commend to our friend what the poet Burns said:

"O, wad some pow'r the giffle gie us  
To see ourselves as others see us,  
It wad frae many a blunder free us,  
And foolish notion."

Mr. Leticio Hearn asked in different classes in his Japanese school for written answers to the question "What is your dearest wish?" Twenty per cent. wished to gain glory by dying for the emperor. Others stated a similar wish in less definite language.

This may be a very lofty sentiment, but personally we would much rather live for our sovereign than die for her. People who talk about longing to die for their emperor or country are generally very much like the other people who frequently express a desire to die and go to heaven. When he test comes both here and those are apt to prove arrant cowards.

This Institution is proud to be able to add its quota to the long list of deaf-mute prodigies. There is a gentleman connected with it who has been deaf for thirty years, and who is a musician of remarkable precision and expression, and he is moreover able to give lessons in music to hearing people. His favorite instrument is a Jew's harp, and he says his favorite composer is Wagner. We hope our exchanges will duly magnify the wonderful talents of this gentleman.

The combined method of instruction still holds undiminished and undiminished sway. Of the eighty-two schools for the deaf in the States, sixty-one of the largest use the combined system.

### A New Woman.

Some of the latest of the tender,  
And dainty and small and sweet,  
This new woman of the new day,  
Who fifty bits a day best  
I know that in the New Woman's ways,  
Are found in the New Woman's ways,  
But this little woman is better  
Than the new woman of all the days.

Ye learned beyond compare,  
Is it Sanskrit, Hebrew, or Greek,  
That she will speak with her tongue?  
Laid softly to rest by her cheek?  
What matter?—we shall understand  
Love's untranslatable speech,  
And never so bright comprehension  
The other New Woman shall reach.

A restless and innocent gladness  
Breaks out of her baby lips,  
And something of her wonderful eyes  
Looks out of her wonderful eyes.  
The promise is perfect, my darling,  
It is new in the old old ways,  
Sweet wisdom and innocence shines  
Hold promise beyond the days.

### The Rev. Henry Ostrom's Work.

HE REPORTS HIS FAMILY ON FREE WILL OFFERINGS.

The Rev. Henry Ostrom whose sister, Miss M. M. Ostrom, is a valued teacher in this Institution, made us a five minute visit, on his way from New York to Milwaukee, tarrying over in Belleville to see his mother and other relatives. His numerous friends will read with interest and pleasure an account of his work in New York, taken from the *Press* of that city of a recent date.

To-day, March 17, is a great day in the history of the Metropolitan Forward Movement, which has its headquarters at Metropolitan Hall, West Fourteenth street near Sixth avenue.

The Rev. Henry Ostrom, an evangelist from the West, has been holding daily evangelistic services at Metropolitan Hall since March 8. He is assisted by his co-worker, Mr. Harry Maxwell, the Gospel soloist and leader of the great chorus. Both will unite to-day in the many services that will be held at the hall and prayerful effort will be made to "rescue the perishing" and bring souls to Christ by preaching and singing the "Old, Old Story of Jesus and His Love." Meetings will be held at 9 a. m. and at 10:30 a. m.; also at 2:30 p. m. and 4 p. m. At 7 p. m. Mr. Ostrom will meet Christian workers from all parts of the city, and the usual evangelistic service will be held at 8 p. m.

The Rev. Henry Ostrom, evangelist, is a man that inspires confidence. A natural orator, fearless and sincere, he is personal in his possessing, has a rich, flexible voice, and appears to carry his audiences at will.

Mr. Ostrom never names a price for his services, but lives and supports his family upon free will offerings. He rejects the many tempting offers that are made him to accept pastorates, feeling that he is called to the work of an evangelist. A feature of his meetings is getting the people to study the Bible at their homes. He relies upon the word of God and the holy spirit. His preaching is direct and his methods above all trickery or fanaticism. He is a worker as well as a preacher. Before Mr. Ostrom took up the work of an evangelist and while pastor of a church in Milwaukee, he became prominent in helping city missions to collect funds and to push their enterprises. It is told of him that at one time he "greatly surprised a company of missionary directors by securing and carrying a thousand dollars to their rescue, throwing the gold on the table just when they are most deeply regretting their needs. The directors leaped to their feet almost immediately and sang the *Teology*."

Born a Canadian in the Province of Ontario, the only son in a family of eleven children, Mr. Ostrom's father was a village lawyer, and seven of his children, including the present evangelist, became public school teachers. Since leaving the pastorate Mr. Ostrom has been an indefatigable worker in the evangelistic field, often conducting three and even six services a day. During the last two years he has worked in more than thirty cities. Churches, halls and theaters have been crowded and great numbers from all classes have been converted. It is about fourteen years since Mr. Ostrom began to preach, though he is still a young man, having been known for some time as a "boy preacher."

Large audiences listen to him in Metropolitan Hall. Mr. Ostrom will continue the meetings during the present week. His permanent address is Milwaukee, Wis.