



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 or of our deaf.

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 advertisements.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO



FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1892

SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF.

We observe that there is a tendency on the part of teachers of the deaf, and writers for journals devoted to the education of the deaf, to break away from old and absurd habits of nomenclature, and follow more modern and more sensible methods. The terms "institution," "institute," &c., with the qualifying "deaf and dumb" added to clench the absurdity, are being wisely tabooed. We have, for some time, been convinced that the use of such terms, when applied to the places where deaf children are educated, was out of harmony with the spirit of the times. They savor too much of charitable associations, and can be regarded as synonymous with "asylum," "prison," &c. Naturally conservative in such matters, we adhere to a style of expression that was made popular by our ancestors, and when the deaf were regarded with much less respect than now. Would it not be an easy matter to speedily revolutionize this habit, if those having influence, and facilities for expressing their opinions, persistently refuse to countenance the antique and obsolete terms and references? Mrs. Margaret Bottomo, in the *Ladies Home Journal*, recently wrote some touching words about the treatment and surroundings of orphan children in asylums devoted to such purposes. She concluded her appeal for more natural methods as follows: "I am so glad the time has come when we will have homes for orphan children instead of institutions." Without associating Mrs. Bottomo's appeal in its full bearing, we would express our pleasure that the time has come for us to have schools for deaf children instead of "institutions," &c. Hereafter, we shall speak of this school as the "Ontario School for the Deaf." It sounds much better, and we think it looks better, too.

We are not much surprised to learn from our exchanges that Helen Keller, the talented authoress of "King Frost," has mastered French, and made considerable progress with music. She is something more than a prodigy.

GOVERNING A CLASS.

That sun bonnet, made of calico, and of greater dimensions than those our grandmothers wore, which a genius in the Minnesota School for the deaf has invented as a means for punishing inattentive and disobedient pupils, is being discussed by our confreres. We observe that *The Silent Educator* treats the subject with a few sentences of polite contempt that should "satisfy the yearnings of the one who invented the novel method." For our part, such a contrivance in a school-room, and especially under the unit system that is supposed to govern all the operations connected with our work, is more than a novelty. — It is a ridiculous absurdity. It could not exist in the Ontario Institution, because the rules that create harmonious action throughout the whole establishment would not tolerate such a grotesque innovation. The teacher who has not sufficient influence over his or her pupils to command their attention and obedience in a legitimate way, should experiment in some other profession or trade. There may be a few pupils amenable only to sterner measures than sympathetic interest in their welfare, but such should be speedily taught that the teacher's authority is backed by some thing from which there is no appeal. A man or woman who has studied human nature a little, who feels and shows an interest in the work of the school room, and who knows how to meet and satisfy the natural tendency of youth, need not resort to sun bonnets nor fools' caps in order to receive proper attention and obedience. The unavoidable characteristic of our work, which necessitates individual instruction, may create a cause for annoyance, by enforcing idleness on the part of some members of a class, but a live teacher can avoid much of this. It is evident that, in order to minimize class-room difficulties, teachers must keep their pupils employed; and this employment must be made as interesting as possible. Here is where the tact of a teacher is put to the test. A mutual understanding and a mutual confidence should be created and judiciously maintained. When children are convinced that their teacher is a friend who labors for their benefit, and who can sympathize with their childish aspirations, they will not wilfully create annoyance, nor challenge authority. There should be no cast iron rules, the breaking of which would merit severe punishment; but there must be a discipline that appeals to the moral instinct of the child, and by its fairness, — the elements of firmness and kindness, deserve and receive the homage of all.

Principal Crouter, of the Pennsylvania Institution, has addressed an open letter to Dr. Gallaudet, of the National College, advocating the establishment of an oral department at that institution. This must be what he wants, as he asserts that the time has come when something more must be done "for the higher oral education of the orally taught deaf of the country." We do not know what additional provisions Messrs. Crouter and Greenberger demand for the special benefit of their hobby, but we conclude that the zealous President of the National College must find his position unusually interesting just now. The agitation for a technical branch to his collegiate work has been booming for some time, and this now demands must cause Dr. Gallaudet to meditate whether the declaration that, — "It was the multitude of physicians that killed the Emperor," — might not be applied to his case.

Geo. W. Grant, of Komoku, started for Manitoba on the 5th inst, with a carload of horses for the prairie province. He expects to settle in the Plum Creek district, and grow wealthy with the country.

HELEN KELLER AGAIN.

When the *Goodton Gazette* exposed what appeared to be a deliberate attempt on the part of certain individuals to palm off a stupendous fraud on the public, in connection with the mind development of the deaf and dumb and blind girl whose name appears above, we were among those who condemned such an attempt. Since then there have been some interesting developments. An explanation of the "King Frost" production and its resemblance to something written in 1873, by Margaret T. Canby, have been published. In order that our readers may understand the nature of this explanation we will quote from it as follows:

"I have made careful inquiry of her parents her teacher and those who are accustomed to converse with her and have ascertained that Mrs. Sophia C. Hopkins had the volume in her possession in 1888, when Helen and her teacher were visiting her at her home in Brewster, Mass. In the month of August of that year the state of Miss Sullivan's health was such as to render it necessary for her to be away from her pupil for a while in search of rest. During the time of this separation Helen was left in charge of Mrs. Hopkins, who often entertained her by reading to her and though Mrs. Hopkins does not recollect this particular story I presume it was included among the selections. No one can regret the mistake more than I."

This was written by M. Anagnos, of the Perkins Institution for the Blind, who, we presume, was the author of the report extolling Helen Keller's wonderful achievements in literature that first created suspicion and led to the exposure. The volume to which he refers was what Mrs. Canby wrote nearly twenty years ago, and which was entitled "Barbe and his Fairy Friends." This book, it seems, was read to the deaf, dumb and blind child by a lady with whom she was staying, and during the absence of her teacher. We may mention, too, that this lady, a Mrs. Hopkins of Brewster, Mass., does not recollect having read the work to Helen, but she may have done so. It is therefore probable, if not quite certain that the story was not read more than once. We are asked to believe that this deaf, dumb and blind child could, from so limited a source of information, retain in mind nearly the whole story, and subsequently reproduce it under the title of "King Frost" almost *verbatim et literatim*. It is a huge demand on human credulity, and could not accept it, however desirous we may have been to render due credit to those who have taught Helen Keller what she really knows. Miss Fuller, Helen's faithful and accomplished teacher, has still more recently thrown additional light upon this interesting subject, in a letter to the *Nebraska Journal*, from which we also quote:

"Your estimate of the exceptional powers of Helen Keller is quite correct. Everyone who knows her regards her development and progress as phenomenal. She is wonderfully endowed and is as much beyond and above the average child as the greatest minds in all ages have been higher than the masses of mankind. I think she cannot be compared with any other child either hearing or deaf. It may seem extravagant to say that no child of whom I have known or read has possessed such rare gifts of mind and heart as this marvellous girl, but it is true."

We are disposed to accept this assertion from one who is in a position to speak with exceptional authority with confidence, and regard the deaf, dumb and blind girl as something really phenomenal. If spared by Providence to mature in body and mind she may, under the skilful care she receives, develop into a phenomena of world wide renown.

The suggestion of the *Nebraska Journal*, that the managers of the *Illinois Advocate* move its press, type, and compositors to Chicago during the world's fair and put a daily bulletin for the benefit of the deaf in general, and those in attendance in particular, is much more popular than convenient of execution. But this is an age of great efforts, and our American cousins are capable of the greatest achievements in that direction, so we may have some thing like what has been suggested, in 1893.

MONTREAL ITEMS.

Albert Messler, formerly of Belleville is now engaged in making mutton for use in hotels, and he alone makes six or seven hundred daily.

Louis Phillips, the Jew, formerly of Beloitville, who is a cigar-maker here and is doing very well, has no home. He boards wherever he pleases. It is supposed that his relations are wandering Jews.

Mr. S. Bedard, a young tailor was married lately to a speaking German lady, though contrary to her parents' wishes, who considered a deaf-mute not good enough for their charming daughter, for whom they had much pride.

On Saturday nights, there is generally to be found a gathering of deaf-mutes at the billiard room, No. 1515 St. Catharines Street. Their object in going there is especially for talking. Only a few of them play the game. Mr. S. Bedard and Mr. Lamontagne are fine players.

Rev. Mr. Masse, who conducts divine service for us every Sunday afternoon in a church on Cheminville Street, went on a special mission to his co-religionists in Ottawa recently, to prepare them to the Holy Eucharist on Easter.

Mr. N. Bernier has invented something to awake the deaf at any time at night by adding some materials to an alarm clock, which causes a hand shock beneath the bed while the time piece is kept on the wall near by. It works successfully and it is a great convenience to the deaf. He has no intention of having it patented, but he says that he will try to do a little business with it next year. He is a first class wood worker.

The Montreal deaf population is put down at 150 by some of themselves. One third are females. That includes those who earn their livelihood only. The most numerous trades represented here are tailoring, shoemaking, and book binding. The former comprises about fifteen men, and boys. Here the girls have the same style of sign language and are as charming as those of Ontario. On the other hand, the boys have that of old France, but it does not differ from other signs in many ways.

Howard Greene, son of Mrs. S. T. Greene, is employed at the Grand Trunk Railway works here, where I am also working. We can meet but a few times on account of the largeness of the works, which employ over two thousand men.

BERLIN ITEMS.

There was an oyster party given at Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gottlieb's home in honor of Mr. William J. Rose's birthday on March 11th. All the mutes attended the party, and were particularly crazy over the oysters, as several of them disposed of from three to four platefuls. Miss Eva Zingg, of Hanover, and Miss Ethel Davoy, our Bible class teacher were there, too, and enjoyed it very much.

Miss Ethel Davoy says that she is interested in reading the *CANADIAN MUTE*. Mr. William J. Rose left Berlin last Tuesday and went to Brantford, to secure a job there. He was not successful for a time, and had trouble with the foreman.

Miss Eva Zingg will likely stay in Berlin until Good Friday, and attend the Bible Class every Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gottlieb bought a new baby carriage, and hope to walk around the town in summer.

Mr. Muller, Hon. Secretary of Banger Foot ball Club, invited all the deaf-mute boys to attend the meeting next week. They hope they will have a good practice soon.

Mr. F. W. Gardiner says he is going to have a store to sell pianos, organs and other things, soon. He requested all the deaf-mutes to go into the store often.

Tobacco and Gum.

Says the *Hamilton Times*: While Mr. Mowat is trying to keep the boys of Ontario from learning to use tobacco couldn't he spare a chunk of his "best consideration" for the girls who chew gum? The nasty creatures wag their jaws like a pair of sheep-shears; they won't answer when they are spoken to; they stick stale chews to the table legs and the head board of the bed, and they spread diphtheria and other malignant diseases through the school section by swapping chews. Tobacco is bad enough, but who ever saw anyone borrow a chew of it from his neighbor's mouth?