



THE CANADIAN MUTE

Four, six or eight pages.

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At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

OUR MISSION

First - That a number of our pupils may learn typewriting, and from the knowledge of it 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 leaf-mate 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.

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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.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,
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ONTARIO



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1900.

Dr. Gallaudet Vindicated.

The resolution passed by the Hearing Section of the Paris Congress relative to the question of methods, and the claim made by the oralists that this resolution finally settles the question throughout Europe and will have an important effect in America, will be greeted by a large majority of the teachers of the deaf on this continent, and by a large and rapidly increasing minority in Europe, with indulgent amusement. Of course those present had the abstract right to express, as individuals, any views they pleased; but for them to speak authoritatively or as acting in a representative capacity, was unwarranted presumption. The Hearing Section of the Congress was composed of some 180 persons, membership and the right to vote being open to anyone who paid the small fee required. The President of the Congress, and one of the most strenuous advocates of Oralism present, is not even a teacher of the deaf, but was formerly the physician of the Paris Institution and thus spoke without any personal knowledge of the relative values of the various methods. Of those present a majority were ecclesiastics and brothers of the religious orders, whose schools Oralism is the most strongly entrenched. It is significant that no representatives of the three National Institutions for Deaf-Mutes in France were present, nor were allowed to attend, that in truth the Congress was not recognized in any way by even the Paris Institution. The fact that the Director and Counselor of that Institution spoke earnestly to Dr. Gallaudet of the insufficiency of the Oral method and said that their views were in practical accord with his, may furnish a clue to this mystery. The United States was represented by but five members, Great Britain by only

two, and Germany by but a very few, in both of which latter countries there is a strong reaction against pure oralism. Dr. Gallaudet was the chief advocate of the Combined method and conducted a skillful and aggressive contest from the start, after he had vainly urged that, since the Congress was in no sense representative, it should refrain from expressing an opinion on controverted questions. The debate on the subject of methods was a spirited one, Dr. Gallaudet being ably seconded in his contentions by Mr. Heidsieck, of Germany, Mr. Matzger of Geneva, Mr. Forehammer, of Denmark, and Mr. N. Ahn, of Sweden. The resolution in favor of the Combined method received the votes of the members from the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark, but they were voted down by those present from France, Belgium and Italy, who composed the great majority of the members. It will thus be seen how devoid of weight and authority the dictum of even the Hearing Section was. Just its expression of opinion must be placed the action of the Deaf Section, comprising some 220 members, who unanimously passed a resolution in favor of the Combined system although a large majority of them had been educated in oral schools, and represented the choicest results and the highest attainments of pure Oralism. The Deaf Section requested that the two sections should hold a joint session for considering and passing upon such resolutions as might be submitted, so that the vote would represent the opinion of the Congress as a whole. Dr. Gallaudet strongly supported this proposition, but the Hearing Section, knowing what the result would be, refused to acquiesce. Dr. Gallaudet subsequently moved that in order to bring the resolutions in accord with the actual fact, the word "Hearing Section of the Congress" should be substituted for the word "Congress" wherever it occurred, but even this eminently just and reasonable request was denied. The incongruous spectacle was thus presented of a number of hearing persons insisting on imposing on the deaf a system and a condition which the deaf themselves almost unanimously repudiate and denounce after they have fully tested the oral system in its most perfect development and realized the highest—but sadly disappointing—benefits it is able to bestow. The net result of the contest is this: The Congress was officially defined as consisting of all the members of both sections present, each section ostensibly possessing equal authority and equal claim to recognition, such equality having in fact been accorded them by the authorities by whom the Congress was constituted. The larger section voted unanimously in favor of the Combined system and a majority only of the smaller section favored Oralism. This majority was chiefly from three nations, two of which at any rate take a low rank in educational matters, while the minority represented Sweden, Switzerland, Germany and the United States and Canada, all of which occupy a foremost place in this respect. The reports do not indicate how the British members voted. The sentiment of the Congress as a whole, therefore, was largely in favor of the Combined system, yet the opinion of less than forty per cent of all present is audaciously heralded by the oralists as the dictum of the whole Congress. Dr. Gallaudet merits the warm thanks of all friends of the rational method for his brave fight against great odds, and what was ostensibly his defeat will doubtless prove a great triumph, it being more than probable that the action of the Hearing Section will have the opposite effect from what the oralists desire; for instead of being the final ex-

pression of opinion in favor of Oralism it looks more like an almost despairing effort to give, by unworthy tactics, a fictitious appearance of vitality to a failing cause which can no longer stand on its own merits.

The deaf in Ontario have heard with regret of the death a few days ago of Dr. Carlyle, of Toronto, one of the leading educators in this Province. Dr. Carlyle was for several years the examiner at this Institution and always manifested a warm interest in the deaf, and the old pupils have held him in kindly remembrance.

Prayer for Deaf Mutes.

We clip the following from *The Church Messenger*, printed and published by our old friend Mr. N. V. Lewis, of Los Angeles, Cal., once of Toronto. —

O God, our Heavenly Father, whose dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, when He dwelt on earth, went about doing good, unstopping the ears of the deaf, and loosening the tongues of the dumb; look down with loving eyes upon all Thy deaf-mute children and give them the special blessing of Thy mercy and grace. Let Thy fatherly hand ever be over them, so that they may learn the truth as it is in Jesus, and believe in and rest upon Him as the Saviour of their souls, and find in Him that joy and peace which the Holy Ghost alone can bestow. Be with them, who beseech Thee, in all their trials and duties and dangers of this life, and may they so live in Thy fear and love here, that, in the world to come, they may ever, with open ears and loving tongues, send forth Thy praise in Thy Heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O Lord God, through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, to Whom, with Thee, O Father, and Thee, O Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Always Strike Your Hour.

In one of Sophia May's delightful story books this old piece of advice is given to a young girl who sees a hard trial ahead. "Always strike your hour." When she looked up in surprise her friend said something like this: "Watch that clock on the shelf, and you will see that when it comes time it always strikes the hour. It doesn't lag and delay a few minutes over, but precisely at the moment the long hand points to twelve it strikes the proper hour. If it didn't, the whole household would be in trouble, for each one of us depends on the striking of the clock to mark of the hours for us. When the time comes for you to meet a hard thing, do so bravely, don't complain or delay, for that would only make your trouble other people's as well." The boy who puts off filing the wood box until he has finished his kite, and so delays his mother's baking, is refusing to strike his hour. So is the girl who puts off doing thorough work in her school until it is nearly time for examinations. Ever so many of us are trying to get out of "striking an hour" as long as we can. We shall save ourselves and others much if it is sounded the moment it becomes due. —*Happy Hours.*

—Mr. R. M. Thomas arrived home with his American bride on Saturday evening last. Mrs. Thomas, whose father is a judge and was a consul to President Cleveland at Hayti, is much enamored with Oakville and its scenery. She can speak well and hear to some extent and is well educated, having attended college for some years in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are hard at it furnishing their home on the west side and will be permanent residents here. —*Oakville Star, Oct 11.*

It takes lots of moral courage for a man to admit his own mistakes. The temptation to deny, explain, or place the blame or responsibility on another, is so strong that every good man will hesitate long before coming out flat footed and saying: "It was my mistake." The man that never made a mistake does not live, and all claims to infallibility along this line are born of weakness. If mistakes were a crime the land would not contain the prisons necessary to hold the criminals. Then why hesitate to admit an error to which all men are liable? —*Selected.*

A Helping Hand

By EDNA V. C.

If I should see
A brother languishing in pain,
And I should turn and leave him,
When I ought to
A messenger of hope and love,
How could I ask what I should do
In my own hour of bitterness?

If I might sing
A little song to cheer a fainting
And I should seal my lips—
When I ought to
A bit of sunshine for life's sad
How could I hope to have any
If I kept silent when my brother

And so I know
That day is lost when I fail,
A helping hand unto some one
But it is slow
A burden lightened by the deed,
Then do I hold the golden rule,
And lay me down to rest in ease.

Old Ontario Pupils

From the *Winnipeg Silent*

Mrs. Richardson and her son, Carman, Man., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Pottypiece, son-in-law, Man. Her husband is at present acting as a tailor cutting school at

Mr. Neil Calder, of Bates, Man., has 80 acre farm recently purchased, and has purchased another farm of 200 acres, called Curless Man. He is now preparing a new home on the new farm, and family's removal there this fall.

A friend informed me this morning that Mr. Fitzsimmons, the shoemaker at Carberry, Man., has lost his sense of speech. Is this true? (Ed. Note:—Will some of our leaf-mate readers inform us?)

Miss Ellen Grant, of Victoria, Man., contemplates taking a trip to Ontario this fall to visit relatives and friends in Ontario.

Mr. S. Hawkins, Round Bay, Man., also goes east on an interesting mission. No expert success may attend his journey this time.

Sometime ago a certain deaf man in the Souris district visiting home, included in some discussion of political concerns against the liquor traffic, his talks. A Souris newspaper described him as a "whiskey spy." This man was generally supposed to have been Mr. D. J. McKillop, of Belleville.

In your item regarding Mr. E. J. Shaw's visit to Manitoba, I regret that that he is at present engaged with a threshing gang in the Horseman district. He had returned to Toronto, and had that his situation with the Messrs. Harris Co. was cancelled, and that at the beginning of last month he began harvesting and threshing this fall. He has been purchasing several horses recently in order to prepare himself for working on his farm in the spring. —*Timsias.*

LONDON NOTES.

From our own Correspondent

Mr. Wm. H. Gould was in London on a visit for about two months and has returned home.

The deaf everywhere will be pleased to know that Mr. Harper Cowan was married to Miss James, of Ottawa. They are now residing on the farm about one mile and a half west of the city, where we hope they will be happy.

Miss Anne Butler, of Belleville, had a splendid time in London and the deaf mutes during the summer months. She is a sister of Dr. Butler, the well known physician of this city, and we hope she will visit us again.

Mr. Sam Thompson has lately come to Detroit on a visit but may return to his room.

Last Labor Day, Miss Lily McEwen was with her friend, Mr. Hoy, of London for a few days, and she had an excellent time there. She was also in St. Louis to see her friends and relatives last Thanksgiving Day.

Mr. Louis Koolhor, of Haden, was the residence of Mr. Cowan late in the year and then went to see Mr. J. H. Henderson for a few days.

Mr. Morse has been to his home in St. Thomas, for the summer, and we hope he will be working again at White & Sons soon, as a carpenter.

Mr. Nelson Wood received a letter from his mother, of Exeter, telling that they had a splendid sale of goods lately, and are intending to come again in this city next spring.

The temperate are the most happy and luxurious. By abstaining from these things, it is surprising how many of us we enjoy. —*Simms.*