

Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

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LITERARY SOCIETY

H. Mathison, President; Wm. Nurse, Vice-President; D. J. McKillop, Secretary; Ada James, Treasurer; J. A. Isbister, Treasurer.

HOME NEWS

Several of the boys are suffering from sore eyes. They attribute it to getting cold in them.

The new U. S. postage stamps are being eagerly sought after and procured by stamp collectors.

The principal exercise for some of the boys has been to keep the little pond clear of snow lately.

Papa, has your little boy or girl a pair of skates? If not, send a pair or the money to purchase them. It will be a good investment.

The fleet of ice-boats is almost snowed under, near the Institution wharf, and the bold sailor boys are seeking other kinds of winter sports.

If the boys could be sure of getting clear ice on the bay again before spring, they would form a hockey club, and challenge the city boys to a game.

Spring is coming! Only one more winter month, and that is the shortest of them all. We do not expect to pluck flowers in March, but it will be Spring.

Our Mr. Beaton has been distinguishing himself again at a public meeting in the Bridge Street Methodist church, by rendering favorite pieces in the sign language.

An interesting exercise with the pupils of Class C, is to point out places on the maps that have been named. They are becoming quite familiar with the physical features of Canada.

The Scientific American has been added to the files of papers in the boys' reading-room. They can now take note of the various new inventions, and we hope will become more interested in mechanism.

Maggie Robinson has returned to school by permission of the Superintendent. Her parents were very anxious to have her resume her studies. She will be more careful about taking holidays without leave hereafter.

Several of the pupils have been placed under obligations to Miss Curlette, teacher of articulation, for a supply of newspapers, which were no longer of use to her, but of much interest and equal use to those who received them.

A number of the boys have had sore eyes, the result of severe cold and snow reflection, and have been wearing glasses to assist their vision. One of the pupils, in an original composition, when referring to the glasses, said the boys had glass-eyes.

For the violation of a rule by some of their number, the girls had the privileges of the skating-rink denied them, and it was only by an humble address to the Superintendent, asking for forgiveness and expressing sorrow, that they were reinstated.

The carpenters have just finished a new ventilator for the ice-house; the one put in when the place was built was found to be too small. Now stairs to the engine room have also been put up; our necks feel safer as we descend down there now.

What becomes of the slate pencils lost, or destroyed, by the pupils of a school for the deaf? There will be some kind of a slate quarry where this school building stands in the future—when Macaulay's New Zealander takes observations from the ruins of London Bridge.

The days are growing longer, and the pupils in the work-shops are now able to do without gas. The carpenters and shoe-makers wish that the weather would get warmer, too, so that they could pack away their stores for the summer. "The printing office is more fortunate, as they have steam fixtures there.

It is a long time since we experienced such a protracted and severe cold spell as we have this season. Beginning just before Christmas, Jack Frost "held the fort," with little relaxation in the rigor of his rule, until late in January. Some of our boys had frozen ears, cheeks, and noses, but they did not mind that much.

As is usual at this season, our gas is of an poor, and candles have to be brought in to supplement the light some times. Such of the boys as have a streak of mischief in their composition don't generally mind it, only when they have to go to bed before their time. When we are in semi-darkness, it makes us wish that we had electricity and were independent of the city gas house.

Supt. Mathison left on the evening of 23rd ult., for Washington, D. C., on business in connection with the Executive Committee, of which he is a member. He may have something to say about his visit to the American capital in a future issue of THE CANADIAN MUTE.

On the evening of the 11th ult., Prof. Balis, at the request of the Literary Society, gave the pupils a lecture on the modes of life and habits of the tribes that inhabit the Arctic Circle. The lecture was accompanied by crayon illustrations on the slates, and was both instructive and interesting, and the pupils enjoyed it.

Mr. Alexander Henry, a prominent and influential citizen of Napanee, visited us on the 20th ult., and with the Superintendent made short calls on teachers and others. He and our master printer, Mr. Burns, worked together in a printing office thirty years ago. They are staunch friends still, and were happy to meet and renew old associations.

During his leisure, Robert Hanson cut out and made up a set of shirts to complete the uniforms of the Athletic Association teams, to be worn during their matches. They are of fine blue cloth and will bear the insignia of the Association on the breast. With the completion of these, our boys' uniforms will be equal to those worn by the best teams in the country.

The Rev. E. R. Young, Missionary to the Indians in the North West, visited the Institution on the 16th ult., in company with Rev. E. N. Baker, of Bridge Street Church. In the evening he gave a public lecture on his work, accompanied by lime-light views of the various phases of Indian life, in the Bridge St. Methodist Church. About 25 of our elder boys attended, and they enjoyed the two scenes exceedingly, though, of course, they missed the lecture.

For the past two years, Robert Hanson has been learning the tailoring trade with Mr. Mills in the city. Robert is a handy lad with his needle, and always showed an aptitude for the trade. He is an industrious boy, and every morning, rain or shine, dinner basket in hand, he trots off over the two miles to his work in the city, and we do not see him again until the evening. He is at present enjoying two weeks holidays while alterations are being made in his employer's store.

One little boy here seems to have turned over a new leaf with the New Year, and has begun with good resolutions to redeem the past as far as he can. His teachers, past and present, were begged for forgiveness for various offences. Mr. Cunningham was visited and received a confession of many cakes, &c., stolen. Mr. Nurse no longer wondered why his shop made so little profit after the lad had confessed what he had stolen for balls. Good boys who try to do better are always encouraged here, and this one received plenty of good advice, with hearty hand-shakes as he went his rounds.

We have a splendid outdoor skating rink this winter, and no one wants to go back into the covered rink again. It is flooded over a larger area than ever before, and 150 skaters can enjoy the sport without being crowded. If the boys wield their brooms and shovels as regularly as they have been doing, the ice will be kept in nice condition. Now we have connection with the city water works, and it is quite easy to flood the rink at any time. The boys have organized to keep the ice clean. Isbister, Baizana, Reeves, Henderson and Bloom have each a dozen boys under their orders to sweep up after the ice has been used. After a fall of snow all turn out to help clear the surface.

Our good-natured Simple Simon, Henry Lentz, has had set up, a row of enamelled tomb stones in the place of his departed teeth. For years he has bewailed the loss of his natural grinders. Successive classes of carpenters and shoemakers have pined his misfortune, and have often tried their skill as amateur dentists, but each have failed, and it looked as if poor Henry would go through his school days almost toothless, and so it was a surprise when he came in one evening with a new set of new teeth. Only by great coaxing could he be persuaded to let his school-mates look at his treasures, so useful was he of losing them. They were made and fitted by our Superintendent's son George, who gave them as a free gift. There is not a prouder or happier boy here now than Henry, and we guess Master George's boots will be well blacked after this.

Extracts from Letters

An old pupil living in Detroit writes:—"It is a long time since I wrote you, but as the CANADIAN MUTE tells me how you all are, I write to let you know how I am getting on. My health has been pretty good during the past year, and I have earned enough to pay all expenses and save something. I have many things to be thankful for.

A grandmother writes:—"It has been a great comfort and relief for me to feel assured my grand daughter had every care and comfort, and I now write to thank you, the Matron and nurses, most sincerely for the attention she received and all the kindness bestowed upon her since she entered the Institution. I am unable to express the gratitude I often feel when thinking of your kindness and loving care over the members of your interesting, but in many cases, helpless pupils.

Mr. D. D. Surratt, of Lewiston, Maine, is a native of New Brunswick, Canada. He attended the School for the Deaf at St. John for several years, and while there made very good progress in his studies. The last four years he has been working on the Gingham looms in the Lewiston Mills, Maine, where he gives good satisfaction to his employers. We are always glad to hear of our Canadian friends, wherever they may locate. Our deaf friends always do credit to their native country.

A grandfather writes:—"I cannot express myself as I would like. When I think of the poor ignorant boy that I left in your care a few years ago, and to think of the perfection he has arrived at in the Institution, it appears more like a miracle than anything else. I think you must feel proud of a number of pupils that received their education at the Institution. I see by the paper that many of them express their thankfulness to you for your kindness to them while under your care. This must be very pleasing to you. I am sincerely grateful for what has been done for my grandson.

A mother writes:—"We feel it our duty to express our thankfulness to you for the way our son is being educated and cared for. We were very much surprised to see how nicely he could write and draw, and so were our neighbors. He said he would like to learn to speak. Do you think he can be taught? We would be so delighted, and I do wish he may have a trial as this is his 7th term. He always likes to come home, but is pleased to go back again. We are glad to see him, but we feel perfectly satisfied that he is kindly treated there, as the school has made a great change in him. He is so kind and affectionate at home. Our sincere prayer is that God's richest blessing may ever rest upon all engaged there in that good and grand work.

STONY CREEK ITEMS.

From our own Correspondent.

The weather since Christmas has been fine and cold, several nights the thermometer has gone down from 5 to 10 below zero, but as far as I have known there has not been much suffering. The sleighing has been, and is, excellent, and we hope it will continue so for a while.

The toboggan slide near the village, which is said to be one of the best in Canada, is crowded every night to its fullest capacity. Hundreds have enjoyed themselves there. They do not have to walk up after the sliding, as there are two slides from which they start to slide down one on the east, and the other on the west. I have never tried it, but I will before long.

Great banks of ice piled up along Lake Ontario are a very grand sight. Every time the wind blows from the east, it increases the beauty. It is lovely to see them when they are glittering in the sunshine.

I was sorry to hear that George Dickson met with the accident, which you described in the paper, but I hope he is getting on nicely now. I would like to know what he was thinking about when he was in bed.

There were three cases of scarlet fever here, they were three little girls, under five years of age. One of them died. She died with croup, as she caught cold after she was getting better of the fever. No fears for me, as I had it when a baby.

[Ed. Note: We will be pleased to hear from our friend at Stony Creek whenever he finds it convenient to write for THE CANADIAN MUTE. His "items" will be published.]

THE CANADIAN MUTE.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1893.

The above society held a business meeting on the 24th ult., when all were present, except Miss Henry, who was getting something warm; she however came out. The voting lever for the convention seems to have struck the pupils, for the following subject was put up for debate and carried—"Resolved.—That the convention had better meet this summer than be postponed until 1894."

The Dufferin Literary Society.

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Institution Reports.

The 25th annual report of the "Clark Institution for Deaf-mutes," located at Northampton, Mass., is also on our table. This school is devoted to the study and system of instruction, and under the care of Caroline A. Yale, has accomplished a good deal towards popularizing that system. The teachers and officers are all women, excepting the steward, farmer and master of the cabinet shop. The attendance during the year ending Aug 31st, '92, numbered 118. This report also contains some excellent illustrations of the school buildings.

The 30th annual report of the Texas School for the deaf has been received. It is somewhat of a surprise to read on one little page of this report, published in 1892, such words as these: "Texas Deaf and Dumb Asylum." The reformers certainly have not converted all to the way of viewing such matters. But, let us not be too hard on the school; let us be a good school, and is doing excellent work. The report gives several illustrations of the school rooms, and apartments generally, which exhibit an admirable order of instruction and arrangement. The number of pupils enrolled was 24, and the actual attendance 20. At the time the report was issued, the per capita annual cost was \$1.

How to arouse an interest among pupils, came up at the business meeting of the Western Institution, recently, and quite a little time was spent in discussing it. It was decided that the best way to select some book, or newspaper, suitable for his class, and through which would be printed to supply the pupils. It is believed this is a superior direction.