



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 typewriting, 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. BARRVILLE, 105 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

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



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1892.

PROMPT RETURNS.

The *Deaf Mutes' Journal* of recent date contained what was termed the "usual annual comment upon the tardiness of pupils in returning to school." Our contemporary, at some length, discussed the evils arising from this habit among pupils of Schools for the Deaf in the United States, and arraigned parents for their share in the defect. It says:—"We will venture to assert that about fifty per cent. of those who should be in their class rooms have not yet made the necessary preparations to return to school." This is a serious reflection on a dereliction of duty on the part of some one. We have before referred to the promptness with which the pupils of this School return at the opening of a session, and will here remark that when the first roll was called on the 15th ult. only two pupils were absent, out of the 267 now present, and they resided in the city ready for classification a few days afterwards.

AN OUTRAGE.

Henry and Catherine Lutz, pupils of the Institution, left home to come here but their father failed to have them in Hamilton at the time appointed to put them in charge of the teacher on the train at that point. They were sent on to Belleville without escort or being put in charge of anybody and arrived at the station here about two o'clock on the morning of the 15th. While at the station awaiting conveyance to the Institution, the girl—a simple minded creature—was outfoxed from the waiting room to a lonely spot near the depot and outraged. Two persons are suspected of the crime. One was arrested and has had a preliminary trial before Police Magistrate Flint, who will give his decision on Wednesday next and the other is still at large with a reward of \$100 offered for his capture. If the father had done his duty, there would have been no trouble. No pains or expense will be spared to secure justice in the matter.

PERSONAL JOURNALISM.

The *Silent World* recently discussed at considerable length the subject of personal journalism, its remarks being inspired by something said by the *Lords* (Eng.) *Deaf Chronicle*. Our English contemporary does not approve of this feature of our deaf-mute literature, as represented by a majority of the Institution papers, and avers that such a style of literary pabulum would not find favor with English readers. It also intimates that those who demand reading matter of this kind cannot represent a high grade of intelligence. The *Silent World* endorses this view of the case, and enlarges upon the subject in a somewhat self-laudatory manner. It claims to aim at a better status of journalism, and the edification and instruction of the most intelligent class of deaf-mute readers. We readily admit that it is a sensibly conducted paper, and well worthy of the praise its English confrere bestows upon it, but it is not justified in endorsing so sweeping a condemnation of a highly commendable feature of our newspaper literature. A glance at its columns will also convict it of a degree of inconsistency, as it panders to this taste for personal information, and is none the less interesting for doing so. Its correspondents, of whom it has several of superior intelligence, deal largely with the movements, employments and experiences of individuals interested in such a publication. They show good judgment in doing so. Nearly all the papers published in America, in the interest of the deaf, are intended to serve as a means of communication between parents and their children, who are separated for three-fourths of the year, and who are much more interested in "trivial items" of a personal nature than in learned homilies or abstract subjects. Former students, who have finished their allotted studies at school, and gone out into the world to battle for a living, also find the personal items in their favorite papers of much interest and perhaps some profit. By this means they sustain a kind of correspondence with classmates and former associates that brightens their pathway through life, and lightens the burdens that fate imposes.

The *Lords* (Eng.) *Deaf Chronicle* is a worthy critic, and represents an "intellectual status" above the average, but we do not think that it could win a wide range of popularity among the deaf of America. This want of appreciation might be attributed to an inferior status, but we demur to such a conclusion. There are few papers in England published entirely in the interest of the deaf, while there are many in America representing different grades of intellectual thought and capacity. The so-called "trivial personal items" serve no mean part in the great work of education that does not stop with the limit of a school term. We admit that in some instances the triviality becomes too prominent, but this is an exception that does not mitigate the general excellence of such publications. It may gratify an editor to fill his paper with stilted sentences of precise grammatical form, and as void of personal matter as Euclid's elements, but would all his readers find either pleasure or profit in such literary pabulum? A good many writers for papers of this kind seem to lose sight of the important fact that they address a class whose intellectual capacity is more or less limited, and who find life exceedingly practical and non-professional. They waste much valuable ammunition in their efforts to "elevate the standard" by shooting so far over the heads of their readers. We plead guilty to our own indictment.

TWO OF THEM.

The able correspondent of the *Western Times* wrote a very sketch of some of the leading members of the late Colorado Springs Convention, which he attended. We append a couple of his notes:—

"Ontario's matchless champion maintains himself in good style on every occasion, and is one of the most interested and interesting members of the conference. His social qualities never grow less, and his faculty for business evidently grows with his years. The Dominion was in luck when he took charge at Belleville."

That refers to our Mr. Mathison, and it is proof positive that the writer is level-headed.

The portly bachelor from the city of brotherly love retained all his former staidness of manners and has attached thereto an equilibrium of judgment and an intelligent eye for business as a result of his years of experience in perpetuating the name and fame of the Pennsylvania Institution that advances him to the front rank.

That's "brero" Croutier, and it measures his capacity with the eye of a critic.

Excuse our Blushes.

The following highly complimentary notice of *THE CANADIAN MUTE* is taken from the *Deaf Chronicle*, of Leeds, England, for which our trans-Atlantic friend will please accept sincere thanks. We will try to retain the good opinion of such an excellent publication—"Bravo Canada! I have before me several copies of the *CANADIAN MUTE*. I must admit that it is the neatest, brightest, best edited, and most welcome publication that has ever found space on my table. Permit me, Mr. Editor, in all sincerity, to wish you every success."

The Superintendent of the New Jersey School is hereafter to be known as the "principal," and all the teachers are to reside out of the Institution. There is also a reduction in the number of employees on a plea of economy.

Miss Coleman, who took a position temporarily as a Monitor Teacher, is now attending College and her place is filled by Miss Ada James, one of our graduates of '88. We hope both young ladies will succeed to their entire satisfaction.

The *Deaf Mutes' Journal* sustained its reputation by publishing full and accurate reports of the recent convention at Colorado Springs. We found it very interesting and instructive. The *Silent World* and *Register* also merit commendation for their enterprise in the same direction.

The correspondent of the *Nebraska Mute Journal*, at the Colorado Springs Convention, thus referred to the venerable Dr. Post, who was such a conspicuous figure among the many distinguished men present at that meeting. "Dr. Post will probably not attend many more Conferences. The sweet-hearted man, with so many friends, will soon be able to say, 'I have fought the good fight. I have finished the work.'"

Mr. Coleman, who had charge of the pupils coming from Windsor and intermediate stations on the 14th ult., reports a thoughtful and kind act on the part of Rev. Mr. Ware, of Chatham. While at the station there the rev. gentleman presented the children with a well-filled basket of choice fruit, nuts and sweets, which were distributed among them in the car, and the nature of the gift explained, by the officer in charge. We need only add that there were eloquent expressions of mute gratitude for such an exhibition of practical Christianity. The toothsome contents of the basket were much enjoyed, and Mr. Coleman was asked to return thanks for the pleasant treat.

We must congratulate Mr. F.W. Beach, of the Pennsylvania Institution, on his marriage to Miss Marion Henderson, also of the same school, and trust that it may be the beginning of a long and happy matrimonial experience.

The Hon. Jno. Carling and the Hon. McKenzie Bowell, accompanied by a number of other gentlemen, visited the Institution on Wednesday last. Mr. Carling was a member of the Ontario Government when it was decided to erect this building, and the duty of selecting the site devolved upon him as Minister of Public Works. The location is all that could be desired, and testifies to the wisdom of Mr. Carling's choice. Both the Honorable gentlemen were more than pleased with their visit and said so. The pupils and officers were glad to welcome them.

Another prodigy was produced by the oralist at the Lake George Convention last July. Her name is Helen, formerly Helen Hoeller, of Boston. She is a young woman of seventeen years, who lost her hearing when only three years old, by a fall from a hammock, and who was taught seven years at Miss Fuller's school. Her performance on the platform, the *Register* says, "proved her to be the most wonderful production oralism has produced." She can converse with ease by reading the lips, and one of her present teachers in the Berkshire Academy, at Boston, says she stands near the head of all her classes. The *Register*, from which we obtain this information, concludes an eulogistic article as follows:—"Her training and marvelous natural adaptation have produced one of those phenomena, for whom all in the profession might cry more."

There was a battle royal between the Oralists and advocates of the Combined System, at the Colorado Springs Convention. "When Greek meets Greek in battle array, then comes the tug of war." Such champions of Oralism as Supt. Croutier, Dr. J. Bell, Miss Fuller and Miss Yale, were met by equally doughty champions on the other side in the persons of Drs. Gallaudet, Gillett, Swick, Doyle and Noyes. These latter are veterans in the work, and could draw from many years' experience to clinch their arguments and enforce conviction. But their opponents were not easily silenced. They, too, can point to honorable records, and are conscientious in their contributions. There was an amusing incident connected with this controversy, viz. Mr. Larson stated in all seriousness that his wife, a graduate of Miss Yale's school is now a more graceful signer than himself. This remark did not provoke cheers from the oralists, but it did from the other side.

John A. McIsaac writes that he is employed in the canning factory at Delhi.

With the beginning of this school year, the editors of Institution papers should register a vow to observe a higher standard of professional ethics in the discussion of questions involving diverse views and divergent opinions. Because we cannot see a subfoot just as others view it, is no reason why an *ipse dixit* style of argument should be adopted, and a contemptuous "sic oraculo" treatment be meted out to opponents generally. None of us are infallible.

Faithful attention to duty brings its own reward. Our teamster, Peter Shaw, has received a well earned promotion. He began service in the Institution as messenger about seven years ago, from that he was raised to teamster, and now through the resignation of Mr. Stevenson, he has been given the responsible office of watchman. We congratulate Peter and hope he will give satisfaction and not grow weary of well doing. It keeps on he may go up step by step to be Supt. yet, if he lives long enough.