



# THE CANADIAN MUTE.

FOUR, SIX OR EIGHT PAGES.

PUBLISHED BY JOHN MONTGOMERY

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 attract interesting matter for and on our page 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 dumb.

## SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty cents for the school year. A table in advance shows 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 otherwise 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 inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,  
BELLEVILLE  
ONTARIO



SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1898.

## Our Annual Report.

The Twenty-seventh Annual Report of this Institution was presented to the Legislature a few days after the opening of the House and in some respects it is the most interesting and valuable report that has yet been issued. Its characteristic feature consists of several hundred letters from parents of pupils and from ex-pupils, giving their estimate of the character and value of the work being done here. The letters from parents, with some half dozen exceptions, are unanimous in their expressions of surprise and satisfaction with the unexpected progress made by their children, not only in intellectual development and literary requirements, but also in manners and morals and in their conceptions of religious truths. The letters from former pupils, without any exceptions, speak in the warmest terms of the writers' gratitude for, and appreciation of the value of the education and training received at the Institution; and in nearly every instance they were able to demonstrate the truth of their assertions by reference to the practical results, namely, that they were earning a comfortable living and were enjoying life quite as much as those who were in possession of all their faculties. What is especially gratifying in these letters, however, is that which appears between the lines, the sentiment of independence and self-respect, which each evidently conscientiously feels, and which unconsciously perhaps, but very palpably pervades and colors all their expressions. It is very pleasing to know that nearly all of our ex-pupils are doing well in life, that they are law-abiding and industrious citizens, and that they enjoy and merit the esteem of their neighbors and acquaintances. Taken as a whole these letters form both a valuable compend of the results of the training received here

to every variety of character and disposition, and every grade of intellectual capacity, and an eloquent tribute to the faithful efforts of the staff of officers and teachers who have labored so earnestly on behalf of the deaf.

Dr. Chamberlain's report shows that he found everything here in a very satisfactory condition, excepting the fact that the school rooms and living rooms are overcrowded and he urges that a new school building be erected so as to provide accommodation for many other deaf children who should be here but for whom room cannot now be found. He also urges that the school should be made free for all deaf children in the Province, that attendance should be made compulsory, and that the school term be extended to ten years.

The report of the Literary Examiner, A. B. Davidson, B. A. is of a very satisfactory nature. He regards the staff of teachers as an excellent one, but considers the work they have to do is exceedingly monotonous and exhausting. He found a remarkable correspondence between the marks given by himself in his examination and those given by the teachers in their paper examinations, showing that the latter constitute a fair criterion for judging the character of the work done in the class rooms. The conduct of the pupils he found to be all that could be desired. "The earnestness with which they applied themselves to their exercises, even the very youngest, was quite remarkable. The relations existing between the teachers and pupils seemed in all cases to be of a most harmonious character. The teachers treated them with very great kindness, and the pupils showed every mark of respect for their teachers."

Relative to the course of study he speaks as follows: "The course of study covers a period of seven years, and is framed to supply the peculiar want of the pupils, namely, A reads and easy expression of their thoughts in writing and by means of manual signs. Every exercise in the school room, from the lowest class to the highest is primarily an exercise in English. To the mute, English is an unknown language and as it is the only medium by which he can attain a knowledge of anything else taught in the school room more than three-fourths of his time is devoted to the acquisition of a knowledge of it. The course at the commencement is necessarily very narrow and as the pupil's vocabulary increases it becomes wider, until in the highest class it includes Arithmetic, Composition, Canadian History, Geography and Penmanship. During the last ten years the courses of study have been very much extended in the Public and High Schools, adding thereby to the educational privileges of the youth of the Province. From the number in attendance in the highest classes here, the excellent character of the work done, their exceeding great desire to become intelligent, and the fact that they are handicapped in the race of life it does seem to me that in simple justice, not to speak of pity, an extension should be made in this Institution to their privileges, by extending their course of study for at least one year in the meantime, and providing them with another teacher. Why should these afflicted ones be excluded from any share in the educational benefits which have been so liberally bestowed on their brothers and sisters throughout the Province?"

The maintenance expenditure for 1896-7 was \$15,282.70 equal to \$170.22 per pupil. The items were as follows: medicines and medical comforts \$301.99, meat, fish, poultry, &c., \$3,297.19, flour

and biscuits, \$1,785.80, butter, \$2,357.92, groceries, \$2,035.11, fruit and vegetables, \$711.95, bedding, clothing and shoes, \$770.80, fuel, \$1,169.12, gas, oil, etc., \$1,150.28, laundry, soap and cleaning, \$493.23, furniture and furnishing, \$771.02, farm and garden—feed and fodder, \$1,081.51, repairs and alterations, \$950.89, printing, postage, stationery, etc. \$910.66, books and educational appliances, \$521.27, miscellaneous, water supply, etc., \$2,053.93, salaries and wages, \$21,873.29. Relative to the expenditure the Superintendent speaks as follows: "The average per capita expenditure of the 18 leading Institutions in the United States is \$257. It is a matter for consideration whether we should take credit for our average being so much below the average as given above. Usually the higher the per capita cost the better the school—more teachers, smaller classes and enlarged facilities. We are doing well, however, but we might do better. We aim to make our Ontario Institution more efficient each succeeding year, and second to none anywhere. In every department the utmost economy is practiced consistent with efficient administration—nothing is allowed to go to waste, neither is there any stinting, more particularly in the food supply, which is good in quality, abundant in quantity, nutritious and well prepared."

Several changes indicative of progress and prosperity have recently taken place in several of the papers published in the interests of the deaf. The familiar *Deaf Mute Advance* has ceased to exist as such and is now a handsome eight page paper, named *The New Era*. The change is an improvement so far as the form is concerned, while the matter is excellent but to our taste the old name is the better one. Mr. Gray, who has edited the *Deaf Mute* for several years, has retired and his place has been taken by Mr. John P. Walker. We hope to see many improvements under the new management. The *Ontario News* again makes its appearance after six weeks suspension, due to an outbreak of scarlet fever in the school. The *Wisconsin Times* issued an excellent sixteen page Christmas number with a handsome cover. No doubt the interesting matter it contained was well read. The paper was red too, which was not an improvement. The *Deaf Mute Journal* celebrates its twenty-sixth anniversary by issuing a handsomely illustrated edition on toned paper. The *Kentucky Standard* also has completed twenty-three years of useful existence. To all our contemporaries we extend greetings and wish for each and all of them a prosperous and happy New Year.

## Valentine's Day?

There are many traditions about the day. Look up any you can find about it in the dictionary, encyclopedia, or story books. The common tradition is that a man by the name of Valentine lived a great many years ago. He was a very good man and did good things for people. He did his good deeds so that people would not know who did it. When he died they called him Saint Valentine. The people chose February 14 as the day to celebrate in his name. Children give pretty things to those they love, and they give them in such a way that their friends are not sure from whom the gift comes.

There are people who never recognize one another in church, but expect to know each other in heaven.

Never economize politeness. To be courteous is a divine injunction. Courtesy should flavor every act of the most ordinary day. Its practice would invest life with beauty and sweetness, would garland the rough places and soften the hard, and be a soothing balm to the sensitive so often needlessly wounded.

### The First Snow Fall

Last night the wind blew  
Sweet and warm as a baby  
And the pasture land—  
Were green with the hoar  
fields.

Full gold lay the lake near  
And rose from the sunset  
And soft and grey when the  
As the shimmering breast.

But that was yesterday after  
At night the faties in silver  
Silver shoon and powder  
Came slipping down through

And all through the hush  
Out of each tiny powder puff  
They scattered the snowflakes  
And for in the morning the

The fire were hurried to sweep  
Take a tented army street  
And out and castle and tower  
And how-made grave, in the  
The crystalline purity

### The Drunkard's Sermon

It was growing late in the evening, and the family that earlier in the day had obbed and flowed through the streets of the great city had now gathered leaving the strange and alien world of sense of desolation that comes over the noises of the town are hushed. The electric lights flared unnoted as the street cars passed at intervals, now and then a high wheel carriage, now and then a high wheel carriage, and clear in the stillness of the night a saloon whose lights shone brightly across the pavement. A tramp, unshorn, dirty, disheveled, watched with anxious eyes as the cars passed in and out through the doors, and then he turned and saw two young fellows in evening dress were coming down the street. They had been drinking and they stopped before the saloon and looked curiously at him.

"By jove," said one, "that's a thirst like that, and not to be quenched with an extinguisher in your pocket."

"I Tantalus all to pieces of liquor everywhere, and not a drop to drink."

He ran his hand in his pocket and proffered the tramp a dime. "If it could be accepted the other fellow interposed.

"Say, he cried, let's do it. I'm a Samaritan, and set Hobo up on his drink."

The other hilariously consented, the tramp slouched into the saloon, the heels of the two gilded young men, the barkeeper set before them two glasses of liquor, and with a hand on the tramp's shoulder he poured out a brimful and raised it to his lips.

"Stop," cried one of the young fellows drunkenly, "make us a special poor liquor that doesn't lose its tongue."

The tramp hastily swabbed his mouth with the drink, and as the rich liquor passed through his blood he straightened himself and stood before them with a calm and dignity that all his raggedness could not obscure.

"Gentlemen," he said, "last night at you and at myself and at me I look upon the present as my last method. This bloated body was once as young and handsome as you. The shambling figure once was as proudly as yours, a man in a suit of men. I, too, once had friends and friends, and position. I had a wife as beautiful as an artist's dream, who dropped the priceless pearl of her heart and respect in the wine, and Cleopatra-like, saw it dissolved and quailed it down in the sea of draught. I had children as sweet and lovely as the flowers of spring, and they faded and die under the heavy curse of a drunkard father. I had a home where love lit the flame on the altar and ministered before it, and put out the holy fire, and darkness and desolation reigned in its stead. My aspirations and ambitions they were as high as the morning star, and they broke and bruised their beautiful and, at last, strangled them. I might be tortured with their memory. To day I am a husband and a wife, a father without a child, with no home to call his own, a man whom every good impulse is dead all swallowed up in the madest drunk."

The tramp ceased speaking, his glass fell from his nerveless fingers, shivered into a thousand fragments on the floor. The swinging door opened and shut to again, and the little group about the bar looked at the tramp was gone.