



# 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 educators.

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 blind.

### SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty cents for the school year payable in advance (postage prepaid) by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order (postal notes 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 liberal amount of advertising subject to approval will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,  
BELLEVILLE  
ONTARIO



SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1899

### Too Much of a Good Thing.

The subject of over education is just now commanding widespread attention in this and other countries, and many emphatic protests are being made against what has been well termed "The murder of the modern infants." The people of this continent are fond of boasting that they lead the world in enterprise and go-ahead-tiveness, and pride themselves on the spirit of ceaseless, restless activity that pervades all ranks and all vocations. But it is questionable if this is not cause for regret rather than for gratulation. Enterprise and industry are all right when exercised with due moderation, but there is a limit beyond which they become an evil rather than a virtue, and are productive of harm rather than good, and in no other place is this so evident as in modern educational processes. Canadians glory in the splendid system of education which has been provided freely for every child, but in our eagerness to excel we have in many cases gone far beyond the limits that prudence and discretion would prescribe. Children are now sent to school almost as soon as they can walk, and at once begins that process of cramming and over-stimulation of that brain that so often ends so disastrously. Children of from eight to ten years of age are not only compelled to spend six or seven hours a day in often poorly-ventilated school rooms, but in addition are required to do two or three hours of home work in the evenings. They are compelled to memorize involved and to them meaningless definitions, to solve intricate and unpractical arithmetical problems and do other useless and very ridiculous things. Often they pass into the High School at eleven or twelve years of age, where the same processes are continued in an intensified degree, with the

addition of a lot of higher mathematics and foreign languages and other things entirely unsuited for such instruction. Small wonder it is that we see in our public schools so many flat chests and pallid faces and the waxen skin that has been named the school complexion, and small wonder it is that government can scarcely find asylums for the insane fast enough to meet the demand that is increasing in such alarming proportions. Every year there is being offered up to this Moloch the lives of thousands of children, and right here in Belleville, and in every other city on the continent can be named more than one child whose untimely death is directly traceable to over study, while many living children from the same cause have become nervous wrecks and will never again enjoy a day's freedom from pain. Of course these results do not always follow. Many children cannot be induced or compelled to apply themselves sufficiently to their studies to produce any bad results, and many others are sufficiently robust to endure the strain. The worst results come to children of the more highly sensitized minds of the more ambitious characters of the more highly developed intellectuality. And it is these the highest products of our civilization who are being thus sacrificed, and whose survival though the really fittest is being made impossible. The evil is an enormous and ever increasing one, and easy to specify, but it is much more difficult to point out a remedy. The root of the evil doubtless lies in the over ambition of parents. Each parent desires to see his child excel, and insists on as rapid progress as possible being made, and the teachers whose very livelihood depends on the good will of the parents, are compelled to carry out their behests, even though they know that the results are often injurious and not infrequently fatal. A good education is a very desirable thing, but a sound mind in a sound body is infinitely better. Nothing but good would result if the school age was raised to eight years. At any rate no child should be allowed to enter a school room before it is seven - excepting, of course, a kindergarten, and an age limit of at least fourteen should be fixed for entrance to the high school. Were we to allow the children to enjoy the exuberance of childish delights, to cease burdening their minds with great masses of dry and unassimilated facts, and to let educational methods proceed along the lines of natural development, the results will be infinitely better, not only as regards the physical well being of the children but also their mental advancement and their moral strength.

The Annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Association to promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf was held at Washington on the 19th ult. It was decided to hold a Summer Meeting of the Association the latter part of June at Northampton, at which all teachers of the deaf were invited to be present. A sympathetic resolution of condolence with Dr. Gillett, the President of the Association, who was absent because of illness, was passed. The following officers were elected for the coming year - Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, President, Dr. A. L. E. Crouter, First Vice President, Miss Caroline A. Yale, Second Vice President, Dr. Z. F. Westervelt, Secretary and Mr. F. W. Booth, Treasurer.

There seems to be hope ahead for all the Deaf in Manitoba and the N. W. Territories, as the Winnipeg Free Press of a recent date says. "The enlargement of the Deaf and Dumb Institution is engaging the attention of the government, and it may be decided to provide extra accommodation to be ready after the midsummer vacation.

Superintendent Matheson has received from Dr. W. R. Ho. Head Master of the Royal Institution for the Deaf at Hamburg a letter in which he offers to attend a convention of Teachers of the Deaf to be held at Halifax August 2nd and 3rd and 4th under the Presidency of Lord Egerton. He is sorry that he will be unable to accept the kind invitation, but expresses the hope that the convention will be a very pleasant and successful one.

### The Winnipeg Institution

The members of the Grand Jury visited the Winnipeg Institution lately and made a record of their visit as follows:

We visited the Deaf and Dumb Institution and have much pleasure in reporting upon the excellent condition in which we found this Institution. We deprecate the building is well appointed, and the sanitary conditions satisfactory there is a great necessity for an enlargement of the present premises. The efficient work done in printing suggests strongly the introduction of other trades which, owing to the crowded condition of the building cannot now be introduced. The Grand Jury were greatly pleased with the methods employed in teaching the deaf and dumb and cannot allow the opportunity to pass without paying a well-deserved compliment to Principal McMurrd and his efficient staff.

### Another Instance.

One day this week the school was visited by a young man who received his education in the Victoria Institution a school where the pure oral method is used and where the use of any signs is strictly forbidden in the schoolroom. This young man is evidently of more than ordinary intelligence and may be fairly taken as a representative of the average of work turned out by oral schools. He has been in America nine years and during that time has picked up a fair knowledge of English from reading, having had no other instruction, he says. His speech is of no use, practically and he depends almost entirely upon writing and signs to make himself understood. When one considers that this is the record almost universally of graduates of oral schools, it becomes a source of wonder that advocates of that sort of instruction have the assurance to make the extravagant claims they sometimes do. It is not so surprising that parents are often misled by these theories, it is natural that they should listen eagerly to any one promising to accomplish so much for the deaf, but to the teacher who has seen the results of such work not once but hundreds of times, it is provocative of nothing but indignation. In connection with this, we copy the following from *Philosophy*, the new "Friend of the Deaf" which is printed in Los Angeles.

The best oral teacher in London was the late Rev. Dr. Stainer who organized and for many years conducted the oral taught classes of deaf children in the public schools. After long years of laborious work he resigned his position, and wrote to Dr. Peet of the New York Institution, in June, 1880 as follows:

"You may not know that I have returned to my 'first love' and am acting chaplain of St. Saviour's Church for Deaf mutes, where I preach in signs and interpret sermons. My views of oral teaching are modified since 1881, when I visited your country." *California News*

### A Small Potato.

A man in Toland, Conn., found a very small potato in one of his pockets when he came from his work.

"Here," said he, laughing, to a twelve years old, who lived with him, "plant that, and you shall have all you can raise from it till you are of age."

The bright little boy cut the potato into as many pieces as there were "eyes" in it, and planted it. In the autumn he dug and laid by the increase of it, and planted that the following spring. Next year he planted the larger crop gathered the previous autumn.

The potato grew healthy and did well, and his fourth year's harvest amounted to 100 bushels.

The farmer asked to be released from his bargain, for he saw the boy's planting would cover all his land.

And yet it is quite common to despise the day of small things.

### An Easter Fable.

To cheer the heart of a boy  
Who died in early youth  
Transfate, Thy the Saviour  
In blossoming white  
Out of dust and darkness  
He called us, and we  
In joyous resurrection  
To glorify His name.

We are the souls of a boy  
Who died in early youth  
Transfate, Thy the Saviour  
In blossoming white  
Out of dust and darkness  
He called us, and we  
In joyous resurrection  
To glorify His name.

### The Judge and the Boy

There arose a judge in England in the days of Queen Elizabeth whose life for justice, who lowered above jurists of his time in integrity of character, and whose works still live. Elizabeth, who admired sincerity, said to this great and stainless lawyer: "Mr. Attorney, go on as thou hast begun, and still plead, not for the rights of Queen but for the rights of truth."

This attorney, then young, did, and became a power in England. As the throne fell, and he lived long enough to see throne after throne, and fall in all the changes of troubled times, he pleaded for damnation of truth.

One day this most eminent judge spoke about his work in the town hall in London. It was the old hall of Henry's, which was partly burned years after ward, and was not altogether like the historic hall of to day. The hall was the place of the courts of justice, and the judge was engaged in calling in one of those courts. He called up a boy not his eyes and was something in the fact that he held his attention - heart, soul, and earnest purpose. He had a Welsh face, kindly but uncompromising, beautiful in its own way. "What was the boy doing?" He was writing case notes in a case that an attorney was pleading.

The grave judge's eyes rested on the boy's face, and there was something in his manner that revealed to him a ship of soul. It was honest and earnest. All with an inspired purpose, kindred souls and desire to share in brotherhood. The judge saw his heart's desire that day in that boy. Should he unbend from his dignity and speak to the boy? Something in the boy answered: "Yes."

"Are you interested in this case?"  
"I am taking notes."  
"For instruction, my lad?"  
"Yes, sir."  
"May I look at your book?"  
"Here are my notes. I am glad you have seen them, sir."

"They are accurate, beautifully and closely written. May I ask why you came here?"  
"To study law by taking notes, sir."  
"Are you an English boy?"  
"No, sir; I came to London from Wales. I was born in Wales in 1860."  
"Your name?"  
"Roger Williams, sir."  
"Have you the means of education?"  
"No, sir, but I am doing my best to secure a legal education in this way. My parents are people of small estate."  
"Would you like to attend the school to go to college, and to prepare for some profession?"

"I have so prayed, sir, I have the purpose, but I do not see the way."  
"My boy, prayer and purpose are the way. A boy who takes counsel from heaven may become what he desires to be. Have you that faith?"

"I know that the Word says, 'Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust in him, and he shall bring it to pass.'  
"My boy, I have been reading your soul while you have been writing earnestly. I am going to offer you education at my own expense."

That judge was Sir Edward Coke, whom even to this day every law student quotes. There are meetings that are turning points in life; meetings in which souls born for mutual help find each other. Such was this interview. The purpose of the great jurist's soul was to rise like a star in the life of the Welsh boy. There are men whose words are inspiration and life, who build men whom to meet is to grow. Such a man was Sir Edward Coke. He had found a pupil of life in Roger Williams, and through him he who wrote the "English Bill of Rights" was destined to touch and influence for good, the nations of the world. *Hezekiah Butterworth, in 10th Days of March.*