



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four, six or eight pages

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

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

R. MATHISON, Associate Editor,
J. B. ASHLEY.

OUR MISSION

- First.—That a number of our pupils may learn typesetting, 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. SOMERVILLE, 105 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

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



THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1894.

IS THIS A FACT?

Some time ago the writer had a conversation with a gentleman who had spent several weeks among the people of the Sandwich Islands, and who had, in his own interest, carefully examined into, and took copious notes from, the general statistics of that interesting Pacific kingdom. (This occurred before the late "revolution" and establishment of a provisional government under American auspices.) He came in contact with nearly all classes of the inhabitants, and made it an object to study their characteristics, — social, intellectual and moral conditions. The educational system, though comparatively defective, he considered a credit to the people, and capable of the most beneficial development. The social and moral codes prevailing were open to improvement, and he believed would, under favorable circumstances, soon change for the better. Though no direct enquiries were made, this gentleman does not remember either seeing or hearing of a deaf-mute, and he is certain that, if there are natives so afflicted, the numbers must be small, even in comparison to population.

More recently the writer, with a special object in view, and having no reference to the above, was introduced to, and conversed for some time with, a young man of exceptional ability and wide experience, a native of the Bahama Islands. He had been educated in England, had traveled extensively, and was thoroughly posted in all matters pertaining to the people of the Bahama, Bermuda and other West India Islands. He assured the writer that, among the natives of those islands, congenital and even partial deafness were quite unknown. This he thought was an indisputable fact, as his experience and study enabled him to speak with confidence. He offered to refer the matter to the Commissioner of Education at Georgetown, British Guiana, who had all necessary statistics to verify the statement.

Both these gentlemen spoke from what

they considered sufficient experience to justify the belief that deafness among the native inhabitants of the islands referred to was seldom met with. They did not believe that there were a sufficient number among all classes of the people to call for any special educational provisions. There is something interesting in these declarations. What climatic or other influence exempts the natives of these islands from diseases of ear or throat which effect the hearing or why do not fevers that in other climates leave such baneful effects, have a similar effect there? We will not presume to speculate upon hereditary or accidental causes of deafness which, in all reason, should, under ordinary circumstances of life common to most nations of the earth, be developed everywhere with nearly equal prominence.

THE DEAF MUTES IN THE NORTH WEST.

Lieutenant-Governor McIntosh is interesting himself in arranging for the education of the deaf-mutes who reside in the North West Territories, at the Winnipeg School. With that end in view he visited Winnipeg and had a conference with Principal McDermid, when the whole question was thoroughly discussed. He subsequently had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Watson, Minister of Public Works, of Manitoba. His Honor also made a thorough examination and inspection of the building, and the work done in the Institution under Principal McDermid. From the result of the various interviews, it is probable, that the Dominion Government will be induced to enter into an agreement with the Manitoba authorities to educate the deaf children sent there from the territories.

We have received the prospectus of the new paper to be published in Chicago in the interest of the deaf. Mr. R. P. McGregor, of the Ohio School, will be editor-in-chief, Mr. J. E. Gallaher, of Chicago, being managing-editor. There is a long list of correspondents and contributors, some of whom have already won a reputation as writers. The prospectus does not state whether the paper is to be issued, weekly, monthly, or quarterly. The subscription price will be \$1 per annum. This new venture "on the sea of journalism" is to be called *The National Exponent*, and the first number is expected in March or April. There may be "millions in it," but we doubt if those responsible for the cash to keep the wheels moving will speedily become possessed of a plethora bank account. Money is needed to publish any kind of a newspaper successfully, and the Chicago oracle of wit and wisdom will, under the conditions of its support and assumed pretensions, cost more than an ordinary publication of the kind. It will also have to depend upon a class of readers already well supplied with similar literature. We wish the publishers a full measure of success, nevertheless.

The Maryland *Bulletin* calls our attention to a paragraph in the Sixth Annual Report of that School, in which the word "eclectic" is used by Principal Ely, in reference to the combined method of instructing the deaf. This report was issued in 1889, and as we have no date on record when we first used the term, the credit is freely conceded to our Maryland conferees, unless the Hartford claimants can establish a prior right to the term. Anyway, it is only another proof that great minds do occasionally pursue a similar course of thought and arrive at similar conclusions, while unconscious of each other's existence.

Dr. Gillett, when at the Ohio School recently, caused some astonishment by stating that, at the New York Institution signs were no longer used in the classrooms, dining-room, nor on the play-ground. Finger spelling is a compulsory substitute. This announcement was not expected, especially with reference to the school over which the late Dr. Peet so long presided, who was a strong exponent of signs as a valuable part of the system of deaf-mute education. Now, we have three important schools for the deaf where signs are thus discarded, — Rochester, New Jersey and New York. We presume these schools still tolerate them in the chapel and lecture hall, but we are under the impression that at the Rochester School they are not permitted to be used anywhere or for any purpose. If the pupils of these schools are as much attached to pantomime conversation, and use it with the same facility, as ours, we would like to know how they are controlled when at liberty on the play-ground. There must be an occasional violation of the rule.

The general United States Consul, M. J. Hendrick, Esq., of Belleville, has been visiting friends at Rochester. While there he was interviewed by a reporter of the *Post-Express*. Among other good things, in favor of Belleville and vicinity, he ventured to remark, "that the Provincial Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, at Belleville, is the largest in the world." Mr. Hendrick is generally right, but in this instance he was a little off; the mistake, however, is in the right direction. Another friend, noticing the statement said, "that it might not be the largest Institution in the world, but it was certainly one of the best." We are not disposed to dispute the latter, very strenuously, because that is our aim. Our aims are very high, so under the circumstances we forgive the Consul and will be glad to have him come out and see us, when an opportunity offers.

Those who seem to think that any affliction or calamity that may befall a member of the royal family of England, must be regarded as a just punishment for inherent or inherited sins, will please observe: That the Prince of Wales and his son the Duke of York, recently visited the deaf-mute department of the London School Board, that they were much interested in what was shown them, that the Prince expressed his sympathy with the deaf-students in their efforts to obtain knowledge and fit themselves for the duties of citizenship, and that he assured them of his willingness to do anything in his power to ameliorate the conditions under which they competed for an honorable position in life. This, too, by the blackest sheep of the flock, according to some American critics!

The Nebraska *Mute Journal* says the matron of an institution for the deaf has no sincere for an office or position. The editor of that excellent paper is also the matron of the school. This being the case, she speaks from experience, and hence with authority, and she speaks truly, too. In a large school especially, a matron who does her duty faithfully and well has her time more than occupied. Her duties are also sometimes very responsible and fatiguing.

Scarlet Fever has been epidemic in the Michigan School for the Deaf since last December, but the latest reports indicate that the School will soon be free from the disease. Prompt attention and careful nursing have contributed to this result. We can sympathize with our Michigan brethren for we know what Scarlet Fever is.

The management of the Portland School for the Deaf have chosen Miss E. R. Taylor, of the Philadelphia School, to succeed the late Miss Burton as principal. The choice is an excellent one, and must result in great good to the school, under the new order of instruction. Miss Taylor is not only a superior teacher, but is also a writer of much power. She has edited the *School World* for some time, and has won distinction in that capacity. Principal Crozier says of her: "As a writer she is clear and forcible, as a manager she has been energetic and prudent. In losing her the Institution suffers the double loss of an accomplished editor of its weekly paper and a brilliant and successful teacher of its pupils."

It is highly gratifying to those who have faith in the "eclectic" system of educating the deaf to learn that hereafter the Portland Deaf Schools, for which a competent principal is now selected, will have the benefit of that system in its completeness. This is the decision of the School Board of Portland, — a decision that was doubtless influenced by the able arguments and convincing statements of Drs. Gallaher and Williams, in refutation of the specious plea of Dr. Bell for a continuance of the oral method.

The Kentucky *Deaf-Mute* thinks farming is the best occupation for the deaf and the *Lone Star Weekly* says a vast majority of the deaf in Texas follow the plow, and quite a number successfully. There are many ex-pupils of this school successful farmers in Ontario, and many others are employed as farm hands, earning good wages, and living happy and contentedly. Farming is the best occupation for the deaf, unless special talent is shown for some trade or profession.

Mr. Lucian V. Ralph, one of the editors of the *British Deaf-Mute*, and the gentleman who wrote such harsh words about his experience in Chicago last summer, has re-read and re-considered the article that gave so much offence. Admitting that it is "too strong in some points of view," he insists that "it is strictly true." Now, "let us have peace."

The prevailing "hard times" in the United States have effected all the laboring classes, and many deaf persons are now, and have been for a long time out of work. Especially is this the case in the large cities, where the deaf naturally congregate for social advantages, and where the depression in all kinds of industries is more apparent.

A new act, providing for the better education of the deaf and blind of Great Britain came into operation on the first of January last. Good results are expected from its provisions, as the state authority will hereafter have more to do with the work, and hence there will be less private or individual support.

THE EDITOR'S TABLE.

THE EDUCATOR.

The February number of this popular and useful publication came to hand several days ago. In all its departments it is well up to the usual standard of excellence, and upon the whole presents a wholesome bill of fare, in a literary sense. We regret not having space for a more particular notice. It is a paper worthy the support of the profession.

THE MUFF AND HUB.

The students and ex-students of the National College at Washington are doing their best in the publication of a representative journal that will compare favorably with others of similar character. They are succeeding, too. The March number is interesting and instructive.