



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 type-setting, 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, 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 limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO.



MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1900.

Our Glorious Heritage.

"Prosperity is smiling upon our neighbor on the north. Her mineral wealth in the Rockies is multiplying, her crops have filled the pockets of the farmers and her commerce has improved more than in any year of her past history. She has not ceased to be disturbed with the United States over the western boundary line, the coal fisheries and our tariff. It is hoped that the immediate future will bring Canada to the realization that a closer union with our republic will be for her best good"—*Utah Eagle*.

It is a wise policy, and one which our American friends especially will appreciate, never to give up a good thing except in exchange for something better; and it is quite certain that this is the principle on which Canada will act in reference to the hope expressed above, and which, we doubt not, is fondly cherished by most Americans. In no respect would a change of allegiance from Britain to the United States benefit this country and in very many respects it would be to her disadvantage. Canada is now an integral part of the largest, the richest, the most populous and the most powerful Empire or political entity in the world, or that the world has ever seen, and in which the privilege of citizenship carries with it the highest honors and the most fondly cherished rights and honours. It is an Empire whose citizens enjoy a greater degree of individual and political freedom than those of any other nation; whose government is the purest and the best, whose laws are the most perfect and whose judicial administration is the most impartial; whose ideals of justice and equity are the highest, and whose civilizing influence is the most potent. It is a nation in which merit and character count in public life rather than trickery and demagogism, and whose high ideals of probity and honor are so nearly realized that in any part of her vast domains the word of a British official is never doubted and practically never violated. It is the nation in which liberty had its birth, in which the idea of human equality originated and in

which the principles of honor, righteousness and justice have reached their highest development, whose literature is the most splendid, whose history is the most glorious, whose culture is the finest and whose language is the most perfect, as it is now the most extensive and will be the universal vehicle of human speech. It is the only nation that is not afraid to meet the whole world in free competition in commerce and industry and in all the elements of true prosperity and development; and of her only can it be said that her military and naval pre-eminence is so unquestioned and her resources are so unlimited that no possible combination of powers could seriously threaten her supremacy. What possible inducement, then, could Canada have to separate herself from such an empire as this, to renounce those rights of citizenship which all the world honors and respects, to forego that protection and prestige which she only can bestow under all circumstances and in all places, in exchange for a union with the United States or any other nation? The best is good enough for us, and we are not fain to sell our glorious birthright for a mess of pottage. Great Britain is predominant in this little world of ours in nearly every desirable respect; and though the United States perhaps stands second or at some time will do so, yet even then it is and always will be a long way off from her incomparable mother land; and Canada is no more likely to change its political affiliations than the typically shrewd Yankee would be to knowingly exchange a valuable city corner lot for a plot of ground in a Florida swamp.

In the splendid new Congressional Library at Washington ample provision has been made for the blind. A perfectly equipped pavilion has been set apart for their use, in which has been placed copies of all books and other publications printed with the raised type. Such kindly though just recognition as this of those classes in the community which are deprived of some of the senses remind one of what has been done for such as these in the past few decades. In nothing has the progress of the world in civilizing influences and in tender regard for the afflicted been more marked than in the care of the deaf and the blind and in the provision made for their educational, moral and spiritual training.

Just as we go to press we learn that our old friend and co-laborer, Dr. John H. Brown, has at last passed into rest. He was an earnest, faithful, successful teacher in this Institution and a true friend of the deaf, and it was a matter of great regret when his ill health compelled him to retire from active work while yet in the prime of life. He struggled long and heroically against bodily infirmities but has been worsted in the struggle with the enemy to whom all must succumb. Mr. Brown was a man of the finest abilities and the most admirable character and enjoyed the sincere respect and admiration of a large circle of friends.

The *Kelly Messenger* believes that seventy five per cent of deaf children can be profitably educated by the oral method, while the remaining twenty-five per cent will be better off under the combined system. It also adds that the cause of oralism has been injured by the extravagant claims made for it. This is undoubtedly true, and we venture to say that the above claim merits the same characterization. Not a quarter of seventy-five per cent of the deaf can be satisfactorily educated by the oral system.

A German scientist is making some interesting investigations in reference to the time it takes to think, or to have a mental impression carried to the brain. Such a subject as this may be all right for an academic discussion but we teachers of the deaf have to deal with practical demonstrations, and we solemnly aver that to our sorrow we know that it takes days and weeks for some pupils to have a mental concept firmly fixed upon the brain. What concerns us is not the fraction of a second in which a physical sensation can be carried to the brain, but what number of days or weeks it will take certain pupils to faithfully realize that a singular subject must have a singular verb and a few such like first principles of language.

The issue of the *Montreal Life* for March 30th contains a very interesting historical and descriptive article on the Mackay Institution for the deaf, illustrated with an excellent cut of the building and pictures of some of the pupils. The article eulogizes very highly the excellent work being done in this Institution and points out some of the disadvantages under which the deaf labor and the difficulties that confront them in the acquisition of language. Speaking of Mrs. Ashcroft, the talented superintendent, the writer says:—"It may be sincerely avowed that no one better qualified for the position could be found. Her work and her influence are of the highest character possible. One has only to visit the Institution to realize the affectionate regard in which she is held by all her pupils."

It is reported that the Kansas school for the deaf has been closed temporarily on account of a scarcity of water. This is much to be regretted, and it is a difficulty that will never confront us, and one hard for us to appreciate since we have the whole of the great lakes to draw from, and thus, we modestly surmise, will be sufficient to supply our needs for some time yet to come. By the way, the Kentucky school is pretty well fixed in this respect, though for quite a different reason, for we are credibly informed that the people of that State have no use whatever for water as a beverage and very little use for it even for external application.

The vice of forgetfulness is one that is generally very strongly deprecated, yet that good often comes from seeming evil was strikingly illustrated in the Michigan School for the Deaf a few weeks ago. A boy had carelessly left his rubbers in the wrong place. Before retiring he went to look for them and discovered a fire in one of the rooms. He quickly gave the alarm and the incipient blaze was extinguished without difficulty. But for that boy's forgetfulness it is probable the whole building would have been consumed, and possibly many lives lost. There may be a moral to all this, but we will leave it for a professional metaphysician to discover it.

The next Conference of the Principals and Superintendents will meet at the Alabama School on June 30th, and will we hope be a very profitable and interesting gathering. Mr. Johnson, the able and progressive Superintendent of that school, is the soul of hospitality and good fellowship, and all who attend can depend on a most hearty welcome and right royal good cheer.

The Combined System has been adopted instead of the Oral System in the Govan (Glasgow) School for the deaf. May this be a little leaven which shall leaven the whole lump!

Easter Song.

The flowers were all sleeping
Beneath their snow-white
But the spring has called to
And this is what she said
"Oh, children of the spring,
The winter-time has passed
Awake, lift up your heads
Tis Easter-time at last!"

The briles all had journeyed
To southern lands away
But the spring is calling to
And this they hear her say
"Oh briles who have done
The winter-time has passed
Come back and build your nests
Tis Easter-time at last!"

An Easter Cross.

Upward
When the
Darkness
Foldeth
May I see
Through starless midnight
Heaven's morning twilight
And my
Prayers
Like holy
Incense
Rise to
Thee.

A Message to Young Men.

The nobility of life is work. Work in a working world. The idle man does not count in the present campaign. "My father worketh for me, and I work." Let that be the motto. Let your daily wisdom be in making a goal, and of the attainments given you. We live in a world of solid and faithful work. A world only truth, in the long run, can hope to prosper. Therefore, do not show and admit any low superficiality of all kinds, which is a painted life. Let whatever you do, and whatever you do, grow out of a root of truth and strong soil of reality. Never forget Paul's sentence: "I have the fulfilling of the law."

That is the steam of the modern machine. Do one thing well, do it whole man," as Chaucer's *Thorp* said: "Do one thing at a time. Make clean work and leave no tags. Make no delays while you are at a thing. Do it and be done with it. Avoid all cellanous reading. Read nothing unless you do not care to remember and remember nothing you do not mean to use. Never desire to appear clever, to make a parade of your talents before men. Be honest, kindly, and sympathetic in all you say and do. Cleverness will flow from you naturally if you do it and applause will come to you unsought from those who know what to applaud, but the applause of fools is to be shunned.—*John Stuart Blackie*

Overcoming Difficulties.

Obstacles do not seem half so formidable after you have once risen against them and determined to overcome them at all hazards. Grasp a man firmly and his sting is soon over. After a man has once formed a habit of grappling with difficulties, there is a certain exhilaration in the consciousness of increased power, of being superior to obstacles,—a pride in possessing strength to transform stumbling blocks into stepping stones. The reputation of being always equal to any emergency, of having the power to conquer difficulties, is a very great help in advancing one's position. The man who is considered equal to the occasion, master of the situation,—who is known to have a large reserve force,—is the one who is sought after for great undertakings. The nerveless man, without stamina or backbone, no matter how highly educated or cultured he may be, is not the one who is sought after in emergencies or to fill important positions.

DEATH.

READ.—On the 26th of March, in Holywell, the wife of Mr. W. J. Read, of a daughter.

NARRAGANS.—On the 21st of March, in Wilton Centre, the wife of Oliver Narragans, of a son.

DEATH.

BROWN.—In Darlington, on Monday, April 9th, John H. Brown, M. D., aged 67 years and months.