



# THE CANADIAN MUTE

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

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

R. MATHISON,  
J. D. ASHLEY, Associate Editors.

## 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.

HOR 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



MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1891.

## "ORIGINAL EFFORTS."

Some remarks by the *Weekly News*, ancient original-compositions by deaf pupils, and our endorsement of the same, seem to have attracted considerable attention from the Institution press. The *Western Pennsylvanian* and *Lone Star Weekly* refer to the matter somewhat seriously and define their positions in connection therewith at some length. The *Sign, Silent Hoosier*, and other exchanges quote our remarks approvingly, and commend them to the attention of all concerned. We wrote in a comprehensive sense, and intended to reflect on no particular efforts of the kind. Our *Pennsylvanian* and *Texan conferees* have won our confidence and esteem. We believe them to be honestly conducted papers, and honorably representing the merits of the schools where they are published. They are also a credit to the profession in a literary and artistic sense. Such specimens of "original compositions" as they publish are understood and appreciated. The "pupils' locals" that appear in the columns of *THE CANADIAN MUTE* are subjected to editorial revision, not so much for the correction of errors in language, as to guard against a license of expression that young persons are apt to take. They are simply brief references to persons and events of local interest to the pupils, and could be and are produced by the pupils of other schools with equal facility and correctness. Our pupils write original compositions almost daily, but we have not the space to publish even the best. The correspondence that we receive from different sources is all written by ex-pupils of the school, some of whom are quite young. It is also subjected to correction, but generally appears as written. We submit that this represents tolerably good vernacular English, simply but reasonably expressed. There have appeared not a few examples of "original" work by deaf pupils that created a suspicion of something more than prying by teachers or others. The subjects treated were often of an historical or scientific

character, requiring much study and no less thought to arrange even a condensation of the leading facts. The language employed, and pedantic style of expression, to say nothing of a frequent use of metaphors and phrases evincing a literary polish possessed by few, made us ashamed of our best efforts of a similar nature. We have taught both hearing and deaf pupils many years, and thought their mental faculties were quite up to the average, but we have not found many "Admirable Crichtons," nor often produced such prodigies as Henry Kirke White, or even Helen Keller.

## THE DEAF IN ENGLAND.

The annual meeting of the "Midland Deaf and Dumb Institution," at Derby, England, was held on the 24th of February last. From a published report in a local paper we learn that there was a large attendance of the prominent residents of the district, and that much interest was taken in the proceedings. The financial statement showed a careful use of funds provided, and a liberal contribution for so worthy a cause from private sources. Much credit was given the Principal of the School, Mr. W. R. Roe, and his wife for the valuable work they have done under generally adverse circumstances. There were 64 pupils in attendance during the term, and those who had finished the course of study and gone out into the world were a credit to their instructors. A new and commodious building has just been completed, upon which there is a debt of \$30,000, and a strong appeal is made for liberal contributions from all able to assist in the good work. Prizes were distributed, and the prospects for future success encourages the friends of the school to make renewed efforts, financially and otherwise.

## DR. GILLETTS POSITION.

In a letter to a friend, Dr. Gillett thus explains his position. He says:—"I do not urge speech as an accomplishment, but as a very practical matter in the conflict of life for the deaf who are able to acquire some use of speech and a knowledge of lip-reading. The American Association which I represent is not committed to any particular method of instruction, but has the most kindly feeling toward all, and is anxious that a knowledge of speech and lip-reading should be given to as many of the deaf as are capable of being benefited by it. I am unable to see why any one should object to this."

## SMALL CLASSES A NECESSITY.

Superintendent Croner, in his interesting report to the Board of Directors, says:—"Small classes are necessary to the best results in any school for the deaf. The average size of classes in the American Asylum (combined) at Hartford, is 12, in the Clarke Institution (Oral), at Northampton, it is 8. In the Philadelphia Manual Department the average size is 16, in the Oral Department it is 10. With such large classes teachers cannot give that individual attention and instruction so necessary to the highest development of their pupils."

Two young men, both deaf, and aged 22 and 21 years, have recently entered the Kentucky School as pupils. The excuse for delay in their case, says the *Deaf Mute*, "is the same old, miserable one about loving them too well to part with them." It is also a silly, if not a criminal excuse. The wrong done those men, by depriving them of an education, cannot be atoned for by such a plea.

## GILBERT PARKER.

Among the Canadian literateurs who have recently come prominently to the front is Mr. Gilbert Parker, who has lately made a decided success as a story writer. Mr. Parker is deservedly esteemed in Belleville, Trenton, and Sidney, where he is well known. His early efforts found scope in the front of Sidney school house, romantically situated near Quinte Bay, and from which a number of prominent educators, business men and women, graduated, prior to and since Mr. Parker's time. His more mature labors were bestowed on a class of children in the Institution for the Deaf, at Belleville, Ontario, where he taught for a year. Mr. Parker's connection with this Institution and the opportunities he had of studying the gestures of the Children of Silence gave him an ease, grace and polish in elocution which few possess. Had he continued studying the signs of the deaf he would be even a greater success than he is now in this particular direction. The following interesting gossip about him is from a New York paper and will be perused with great interest by many of our old pupils and friends of Mr. Parker in this vicinity.

"Until Gilbert Parker, in his short stories published under the title of 'Pierro and His People,' indicated the undeveloped mine of material for romance that lay buried in the records and traditions of British America, no writer of note had suspected its existence, and Canada was an almost unknown land to readers of fiction. When Mr. Parker began working that mine, fame followed his efforts as quickly as wealth ever came to the accidental discoverer of a mineral bonanza. His rise was rapid, and his stories were soon in demand by publishers. The 'Parables of a Province' quickly followed Mr. Parker's first group of stories. Next he issued a novel, 'The Chief Factor,' in which he invested the early history of the Hudson's Bay Company with the glamour of romance. Then came the popular 'Mrs. Falconer,' a tale of North and South. The *Illustrated London News* has just finished publishing another novel of his, 'The Trial of the Sword.' The *English Illustrated Magazine* will soon publish another, 'An Unpardonable Liar,' and in a recent number of Lippincott's first appeared his novel, 'The Translation of a Savage,' since published in book form. Mr. Parker is but 31 years of age, and passed the early part of his life in Canada. His father was a British artillery officer who went to the Dominion in the early thirties with Sir John Colborne. The son was educated at Trinity College, Toronto, and at one time thought of entering the Episcopal ministry but gave up the idea to follow literature. He lectured for a time on literary subjects at Toronto University and then went to Australia, where he spent several years in the employ of the *Sidney Herald*, traveling about among the islands of the South Seas, and studying the conditions of life in the Southern hemisphere. The results of his travels he embodied in two books, 'Round the Compass in Australia,' and 'Below the Sun Line.' Three years ago Mr. Parker definitely settled in London, where he has since devoted himself almost entirely to fiction. He has not permitted himself to be carried away by his sudden popularity, but keeps ever in view the value of quality as distinguished from quantity in his literary work. After having written a story 'in the heat,' as he expresses it, he lays it aside until he has grown cool and cynical in regard to it, and then goes over it all again with an ausparing pen."

The Fourth Summer Meeting of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf will be held at Chataqua, New York, July 1-10, 1891, inclusive. The headquarters of the Association during its session will be at the Hotel Athenaeum, Chataqua, which gives to members of the Association reduced rates of entertainment. This is a first class hotel with modern conveniences, such as elevator, electric light, etc. It is hoped there will be a large attendance.

## OBITUARY

THE LATE MRS. J. L. SMITH

We much regret to hear of the death of Mrs. J. L. Smith, wife of the editor of the *Companion*, which occurred at Tucson, Arizona, on 23rd ult. Only a few weeks ago Mr. Smith was granted leave of absence from his school and editorial duties, and accompanied his wife to a milder climate in hopes that a change would benefit her health. An all-wise Providence willed otherwise, and she peacefully passed away on the above date. The body was taken to Fairbank Minn., for burial. Mrs. Smith was a woman of noble attributes of heart and mind, and was much loved and respected by all who knew her intimately. A husband and three young children are left to mourn the loss of one who was their best earthly friend. We tender our sympathy in such a bereavement.

## A Tribute of Respect

THE LATE MRS. A. H. GILBERT

We take the following from the official organ of the Anglo-American School and Loan Association of New York. The announcement of the death of the wife of our Secretary and General Manager, Mr. A. H. Gilbert, came upon us with overwhelming force, terrible in its suddenness. Mrs. Gilbert, who in an errand of mercy, became exposed to the dreadful disease, small pox, to which she succumbed on the morning of Monday, the 20th of March. She was a loving and faithful wife, and a kind and indulgent mother, quiet, unobtrusive, but self-possessed. She was a woman of rare mental quality, and greatly beloved by all whose good fortune it was to enjoy her acquaintance and share her hospitality. Her husband and six children survive her. To them we tender our heartfelt sympathy being united with those who have long known and honored the deceased for her sterling character, her mature intelligence and her unswerving devotion to her family and home, with all that the term implies.

## Full of Vigor.

The second number of the *National Exponent* is with us. It is an improvement on the first, which is tantamount to saying that it is an excellent issue. There is a wide display of editorial opinion and comment, all of which is vigorously expressed. That protest against what *THE CANADIAN MUTE* has said about a test of systems at the Al. Atry School, was quite unnecessary. Had the writer been familiar with the editorial sentiments of this paper on that and kindred subjects, he would have known that we have criticized the relative size of classes, mental capabilities of pupils, etc., as employed in said "tests," with as much emphasis as he employs. The record of *THE CANADIAN MUTE*, as to systems, and methods for teaching the deaf, is now well known. *The Exponent* need not lecture us.

## Must be Competent.

In the "Mechanical Department" of the *Weekly News*, edited, we believe, by Mr. F. E. Owen, foreman of the printing office, we find this,—a criterion of what the *Companion* recently said on the use of a blackboard in our shop:—  
"He says 'many good workmen are not ready writers' which is no doubt true, but if there be any technical instructors who are not ready writers, the sooner they are benighted the better. The foreman must be a teacher. That is a good workman is not enough. The deaf pupil needs a vast amount of instruction and a teacher that a hearing boy can get without even that on his part. What troubles me is how to get a teacher I confess the job is an herculean one. It demands more brain exertion than the management of a steam printing establishment. I can not yet satisfy myself that I am competent. But I am trying."

The bill changing the corporate name of the Kentucky School failed to become law. It passed the Senate, and was introduced into the House, but was not reached before adjournment. Our sprightly and optimistic Kentucky contemporary says "the change will come. It should come."