



# 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 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. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remitt 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.



TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1897.

### Sign Names.

The *Lone Star Weekly*, in a kindly critical article, essays to demolish the few ideas we recently expressed relative to the unpreventability—to coin a suitable word—and the desirability of sign names among the deaf. The writer "supposes" that our article was written by "my good friend Mathison." In this, as in all other cases, suppositions are not very reliable foundations on which to ground belief or from which to draw inferences. All editorial articles in this paper are strictly impersonal, and are written by that prolific writer, —the *bet noir* of the *California News*—the ubiquitous and erudite "we."

We fully agree with our contemporary that it is very desirable, even necessary, that all deaf children should learn to spell and write the names of other persons; and it is urged, as the paramount objection to the use of sign names, that this practice often acts as a barrier to pupils learning the real names. To some extent this may be true; but the fact that any good practice is abused is by no means conclusive in favor of its entire abolition. We should hold fast to that which is good, while directing our efforts to the suppression of the abuse. We before stated, and now, repeat, that the essential purpose of language is to serve as a vehicle for the expression of thought, and that language is the best which enables us to express our ideas in the easiest and briefest way consistent with grace and lucidity; and sign names, judged by this test, are desirable. Our contemporary tries to render this position untenable by the *reductio ad absurdum*—that is, that our argument would justify the exclusive use of signs for all purposes. Such an inference, however, is not logical, for while sign names comply with the

above named test, in that they suggest fully and briefly the person indicated, the sign language does not meet that test since it very inadequately expresses many thoughts. Moreover, such an inference as our contemporary draws is absurd, because it is essential for the deaf to learn language in order to converse with hearing people, for which purpose signs are useless. We might very properly retort by pointing out that our contemporary's position is susceptible to the same line of reasoning, since every argument it adduces in favor of the abolition of sign names would apply with even greater force in favor of the total abolition of all signs whatsoever among all the deaf mutes, a position we think it would not care to defend, and a position beyond that assumed by even the pure oralists. The sign language will be used so long as there are any deaf-mutes to use it. How else can the deaf converse together freely and easily? What a foolish waste of time it would be for two deaf people to try to carry on a conversation by spelling out the words expressive of their ideas with their fingers, or by writing them on paper, when they can express them so much more rapidly in signs! And no less foolish would it be for them to spell in full the names of everyone they talk about when one quick motion will answer the same purpose. When two hearing people talk about Bartholomew Cunningham they do not wait to spell the name, they speak it as briefly as possible. Why then should two deaf people waste time in spelling the name out in full when it can be expressed just as clearly in so much more concise a form?

In any case we do not see what is to be done about it. Sign names the deaf have and sign names they will have, and, even were it desirable to do so, how can they be prevented? In pure oral schools all signs are forbidden at all times; yet when those pupils get out of sight of their teachers they begin to swing their arms as freely as all other deaf children do. And as surely will sign names continue to be used despite all the prohibitions that may be enacted. Our contemporary is making what is a very common error; that is, it confuses the essential quality of a practice with the abuses that have crept in, and, noting these abuses, it seeks to remedy them by abolishing the practice. No one proposes to abolish the English language because some people make a bad use of it, nor should we abolish so useful a device as that of sign names because some of the deaf make too free a use of them. By all means let us compel all pupils to learn the proper names of people so far as that is possible, but do not let us rob them of the convenient and time-saving device of sign names.

All friends of the deaf will regret to learn that Superintendent Walker, of the Illinois Institution, is to be made another victim of political exigencies. He is one of the most efficient and successful educators of the deaf in America and it is a great pity that the deaf must be deprived of the services of such a man to please the whim of "some irresponsible and autocratic governor," or of some meddling board. We respectfully direct the attention of the *Michigan Mirror* to this very striking instance of the superiority of American administrative methods.

Several of the States have recently passed compulsory educational laws, applicable in most instances to schools for the deaf as well as to the public schools for the hearing.

### Mr. Blezard, M. P. P.

On Friday, the 21st, we had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. T. Blezard, M. P. P. for East Peterborough. Mr. Blezard believes it is the duty of each member of the Legislature to make himself acquainted, as far as possible, with the various public institutions in the Province in order that he may better appreciate the work that is being done and understand more fully what their requirements may be. Mr. Blezard visited the classrooms, shops, dormitories, &c., so far as his time permitted, and afterwards very felicitously addressed the pupils in the chapel. He expressed himself as astonished and delighted with all he saw and said that heretofore he had had no adequate conception of the magnitude and importance of the work that was being done here. He had himself noticed how cramped we were for room and said he realized the necessity for increased accommodation and would exert his vote and influence towards the securing of it. We are always very glad indeed to receive visits from members of the Legislature and we hope that many others of them will follow Mr. Blezard's example in this respect.

Our friend of the *Michigan Mirror* asked for information in regard to our ways of doing things and when he received it he was not happy. He replied to our plain statement of facts by frantically calling upon the spirits of Abraham Lincoln, Gen. Grant, Thos. Jefferson, Geo. Washington, and several other persons and some one to fan him. Judging by his latest effusions the spirits have failed to materialize, and some one to fan him may not be on hand if he requires that service more than he does now. His arguments are unanswerable; to attempt to do so would be casting pearls, etc.

The May number of the *Hypnotic Magazine* (Psycho Publishing Co., 55-5th Ave., Chicago), is in all respects the best of the series. The Inquiry Department contains some very interesting experiences; and other readable articles in this number are: Psychie Phenomena in Septic Fevers by Dr. W. Waugh; Suggestion as a Therapeutic Agent, by Dr. C. Barlow; Reports of cases treated at the Chicago, Stevens Point, and Cleveland Schools of Suggestive Therapeutics; Some practical experience with Hypnotism, by Charles Townsend. Price per copy, 10 cents; Annual Subscription \$1.00, including premium book on Hypnotism.

Had thou smelt all the birds without a gun?  
Loved the wood rose and left it on its stalk?  
At rich men a table broad and pulse?  
Unarmed, faced danger with a heart of trust?  
And loved so well a high behaviour,  
In man or maid, that thou from speech refrained,  
Nobility more nobly to repay?  
O be my friend, and teach me to be thine!  
—Emerson.

### Cycling and Heart Disease

Dr. Donlin, in speaking of a man who recently dropped dead while riding on his wheel, said: I found that the immediate cause of death was heart disease, but I am of opinion that if he had never ridden a bicycle he would be alive to-day. Cycling is apt to be a violent form of exercise, and no person suffering from heart disease should ride a wheel.

There are compensations for poverty, Dr. Geikie affirms. The man who gloms on having wealth is not satisfied with what he has, after all. The more he has, the more he wants. Thus the craving for wealth is mere folly. As riches increase, expenses grow; so that a rich man has only the name of being so, and can but look on while others enjoy themselves devouring his substance. Even the humble blessing of sleep, which is not denied the poorest slave whether he lay down hungry or after an humble meal, flies from the perfumed chambers of the great, their very wealth filling them with anxieties that banish it from their silken pillows.

### Rhodora.

BY H. W. ELLIOTT

In May, when sea-winds pierce our solitude,  
I found the fresh Rhodora in the woods,  
Spreading its leafless blossoms in a damp nook.  
To please the forest and the sluggish brook  
The purple petals, fallen in the grass,  
Made the black water with their beauty gay.  
Here might the red bird come his plumes to  
And court the dower that cheapens his array.

Rhodora! if the saxes ask thee why  
Thy charm is wasted on the earth and sky,  
Tell them, dear, that if eyes were made of  
seeing,

Thy beauty is its own excuse for being,  
Why thou wert there, O rival of the rose!  
I never thought to ask, I never knew,  
But in my simple ignorance, suppose  
The selfsame Power that brought me thee,  
brought you.

### PERSONALITIES.

—Duncan A. Morrison is holding down his old job at Spanish Mills.

—Miss Mayben spent her holidays from Saturday until Monday night on a visit to friends in Peterboro.

—Mrs. Terrill and Miss Gilson spent the 21st in Kingston, the guests of Dr. and Mrs. Foster, and enjoyed their visit very much. Kingston was crowded with Belleville people on that day, our volunteers and their fine band spending Sunday and Monday there.

—A young man named Thivert, a deaf mute, lost his life on Sunday, May 16th, at Chateaugay, Quebec. He was walking on the tracks of the St. Lawrence and Adirondack Railway about a mile and a half from the village when the New York express came along. It struck him and threw him forty feet in the air. When his body struck the ground, life was extinct.

—A brother of Syrian Pettit, of Stony Creek, a former pupil of our school, called up to see us on the 21st ult. He was in Belleville on business and thought that he could not better spend the afternoon than on a visit to the place where his brother was educated and spent so much of his youth. From him we gleaned news of Syrian and were glad to hear that all was well with him.

—All in the Institution who have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Bayne will be very sorry indeed to hear of an unfortunate trouble with his right eye. The doctor says that it is a deep seated inflammation and positively forbids any strain being put upon it. David will have to forego the pleasure of reading and writing for a time and his correspondents will understand why some of their letters are unanswered. We all hope that the trouble will soon pass off.

—The pupils were pleased to have David Luddy with them on the Queen's Birthday. David is now working in *The Times* office at Peterboro and is doing well. It is now nearly a year since he left us and we were very glad to see him as he is one of whom any school might be proud. We would have been still more pleased if John Isbister who also lives in Peterboro, had accompanied him, which he intended to do but an important engagement prevented. Both these young men learned their trades in our shops, Mr. Luddy in the printing office and Mr. Isbister in the shoe-shop and to see them so well makes us feel happy.

### Twenty-fourth National Conference of Charities and Correction.

This great meeting will open in Toronto with a public reception in the Pavilion on Wednesday evening, July 7th, and will continue in session until the afternoon of the 11th. The day meetings will be held in the Normal School. Every phase of charitable and reformatory effort will be touched upon, and the proceedings will be of the deepest interest. There will be at least 500 to 600 distinguished delegates from the United States, and we are hoping for a representation of 100 from the various points of Canada. Please try and arrange to attend, and get friends to do the same—all will be made well come. The railways will give a single fare rate of \$3.00 attend. Hon. S. H. Blake is Chairman of the Local Committee, and the Secretaries are Mr. J. J. Kelso and Dr. Rosebrugh, 62 Queen Street East, Toronto.

Never bear more than one kind of trouble at a time. Some people bear three kinds—all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have.  
—Edward Everett Hale.