



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.

ADVERTISING

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

Box V BELLEVILLE, 115 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1894.

DEAD!

PROF. J. D. ASHLEY, OF THIS INSTITUTION,
PASSES AWAY.

How vain are words when sorrow strikes
And hearts are bowed in tearful prayer.
When in the sanctuary of the heart
We feel the pang grief cannot share.

We have this day come with a sad message indeed. Proud death is in our midst and a cruel blow it has struck. To us upon whom devolves the duty of conveying the mournful intelligence, this early demise is especially affecting. Twice before were we called on to record eminent losses, in the persons of the late Professors McGann and Greene, and to-day we have to deplore the untimely end of one whose services, although less long than that of either of the preceding, shall be inscribed in golden letters in the annals of our school.

James B. Ashley was born some fifty-three years ago, of U. E. loyalist parents, and lived all his life around the beautiful Bay whose captivating scenery he was fain to extol. From early youth, manifesting a love for study, he was given a liberal education, and having qualified himself, made his debut as a public school teacher in which vocation he was eminently successful until loss of hearing prevented him, from continuing in it. Sometime after, he accepted a position as Editor of the *Belleville Ontario*, where he distinguished himself as a man of rare integrity, extensive information, generous views and felicitous diction. It was there no doubt he acquired that facility of style which those interested in our work must have observed in his copious and graceful contributions to the professional press. But it is since his connection with this Institution we have especially known him. Here his well-informed mind, sympathetic nature and ardent zeal found a field as vast as it was precious. Bringing his varied gifts to bear fully upon the work he had longed to engage in, he being deaf, results soon proclaimed him the right man in the right place. His pupils stood well and he with them. He had energy enough, willingness enough and love enough to face each and every duty that presented.

With our Superintendent, as associate

and principal editor he made our paper a bright, sprightly, spirited herald of the Canadian sentiment *anent* the education of the deaf. As a citizen and friend, we can well say of Mr. Ashley that "he bore without a strain the grand old name of gentleman." The law of kindness was in his heart and hence on his lips. To praise others over was his seeming delight. The following which we often have seen him quote, shows the character:—

The only noble to be good,
Kind words are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood.

Mr. Ashley seems to have been suffering from a complication of diseases in which the kidneys and liver played a dire part. The whole frame was besieged in concert, our friend making a noble stand. But death had marked him as his victim, and against his forces all skill and kindness proved vain. Mr. Ashley was a fervent Christian, his exemplary life being its own apotheosis. He died as he lived—a true follower of the meek and lowly Jesus. He passed away yesterday afternoon at half-past one o'clock, in the sure hope of a glorious resurrection. Pupils, teachers and officers all mourn the loss of a good man in every respect. His widow and child have our sincere and heartfelt sympathy.

Friend! before thy lifeless form, our hearts break! But why weep? Is it not appointed unto us for all to die! Upon thy cold, peaceful brow we lay the humble tribute of our respect, gratitude and affection. Your long-enduring friendship we shall ever recall. Heaven receive thy noble soul! Farewell!

The Study of English.

The *Educational Journal* published lately the recommendations of a sub-committee of the National Education Association, referring to the teaching of English in the schools. Among other valuable suggestions it is stated:—"If the pupil is to secure control of the language as an instrument for the expression of his thoughts, it is necessary (1) that during the period of life when limitation is the chief motive principal in education, he should be kept so far as possible away from the influence of bad models and under the influence of good models, and (2) that every thought which he expresses, whether orally or on paper, should be regarded as a proper subject for criticism as to language. Thus every lesson in geography, or physics, or mathematics, may and should become a part of the pupil's training in English. There can be no more appropriate moment for a brief lesson in expression than the moment when the pupil has something which he is trying to express. If this principle is not regarded, a recitation in history or in botany, for example, may easily undo all that a set exercise in English has accomplished. In order that both teacher and pupil may attach due importance to this incidental instruction in English, the pupil's standing in any subject should depend in part on his use of clear and correct English."

Another Mowback.

The *Lone Star Weekly* has exposed itself to a charge of incompetency and shallowness, from the Malone oracle, by publishing the following as an editorial opinion:—

Engraving is now being taught at the Illinois school. That is quite an addition to the manual department. There seems to be a general disposition in our profession not only to produce better results in manual labor but also to introduce work of a higher order, and there is some necessity. The common trades are over-crowded while some are being pushed to the wall by the invention of mechanical appliances, but there is still room at the top. Engraving is a high-toned trade and one that affords excellent remuneration. To teach it thoroughly would seem rather an expensive undertaking, but where the means are simple and the talent is at hand it may well have a place along with other trades. The Illinois school will come about as near making a success of it as any school in the country, for it never stands back on account of the expense attached to any undertaking for the good of the deaf.

Right in Line.

This is what "Said Pahaw," whose initials are "W. A. C.," has to say about that *ipse dixit*, ancient teaching engraving in schools for the deaf, by the *Deaf-Mutes' Advocate*—

But editor Reynolds is right in line with the objectors to all improved machinery and improved processes that have made life so blissful these many years. The steam car was objected to because it would scare cattle, and the smoke would cloud the sky. I have no statistics at hand, but feel safe in saying that there are now fifty per cent employed in engraving to where there was one ten years ago. And if wood engraving has gone down, it has been only to give place to some thing better. But even wood engraving is by no means a lost art: it is again on the ascendant, and I venture the assertion that in five years more it will be in better shape and in greater demand than ever before. If you do not think so, look at *Scribner's, Black and White* and other high-class publications. No process engraving can ever equal a wood engraving, except in price. The introduction of half-tone engraving has necessitated a revolution in printing, viz., better paper and better ink, better presses and better pressmen, and presto! the same accessories used with wood engravings give to them a new field, a new lease of life.

Has not editor Caldwell got "beyond his depth," too?

Signs in the Class-Room.

One of our lady teachers gives expression to her thoughts in regard to the use of signs in the class-room, as follows:—

I hold, and shall always maintain that there is no need of the constant use of signs in the class-room. Our children are in no way different from others, excepting always the lack of speech or hearing. I believe they can be taught to read commands written or spelled, after the second month at school and so far as possible their teacher should communicate with them in no other manner, and so far as lies within the child's power it should be required to write or spell all it wishes to say. It takes much time and patience especially in a large class, but if we do not give it language, pray, who will?

The number of instructors who agree with the sentiments expressed is constantly increasing.

Dr. P. G. Gillett.

Dr. P. G. Gillett, President of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, came to us yesterday and we are all very glad indeed to see him. The Doctor is an old veteran in the cause of deaf-mute education, having spent his entire life in the work. He is making a tour of the Institutions for the Deaf in the United States and Canada, enquiring into their work and giving aid and counsel to his co-laborers. We shall have something more to say of his visit in our next issue.

Mr. J. G. Shaw, Editor of the *Blackburn Times*, England, has received the appointment of Head Master to the School for the Deaf and Dumb, now in course of erection at Preston, and, which it is expected will be opened by the Earl of Derby, about the end of July. From all we have heard and learned of Mr. Shaw we believe his appointment will give general satisfaction. He has been intimately connected with the work of educating and ministering to the Deaf in North East Lancashire for the last fifteen years and has performed his self-denying labor in a straight, courteous and conscientious manner. He is the very man for his now calling as his sympathies are deeply concerned in the welfare of the silent little ones he has been chosen to superintend. We wish him every success.

The Rev. Wm. S. Eagleson has been appointed Superintendent of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, at Columbus, Ohio, to replace Colonel Clark, who is retired. Mr. Eagleson enjoys a good reputation throughout his state, has had considerable experience in public and private schools and has been highly successful in his management of young persons. He is represented as a man of kindness and courtesy with a winning spirit and gentle manners. He enters upon his duties on the 1st of August next, and we wish him every success in his now and trying sphere.

Give a Kind Word When You Can.

Do you know a heart that hungers
For a word of love and cheer?
There are many such about us
It may be that one is near.
Look around you, if you find it
Speak the word that's needed,
And your own heart may be strengthened
By the help that you bestow.

It may be that some one falters
On the brink of sin and sorrow,
And a word from you might save him
Help to make the tempter strong.
Look about you, O, my brother,
What a sin it yours and mine
If we see that help is needed
And we give no friendly sign.

Never think kind words are wasted
Frost on waters cast are they,
And it may be we shall find them
Counting back to us some day.
Counting back when sorely needed
In a time of sharp distress
So, my friend, let's give them freely
Gift and giver God will bless.

North American

TORONTO TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent

On Tuesday evening, 10th ult. some ten or twelve of the mutes turned up at the Parliament Building, according to appointment. The evening was very stormy, which accounts for the small attendance, but those present had a good time viewing the buildings.

Mr. Bridgen preached a special service on the 22nd to the married deaf mutes on their duty towards their children and their baptism. It was most attentively listened to throughout.

Mr. Chas. Howe was not seen for a while lately, but he turned up again at the meeting last Sunday. On inquiring the reason, it was found he had been held a prisoner by, we believe, Detective Grip.

We are sorry to learn that we are going to lose the kindly and amicable presence of Miss Annie Fraser Phillips, sister, from amongst us soon who has been staying in the city for the last few months. We are however glad to learn that she is not going away from us altogether.

Miss Hoffman is visiting her sister, Mrs. Kiddo. She attended both meetings of deaf-mutes last Sunday. We learn with regret that it is the intention of Mr. and Mrs. Kiddo to leave Toronto shortly.

Your correspondent was calling on some of the mutes lately for news for the *CANADIAN MUTE*, but most of them were too busy digging their gardens for space need to be disturbed. They said "hurry so the scribe had to make his bow and depart, but does not want to be blamed for any shortcomings of the *MUTE* from this quarter in next issue.

It seems most of the mutes here, as well as elsewhere, have been hip-hip-hooray as to the Convention, but they seem to be awakening up at last to the fact that it is about time to get ready for it. When the hour comes to depart a large consignment of the mutes from this city will be ready, eye, ready for any emergency.

Miss Nellie Cunningham is back to the city again.

Last Wednesday the mutes here had the pleasure of listening to a very interesting lecture on "Egypt," by Mr. Bridgen. He described in graphic signs, which he knows how to make, of the manners and customs of the people there. He told some very amusing stories, which kept the audience in roars of laughter. A hearty vote of thanks was given the lecturer at the close.

Mr. McInnes, who is a practical shoe maker, is working at W. B. Hamilton's Factory. We call him "Scotty."

The number of teachers employed in the Public Schools of Ontario has increased in the last twenty-five years from 4,800 to 8,480, yet the number of male teachers is only about the same as in 1867. The figures now are, males 2,770, females 5,710.

The press of the *Silent Echo* Manitoba, is now run by an electric motor in place of hand-power. The office also has a new paper cutter, and a wire stitcher and embossing machine. The editorial department of the paper, however, has been running by electricity for a long time, and no innovation. *Companion*

Ontario, notwithstanding our pride in our school system, has but one teacher to every 250 of her population. This means an average of 57 pupils to each teacher. The teaching force of the Province, in proportion to the number of pupils, is relatively weaker than that of any State in the American Union, or any other Province, save British Columbia.