

Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

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Vice: Wm. Nurse
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- BASEBALL AND HOCKEY CLUBS
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THE CANADIAN MUTE.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1900.

What men want and will,
and meet them there. All worldly joys go less
to the great joy of doing kindness.

April Fooling.

April fools day is at hand again, and many pranks are doubtless preparing at this moment. April fooling has been an honored custom for many centuries, particularly in France. It is said to have been a practice in France at a much earlier period than in England, and in some instances very important results have grown out of it.

of Francis, Duke of Lorraine, and his wife first, being imprisoned at Nantes, they dressed themselves as peasants and escaped on April-fools day, their success being due entirely to the refusal of their guards to believe that the information which they had received as to the intentions of the prisoners was anything more than a joke. The escaping pair was recognized by a woman of Nantes in spite of their disguise, and she ran at once to the guard and betrayed them. The guard merely smiled, murmured "April-fool," and let the Duke and Duchess pass. When the matter came to the Governor's ears an investigation was ordered, and of course the discovery was made that there was no joke about it, but it was too late. The birds had fled.

An amusing story was told in France many years ago relating to this same custom. A French woman stole a watch from a friend, and when detected pretended that she was merely practising an April fool joke, but the judge before whom she was tried failed to regard it in that light, and sentenced her to prison until April fool's day of the following year.

But, pleaded the prisoner, "I only took the watch in fun."
And that, madam," said the judge, "is why I am sending you to prison—it's an April fool joke I am playing on you."
As the woman was unquestionably guilty it must be confessed that the judge's joke was not a bad one.

The Deaf Mutes of Canada.

A book of 125 pages, profusely illustrated, will be sent to any address, postage paid on receipt of ten cents in stamps. Address CANADIAN MUTE, Belleville, Ont. A few copies of the foregoing book are still on hand.

Let your zeal begin with yourself then you may with justice extend it to your neighbor. Thomas Kempis.

Married man. Nine in family. Salary \$190 per annum. Four years in same school. No complaints. Every one satisfied. Good testimonials at home. Trustee has a relative. Experienced teacher displaced. Now earning threefold at fifty cents a cord. School in question run on money supplied by Government and township council. Ratepayers pay no direct tax. The above bit of current school history found its own moral. Query. On sound principles of Ministerial responsibility, ought not the Government which contributes to the support of the schools from the public funds, to have some direct check upon a downgrade policy or practice of this kind? Educational Journal

HOME NEWS

Our good friend, Roy Canon Burke, never fails to meet the children belonging to the Church during the Lenten season.

The drought last summer, in these parts, made our hay crop very light and for some time past we have had to depend on purchased fodder for our horses and cattle. We all hope for a better crop next year.

The warm rains and mild weather of the past few days has brought on a flood of water and two feet crept into our root-house before it was noticed. As the place is well drained, we do not expect much damage to result.

Last week, our shoe-shop sent off two cases of boots and shoes to Provincial Institutions, one went east the other west. For the rest of this session the shoemakers expect to get all the work they can do from the requirements of our own Institution.

The late blizzard quite upset all railway arrangements and for three days we received no mail or Toronto daily papers. They came all in a lump on Sunday morning and the pupils received their letters, it being the first time such a thing had happened on a Sunday.

The preparations for the Convention to be held in Brantford in June are going on apace and Pres. Smith expects to have the circulars mailed early in April, which will give all needed information. As Brantford is the centre of the most populous western part of the province, a large attendance is looked for.

Miss Gibson has been practicing on her new bike most assiduously, on the quiet, in the girls' sitting room and expects to acquit herself gracefully when she makes her first appearance out doors; in the meantime she is impatiently awaiting the disappearance of the snow; she was the most disgusted resident of the Institute when the blizzard brought a fresh supply.

Our snow shovel brigade are a disgusted corps of snow fighters. After much labor in getting the long side-walk to the city clear of snow and fondly hoping that their labors in that direction were over for the winter, along comes the blizzard and buries the wick feet deep and requiring the work to be done over again. The boys who belong to the shops rather enjoyed it as they are exempt from such work.

On St. Patrick's Day the Catholic pupils attended church in the city in the morning. It was quite the fashion to sport a bit of green and there were few without it. The demand quite exceeded the supply and even Miss Fletcher, our head laundry maid, had to confess herself beaten and send the boys to Mr. McMillan for their bit of green when about fifty of them trooped into the laundry. The boys seem to have the impression that she keeps everything for their needs up there.

The pupils had an exciting contest on the evening of Saturday, 21st ult. The boys and girls were sided off to see which could draw the largest number of words from the letters forming the word "Notice." The competition was keen for forty minutes. The results were then added up and it was found to be a tie, each side having got fifteen words to their credit. We would like to see some other school try the same word without previous preparation or the aid of a dictionary and compare results, we doubt if any could do better.

Our boys have lately obtained the photo engravings of several foot-ball clubs connected with sister institutions across the line. They are subjects of much interest and favorable comment. The players all appear athletic young men and heavier than any thing we can put in the field this year, but "handsome is what handsome does" and just there we guess our boys can hold their own anywhere. The "Nelson" team of the Rome, N. Y. School, the "Pennsylvanians;" the Gallaudet College team and some others have been received. The boys would like Mr. McAloney to send them a photo of the "Alabama Tigers."

It is quite time for owners of bicycles here to be fixing them up for the season. We have one antiquated machine that dates back fifteen years ago. Why its owner is hoarding it up is a mystery. We well remember when that wheel

first came to the Institution and what a wonderful machine it was thought. But where is the rider, Dr. J. H. Brown, who so gallantly rode it out to school on fine mornings? He is away down in Illinois and in a few months the ocean will roll betwixt us and him. If only to keep his memory green we will let the old wheel rust out.

The teachers here are always glad to have visitors in their class-rooms and to show them the methods employed and the results obtained in teaching the deaf—providing said visitors know how to behave themselves, as nearly all visitors do. A few days ago, however, a number of young people of both sexes spent part of a day in the class-rooms here and we are sorry to say that they acted in anything but a courteous manner. Idle curiosity seems to have been the sole motive of their visit, and instead of taking any interest in the work of the classes they spent their time in whispering and giggling together to the disgust of the teachers and the surprise of the pupils.

We have to report another deaf-mute who cut short on the railway track. On the 21th ult., Alexander Read, an old pupil of this Institution, who lived with his brother a few miles from Belleville, was walking on the railway track, and was struck by the Peterboro train a short distance out. The bolts on the front of the engine struck him on the left side of the head, split his skull and tore a large hole in his cheek. The left leg was also broken. He was brought into the city and attended by Dr. Gibson, but did not regain consciousness. He lingered a few hours and death ensued. Deceased was 42 years old, unmarried and was for eight years a pupil here. No blame attaches to any of the railway officials for the unfortunate occurrence.

On Saturday, the 14th ult., Mr. Bala favored the pupils with a most interesting lecture on "Slaves and Slavery," and drew from his subject most pathetic pictures of its cruelty and injustice. He took his audience with him in imagination from the time when the unfortunate people are surrounded and driven out of their native homes by the slave catchers, over the toilsome journey of hundreds of miles to the coast, the horrors of the "middle passage" on board the slave ships, the traffic of them for gold, and the, but too frequent, cruelty and merciless abuse they suffered at the hands of their masters. The whole lecture was most instructive and interesting and much enjoyed by the pupils. A most hearty vote of thanks was tendered him at the close.

PERSONALITIES.

Wedding bells will soon be heard at the residence of Miss Agnes McFarland's father.

Mrs. Murhead, of Toronto, was the welcome guest of Miss Walker for a day or so last week.

Mr. Langmuir's illness still confines him to his room, but his improvement lately is encouraging.

Mr. C. A. W. Gustin's father met with an accident while drawing ice and at present is confined to the house.

Miss Alice Gustin has had an attack of la grippe. She is now recovering and will soon be able to resume her studies.

John Melrose, of Delhi, has been very busy all winter and has secured a job in the new shoe-factory just started up there.

Mrs. C. W. Gustin's mother, Mrs. Noyes, of Denfield, was badly hurt by a fall recently. We are glad to learn she is nearly well again.

Miss Margaret Poiras, of Deseronto, paid a visit to Miss Mathison at the Institution for a day or two last week. She came up to attend the Albany concert.

Mrs. H. V. Peters entertained a number of friends in honor of her uncle, R. M. Thomas, last Saturday afternoon. Irving Park, Mayfair News, Sat. March 21, 1896.

Miss Edith Steele, of Delaware, returned to her home on Friday last, after an exceedingly pleasant visit of some weeks duration with Mrs. Sutton, of Simcoe.

Mrs. John Dempsey, Miss Shannon, Miss Donohue, of Marmora, and Mr. Wm. J. Joyce, of New York City, were interested visitors at the Institution on Thursday last.

We regret to hear that Eddie Ball, one of our old pupils, is at present very ill with typhoid fever, at his home in Windsor. We hope to learn of his recovery in the near future.

R. Mathison, jr., has successfully passed with credit his second examination before the Faculty of the Pennsylvania College of Dentistry at Philadelphia, and will take his final next year.

Mrs. Dowrie has been visiting her old home and friends in Hamilton for a week or two. On her return trip she got storm bound in Toronto and had to remain over for a day or two as all trains were cancelled.

Mr. William Wark is very busy preparing a new home this spring, in such a way that we are led to believe that he will not be alone much longer. He is like other young men who want wives and hunt till they succeed.

Mr. Douglas has passed several sleepless nights lately. Both Mrs. Douglas and baby were quite ill for a time and required the best attention to bring them through. We are glad to report that they are about well again.

We are sorry to hear that Mr. Cook, instructor of printing in the Manitoba Institution and a former pupil here, is ill with symptoms of typhoid fever. By later accounts we learn that it was of a mild form and that he was recovering rapidly.

Geo. C. Mathison, son of Supt. Mathison, has passed the final examination of the Pennsylvania College of Dentistry, one of the oldest and most thoroughly reliable in the United States, and obtained the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. He was a student in Mr. Caldwell's office in Belleville. Dr. Mathison will try, and hopes to pass his final examination in the Ontario College of Dentistry next year.

Mr. Guy, son of Madame Albani, and Mr. Ernest Schelling, visited the Institution and went through a number of the class-rooms. Afterwards they were taken for an ice-boat ride by Mr. Douglas and Mr. John Mathison, which was thoroughly enjoyed by them. They remained so long on the ice that they had to run to catch the train for Montreal, but even if they had missed the train they said they would not like to have missed the ice boat tour around the Bay of Quinte.

Mr. Kelso, Superintendent of the Society for the Protection of Neglected Children, paid the Institution a visit on the 27th ult. He spent some time in the class-rooms and shops, and afterwards briefly addressed the pupils in the chapel. He explained the nature of the work in which he was engaged and said that he had come in contact officially with about 3000 children in Ontario. He spoke of the great pleasure his visit gave him and said he hoped some time to come again and remain longer. Mr. Kelso is the right man in the right place.

Mr. Thomas' brother, George, living in Mayfair, has a dog partly of the Esquimaux type, aged about 7 years. Mr. Thomas showed Mr. Hascenstab and his wife the other day some of the tricks the dog has been trained to do. Commands were given in signs only. The dog would give his paw to shake, jump over a stretched arm, and also through a circle formed by arms, turn himself in a circle and then wallow. After each trick was played, he was given a piece of meat. In case meat was withheld, he would bark and then refuse to do another trick until given his due reward. The dog is said to be an excellent faithful watchdog.—The National Exponent, March 19, 1896.

A Hole in the Bag.

There was once a beggar who went from house to house begging pennies; each one as he received it, he put in a bag, and as the day was long and his patrons were generous, he thought to have a good pile of money by sunset.

Alas, when night came his bag was empty! for it had a hole in the bottom, and as he dropped each penny in, the wicked hole quickly dropped it out again!

Do you count him a blockhead? Take care! there is a fellow I know who receives each morning the gift of a new day from his Maker; but he is an idler, and idleness makes a big hole in a bag, so that when he comes to count up his days at the end of the week, or the month, or the year, he has nothing to show for them, they have dropped through the hole.