



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.

ADVERTISING.

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

ROY V. BOWRELL, 105 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE,

ONTARIO.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1895.

TO OUR READERS.

We wish all our readers
"A Happy New Year."

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

When this number of the MUTE reaches our readers the year 1894 will have gone by, and we will have crossed the threshold of the new year, 1895; and to one and all we convey our sincere wishes that this may be a happy and prosperous year.

How short a time it seems since we greeted the coming of 1894! It is almost inconceivable that twelve months have passed since then. Very truly the poet spoke:

"Make haste, O man, to live,
For thou so soon must die;
Time hurries past thee like the breeze,
How swift its moments fly!"

We indeed do need to make haste to live if ever we are to accomplish much.

The year that has just ended has brought varied experiences to different persons. To some it has been a year of almost unalloyed pleasure; to others it has brought much of trouble and sorrow; while the majority have kept the even tenor of their way with no special sorrows and no marked reasons for rejoicing. To all, however, it has brought an experience that can and should be utilized for our future advantage.

And what of the new year? Before us it lies as a clean, unsullied page on which we shall from moment to moment inscribe—what? Just what we will—pure thoughts, kind words, noble deeds, a record of duty well done, of time wisely used, of opportunities well employed; or with the blots and blurs of sin and indolence and neglect—a dark, black record, which, once written can never be erased. How carefully, then, should we watch the lips and heart, lest words shall be spoken or thoughts harbored which we shall forever regret.

Yet once again the MUTE wishes its

readers a very Happy New Year, and in doing so we can best express our regrets for past errors and our hopes for the future in those beautiful words of Tennyson, which, old and familiar though they be, are yet ever new and inspiring, and will bear repeating a thousand times.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow,
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress for all mankind

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife
Ring in the noble moods of life,
With sweeter manners, purer life.

Ring out the want the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times,
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite,
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kinder hand,
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be

Manual Alphabet for Hearing Persons.

Time and again the suggestion has been made that the manual alphabet be incorporated in one of the books used by each class in the public schools, and that each pupil be required to learn it. The idea is a good one and it is to be hoped that it will be carried into effect. In almost every community there are to be found one or more deaf persons who in the past have been almost ostracized from their fellow-men, though living right among them, because there was no common medium of communication. Thanks to this and other similar Institutions, of course deaf-mutes can now converse with others in writing; but when people meet on the street and under many other circumstances it is very awkward to have to resort to the writing pad. But the manual alphabet can be used in any place and under almost any conceivable circumstance. The government of this province have erected and continue to maintain this Institution at a very considerable expense. They thereby acknowledge that the deaf-mutes of Ontario are entitled to the same educational advantages as hearing children, so that they also can enjoy the privileges and assume the responsibility of intelligent citizenship. One of the chief objects of an ordinary education is to enable people to communicate with each other so that they may enter upon business and social relations each with the other. A uniform, complete and consistent educational system, therefore, requires that an easy and convenient medium of communication between mutes and hearing people should be provided. This we have at hand in the manual alphabet. This can be learned by any intelligent child in a few hours, and a few minutes practice each day will render each one sufficiently expert in its use for all practical purposes. Surely the deaf mutes have a right to ask that after the government have gone to so much trouble and expense to provide them with an education, they should go one step further and place the deaf in close contact with their fellow-citizens by compelling the universal acquisition of this simple, easily learned and always convenient method of inter-communication. The time spent in learning this alphabet, and in acquiring a fair degree of dexterity in its use, is well spent, even leaving deaf-mutes out of the question entirely. There are occasions in nearly everyone's life when the knowledge of a manual alphabet

would be very advantageous; while the suppleness of the fingers that would result from its use, and the quickness of perception that reading the fingers produces are in themselves of very great benefit to the child or adult who learns and uses this alphabet. In view, then, of the good effect on hearing children of the acquisition and use of this method of communication, and also of its very frequent practical use, it is to be hoped that in the very near future every child will be compelled to learn it, since it can be done without any expense, and with practically no trouble or waste of time.

The Belleville Sun, in its fine edition of Saturday the 22nd ult., had a lengthy and appreciative description of this Institution, and the work being done here received some very warm eulogiums. We are always glad to see such articles, not for the praise bestowed, which, however, we modestly appreciate, but because they make the Institution more widely known and may be the means of securing the blessings of an education here for some other deaf-mute who otherwise would grow up in ignorance and dependence. We express our warm thanks to the Sun for its well written and kindly worded sketch. We would further suggest that if every newspaper in Ontario would devote a column or two to an explanation of the objects of this Institution, they might thereby confer an invaluable boon on some deaf-mute who may still be ignorant of the great blessings that here await them without money and without price. This would be a truly philanthropic work.

The long looked for Proceedings of the National Association of the Deaf, convened in Chicago in 1893, has at last appeared. It is full of interesting matter pertinent to the deaf, not only of our own country, but from other parts of the world also. A quot perusal of it over one's own fire side, will give much valuable information. Our old friend, Mr. Bray, is down with a review of the Royal Commission on the Deaf of Great Britain—its work and results. He gives the English system some hard knocks, and members of the Commission, with one or two exceptions, will feel the reverse of complimented should it over reach their eyes.

Many years ago the late Mr. Ashloy wrote that "the most successful teachers of the deaf make all other subjects taught subservient to that of language." Every year's experience emphasizes the truth of this dictum. The great object kept in view in this Institution is to furnish the pupils with as good a command as possible of every-day English. Many other subjects are of course taught, but they are taught in such a way as to make each lesson a language lesson.

Will people ever get out of the notion of whipping? Do you ever whip the children? Whip a child? Why, no, why should we whip a child, any more than we would whip a horse? Well, how do you punish? Well, we train the children so they don't expect or need punishment. If in the course of training a child is stubborn, we simply let him stay in bed and meditate, until he is anxious to conduct himself properly. Impudent children soon become polite, dirty children soon are willing to be clean, lazy children get industrious, "sick" children soon become well, disobedient children soon become obedient, all by remaining in bed, with the bright sun shining in at the windows, and the good dinner or supper passing by without them. No, good people, your boys and girls shall behave well and be orderly, but we won't promise you to whip them.—Nebraska Journal.

The Holiday Time

Christmas has come and Christmas has gone again, leaving behind not only many pleasant memories of a happy day but also more tangible mementoes in the form of useful and valuable presents. For many weeks before, this day had been eagerly looked forward to by the boys and girls of this Institution and it had been the all absorbing topic of conversation; and many had been the fond anticipations cherished of longed for gifts—anticipations which, in most cases, we are glad to know were realized. For many days before Christmas, boxes and parcels of all sizes and shapes, and of apparently endless variety of contents, kept arriving by every mail and express until, the evening before, over two hundred were safely laid away awaiting the eager recipients on the morrow.

On Monday afternoon the classes were dismissed an hour earlier than on other days, and when the pupils had assembled in the chapel the Superintendent addressed them, explaining the programme for the next day, and wishing one and all a very Merry Christmas. Short and felicitous addresses were also made by several of the teachers.

Christmas day came, beautifully clear and pleasant; bright and early the boys and girls were out of bed ready for the day's festivities. After breakfast there was a couple of hours of waiting, and many devices were resorted to, to while away the slow dragging moments. At half-past nine the pupils all assembled in the chapel, where Mr. Denys gave them a very interesting talk about the significance of the day and the spirit in which it should be observed. It is no easy task to interest for half an hour nearly three hundred boys and girls who were eager to explore the mysteries of the great stacks of boxes and bundles awaiting them in the adjoining room, but this difficult feat Mr. Denys performed most admirably.

Shortly after ten o'clock the signal for signal was given, and then they flocked into the girls' sitting room as bright, eager and happy a lot of boys and girls as could be found anywhere in the land. In the centre of this room a platform had been erected, on which all the presents were piled. Mr. Matheson and some other officers and teachers mounted the platform, and after a short address by the Superintendent, the distribution began. At this point of course the excitement had become intense, but nevertheless it was an orderly and good natured, if somewhat demonstrative, crowd that filled the room. First of all the books were presented every pupil receiving one.

After this, the presents sent by the pupils' parents and friends were handed out. They were grasped with eager expectancy and most of the pupils took them to their rooms, where they were opened. Some of the smaller ones, however, could not wait, but opened them at once and began without delay to devour the good things contained therein. At the usual hour dinner was served, the tables being loaded with turkeys and other Christmas cheer. The afternoon was spent in admiring the presents and in such other ways as pleased each one, and in the evening there was a party in the dining room. Here for over an hour games of various kinds were indulged in, a considerable number of teachers and friends being present, and each vied with the other in making the pupils enjoy themselves. But indeed no making was necessary, for each one seemed bent on having as good a time as possible. At nine o'clock all were seated and began entertaining a supply of candy, nuts, raisins, pop corn and fruit were distributed.

Thus ended Christmas Day at the Institution, and we venture to say that by no children in the land was it better enjoyed than by these happy boys and girls. All of them, of course, would have liked to have been home with their friends, but this could not be done, and here the officers and teachers did all in their power to make up for this deprivation. We thank the parents and friends for the many beautiful and useful presents sent. Could they have but seen the delight felt by the recipients, they would have been amply repaid for the trouble. It is pleasing to know that every boy and girl here received a present of some sort. For those who are orphans or whose parents were unable to send anything, presents were provided by donations received from others. And thus was fulfilled here very literally and delightfully the oft expressed wish that each one might have a Merry Christmas.