



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 50 cents a line for each insertion.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1892.

THE LATE CONVENTION.

Superintendent Mathison reports that the late convention at Colorado Springs was a most gratifying success in every respect. He much enjoyed the meetings; where so many men and women eminent in the work of educating the deaf took an active part in the discussion of important subjects. He is convinced that lasting good must result from the deliberations of such an influential body of teachers and officers. There was such a sincerity of purpose and intelligent grasp of questions raised for discussion, it was impossible to be present and not feel the influence of mind and character. Aside from the benefits derived from the meetings, a visit to that picturesque region, and the princely hospitality of Superintendent Ray and his co-laborers, made the occasion one long to be remembered with pleasure.

A COMPROMISE.

The faction fight that so disturbed the Illinois Alumni Association last July and August has come to an end, and peace again spreads her white plumes over the scene. A compromise was agreed to after the season was so far advanced as to render a reunion impossible this year, and the result is that the Alumni will not hold the meeting until 1894, when Springfield, the capital, will be the place of meeting. It is hoped that the hatchet has been buried so deep as to preclude the possibility of its being resurrected, and that the Alumni of the largest institution of the kind on the continent will not again indulge in such an exhibition of bad feeling and equally bad judgment.

The Chicago correspondent of the Journal has a fair estimate of the true value of oralism when he remarks: "It is true that the oral system has developed some instances of fine lip-reading, but those who are proficient in this accomplishment are rare and far between, and, like poets and painters, are born, not made."

THE RIVAL SYSTEMS

The admirers of pure oralism cannot feel much flattered by transpiring events in countries where their favorite system has prevailed for many years unlettered by other means of educating the deaf. In Germany, the home of the pure oralism, as a general means of instruction there is now a decided protest against the exclusion of other methods. The best educated deaf persons in that country are almost unanimous in their demand for a change and the adoption of the combined system. In England too there is a manifest reaction that bodes little encouragement for those who in America have recently become zealous converts to the oral system. This reaction is voiced by the deaf, who repudiate the actions of a majority of the Royal Commissioners in recommending the adoption of oralism in its most exclusive form. Last July Mr R. E. Bray an educated deaf Englishman who has resided in Canada and the United States for several years, wrote to the *Deaf Mutes Journal* contrasting the arrangements for educating the deaf in England and America, much to the advantage of the latter system. The *Deaf Chronicle*, of Leeds, Eng., commenting on Mr Bray's letter, backs up his arguments with vigorous sentences, and concludes a well-considered article as follows: "If twenty deaf mutes fail under the oral system, they say it is because they had bad teaching. If one exceptionally sharp-eyed and clever semi-mute can manage to read lips and speak fairly well they credit such with intellectual ability far above those who are unable to do so, albeit their education, if carefully examined, might be found to be far below their mere solid, but less showy, manualist brethren."

Mr. H. B. Beslo, also an intelligent deaf Englishman, who has had a wide experience in England and America contributes to the *Deaf Chronicle* an interesting letter on the subject. He refers particularly to the report of an expert appointed to investigate the results of the oral system, and which was mainly condemnatory in its conclusions. Mr Beslo vigorously defends this report from the criticisms of the oralists, and insists that its conclusions are justified by facts. He concludes "The system you (the oralists) advocate has been in operation in England for about twenty years, and certainly an educated deaf-mute is qualified far better than you can be to judge of its results, and you will find them almost to a man opposed to oralism. It is sometimes advanced as an argument that the old style teachers will be sure to go against a system that will damage their profession. For myself, I am not a teacher, never was and never expect to be, therefore the argument does not apply in my case, unless, indeed, that I have worked among them for love, not money. I have a deaf-mute wife and sister-in-law, and have been in constant contact with the deaf, both in England and America, for the last thirty years. I myself became stone deaf at the age of seven years. I think therefore that I am as well qualified to give an opinion on this matter as any theorist in the country; and must declare my deliberate conviction that for born deaf-mutes, the oral system is an entire failure and dangerous delusion."

We could add to this kind of testimony were it necessary to establish the fact that oralism is not growing in popular favor among the deaf where it has been thoroughly tested. The *Deaf Mutes Journal* supports this view of the case in an editorial of recent date, from which we quote as follows, "Strenuous efforts have been made to introduce foreign

methods of educating the deaf, and to do away with the most important feature in the system adopted by the leading American Schools—that is, the sign language. Yet from those quarters of the earth where the benefit of this language has been withheld in imparting instruction there comes forth a wail for a freer use of that great instrument in increasing knowledge. Is it about time for the hobbyists to pay a little attention to the experience of the educated deaf? The best system of education is that which will meet all conditions.—the system should be made to fit the conditions, and not the conditions be made to fit the system and many of the hitherto pure oralists are beginning to find this out. The educated deaf should continue to give a full and free expression to the teachings of their experience, and eventually they will penetrate the obtusity of those who believe that heroic measures are the best, and that every deaf child must get an education by a single method, or plod through the world without any.

What is now and has been transpiring in America and elsewhere relative to the merits of the rival systems of educating the deaf only more firmly convince us that the combined system, as practiced in a large majority of the American schools results in the greater good to the greater number. There are comparatively few congenitally deaf persons who can be taught to intelligently communicate with others by speech and lip reading. Even those who, after a long process of drill at school show some ability in this respect, resort to other means of communication soon after leaving their teachers and the school-room associations.

J. W. BENGOUGH.

Nearly everybody in Canada, and many elsewhere, know or have heard of the gentleman whose name heads this article. As a caricaturist and humorous writer Mr Bengough has long enjoyed an enviable reputation. He has been with us here, and has greatly amused and instructed officers and pupils with his 'chalk talks' and witty remarks. For many years he was the editor and cartoonist of *Grip*, and hence the name of the paper and its editor became synonymous. Mr Bengough has severed his connection with *Grip*, and entered into an exclusive agreement with the publishers of the *Montreal Daily and Weekly Star* to furnish to them alone, for their publications, caricatures and sketches from time to time. What *Grip* loses the *Star* gains. We wish our genial friend success and happiness in his new sphere of labor.

Dr. E. M. Gallaudet lecturing before a literary society of Washington, on his experience in Great Britain and elsewhere in Europe said the single-hand alphabet is destined to supersede the double-hand in Great Britain. The *London Eng. Deaf Chronicle* notices this assertion and remarks: "We think it will never be the case." It cannot be said that the preference for the double-hand alphabet, shown by the deaf of Great Britain, indicates a perversity of judgment, nor a lack of intelligent appreciation. It has certain advantages, which even the admirers of the single-hand must concede. The letters are formed so plainly and, with expert manipulators of the fingers, so rapidly, it is an easy matter for those familiar with the system to follow the course of conversation. This cannot always be done with the rapid evolutions of the digits in the use of the single-hand. But the latter is preferable for several reasons.

Death of Supt. Monroe.

It was with surprise and sorrow that we heard of the death of Thomas Monroe, Superintendent of the Michigan School for the Deaf. The event was doubly sad for various reasons. Young in years he had, after a long proof of his ability as a teacher, been appointed Superintendent of the school in which he had long and faithfully taught. This expression of confidence and esteem was given by the Michigan Board of Control last July, and on the 17th of August following he was married to Miss Jessie Barney, an estimable young lady of Flint, Mich. The good wishes for a long and happy life that came from many friends could not be off the messenger of death that made its appearance on the 30th ult. Mr Monroe had been sick with malaria and typhoid fever for less than two weeks, and his demise was as unexpected as it was sad and affecting. The bereaved ones have the sincere sympathy of many. Especially the young ones will receive heart-felt condolence from those who can estimate her sorrow and deprivation. She has thus early in life drunk deeply of the bitter in life and must feel that, indeed,—

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform."

But, though the burden is heavy and faith falters when passing under the rod, it is well to say—

"Judge not the Lord by feeble sense—
His trust him for his grace,
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face."

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour—
The bud may have a bitter taste
But sweet will be the flower

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his works in vain.
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain."

Pennsylvania's Pride.

THE NEW BUILDINGS AT MT. AIRY, PHILADELPHIA.

We received an invitation to attend the formal opening of the new buildings and grounds of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf, at Mount Airy, Philadelphia on the 23rd ult., too late for acknowledgment in the *CANADIAN MUTE* of the 1st inst. Circumstances were such which we had no control rendered it impossible for us to accept the kind invitation, but our thanks are due Principal Crouter and others concerned for courtesies extended. The proceedings on that auspicious occasion, were of a highly interesting nature, and must have been especially gratifying to the able and energetic principal, whose zeal and success in his chosen work were thus appropriately acknowledged. The Pennsylvania Institution is now the largest, best adapted, and best equipped for the purpose intended on this continent, and perhaps the best in the world. We heartily congratulate all interested in the grand results of their labors in a noble cause, and wish them much prosperity in the future.

Summer Saunterings

Going to the sea being out of the question this summer, I spent a few days very pleasantly along the shores of the Bay of Quinte, enjoying very thoroughly the beautiful scenery, and renewing old acquaintances of years ago. My objective point was Belleville, and while on that lovely little city I was the guest of my confreres of many years, A. Matheson of the *Stratford Beacon*, now safely moored after an arduous journalistic voyage, in the snug harbor of the *Bur* wardship of the Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Pleasant it was also to meet with R. Mathison, erstwhile of the *Stratford Express*, but for a number of years Superintendent of the same Institution. The Government can certainly count on this important Department being efficiently looked after, with two newspaper men who stood so high in their profession, at the head of affairs. I shall say no more, however, about the Deaf and Dumb Institution in these hurried notes, but make it the subject of a special letter hereafter.—C. Young in *Cornwall Freeholder*.