

# Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

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# THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Local Reporter.  
 MONDAY JANUARY 1, 1894.  
 The aim of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and bad together.  
 AS WELL THAT ENDS WELL, IV. 2.

## A Good Beginning.

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

This is the time to balance accounts. We have finished the work of another year and open a new record in the registry of life. How does our account stand? On which side is the balance? Are we much in debt? Let us examine the entries carefully and ascertain just what our moral finances amount to. On the debtor side we find a long list of our sins of omission and commission. We have omitted many important duties, and neglected many kind offers for improvement. We know how frequently we committed errors of judgment, of conduct of faith, and of duty. These are all charged against us. The credit column contains all that we did, or tried to do, in the service of God and for the good of ourselves and others. Are there as many entries as on the debtor side? Compare them carefully, honestly, and thoughtfully.

Today we enter upon a new year. We must open a new set of accounts. Turn over a new leaf. The old one is blotted soiled, and torn. We can read what was written thereon, though blurred and erased. The new leaf is white and pure. It is ready for use. The record on the other side will be useful. By glancing at the columns we can see what we did wrong last year, and thus know how to avoid repeating such errors. Let us make a good beginning. Write the headlines plainly and accurately. Think awhile before making the first entry. It must be on the debtor side. We owe much to God for what He has done for us. We begin the year with a sense of great indebtedness for His favors. The time is opportune for the formation of good resolutions. Let us resolve to be honest, upright, noble, faithful, obedient, industrious and true. Let us also resolve to make better use of our times to study more, think more, and try more earnestly to cultivate and develop the principles that make noble men and women. The days of our novitiate will soon be over, and then we must take our places among the laborers in life's rugged path. If we have a good foundation, the superstructure will be solid, durable, and attractive. Now is the time to lay the foundation. Let us begin the new year with faith in God, faith in our fellow-men, and faith in ourselves. The record, when the accounts are again closed, will be glorious.

The Indiana school has adopted the new system of instruction for the advanced classes.

# Christmas at the Institution.

Christmas Day, kept to commemorate the birth of our Saviour, which event is the Christian World's best hope, was delightfully spent at the Institution. Those happily possessed of all their faculties, and accustomed to draw their pleasures from the deep wells of social converse, and to have their ears gladdened with sweet music, while the merry jest and keen wit draw out the hearty laughter, making the pulses to throb with happiness, such may think, how can those whose tongues are bound and ears closed enjoy a real Christmas. Those who think thus are strangers to muteness, for our boys and girls did enjoy it, and hailed the anniversary with delight. Old and young set out to enjoy and make the most of it. Hearty handshakings and good wishes flew around. All seemed to be imbued with one idea—to be happy themselves and to help make others happy, and certainly to look at the fat, ruddy, laughing faces of our boys and girls it was an easy task for them to do. Early in the morning, long before the usual time for rising, the dormitory floors resounded with the pattering of many feet, and the officers needed no Christmas chimera to remind them of the day.

Mr. Mathison's circular to parents was very liberally responded to, and the pupils know it, and waited impatiently to see the results of Santa Claus' visit. At 10 a. m., the pupils, resident officers and visiting friends assembled in the girls' sitting-room, where they found that an immense pile of boxes, parcels and money letters had been deposited by the good old gentleman, and the funniest thing of all was no one had seen him doing it. Mr. Mathison and Prof. Coleman gave the pupils a hearty Christmas greeting, expressing their pleasure that all, with one exception, were able to be present, and wished all the pupils every joy during the day. The work of distributing the presents was a very pleasant one, and the smiling countenances indicated the joy each one felt when they received the love tokens from their friends at home. We would have had more respect for the old gentleman if he had divided his favors more equally, some received such large boxes that they had to get help to carry them from the room, others could put all their gifts in a very small pocket, but all were happy. The Government, with its usual generosity, had provided a book for every one none were forgotten, each received one suited to their mental capacity. We hope that our pupils will carefully preserve these books each year, and by the time that their school days are over they will have a nice set which they may proudly preserve as mementoes of their school days. Should they live to grow old, no time will be more fondly looked back to than the years they spend here.

The next place of attraction was the dining-room, which, although minus the usual decorations, presented a cheerful appearance, a few of the friends of the pupils being present. The tables were beautifully supplied with the usual Christmas cheer and a good long time was spent in discussing the fare so liberally provided. All for the time being seemed to be living to eat, not eating to live. A heavy sick list was looked for next morning, but beyond a slim attend-ance at breakfast there was nothing unusual.

For some days before Christmas the weather had been soft and damp, and so it continued throughout the day. The pupils were very much disappointed in not having ice-boating and skating for the afternoon. After tea, the tables were piled away by willing hands, and the large dining room cleared for the usual evening social. The pupils marched in at 7.30 p. m., and until 10 p. m. the time was very pleasantly spent. The pupils joined heartily in the various games, the small boys and girls especially seemed supremely happy, judging from the lively way they spent their time. During the evening nuts, candies and fruit were liberally distributed, each receiving a bag full, and when the closing hour arrived all voted that they had spent a very happy Christmas. The next day a change in the weather made excellent skating and ice-boating, and plenty of liberty was afforded the pupils to enjoy it to the full. During the week, the reins of discipline and application to study were relaxed, although it was necessary to keep the

pupils in school for the sake of order and quiet, and so ended our Christmas doings for 1893.

**NOTES**  
 Mrs. Terrill was the guest of the Institution for Christmas dinner. Neither of her children were home. She hopes to have one or both with her for the New Year.

A box of rubbish was smuggled in amongst the Christmas gifts and addressed to one of the girls. The boys who fixed it up may think themselves cute, but we do not. We hope their consciences will prick them severely.

Boils predominated among the presents that came for the girls, the boys enjoyed a greater variety. Quite a large batch of hand-shells were received by the small boys, which, with a pair of skates, are just the things for the season.

There was no attempt at decorations this Christmas. The matron and supervisor always attend to these things, but this year we have had so much sickness since school opened, that their attention and anxiety has frequently been severely taxed.

This is the first Christmas that our veteran gardener Mr. Wills, has missed going to the woods for evergreens, for 23 years.



Now date your letters 1894  
 A Happy New Year to everybody  
 'Till soon be 2003 years since Christ was born.

How many of us will live to see that date six years hence?

The past month of December gave us some unusually cold weather.

Miss Maybee had her Christmas dinner with her mother in Warkworth.

When the thermometer marks 14 and 18 degrees below zero we shiver.

The festivities incident to Christmas and New Years will soon terminate.

Santa Claus was generous as usual in the distribution of his favors, and everybody here received something to make them happy.

Our Superintendent makes an admirable Santa Claus, if he is not old and grey. He knows how to make Christmas a time of sweet memories.

Mr. J. C. Jameson of *The Intelligencer*, Belleville favored our pupils at Christmas, with hundreds of illustrated newspapers. Such thoughtful kindness is appreciated.

Funny, wasn't it? The pupils battled with the measles, while the teachers and officers went down before "la grippe," and neither sickness entered the precincts of the other.

Mr. A. Matheson, our Bursar, had all his family around him for Christmas. His eldest son, William, being home from Montreal. Mrs. Matheson and all her family attended the pupils' social on Christmas night.

Mr. McKillop returned to duty on the 10th. We regret that he left his mother in such an unsatisfactory state of health that it may necessitate another call home at any time. His sister Bella is in attendance on her.

Albert College is closed for the holidays. Three of the young gentlemen students took advantage of their leisure to pay us a visit. Two of them were members of the senior foot-ball team and they greeted our boys warily.

Robert Hanson of Kingston, Francis Hunt, of Rockport, and John Earl, of Brockville, had a pleasant time at the party on Christmas evening. They were delighted to renew old friendships and make new friends at the Institution. These three young men are doing well. They are steady, industrious and saving.

Robert and George Mathison are at home for the holidays. George has been attending the dental college in Toronto, and will spend the Christmas recess at home. Robert has been absent for eight years in British Columbia. He arrived on the evening of the 29th, and called in the pupils' dining room while they were at tea before going home. The pupils welcomed him with cheers and the room was a little sea of waving handkerchiefs. Robert is very little changed, he is the same easy, free, good-natured young man that he was years ago. All were very glad to see him, and wish him every pleasure and unalloyed happiness during his stay here.

Mrs. Eva Rose York was a welcome and interested visitor at the Institution on Wednesday last.

Mrs. W. J. Terrill, of Toronto, was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Nurse during the holidays. She came to see her little boy who is attending the Institution for his first term. Of course, Freddy was glad to see his mamma.

Mrs. Currie, of Glenora, very kindly forwarded to Miss Walker, pieces of silk and velvet suitable for patch work for the girls. She was down here when her little boy Clifford was ill and found out what would please the girls. She has their and our thanks for her kind remembrances.

Of the pupils who live at a distance only two went home for the holidays. Maggie Hutchinson and Daniel Gerow. Neither of them will be admitted again before September. In the case of the little boy, the removal will, we fear be a loss of time, by disarranging the plan for his promotion.

Maud Culligan, a pupil of the third class, was compelled to give up her studies and return home. The same thing occurred last term, the cause on both occasions being the same—all health. We are very sorry for her, and hope that a lengthened stay at home will improve her health; as she is yet young, she may then return and prosecute her studies with renewed vigor.

On the 16th ult., Eva Jameson was called home by telegram, owing to the severe illness of her mother, who was said to be sinking rapidly. She went to Ottawa by the midnight train, arriving early on Sunday morning, but too late to see her dear mother alive. It was a great disappointment to both Eva and her mother, as prior to her death, Mrs. Jameson was very anxious to see her Eva once more. Everyone in the Institution feels for her great sorrow and extends to her their heartfelt and sincere sympathy.

The other week, the Grand Jury was attending court in Belleville. A visit to the Institution at the close of their duties has long been a time honoured custom, and it was the first occasion, for many years, that they have missed making us a call. They visited the Hospital and Jail, but gave us the go-by, thus saving the county the expense of the long drive to the Institution. Interested visitors are always made welcome, but just at that time, we had so much sickness that their non-appearance was perhaps a relief.

Some of our pupils thought it hard that they could not be wholly free from the restraints of school during Christmas week, and were inclined to envy those attending the schools in the city who are released for two weeks, but they forget the difference between a day and boarding school. All who have been accustomed to children can imagine what would be the result if 250 healthy, hearty boys and girls, brimful of fun and mischief, were let loose through the building; it would soon be changed to a pandemonium, and the whole staff of officers could not prevent injury to the buildings. "Idleness is the devil's workshop" would never be better verified.

Little Marion Waters, when she entered the Institution last September had a sore leg, which became quite serious, the bone being affected, and an operation was considered advisable to save her leg and restore her to perfect health. Arrangements were made with the authorities of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and they very kindly took the little girl under their care; that she might be near her parents, who live in that city. A few weeks ago the physician operated on her leg and it is now almost well again. She was kept in bed for a considerable time and was very fretful, wishing to get back to the Institution. Lord and Lady Aberdeen visited the hospital and were greatly taken up with Marion; they sent their children to visit and give her a bunch of roses; they asked for some keepsake in return which Marion gave them in the shape of Kindergarten cards, that she had been making. We are glad to learn that she will return to the Institution in a few weeks.

Those who propagate evil reports, frequently invent them; and it is no breach of charity to suppose this to be always the case; because no man who spreads detraction would have scrupled to produce it; as he who would diffuse poison in a brook, would scarce be acquitted of a malicious design, though he should allege that he received it of another who is doing the same elsewhere.