

THE LITTLE ARM-CHAIR

Nobody sits in the little arm-chair
It stands in a corner dim
But a white-haired mother, saying there
And yearningly thinking of him,
Sees through the dusk of long ago
The bloom of her boy's sweet face
As he rocks so merrily to and fro,
With a laugh that cheers the place.

Sometimes he holds a book in his hand
Sometimes a pencil and slate;
And the lesson is hard to understand,
And the figures hard to mate.
But she sees the nod of the father's head,
So proud of his little son,
And she hears the word so often said,
"No fear for our little one."

They were wonderful days, the dear sweet days,
When a child with sunny hair
Was here to school, to play, and to praise
At her knee in the little chair.
She lost him back in her busy years,
When the great world caught the man
And he strode away past hopes and fears,
To his place in the battle's van.

But now and then in a wistful dream
Like a picture out of date,
She sees a head with a golden gleam
Bent over a pencil and slate,
And she lives again the happy day,
The day of her young life's spring,
When the small arm-chair stood just in the way,
The center of every thing.

—Margaret E. Sangster in Harper's Bazar

MANITOBA NOTES.

From the Silent Echo

The *Silent Echo* is distributed among the pupils of the senior class, the object being to stimulate a love of reading.

The literary society held its regular fortnightly meeting last Sunday evening, when a number of the members delivered short stories.

On the 7th inst. Mr. McDermid gave a lecture in the Baptist Church. He took three girls and three little boys with him. He explained how the deaf are taught. Mrs. McDermid signed "Rock of Ages."

An entertainment in aid of the Free Kindergarten Association of Winnipeg was held in the First Baptist Church on Tuesday evening the 7th inst., at which Principal and Mrs. McDermid took part, the former giving an exhibition of the methods of instructing the deaf, illustrated from pupils of different grades, and the latter giving one of her most popular recitations in signs.

A young lad about twelve years of age entered our school two or three weeks ago, who was then devoid of any limbs or appendage. His head is as fully developed as a grown person, and gives one the impression that it properly belongs to the shoulders of a man 60 or 70 years of age. A remarkable thing about this boy is the fact that since his mental cultivation has been inaugurated there is quite a perceptible growth of genuine hair, and it might be added that if this keeps pace with his mental development, he will give a good crop in space of time.

The Grand Jury visited the Institution and reported:—"After a careful examination we were surprised at the number of those unfortunates in the province, and we were equally surprised at the wonderful way in which they were taught, in fact the teaching of the school under the able management of Mr. McDermid almost restores to the child the missing faculties. We regret that the school building is not nearly large enough. Cots were found by us in the halls and clothes were drying in the passage from want of sleeping room and room for laundry purposes. The sewing and work room on washing days had to be given up for washing purpose." The remarks of the Chief Justice give evidence of a personal interest in our school and that he is well informed as to the progress we are making:—"Referring to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, his lordship said that the large number in attendance showed the need of such an institution. The work there was wonderful, almost beyond belief. Not only was the last report on the public institutions of the province printed there, but the engravings with which it was illustrated were made by a pupil of the institution."

Sign Language in the Capitol.

A handsomely dressed lady in the west gallery of the Senate conspicuously telegraphed to another handsomely dressed lady in the east gallery yesterday afternoon, and after a full exchange of confidence they both got up and went out. It is said that not long ago the whole "wigwag" code was used to let a girl down on the piazza know that her girl chum was up in the dome with an objectionable man somewhere lower down and would she please come and tell him off. And she did.—*Washington Post.*

TORONTO TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent

One of our respected young men, Mr. Neil McGillivray, spent Thanksgiving Day in the country with his parents.

Jonathan Gates had his house ransacked one day lately, while all who live there were absent. The burglars entered by the cellar window. They carried off a watch and some clothing, but no money.

Mr. Fred Wheeler, of Buffalo, N. Y., was in the city recently, looking for a situation, as he was out of work in Buffalo. We have not learned whether he succeeded or not. It will be needless to say that Fred is an old Belloville boy.

Tom Hill, who ran away from home last summer, is working on a farm near Owen Sound. He writes to say that farming agrees with him, as he has improved in health since leaving here.

Mr. Philip Fraser spent Thanksgiving Day in Brantford. He gave an excellent address to the mutes there, containing some sound advice, which will be of lasting benefit to the mutes who take it to heart.

Mrs. J. L. Smith has been sick for some time past, but we are pleased to learn she is recovering again.

We saw by a late issue of the *Journal*, that it was Harry Acheson's intention to start a deaf mute paper in Boston. We think he will make a mistake if he does, as the venture will only be a failure. Some of the readers of your paper will remember him at Belloville.

The deaf mutes at the meeting on Sunday, 19th, were pleased to see two of their old friends among them again, viz: Miss Lotta Henry and Mr. A. A. McIntosh. The latter is on a visit from Manitoba, and is expected to stay here a couple of weeks yet. The Prairie Province undoubtedly agrees with Angus, as he looks healthy and robust.

E. M. Thomas is back again from Chicago, and was in the city lately. He always has something fresh for the mutes here, of his adventures in the "windy" city.

We regret to learn that Mrs. Howo, mother of Chas., is in very poor health at present, but we hope nothing serious will result from her sickness.

Some of the mutes have been complaining of the room in the Y. M. C. A. not being sufficiently heated on Sundays, and we think they had just reason, but we expect to have the evil complained of remedied without delay.

The married deaf mutes of the city have been tolerably free from burglars, for quite a while at least, but one night recently, while two young hearing ladies from the country were visiting at Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mason's, they thought they heard some one trying the door and back window. They became so frightened that they got up and groped their way in the dark to Harry's room, and shook him, till he became so bewildered that he did not know if he was in his right senses. Finally he was made to understand that there was some one trying to enter the house. He got up and deliberately armed himself as best he could, and with lamp in hand descended the stairs with his hair standing on end, expecting to be face to face with burglars as he opened door after door, but no burglars appeared, though on looking out of the window he saw a man walking away. Since that time some of the mutes have set their brains working in order to invent a burglar alarm for deaf mutes, but up to the time of writing we do not believe much progress has been made in that direction.

Dr. Noyes' Advice to Parents

An education for the deaf is far more important than for hearing children.

Do not regard the presence of a deaf child in the family as the greatest calamity in the world. The instances are not a few that the deaf child has been the flower of the family.

Do not allow every quack, or traveling doctor, to experiment with your child's hearing. Consult early an experienced aurist and follow his instruction.

If your child is deaf do what you can to prepare him for school. Because he cannot hear your voice do not give up all instruction and discipline but take the more pains. Teach him to write his own name and the name of his toys and playthings. If he can talk require him to use his voice. If he does wrong, do not pass it by unnoticed. A look of displeasure, a nod of the head, a seat in the corner, or some way such as will occur to any thoughtful mother, will readily be understood.

PUPILS' LOCALS.

From the Girls' Side of the Institution

[BY BELLA HENDRISON.]

Visitors were quite numerous again last week.

Some of the girls are busily engaged in doing some fancy work, for Christmas presents.

Winnie Ballagh's brother Bert, who was here last Christmas, came on Thanksgiving Day and took her to town.

We girls took much interest in reading Mary Lynch's letter in the *MET.*, dated Oct. 1st, and her poetry, too. She is a good poetess.

Donella Beatty was very glad to get a nice story book from her aunty, recently, when she has read it through, she will send it back.

Eva Jameson got a wooden box containing some useful things last week. She was surprised as she did not expect it. She looks happier now.

Miss Walker gives the girls newspapers almost every week. We are glad to note this, as it bespeaks the pupils' ambition for more knowledge.

Minnie Hayward's natal day occurred on Tuesday, 21st ult. We wish her many happy returns of her birthday, and hope she will live many years to come.

Misses Mabel and Edith Steel, graduates of this school, moved to Waterford from Point Edward last spring, and it is reported that they like the former place a great deal better.

Some of the pupils, who have not heard from home for quite a long time, are anxiously looking for a letter from their parents or friends. Their eyes are getting weary looking for one.

Nellie Mosey was more than pleased to get a tintype of her sister Mary, and also of a former pupil, Mary Lynch. She showed it to all the pupils, and they thought that Mary Lynch was not changed at all.

We all are much pleased to see Mr. George Mathison home on a visit. He looks first rate. His dog "Carlo" frisks around whenever George goes away. We hope that George will be with us again on Christmas.

On Sunday, 19th ult., Miss Gallagher was on duty. It was a nice day but rather cold. In the afternoon a good many girls went out walking in the snow which they enjoyed exceedingly. The snow was about two inches deep.

Mabel Ball is keeping up a correspondence with her old friend, Lulu Robinson. Mabel always speaks of her most affectionately. She is very happy at home, and spends most of her time in going out visiting, and enjoys herself immensely.

Miss Templeton was absent for a couple of days helping her sister and family, who left for Texas about two weeks ago. We know Miss Templeton feels very sorry because of their departure, Annie McPhail taught Miss Templeton's class during her absence.

Mary Justice received sad news from home about three weeks ago, stating that her neighbor, Maggie Henderson, had gone to the "happy land." She was sorry to hear about it, but knew that it was better for her to go to rest. We extend our heartfelt sympathy.

One of the smallest girls, Mabel Burke, comes to the sewing class almost every day. She asks Miss Gallagher to show her how to sew nicely. She is only seven years of age. It is thought that she will follow dressmaking when she is grown up.

Some big girls, who never learned how to skate, say that they will try when the ice forms. It will be amusing to see them. We are eagerly looking for the pleasure of skating. We wish the ice would be smooth on Annapolis, as we would like to go out skating on that day.

Annie Henderson was delighted to receive a "sunbeam photo" of her brother Jonathan. She showed it to some girls, and was much pleased with their admiration of it. He looks rather sad. Perhaps the reason is that he is very lonesome without her. Annie misses him very much.

We heard that Elsie Garden's sister, Eliza, is going to teach a Public School in Robeyagon before long. We wish her success. Elsie was expecting her to come here on Thanksgiving Day, but she did not do so, on account of being busy. Elsie said that she felt disappointed.

—In the evening when one of the girls was running to the Institute from Mr. Mathison's house, in order not to be late for tea, she struck her head against the corner of the building, and injured it so badly that a housemaid who was passing at the time brought her into the room. She is all right now.

—We girls couldn't get out to the woods to part with our dear old Maude Andrews, who was compelled to leave on account of sickness on Thanksgiving Day. We all hope she will soon be entirely well. Miss Gallagher went to the station with her, and Maude went on the way to Toronto alone, but she met her mother and sister both there, and then went home to Spanish River.

PUPILS' LOCALS.

From the Boys' Side of the Institution.

[BY DAVID HARRIS.]

—We have not had any skating yet. —Now Labello is the smallest of the first eleven. He is a good player.

—We recently had about two inches of snow, but it soon melted away.

—Moses Sicard and Fred Foster are working all day in the baskets this term.

—The boy was frozen over, but the ice was not thick enough to go skating and ice-boating.

—William Clench is working in audy-shop in Kingston. His wages are 75 a week.

—Howard Davidson, Percy Allen, John Earl and Robert Hanson were here on Thanksgiving Day. They are all former pupils of this school.

—Mr. Mathison has given the pupils of the senior classes slate pencil sharpeners. Each is worth five cents, but he is like "Good Old Santa Claus" and gave them free.

—Those who are working in the shoe shop all day are John Isham, Noah Labello, William Gould, Christopher Gillam and Joseph Newton. William Harold is in the carpenter shop.

—Joseph Johnson, of Barrie, is coming to one of the boys here, and that the depth of snow was 6 or 7 inches there. He met a deaf-mute named W. Stewart, who works on a farm near Barrie.

—There has been another addition to the printing staff. Herbert Roberts is now the Printer's Devil. He was working in the office last term, but had to leave on account of sore eyes. We hope he will get along well.

—John King, of Bird's Creek, Hastings Co., shot about 50 partridges and trapped two musks and eight muskrats this fall, and sold the good furs to a man for \$4.50. He is not working now but expects to work in a mill next spring.

—One of the boys recently received a card from Mr. McGillivray, one of our favorite graduates, saying that he wants his old friends to stay here at the convention, as he has not seen them for a long time. Mr. C. Peckard and he witnessed a sham battle at High Park on Thanksgiving Day. There were about 1200 soldiers of Hamilton and Toronto engaged in it. He is employed in a brush-factory in Toronto.

The Editor's Table

PATRIOTIC EXCITATIONS

We find on our table a neatly printed and bound book of 875 pages, with the name of the Provincial Minister of Education,—Hon. O. W. Ross, on the lower left-hand corner as the author. A cursory examination of its contents convinces us that Mr. Ross has produced a work of much interest to teachers and pupils. The poetical and prose selections are intended for school and other purposes, and in addition the author has prepared several articles to suit those who arrange exhibitions for national holidays, arbor day, &c. The work is dedicated to the teachers of Canada and will, no doubt, be properly appreciated. The poems are by the best Canadian and foreign writers, and the prose selections are from speeches by the most noted men who have graced public life in this country. Such a work is so good in its adding public opinion through the public schools. The contents glowing with patriotic ardor and lofty sentiments of true nobility of character will influence the lives of those who read it at school, and produce better men and women for the future. The book is published by Warwick Bros. & Co., Toronto, price, \$1.