

THE ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Dr. Palmer was born at Milton, North Carolina, June 11, 1834. He graduated at Columbia University, Washington, D. C., in July 1854. In the fall of 1858, he became connected with the North Carolina Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind at Raleigh and was appointed Principal in 1860. He carried on the institution during the war, it being the only one of the few in the South that did not suspend operations. He was appointed Principal of the Ontario Institution, at its organization in October 1870, which position he now fills.

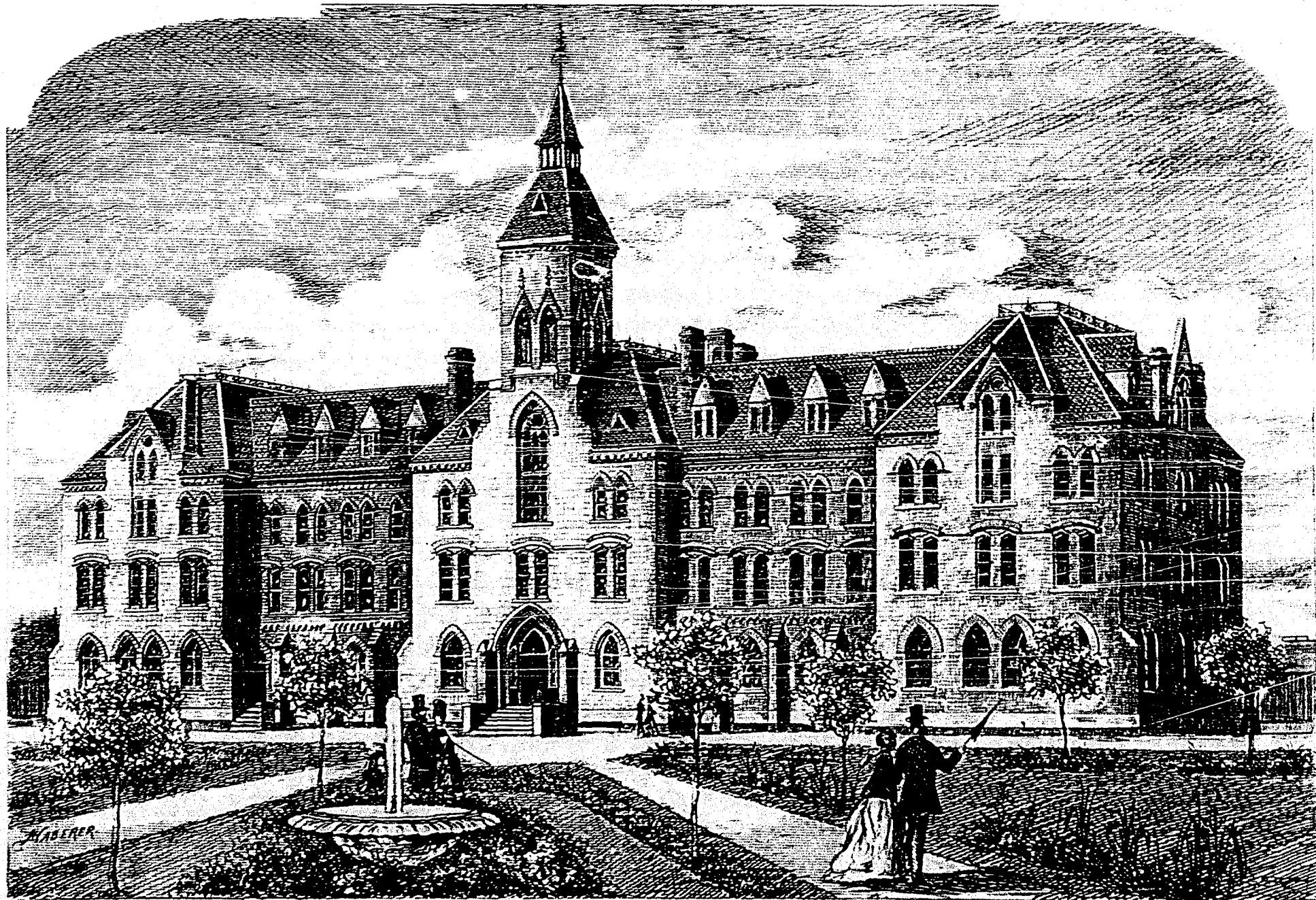
Among the public institutions provided by the Province of Ontario for the comfort and care of the helpless members of the community not the least important is that of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, opened at Belleville on the 20th October 1870, by Lieut.-Governor Howland. For many years Mr. J. B. McGann had laboured with indefatigable industry for the education of the deaf and dumb in Upper Canada. At first his school was opened in Toronto, and subsequently on the supposition that the Dundurn estate had become the property of the Province, Mr. McGann removed his establishment to Hamilton, where he continued, partly we believe by Municipal, and partly by private assistance, to maintain a flourishing school. Much sympathy, if not much substantial assistance was extended to him in his good work, which he pursued with unflagging industry and unwearied fidelity. At the 1870 session of the Ontario Legislature a grant of \$75,000 was asked for and obtained for the construction, at the public expense, of a Deaf and Dumb Asylum. The Government, after due enquiry, selected the site in the neighbourhood of the thriving town of Belleville. It is a pretty and commanding position, the property being eighty-five acres in extent, and situated about two and a half miles from the Belleville Station on the Grand Trunk Railway, and a mile and a half west from the business centre of the town, on the shore overlooking the bay. The Government lost no time in advertising for designs for the new building, and that sent in by Mr. James Smith, architect of Toronto, was accepted; Mr. Eivas Tully having also been employed in the construction of the buildings as architect and engineer. The contractors were Messrs. T. Kempster & Co., of Hamilton, Ont., and their work is said to have been executed in a most satisfactory manner.

The building is designed in the domestic style of Gothic architecture, with such modifications as were deemed desirable the better to adapt it to the intended purpose, and to suit the requirements of the climate. This style is



DR. W. J. PALMER, PRINCIPAL OF THE ONTARIO INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

considered to be admirably fitted for institutions of the kind, being collegiate in appearance, and capable of being erected more economically than any other of equal dimensions. The main building is two hundred and eight feet long, with an average width of fifty feet, and fifty feet in height to the eaves, surmounted by a Mansard roof. In the rear of the main building, but connected with it by a covered passage, is the dining-room, which is sixty feet long and thirty feet wide; a kitchen thirty-two feet long by twenty-four feet wide; also a store room, pantry and cook-room. Over the dining-room is the lecture-room, having the seats raised at the rear, radiating from the teacher's platform, behind which are large slates, built in the wall, for writing on. Over the kitchen extension are the male and female sick wards, each having separate entrances, and being supplied with baths and water-closets. There are three entrances in the front of the building, the principal one in the centre being for the superintendents and visitors, those on each side for the male and female students respectively. The central hall is twelve feet wide, and runs through the building to connect with the dining-room. The main corridors are six feet wide and run across the central hall, connecting with the school-rooms at each end of the building. These school-rooms are sixty feet long by thirty-seven feet wide, with two class-rooms at the rear of each. There are in all ten class-rooms, four in the centre portion of the first floor, and six in the ground floor. On the ground floor of the main building are also the superintendent's apartments, reception room, and clerks' rooms. The first floor is wholly occupied with dormitories, matrons and students' rooms, assistants' rooms, clothes rooms and class-rooms. The second and attic floors are taken up with dormitories, which have ceilings fourteen feet high, and are thoroughly ventilated. The institution is calculated to accommodate 350 pupils, and particular care has been taken so to carry out the arrangements that the male and female students may be kept wholly apart. Every modern improvement has been adopted that was considered likely to add to the comfort and convenience of the inmates; heating and ventilation being both amply provided for. The former is effected by radiating steam pipes, the boiler room being away from the main building to prevent the risk of an accident. As a further precaution against danger from fire there are three large water tanks in the upper part of the building into which a ten-horse power engine pumps water from the bay. This furnishes ample water supply for the use of the institution and as five plugs have been placed in each floor to which hose can be readily attached, serious danger from fire is exceedingly



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