



# 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). New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps, or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us, that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires, unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted. If we know it.

### ADVERTISING

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,  
BELLEVILLE  
ONTARIO



TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1898

### Summer Conventions.

Most people's experience fully verifies the saying that it is quite easy to get too much of even a good thing, and it seems to us that some of the educators of the deaf are trying to give us quite too much of this Convention business. In the first place most of the states and provinces have their local associations of the deaf, which, of course, have the first claim on the teachers' attention. Then there is that multo-fettered Association devoted specially to exclusive oralism. Then there is the association of Principals, and then we have the all-inclusive Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf. These, in all conscience, would seem to be enough, but now an effort is being made to tack on a somewhat similar association as an appendix of the National Educational Society of the United States, which meets annually. Really, those who advocate this latter must get bigger salaries than most teachers, and moreover have very little work to do in earning them, if they have the means and the leisure to prepare for and to attend all these gatherings. It is very unreasonable to expect teachers to spend half their holidays—which they should, if they work as hard as some teachers we know of, be devoting to much-needed and well-earned rest and recuperation—and a good deal more than half of a year's savings, in gadding all over creation attending all sorts of Conventions. It seems to us that the interests of the deaf would be best conserved by having the attention of instructors of the deaf confined to the one convention, rather than to divide the attention and the efforts in the way proposed, for the meeting in connection with the N. E. S. can never hope to be more than a comparatively insignificant and little regarded "side show." Then, again, we don't

think the time selected for the Convention of American Instructors is a good one. The date for meeting is fixed for July 25th, which is likely to be the most sultry and disagreeable portion of the vacation, when most people would rather go up north in search of an iceberg than to approach any nearer to the Equator. Our preference would be to have the convention as early as possible in the holidays.

### Helen Keller.

Reports reached us sometime ago, that Helen Keller, the blind and deaf girl, of whom the greater number of the reading public have heard, had been removed from the Cambridge School for girls at Cambridge, Mass., where she had been preparing herself to enter Radcliff College. The reason that was given was a disagreement between her private governess, Miss Sullivan, and Mr Gilman the Director of the school, as to the length of time that was necessary to prepare Miss Keller for entrance into the college. It was made to appear that Miss Sullivan considered a lesser period of time necessary than did Mr Gilman. In view of the well established reputation of Mr Gilman as an educator, it is safe to assume that he would neither retard Helen's advancement, nor consent to force her beyond her power of endurance and his positive stand in this matter must be founded on a more deeply underlying cause than is made public.

The right and wrong of the question cannot be intelligently judged by outsiders who have not a full knowledge of both sides of the case nor an intimate acquaintance with those most directly concerned.

But to an interested onlooker and a student of Helen Keller's career, it appears a most unfortunate interruption of what promised to be a deeply interesting phase of her life.

Justice compels us to give Miss Sullivan the credit of having made Helen Keller what she is, by her infinite patience, marvellous adaptability and wonderful insight. Though through her charge Miss Sullivan has gained renown, Helen could scarcely have attained to the heights she has, without the guidance of this woman who has devoted so many years to her advancement.

While Miss Sullivan may now be over ambitious for her charge, she certainly is able to appreciate more fully than others the power of mental retention possessed by Helen, and knows more certainly how easily she assimilates and digests all knowledge that reaches her, in her imprisonment of darkness and silence. She has led her to the point where others can communicate with her but she is admittedly Helen's pillar of support.

No other person can enter into her life as her teacher has done, the interweaving of the two lives has been most wonderfully wrought as the years have slipped by. Helen's own ambition appears unlimited and having accomplished the wonders that she has, Miss Sullivan would seem to be justified in what she assumes is sufficient time for the attainment of Helen's preparation for entrance into a college.

Still it is possible for her to place too great an undertaking before her pupil, and persons who have had more experience in teaching and who have witnessed the effect of mental overwork may well hesitate to increased labor for an already much tried strength.

Mr Gilman has himself publicly acknowledged that she has "the most remarkable advantage of a concentration that the rest of us never know," also that he has "no difficulty in believing that she is able to accomplish any mental feat that is possible to woman." In view of

these expressions it would be peculiar if he should wish to keep her at his school twice as long as Miss Sullivan deems necessary. It is extremely doubtful if he would act hastily in such a matter and he must certainly have good and sufficient reasons for the action he has taken in this affair.

### Deaf-Mute Lawyers.

Our American contemporaries are making many complimentary references to the fact that a deaf mute was recently admitted to the bar in California. It seems that this is the first case of the kind in the States and many of the papers are in ecstasies of delight over the circumstance, and some boastfully aver that once again the great *pluribus unum* leads the procession. Bless their dear innocent hearts there are two deaf-mutes within a few miles of Belleville who are regularly graduated and be-gowned barristers. They were called to the bar a decade or more ago and since that time they have not only done a lucrative office practice but have frequently and successfully pleaded in court. We don't think anything of a little thing like that over here, but when it happens on the other side every paper published in the interests of the deaf in the Union has devoted from a stick to two or three columns to it.

What a grand thing, it is for the papers published in the interest of the deaf that there is an omniscient, infallible individual who is willing to devote his life to the duty of pointing out the errors made by others and in keeping poor, fallible editors in the line of rectitude. Such self-sacrificing efforts should be suitably rewarded with a great big club. Seriously, the individual referred to—whose name we do not give because it is quite unnecessary—evidently deems that he has a special mission to act as censor-at-large for the deaf mute press, yet there is not an editor, nor a contributor to, even the poorest of these papers who writes more unmitigated trash than this same individual.

The *Literary Society Monthly* is the name of a very neat and readable little six page journal edited and published by the Literary Society connected with the Michigan School for the Deaf. The copies so far received reflect credit on the good taste, enterprise and ability of the editorial staff.

The tables at the Kentucky Institution are already supplied with fresh garden "saw" grown by the gardener in charge. It would seem that there are some compensations for living even in the United States.

In the February *Annals* Mrs. Sylvia Chapin Bala, an honored graduate of this school and now a teacher in the Belleville School, Canada, has an excellent article on "The Deaf Child at School," an article by the way which should be widely read by teachers and officers of schools for the deaf. We believe with Mrs. Bala that officers and teachers should never strive to treat the children committed to their care with absolute impartiality. "Could these officers and teachers know all the heart burnings, jealousies, and intrigues their action gives rise to," says Mrs. Bala, "they would ever allow a suspicion of favoritism to gain ground from the treatment of those under their charge." The bright children should not have their superiority in that respect continually brought forward for parade, the dullards should never see the name seriously applied to themselves, nor made to feel their inferiority at every turn. "Those in authority, in and out of school, should be of one opinion on the subject, and no discrimination whatever should ever be shown, excepting possibly in the case of age or illness." —*New Era*.

### The Concord

By the rude bridge that arches  
Their flag to April's breeze  
Here once the untried steed  
And first the shot heard  
"The foe long since in silence  
Alike the conqueror silent  
And thro' the falcon bridge  
Down the dark stream  
On this green bank by the  
We set to-day a votive stone  
That memory may this deed  
When like our oars our  
"Spirit that made those heroes  
To die and leave their children  
Bid Time and Nature gently  
The shaft we raise to their  
Hail"

### The Halifax Institution.

In the Nova Scotia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, the Province, over which the Hon. Mr. Phips presides so ably and successfully, referred to by some of the contributors in the following eulogistic terms:

Hon. Mr. Phips said he would draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that there had been a most valuable copy of the 10th annual report of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. This institution had been established in 1857 and incorporated in 1862. The report showed it to have maintained a flourishing condition during the past year. The directors had acquired buildings, he noticed, a hospital, where any pupils taken sick with infectious diseases might receive attention. During the year, it would be noted, there had been in attendance in the school 98 pupils—62 boys and 36 girls. The health of the pupils had been good. It would be noticed that pupils from all parts of the Province. The Institution received aid from the Government of the Province it was greatly to be known it was in such a flourishing condition.

Hon. Dr. Parker said he would like to make a few remarks, as one of the directors of the Institution referred to by his hon. friend, who had had almost all he (hon. Dr. P) could say, except as to its internal management, of which he had necessarily a more intimate knowledge than his hon. friend could have. He believed it was a well managed institution, though he said it was not. He would urge hon. members while in the city, to call and examine the institution from attic to basement. He felt sure that, if they did so, they would be gratified. A very important educational process was being carried on there, and there was no lack of our community who should have attention paid to them more than the deaf and dumb. There were scattered all over the province many who should be in the institution. In the places where hon. members resided there might be some, and they should endeavor to spread the information contained in this small pamphlet among those whose attention required the instruction and training given in this institution. With regard to the hospital mentioned by his hon. friend, he might say that it had already prevented a contagious disease from spreading among the pupils. A member of the school had returned to his building being ready to be isolated, and that isolation prevented a single pupil contracting the disease. Two or three cases suspected of being diphtheritic had been isolated, but the disease had turned out fortunately not to be diphtheria. Some might think the cost of the hospital was large, between \$1,500 and \$1,600 for a single year they might without any occasion to pay directly and indirectly all that it cost for want of it. There was also a health producing establishment in the basement, which hon. gentlemen would see on visiting the institution, a swimming bath, large enough to accommodate children to take a bath and so on. It was a source of great benefit, as well as a promoter of cleanliness. It was the gift of a gentleman of South Hill, whose child had been in the institution. The gentleman, who had had died a few weeks after leaving the institution. The gentleman, who had good the institution was doing, he had the money to establish a bath, and it was named in memory of his son. He (Hon. Dr. P) trusted that hon. members would not only read them, but enable their neighbors to know what was being done to educate the deaf mutes of the province. He made these few remarks in order that hon. gentlemen would be induced to make known the value of this institution.