



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

FOUR SIX OR EIGHT PAGES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY 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

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions to

**THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO**



MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1896.

Examinations.

Referring to examinations the Mount Airy World says—

As to the necessity for another test, it is a very poor sort of a teacher who cannot become well enough acquainted with the few children each of us have, to tell at once, without tests of any kind other than those that arise in each day's work, how every pupil in the class is progressing—how each of them stands.

All of which is very true. But how is that fact going to obviate the difficulty? How will the knowledge possessed by the teacher of the ability and progress of the pupils assist the Superintendent at the time when the classes are arranged and graded? The Superintendent is the person who makes promotions. On what must his action be based? Here are, say four or five first year classes. Each of the four or five teachers of these classes have different standards by which to judge of the pupils' capacity. One teacher might report a pupil as fit for promotion while another teacher might report that another pupil of equal ability and attainments should not be promoted. There is no other system by which promotions can be impartially and uniformly made except that of examinations, though of course it is well to have the estimate made of each pupil by its teacher as a subsidiary source of information. Our contemporary is, we understand, opposed to examinations as a test in all schools. How would it be possible to do away with them in our public schools? In a city there may be a dozen ward schools each doing practically the same work. Is each teacher to decide at the end of the term which of his pupils shall be promoted? If so then the strictly conscientious teacher would be woefully behind the less scrupulous ones who would, in order to make a good showing, promote many pupils quite unfit for a higher class. Or go up a step higher. Throughout each Province and State there are hundreds of students in scores

of different schools fitting themselves for teachers or for other professions. Shall the masters of each high or grammar school decide who shall receive their certificates or diplomas? If so such certificates would be practically valueless, since they would represent no definite requirements, but simply the opinions of the individual masters or professors as to the merit of the holders of the certificates. The same rule applies all through from the primary class in the public school to the graduating class at the university. We are well aware of the disadvantages and weaknesses of the examination test, yet the opponents of examinations have so far quite failed to point out any other plan by which uniform and impartial grading can be done.

Examination Papers

The pupils of the Missouri School will hereafter send their examination papers home for their parents to read. Some of the latter may thus be enabled to note the progress their children have made, while others will appropriate the contents to their own mind. In the latter case, it will be a case of killing two birds with one stone. *West Virginia Tablet.*

Commenting on this the Mount Airy World says—

This is an excellent idea, for it will show the parents exactly where their child stands, both as regards rank and mental ability. Few parents know this. They see little of the actual classroom work and are therefore unable to approve or disapprove of their child's standing in the school, or to appreciate the work being done for the child. They do not have an accurate knowledge of the child's abilities. Sending the examination papers home for the careful perusal of parents would reveal some startling facts, which an interested parent will easily take advantage of to help the teacher in the routine classroom work. It would also aid in sporting pupils to neat and accurate work, for no pupil would like to send home a poorly written or poorly prepared paper.

We can assert very positively that the plan proposed by the *Tablet* is a good one, for it has been followed at this Institution for the past sixteen years. At the close of each session each pupil's examination papers are sent to his or her parents, in addition to which the majority of the pupils have to take home with them note books in which the work they have done during the session is set down in greater detail. We are glad to see that the Institutions in the States are gradually but surely adopting the excellent innovations that have originated in this Institution.

The O. B. C.

The twenty eighth annual catalogue of the Ontario Business College of this city has just been issued and is a very handsome and interesting publication. It comprises some 150 pages descriptive of this excellent College and the many advantages it offers to students, and contains short sketches of the members of the staff and several good cuts, including one of the Superintendent's office at this Institution. This College claims to be the most widely attended Business College in America and certainly has no superior in Canada. There are at present in attendance students from every Province in Canada, from several of the States and a number from the West Indies. We congratulate Messrs. Robinson & Johnson on the splendid success they have attained and the enviable reputation enjoyed by their school all over this Continent. The catalogue is from the *Intelligencer* press and is a very creditable specimen of the printer's art.

At the Louisiana School hereafter each pupil as one of age and have not up to within 2 years of graduation, shown any taste for book lore, will most probably spend the rest of their term in the shops. It will strike all conversant with the needs of the deaf, as an excellent plan. *Tablet.*

The foregoing plan has been followed here for fifteen years past with good results.

The Illinois School, at Jacksonville, has a new gymnasium that cost \$10,000.

OUR FIRST PUPIL.



Duncan A. Morrison.

We have pleasure in presenting the picture of Mr Duncan A Morrison, the first pupil who entered the Institution when it was opened, October 18th, 1870. He was born on the 8th of April, 1856, and came here from Collingwood, in the County of Grey. Two of his sisters were afterwards admitted as pupils. Mr Morrison is an industrious young man engaged in lumbering near Sudbury, and gives general satisfaction to his employers.

Owing to the unusually large attendance the appropriations for the maintenance of the Missouri Institution are insufficient for the full term, so the school will have to close on May 13th, a month earlier than usual. A State Executive that is so bound down by laws and usages that it cannot meet such emergencies as that is surely suffering—or rather by force of necessity, making others suffer from an excess of demagogic tyranny. We are glad that our lot is cast in pleasanter places and that we live in a land where the people are not afraid to trust the Executive with sufficient funds to meet not only the estimated outlays but also any extra expenditure that may be necessitated by unforeseen emergencies.

Superintendent Tate, of the Missouri Institution has resigned, having accepted a similar position in the Minnesota School for the Deaf at Faribault. Mr. Tate has been connected with the Missouri School in various capacities since 1877, and assumed entire control of the Institution in 1889. He has proven himself to be one of the most successful superintendents in the States and has placed the Missouri School in the front rank. We are pleased to know that, though he has resigned his present position, he is still to remain in the service and we hope he will have even greater success in the future than in the past.

The new Institution for the deaf at Halifax, was opened recently, with an attendance of 41 boys and 21 girls. Other new pupils are expected, and there is room now for all the deaf children of school age in Nova Scotia at the Institution.

Calcutta School Fund.

Will the person, signing himself or herself 'A. J. M. Out,' who sent me from Belleville on the 29th of February last a donation for the Calcutta School Fund, please send me his or her correct name and address, so I may forward the same a receipt acknowledging amount received. I don't ask to know the donor's name purely from a feeling of curiosity, nor to make it public, but I am requested to keep a strict record of all names and addresses of persons sending me donations for this fund and hand to them receipts. (All persons will kindly take notice of this request they will greatly oblige. Yours sincerely, GERTRUDE E. MAXWELL, Collector 1198 West Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. March 5th, 1896.

Look upon the bright side of your condition, then your discontent will disperse. Pore not upon your losses, but recount your mercies. *Watson.*

To the Members of the Ontario Deaf-Mute Association.

DEAR FRIENDS.—You are probably all aware it was decided at our Convention to meet in Brantford in 1896. The Executive Committee have unanimously decided that the most convenient time to hold it would be in June, immediately after the closing of the Institution for vacation. I will advise you later by circular as to exact date and all other particulars. Special Railway fares will be secured and as the leading Hotels of this city have offered exceedingly low rates to delegates, I hope to see a large attendance. A Committee of ladies will look after the ladies who wish to attend this Convention, and special arrangements will be made for their accommodation while here. I earnestly hope all who intend to come will let me know in order that arrangements may be made for them. Address

ALBERT E. SMITH, President
42 Market St., Brantford Ont.

R. M. Thomas Heard From.

It was on a winter's day in the forenoon some years ago, when Mr R. M. Thomas, of Oakville, with a lady friend entered one of the rooms in the Perkins School in South Boston he saw sitting beside her teacher, a fair young girl in rhaps 15 years old. Helen Keller (blind and deaf) was straight and rosy. She had fair curly hair and a lovely complexion and you would select her in any group of girls for her beauty and air of grace and distinction. Mr Thomas saw her talking with a small blind boy by means of the mute alphabet taking the boy's hand in her own. She had a very merry laugh and her answers were very quick and bright. She lost her kind friend John P. Spaulding, in death and her letter was read at Mr Spaulding's funeral, as follows:

"Farewell, dear friend! Our Father has called thee home sooner than we expected, but we shall meet again in a little while in God's beautiful 'new where.' Meanwhile all life here will be sweeter and better for thy deeds of love and thy dear name shall be tenderly cherished in many loving hearts. Kindest of friends, farewell, when we meet again we shall know that joy and sorrow were sent to lead us heavenward and when you welcome me home the tears in my eyes will be tears of joy."

Your little girl, HILLES KELLER
Mrs. Garland, who was visiting the Perkins school with Mr. Thomas, became deaf and dumb through sickness but soon recovered her speech word-for-word. She lives in Somerville, Mass.

That Black Snow.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN MUTE.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your last reporter's question about our black snow, your brother Canadian saw her colors of snow. The snow fell straight out from the sky, to about twelve miles on the level, and immediately a very heavy dust storm arose and the snow and buildings were covered with it dust and ashes, making different colors. The Canadian was wondering when the dust came from, and then went on sleighing in Illinois and Wisconsin and came home awfully dirty.

I am glad that there is going to be a Convention in Brantford in June. Our all and make the meetings successful. The Chicago papers say that Dr. A. H. Bell is at the Auditorium Annex for the purpose of inspecting the Chicago schools for the deaf. He and Mr. Spencer are seeking legislation by means of which the deaf may be educated in their places of residence, at state expense, instead of going to State Institutions. R. M. T. Chicago, Feb'y, 1896.

A bill is before the Ohio Legislature to give the pupils of the Ohio School the right to remain two or three years in school. As hearing children are given fourteen years it looks as if the deaf who are so great a disadvantage should have at least twelve years. Our pupils are on an equality with their hearing brothers and sisters in this respect for they may remain in school until they are twenty one years of age, so if they enter at seven they can have fourteen years of schooling if they desire.—*Kentucky Standard.*