



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 typesetting, 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 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



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1898

Selfish Parents.

At the beginning of last session a gentleman brought his deaf son to this Institution, remained a day or two and then went home again. The next day he returned for his boy saying that he and his wife could not endure the pain of separation. This year a similar incident occurred, this time the victim of parental hyper-sensitiveness being a bright little girl who was taken home again two days after she was placed in our charge. And there are other deaf children in the Province whose parents refuse to send them to the Institution for the same selfish reason. Nor is our experience unique in this respect, for similar instances have occurred in connection with nearly every school for the deaf on the continent. Every parent who loves his children can of course sympathize to some degree with those delinquent fathers and mothers. It certainly is hard for a parent to place his child for nine months in the hands of strangers, and the heart of every right minded parent is no doubt torn with grief because of the separation and filled with ceaseless longing for the loved one. This is natural and therefore to be expected, yet it is no justification for the conduct of these parents. There are two kinds of affection and two corresponding methods of its manifestation. There is a selfish affection which clings to its object, not so much for the sake of that object as from a selfish disinclination to give up a source of personal gratification. But there is another kind of affection, a great unselfish love, a love so great that it is willing to endure the pain of separation and to sacrifice all personal considerations for the sake of the higher good of its object. The person actuated by the one regards chiefly his own feelings, the other is concerned chiefly for the best interests of its object. The one is ignoble in its motive and

blighting in its effect; the other is the highest type of disinterested, unselfish devotion and self sacrifice, blessing both him that gives and him that receives.

We appeal to those parents who are actuated by merely selfish gratification to rise above such motives and, at what ever pain to themselves, to look only to the ultimate good of their children. We have before tried to depict the sad, dreary condition of an uneducated deaf person, though words fail to give adequate expression to the real solitude of his lot and the blackness of his existence. Is it to such a life of joylessness and despair that those parents are willing to condemn their children? If not, now is the time to act. In a few years these boys and girls will become men and women and their opportunity for an education will then be gone forever. At any time these parents may be cut off and their children, in all their ignorance and helplessness, left to the not always tender mercies of a none too kindly world. We can conceive of no other earthly consideration that could render the death bed of a parent so wretched, or pierce his heart with a sharper pang of condemnation, than the knowledge that his own short sighted selfishness had entailed so cruel a wrong on his child, whom he thought he loved so absorbingly, but who is worst enemy he had proved himself to be. Before God every parent is responsible for the well being of his child to the extent of his capacity. The scripture says that he that provideth not for his own household is worse than an infidel, and the best way to provide for a child is to put it into the way of earning its own livelihood. From the material point of view, then, it is important that every deaf child should receive an education. And even from the sentimental standpoint a strong argument can be deduced. These parents love their children dearly, love them with so selfish and absorbing a passion that they are content to run their lives rather than forego for a time the pleasure of their company. But what do they receive in return for this wealth of devotion? Their children now cling to them with a sort of animal like instinctive affection. But how infinitely inferior such a love is to the love of an educated, intelligent, cultured boy or girl, who has been informed as to the true relationships of life and of the sanctity of home ties and affections, and who realizes something of what love implies and filial duty entails. Surely it would pay well, even from the sentimental point of view, to forego for a time this present instinctive passion in order to gain in the future the wealth of an intelligent, refined affection from a awakened soul and a cultured intellect. We hope we do not appeal in vain to these parents to sink every selfish consideration and look only to the ultimate good of their children, to which they are prompted by every sentiment of humanity, by every instinct of justice and every obligation of parental duty and affection.

The Waupeg School has opened with a full attendance and with every promise of a prosperous session. Like ourselves, however, that Institution is hampered by a lack of sufficient room, but, also like ourselves, it hopes to soon have this grievance remedied. The report for the Legislature has just come to hand. It was printed by the pupils in the office at the Institution and is a credit to all concerned.

Let no man be sorry he has done good, because others have done evil. If a man has acted right, he has done well, though alone, if wrong, the sanction of all mankind will not justify him. — *Felding*

Two New Pupils.

They'd never been to school before,
They'd never been near a school house door.
Those happy little boys
Mamma had taught them all they knew
She was a lovely teacher, too
But now just hear the noise
Thought to each other close they kept
One bent his cotton head and wept
And the other he wept too
Around each neck a dimpled arm
As though to keep them from all harm
A sweet child gently threw

The corner seats enough for three
Came over the re and sit with me
She sweetly said and said
They like the school so much to-day
I know if they were taken away
They'd both tune up and cry

— *Golden Day* —

TORONTO TOPICS.

our own city correspondent

This being Convention year the deaf of this city had no regular annual picnic, but quite a large number took advantage of Dominion Day and went to Long Branch, where a jolly time was spent. A large number of games were played, the most exciting of which was a football match between a picked number of the Salvation Army who were also at the same place in large numbers, and an equal number of our own party which comprised: Gifford, T. Bradshaw, J. Webster, C. Pickard, J. Gates, W. Gray, W. O'Rourke, W. E. Gray, W. Lightfoot, A. Jaffray and H. Cottlieb. Two games were played both of which were won by the mutes. The Salvationists so much enjoyed the contest that they challenged us to a game of base ball, a challenge readily accepted. Our party again proved victorious. Miss Annie Fraser acted as interpreter between the opposing ranks and no more skilful linguist could have been desired. A photo of the two teams was taken and was after wards published in the War Cry, the official journal of the Salvation Army. Every thing passed off very pleasantly and the party returned to the city by the electric railway in high spirits.

Three or four of our young bicyclists were out at High Park one Saturday afternoon recently. While standing talking near the railway track a number of hats suddenly blew off without any warning, and a heavy gust of wind took hold of the company. Your scribe, who was one of the party, was so dazed that he is not certain whether any somersaults were performed or not, but it is certain we found ourselves groping in the dust and smoke for something to lay hands on to prevent us being carried bodily into the air, wheels and all. We half imagined we had been caught in a tornado. On coming to our senses we realized it was only a passing train.

John Allan, a deaf mute cigar maker by trade, was killed near Bolton, Ont., a month or two ago by the cars while walking on the track. He lived with his aged mother at Weston, and was her sole support. At one time he was a member of the Toronto community. No number of fatalities on the tracks appear to teach deaf mutes caution in this particular. We think it might well be made a part of the training of deaf at the Institution, to dread track walking as one of the biggest gulfs in their life.

Our friends in the city who were at the Convention are on the whole very well pleased with their time there, and declare it was one of the most enjoyable conventions yet held. The Committee are highly commended for their wisdom in selecting Grimshy Park as the place of meeting, and they want to meet there again.

Two of our city bachelors being left alone during the holidays, proposed giving a party to a number of their friends in the absence of their mistresses. Berries, cakes and cream and a good cup of tea on a snow white cloth were provided. The company complimented them on being able to get up such an excellent repast. All went well all our found corn meal in his tea instead of sugar. Another had poured milk into the wrong cup, which had buttons in, next came the making of ice cream, which seemed a failure, but after a few hours it came around all right, with much praise for their success. We do not know if they will give another party after their experience, but hope they will.

Alterations to Mr. Bridgen's house are now completed. Mr. Bridgen and family spent most of their time at Lorne Park while the alterations were going on during the summer. The winter month meetings are expected soon to commence again when we will meet in more

convenient quarters than before, and lively times may be looked for.

Mrs. Terrill, Belleville, and Mrs. Ashcroft, Montreal, paid their old friends in the city a visit last summer. They called on a few of their old Hamilton pupils, who were pleased to see them looking so hale and hearty.

During the summer months our Sunday meetings have been favored by two of the teachers at Belleville occupying the pulpit, viz., Messrs. Balis and Nurse. They were well received and attentively listened to by large audiences. Miss Mary Bull was an occasional visitor during vacation.

Mr. Geo. Wedderburn, who has just joined the list of subscribers to the Mute, has had a steady job all summer at Mr. Brigle's house, which is now finished. Mr. W. is a good workman and was highly commended by the contractor whom he was at work there.

Miss Maggie Hutchinson, who spent her vacation at her home in the city, returned to Washington on the 20th September. We are sorry to miss her from amongst us, she being so sociable a young lady.

Mr. Neil McGillivray was in Ottawa taking in the fair of the city. He visited quite a number of the mutes of that city and was at Mr. Denys' lecture. He had a good time generally.

Mr. A. A. McIntosh has secured a situation as a printer in the establishment of Hunter, Ross & Co. Indications are that it will be permanent.

Miss Alice Francis, returning from her summer sojourn at Huntsville, spent a few days in the city, and looked the careworn picture of health. Miss M. Campbell spent a few weeks with Miss F. in the wilds of Muskoka, where they enjoyed themselves roaming over hill and dale.

Miss Mabel Ball, who was staying in the city part of last summer, has returned to her former home in Windsor. We understand her work here did not suit her taste.

Miss Eva Zingg, Berlin, was staying in the city a short while last summer. We hope she will be around this way again before long.

Miss Ada James has been the guest of Miss Marie Moore during her holidays. Hopes are entertained that she will stay all winter with us.

Mr. Henry Mason has sold over 130 photos of the Convention and orders are still coming in.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson spent their holidays partly at Elmvale, with Mr. and Mrs. John Needham, and in Muskoka.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Mason spent their summer holidays at their brother's in Huron Co., near Gorrie.

Mr. and Mrs. Riddell and family spent part of the summer at Barrie.

Mrs. J. L. Smith was visiting her sister Mrs. Boldie, in Montreal.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Fraser spent a couple of weeks with Mr. and Mrs. D. Hambley in Nobleton.

Mrs. J. Flynn was spending part of the summer at her parents' home near Lindsay.

Visitors to Toronto during the summer: N. Labello, St. Albert, W. Mackay, Woodstock, A. S. Waggoner, Hamilton, J. Johnston, Barrie, Miss Eva Zingg, Berlin, Miss E. Irvine, Belleville, Jas. Goodbrand, Brantford, Robert Sutton, Brantford, R. McPherson, Hamilton, Miss B. Wolfe, Palmerston, Miss Eva Elliott, Detroit, J. Jacobs, Detroit, Miss L. Robinson, Bobenaygeon, A. H. Cowan, London, Miss E. James, Ottawa, John Lennox, Phelpsston, A. Crittenden, Brownsville, Daniel Gorham, Chatham, Wm. Sutherland, Guelph, Wm. R. Watt, Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Kiddo, Chatham, Mr. and Mrs. Pettiford, Guelph, Miss Mary McGillivray, Purpleville, Miss A. DeHollefeuille, Dundas, Mr. and Mrs. Hambley, Nobleton, Miss M. Bull, Belleville, Miss M. Northwick, Ottawa, D. Bloom, Thameville, J. A. Braithwaite, Carlisle, Miss N. Cunningham, Oakville, Miss M. Connolly, Windsor, Mrs. G. W. Gastin, Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb, Hamilton, Chas. Gold, Georgetown, Miss E. Jamison, Ottawa, D. Luddy, Perth, F. Spinks, Blackstock, Mr. Wm. H. Thompson, Thameville, F. J. Wheeler, St. Catharines, A. Swanson, Belleville, D. Bayne, Ottawa, A. Gray, Osgoode, Mr. and Mrs. McClelland, Ottawa, Daniel Had den, Mooretown, Wm. Nurse, Belleville, M. Madlon, Belleville, Michael Noonan, Perth, J. Patrick, Perth.

"How can you tell a dogwood tree?" asked the Professor. "By its bark," said the smallest boy in the class.