



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 typewriting, 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, postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postal notes, 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

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO



FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1900.

Decrease of Deafness.

Is the proportion of deaf persons decreasing or likely to materially decrease? is a question that has often been discussed, and is again receiving attention from some of our contemporaries, and is eliciting a variety of opinions. To our mind there can be no reasonable doubt that it will very considerably decrease, just as all other physical ills that afflict humanity will assuredly be lessened because of the evolution of medical science and the increase of general intelligence. Sickness in infancy is responsible for considerably over one-half of the cases of deafness; and as physicians become more and more skilled in the treatment of disease there must be fewer of those unfortunate after-effects, as also there will certainly be less sickness among children as parents learn how to take proper precautions against such attacks. All kinds of epidemic diseases, such as scarlet fever, measles, &c., are becoming rarer and less virulent in type, and in time will perhaps be as rare as small-pox has now become; and when some of the chief contributory causes of deafness have thus disappeared, or nearly so, of course the number of deaf will become much less. Again, neglect of proper sanitary and hygienic precautions undoubtedly contributes to greatly lessen human vitality and to encourage and promote various ailments. For instance, the proportion of deaf persons in Russia is fully double that in Great Britain or France, and Russian scientists say this is due to the neglect of proper sanitation and hygienic precautions. The inference is that the ratio of the deaf in "western Europe has decreased probably one half since the times when the conditions of life in those countries were similar to those in Russia of to-day; and if science and medical skill have wrought such

beneficent changes in the past the same process will surely continue in the future, since medical science is yet really in its infancy and is just beginning to be intelligently built upon sound principles; while sanitation is attracting ever-increasing attention from the authorities of all civilized countries. Add to these considerations the fact that the laws of heredity are constantly becoming better understood and the responsibility of parentage better appreciated, so that over-increasing numbers of people deny themselves the pleasures of matrimony rather than risk transmitting their physical defects or tendencies to the next generation; and we find ample reason to conclude that the proportion of deaf persons will become constantly less until in time it will probably almost disappear, except as a result of accident. Unless, indeed, as is quite possible, the conditions and habits of life of future generations should be such as to create new tendencies to deafness, just as those of the present time seem to foster defective vision.

"Once a Week."

After a brief existence of only two months that infant prodigy, *Once a Week*, has ceased to exist. The cause of its demise was starvation due to lack of proper sustenance. We are sincerely sorry for Mr. Kerney, whose very considerable ability and energy have been unstintingly devoted to it in newspaper venture and we hope that his next undertaking will be more successful.

The editor may read a proof of a newspaper four times and pass repeatedly over the same mistake without seeing it. All newspaper men will do so. But just as soon as the press is started and the paper printed in its complete shape there stands that error out in front of you so big that you cannot see anything else. It is a strange fact. And this is the reason that it is so easy to edit a paper after it is printed, and especially by a great many of its readers.—*Advance*.

Our contemporary's comment is very true and has a wide application. We have all noticed glaring typographical errors even in the most carefully printed books and magazines, where proof reading is done at leisure and by experts. It is strange how errors will escape the most careful scrutiny of even the practiced eye—perhaps to be seen after a mere cursory perusal, by a reader who would probably pass over a dozen worse errors in a proof and not notice them at all. And it is quite as remarkable to mark the genuine pleasure some people take in pointing out any mistake which they many discover.

A writer in *Once a Week* advances the rather startling statement that children lie as naturally and as frankly as they play. This is adhering to the old doctrine of natural depravity with a vengeance, and we think it is a libel on childhood. We believe that the general tendency of children is to be honest and truthful and that habits of falsehood and deception are acquired from the habits and teaching of others. This is noticeable in the air of conscious guilt a child manifests when detected in a falsehood or a petty theft. If it were natural for it to lie it would manifest no such consciousness; but having an innate innocence and an instinctive conception of the wrongness of lying, it shows its feeling of guilt on detection quite apart from any fear of present consequences.

In some municipalities in the States the abbreviations d. and d. are prefixed to the names of deaf voters on the voters' list, and many of the deaf are making an emphatic protest against the practice. We certainly do not see why the deaf should have special attention called to their infirmity, any more

than that a lame or a bald-headed man should. At the same time we think the deaf make a great mistake in being so super-sensitive regarding their affliction. There is no disgrace attached to deafness, yet one would think there was from the way in which some of the deaf resent even the remotest allusion to it.

The name of this school is the Ontario Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. This designation appears on all of our letter heads, in our paper, the *CANADIAN MUTE*, and in all of our official papers and documents. It seems very strange, therefore, that a large majority of people never give our school its proper title. It is called the Deaf and Dumb Institute, or the Institute, or the Institute for the deaf, and various other combinations, but we rarely see or hear the correct title. Even the local Belleville press very frequently give us a wrong designation. Of course it is not a matter of much importance, only we often wonder, when it is just as easy to be right as to be wrong, why so many people choose to be wrong.

Mr. J. A. Tillinghast has resigned the principalship of the Belfast Institution in order to take an advanced course of study at the Cornell University. Mr. Tillinghast has won golden opinions during his brief incumbency in his present position, and his quite unexpected announcement of his resignation was received with very great regret by all connected with the Belfast Institution and by the profession generally throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

We're Against It.

Miss Angus Fuller Fischer has a very good argument against puroralism in the latest issue of the *Minnesota Companion*. We are inclined to think that to merely sit and argue against the oral system without getting up and devising ways to prevent the spread of the delusion is of little benefit. The reason that children are sent to oral schools is because the parents have been deluded with the idea that their beloved ones can be taught to "hear" and speak like normal children. Now it is a well-known fact that parents are always grieved at the loss of hearing and speech their child sustains and would, in many cases, give much if there were any means by which these could be restored. Many puroralists, like the quack doctor and the swindler, are aware of this fact. Therefore, it's no wonder that such parents, being unacquainted with the deaf and the combined system, listen with rapt attention to those puroralists. They are filled with day-dreams concerning the probable restoration of their deaf children to the society of the hearing by means of the oral system. And they are not slow to jump at the offer either as the many oral schools testify. Pity those fond hopes have been blighted! The children of some have learned how to chatter and read lips but their mental calibre—it is very small. How may the intelligent deaf avert the spread of this silly notion—this delusion? Let them see the parents of any deaf child near their home and explain the whole thing, besides using all their influence to have the child sent to a combined system school. If all the deaf in the country should act this way the result would very soon be seen.—*S., in Deaf World*.

It is the simple duty of every human being to be honest, just, truthful, diligent, kind. Furthermore, it is as absolutely his duty to be considerate of each and all with whom he comes in direct and close or in incidental and accidental contact; to be courteous, to be hospitable to the best endeavors of every one else, and see people at their best always and not at their worst; to be generous, and—higher than all and inclusive of all—to be loving. To radiate a sunny sweetness and love to every one, as the rose radiates its color and fragrance, is the normal condition of living. Anything below this is abnormal.—*Lillian Wittino*.

For Duddy at the

With the shadows round
Every night I see her
Just a little figure, kneeling
By the side of daddy—
And the silence is broken
By the whisper of her
But I know, though I am
What the prayer is for

Clasped together are the
Little pleader's fingers
Though the eyes with tears
There's a smile upon her
Tis no dream of her own
Those sweet lips are a
But the gentle, trusting plea
"God be with daddy at the

Pray, my child, then on your
Dream of daddy far away
And believe, beyond the
That he knows for his
Sleep, O little white-robed
There are angels that
Though 'tis but a baby's
Daddy knows and that

A Warm Friend of the Deaf

Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star-Spangled Banner, was a warm friend of the deaf, and was deeply interested in their instruction. He used often to visit the school for the deaf in that place, and to instruct the children to visit at his home. One of his little deaf friends was a bright and very intelligent little boy, remarkably quick, as many deaf children are, to observe trifling peculiarities of appearance in those around them. Among the members of Mr. Key's household at that time, were two sisters, beautiful and attractive children, and so nearly alike in looks that not even their mother could tell them apart. This resemblance of the two, and his own ability to distinguish the one from the other troubled the little deaf boy, and he was often noticed to look attentively at one to the other, vainly trying to find some distinctive mark about one or the other. One day, when he was taking dinner in the Key home, something was said at table throw every one into a fit of laughter.

Instantly the little deaf boy sprang from his chair, and running around the table to where the little sisters sat, placed his finger on the cheek of one of them. He had noticed that when they laughed, a dimple appeared in the cheek of one, but not in that of the other.

The lines which we give below were written by Mr. Key, and show that the affliction of the deaf was a subject which awoke his sympathies.

We do not remember having seen them in print. The facts given above were communicated to us by a grand daughter of the poet:

The dumb shall speak and the deaf shall hear
In the brighter days to come
When they've passed through the valley of
trouble of life,
To a higher and happier home

They shall hear the trumpet's fearful sound
And the crash of the rattling tomb
And the sinner's cry of agony
As he wakes to his dreaded doom

And the conqueror's shout and the rapturous
song
In their opened ears shall fall
And the tongue of the dumb in the
praise
Shall be louder and higher than all

O, Thou, whose still small voice can reach
To the heart its message to bear
Who canst hear the throbs of the anxious soul
As it wells in the fulness of prayer

Speak, in thy pity and power to those
Who only Thine can hear,
And bend to the call of their speaking
Thine ever listening ear
New Jersey School for the Deaf

Never refuse to receive an apology. You may not receive friendship if your courtesy will require when an apology is offered, that you accept it.

"That deaf mute guide seemed very well posted on the institution," said the visitor. "Yes, indeed," replied the superintendent. "He has a thing at his fingers' ends." *The American*.

To college and business women and to all who must be wage earners, practical virtues apply. Set a value on yourself, dear reader, and be true to your own estimate. Have before you an ideal of true womanhood, and daily that you may not fall below it, the process work you wish for, offer itself, take something else, if you do so only temporarily. Mrs. K. Sangster, in the June Ladies' Journal.

BIRTH.

JACKSON, V. Dauphin, Man., on March 1st, the wife of John J. Jackson of a son