

We shall not find our duties so hard as at first sight they may appear, if we strive to put our confidence upon God. Our aim should be to seek only the highest good for the little girls. Teach them to imitate God in seeking to bless others, and to follow the law of kindness. Their love of knowledge increases every day. Friendship at school will be to them like a flower in a desert, and they will appreciate it like some dry and thirsty land rejoicing in a shower. Point out to them their errors, and encourage them to avoid them in future.

The Bellefleur Institution seems a paradise for these little ones. A teacher may amuse them with simple stories which will at the same time teach them useful lessons, always remembering that young minds should not be overtaxed. Continuous recapitulation will fasten the lesson on the memory. Little by little may be taught the "Lord's Prayer" and the Commandments. I think it is the duty of each teacher to endeavor to lead the pupils to Him who made a little child the object of instruction, and therefore be sure and early impress the idea of a God, and His constant care and love for those who love Him. This can be easily done, and would fix ideas in their young minds that could never be eradicated. If this is attended to, it will be very little trouble for the teacher to get her pupils to be polite, obedient, truthful, honest and noble, and, indeed, prove a blessing to themselves and to others. I also think it is a teacher's duty to teach her pupils the necessity of behaving well at the table, and to be sure to pay the respect due to all older than themselves. A resident teacher can do this much better than one who is not always with them.

MECHANICAL PURSUITS FOR DEAF MUTES.

By WM. NURSE.

There are few whom fortune has so favoured as to obliterate the necessity of their doing some useful labour, either with the hand or brain. It is by industry we gain success; without it all is a failure. Work is not by any means degrading; the greatest men of all ages have all been earnest workers, each in their own particular sphere. Work promotes health, happiness, and leads to a life of usefulness, elevation and progression. It is the physical means by which human beings provide for the needs of their existence; and deaf-mutes, objects of pity and charity as many think them to be, are no exception. They also must add their quota of labour for their own good and the good of the universe. There are many mutes who trade on their misfortune and extort a living from those charitably inclined; this should not be so. Generally only those who know but little of deaf-mutes, consider them below the status of others in the ability to gain a livelihood. Those connected with our institution, and in constant contact with them, look at them in a different light. They see daily evidence that in all labour requiring strength of limb, brightness of eye, correctness of judgment, and power of construction, the average deaf-mute is the equal, and often the superior, of many others possessing all their faculties, and as such they are responsible; and the success which attends and crowns honest labour is as attainable by them as by others.

The question which many parents having deaf-mute sons are asking themselves is, "What shall our sons do?" There are two employments which probably engage more than one half of the people—one is agriculture, or farm work; the other is mechanical industry. Either of these two are open to deaf-mutes. The one affords most of the material for food and clothing; the other prepares it for use; and for the time and money spent in acquiring a knowledge of them and the capital required to carry them on, there are no branches of labour that will give as good returns, or lead to such general success, as these two. Among the different mechanical arts which experience has shown may be worked successfully by the deaf-mute, are the printing, carpentering, shoemaking and bookbinding trades. Of these, printing and shoemaking appear, from the majority engaged in them, to be the most suitable. In these and other vocations, there are now hundreds of mutes engaged heartily, and successfully, enjoying the confidence of their employers and supporting themselves in comfort, and in many cases the families dependent upon them.

The obstacles in the way of mutes acquiring a trade by the same methods as pursued by those not similarly afflicted are so great that few employers care to take them under instruction. Those interested in their education are alive to this fact, and the pupils of all the leading deaf-mute institutions in the world now possess opportunities not only for educating the mind to reason, but also to train the hand to skillful employment. The object of many employers is to get as much work and profit out of their apprentices as possible, their improvement being only a secondary consideration; but in the institutions the reverse is the rule. The improvement of the mute is placed before all other advantages. He is entrusted with work to practice upon, even at the risk of his spoiling it, or making it saleable only at or below cost, surrounded by congenial companions, untrammelled by the bonds of apprenticeship, under instructors alive to the wants, and familiar with their language and habits, it will be seen that the mute has many advantages not possessed by others similarly circumstanced. There are, of course, some unfitted by mental capacity or health for succeeding, but these are few. In general those who fail to do so from faults to which they themselves might apply a remedy—either an idle propensity or a lack of energy and perseverance. So that the mute with good health and average mental capacity who fails to fit himself for some useful calling, after enjoying the advantage of our Institute, is not an object of pity but rather of censure. Carlyle says "the saddest sight on earth is a man able and willing to work, yet needing and vainly seeking employment." This may be sad, but sadder far is the spectacle of men seeking work in vain, not because they knew not how to do it. But he who has prepared himself for a trade, however humble, is in a manner ins-