

In a few weeks it began to be apparent even to Laura, that the child was not only helpless, but naturally very stupid, being almost an idiot. Then Laura gave her up in despair and avoided her, and has ever since had an objection to being with her, passing by her as if in contempt. By a natural association of ideas, she attributes to this child all those countless deeds which Mr. *Nobody* does in every house—if a chair is broken, or any thing misplaced and no one knows who did it, Laura attributes it at once to this child.

With regard to the sense of touch it is very acute, even for a blind person. It is shown remarkably in the readiness with which she distinguishes persons; there are forty inmates in the female wing; with all of whom, of course, Laura is acquainted; whenever she is walking through the passage way, she perceives by the jar of the floor, or the agitation of the air, that some one is near her, and it is exceedingly difficult to pass her without being recognised. Her little arms are stretched out, and the instant she grasps a hand, a sleeve, even part of the dress, she knows the person and lets them pass on with some sign of recognition.

The innate desire for knowledge, and the instinctive efforts which the human faculties make to exercise their functions, is shown most remarkably in Laura. Her tiny fingers are to her as eyes and ears and nose, and most deftly and incessantly does she keep them in motion; like the feelers of some insects which are continually agitated, and which touch every grain of sand in the path, so Laura's arms and hands are continually in play; and when she is walking with a person, she not only recognizes every thing she passes within touching distance, but by continually touching her companion's hands she ascertains what he is doing. A person

walking across the room while she had hold on his left arm, would find it hard to take a pencil out of his waistcoat pocket with his right hand without her perceiving it.

Her judgment of distances and of relations of place is very accurate; she will rise from her seat, go straight towards the door, put out her hand just at the right time, and grasp the handle with precision.

The constant and tireless exercise of her feelers give her a very accurate knowledge of every thing about the house; so that if a new article, a bundle, handbox, or even a new book is laid anywhere in the apartments which she frequents, it would be but a short time before in her ceaseless rounds she would find it, and from something about it she would generally discover to whom it belonged.

At table, if told to be still, she sits and conducts herself with propriety; handles her cup, spoon, and fork like other children; so that a stranger looking at her would take her for a very pretty child with a green ribbon over her eyes.

But when at liberty to do as she chooses, she is continually feeling of things, and ascertaining their size, shape, destiny and use, asking their names and their purposes, going on with insatiable curiosity, step by step, towards knowledge.

Thus doth her active mind, though all silent and darkling within, commune by means of her one sense with things external, and gratify its innate craving for knowledge by close and ceaseless attention.

Qualities and appearances, unappreciable or unheeded by others, are to her of great significance and value; and by means of these her knowledge of external nature and physical relations will in time become extensive."

HINTS TO A CONTINUANCE IN WELL DOING.

It has been a subject of frequent observation that people leaving their native country and coming into a foreign land to sojourn, become lukewarm in religion. One cause of this is to be ascribed to the change of circumstances.—Order has a tendency to generate good, confusion to generate evil. The scriptures manifestly suppose this, in the divers injunctions which

are given to parents, and children, and servants to be faithful in the stations wherein they are placed. How many virtues and graces flourish under the paternal government that prevails in a well regulated household. Not more regularly does the sun rise, and the tide ebb and flow, than do the members of such a household proceed in the order of their duties and labors.