

The Abbe de l'Epée.

(Continued)

words must be digested ere the strikes home. Therefore to the language of debate, of poetry and the facile exposition of truth. Almost every ordinary use has its sign, not only but fixed and explicit, with grammatical shades of meaning indicated. The sign language is the language of the deaf. It follows the line of thought rather than that of the hearing. It is employed, first, to clearly set upon the mind of a pupil; to explain a word or to convey a thought by it, a sentence, a clause, finally, to draw from the own notion of a thing, or an action which his own stimulated brain can furnish. It can be used to most graphically and on the spot a word or a sentence that would require French or Webster hours of explanation, perhaps, to so closely set upon the mind will do it too, far more and comprehensively than most methods of dictionary makers. In the sign language it is used as a means to the deaf that by its aid the deaf shall be able to read and available instruction in communication with those who speak the English language, and to the deaf and proper use of it, as an additional attainment in all branches of knowledge, open to the hearing through the sense of sound.

In the summer of 1880 there was held in Paris an "International Congress of Deaf Mutes." Delegates and representatives were there from ten different nations, speaking or writing in different languages, gathered from both hemispheres. There and there was proved the power of the sign language, the "Volapuk" of the deaf, whereby each and all were perfectly able to make their opinions, wants and wishes known, in a manner made possible by no other means. The deaf of the world, and of America in particular, will one day, not far off, have a great deal to say and to do in methods, men and measures connected with the instruction of their kind. They will not long permit themselves to be "subjects" before the eyes of experimental theorists who do not speak and act altogether from the deaf's exterior point of view.

They know and must make known what they should be the proper and best method of procedure in the instruction of the deaf. They know how and why, and where, they have been injured and retarded, or aided and benefited by this or that method, man or measure, and will cause such to be corrected or conserved accordingly. They are already investigating the scientific aspects of their condition, as the heredity of deafness, the effects of marriages and blood-relations and their effects upon their offspring, and the subjects of interest to society and themselves. In their social relations among themselves and with their neighbors, they are of exception and report. They are law-abiding, honest and intelligent, they are cheerful taxpayers, willing laborers and warm sympathizers. In their domestic relations they are models of domestic affection and industry. The number of known divorces among them can, I believe, be counted on the fingers of one hand and leave the other "free."

Deaf children are rare exceptions among them, all statements to the contrary notwithstanding. I have personal knowledge of 163 deaf couples, whose children number 217, of whom 107 were born deaf and six of the 110 were born to one family. (This is not to the consanguinity of their parents or grand parents.)

Deaf are editors, lawyers, clerks and bankers. Men of science and invention, poets, artists and artists of international reputation, clergymen and eminent preachers of the deaf and dumb, all the best among their more fortunate hearing contemporaries, and in their varied walks to many of them confined to the use of the sign language in their intercourse with the outer world, accustomed to see a word and to hear it, they are most accurate and concise, ready writers, to whom direct. Owing to lack of the deaf writer or student is not to devote more strict attention to literary work, to art, design or professional labors or his trade, than the training to be received at

Gallaudet College for the Deaf, at Washington, D. C., the only college of the kind in the world the deaf young man or woman may attain to the highest ranks in literature, in science and in art.

THIS IS THE RICHEST MIND

grown from the humble seed sown by De l'Epée and nourished by his prayers and tears. Are not the deaf, then, justified in seeking to commemorate the name of the author of this felicity, of holding up to reverence and emulation the examples of his life and deeds of having him with glad acknowledgment the father of the system which in two continents has produced such marvelous results, and conferred such inestimable blessings upon the thousands who now lead lives of usefulness, returning to the state which educates them, intelligent loyal citizenship, and enables them to yield their grateful homage to the great First Cause, whose fiat created and whose providence has preserved and fostered for the deaf and dumb, a way by which they come to know Him as He would be known?

True wisdom is displayed in founding and supporting schools for the deaf and others who, if neglected and suffered to exist as mere tools and draught animals, must be expected to yield where passion takes the place of intelligence and educated mental powers.

As regards the deaf especially, compulsory attendance at school should be enforced by act of legislatures. No one can so thoroughly understand the possibilities for evil that he dormant in the passions of the uneducated deaf mute as those who have spent the best part of their lives in instilling a spirit of self-control and making them amenable to reason, to gentleness and to law.

With the majority of untutored deaf the only law is that of meum, and the only deference is to superior force or possible aggrandizement of that "meum" through a policy of affected obedience and goodness.

Blood will tell among the few and the gentle home will show in the child's carriage and his predilections. But even that may not last beyond puberty and education must maintain as the *anc qua non* of safety to society and the saving to the state, once education is a bulwark and defence and expenditures therefor a fund at interest repaid in intelligent labor and loyal productive citizenship.

Henry Grady's Advice to Young Men.

Never gamble. Of all the vices that enthrall men this is the worst, the strongest and most insidious. Outside of the morality of it it is the poorest business and the poorest fun. No man is sure that plays at all. It is easier never to play. I never knew a man a gentleman, or a man of business, who did not regret the time and money he had wasted in it. A man who plays poker is unfit for any other business on earth.

Never drink. I love liquor and I love the fellowship involved in drinking. My safety has been that I never drank at all. It is much easier not to drink at all than to drink a little. If I had to attribute what I have done in life to any one thing I should attribute it to the fact that I am a teetotaler. As sure as you are born it is the best and safest way.

If you never drink and never gamble and marry early there is no limit to the useful and distinguished life you may live. You will be the pride of your father's heart and the joy of your mother's. I don't know if there is any happiness on earth worth having outside of the happiness of knowing that you have done your duty and tried to do good. You try to build up. There are always plenty of others who will do the tearing down that is necessary. You try to live in the sunshine. Men who stay in the shade always get mellowed.

Where there is much pretension much has been borrowed, nature never pretends. *Lucifer*

Men are never so ridiculous for the qualities they have, as for those they affect to have. *Chambers*

"It is thus each year of life comes to us for each day a clean, white page - and we are artists whose duty it is to put something beautiful on the pages one by one, or we are historians, and must give to the page some record of work, duty or victory to ensnare and carry away."

COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF.

From our own correspondence.

On the 11th ult. the Lat Society as usual met in the college chapel with President Peterson '05 in the chair. The programme, which was gone through successfully, was commenced with a lecture on "Books and Reading" by Hon. Mr. Spofford, Librarian of the Congressional Library. Dr. Gallaudet was our interpreter. After the lecture, a voting vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker. Then followed the debate on the question "Has Greece contributed more to the civilization of the world than Rome?" and it resulted in a victory for the negative side. Then a dialogue entitled "A Dialogue," was acted by Bath, '09 and Brantford, '01, and was followed by the declaiming of "Old Ironsides" by Lund, '01. The critic closed the programme with a comparatively brief report.

Gallaudet College has won the football championship of the Intercollegiate Association of Maryland and the District of Columbia by playing a tie game with St. John's College on the latter's grounds at Annapolis. The score stood 0-0. Our team would probably have run up a big score, but for the heavy rain and wet grounds. Notwithstanding numerous fumbles made on both sides, due to the rain, the game was intensely interesting. The team will play its last game of the season with a picked team from the city on our grounds to-morrow afternoon.

Dec 6th the Gonzaga College second team defeated our second team to the extent of four to nothing.

As yet the weather has been mild, and still the grass retains some of its verdure, although the trees are bare. I thought that a short account of the Congressional Library would interest you. The new building is open to the reading public. Being in process of construction for about ten years, it was completed last spring. Its dome is finished in black copper, with panels covered with a thick coating of gold leaf which cost about 3,000,000 dollars. On Thanksgiving Day, the number of visitors to the new building, was about 4,778. It averages about 1,200 every day.

On the evening of Dec. 1 the S. N. D. Club entertained us with a dramatic entertainment. This was the first play given by the club for the present term, and it was entitled "The Heart of a Hero."

On Thanksgiving night, the students gave a dance in honor of the "Coeds," which lasted for two hours or so.

The Joliff Club gave a play before a good sized audience on the evening of November 25.

Professor Drake will go to Philadelphia to attend a banquet to be given by the Gallaudet Alumni Association. He will deliver a lecture to the deaf of the city.

Dec 6th many people of every description went to the Capitol to see the opening of Congress.

Most of the streets here are paved with asphalt so they contribute greatly to the excellence of biking. A. D. S.

The Los Angeles Association of the Deaf.

The eighth annual meeting of the Los Angeles Association of the Deaf was held at the residence of Lay Reader Wild No. 2237 Vermont avenue, on Thursday evening, with Alexander Houghton in the chair. There was a large attendance. The report of the lay reader, showed that the association continued to exercise its beneficial influence among the deaf who are beginning to share in the general prosperity. The attendance at the services has increased and a year of peaceful working and usefulness has closed, with brighter prospects for the future. The collections after service during the year amounted to \$19.10 and the expenditure \$20.15 leaving a debt of only 75 cents. The association has a free room in the St. Paul's Church guild hall, through the kindness of Bishop Johnson and the trustees of that church. The publication of the history of the association during the early part of the year has given the public a very favorable impression of the objects and work done. It was proposed to start a monthly magazine for the deaf as their organ and to promote the objects of the association. Resolutions expressing approval of the report and statements were passed, as well as votes of thanks to Norman F. Lewis for printing, to St. Paul's Church for use of room, and to the lay reader for his gratuitous services. *The Los Angeles California Times, 11th Dec 1890.*

Farewell to the Old Year.

Farewell old year, we walk no more together
I catch the sweetness of thy latest sigh,
And crowned with yellow brako and withered
heather.
I see thee stand beneath this cloudy sky

Here in the dim light of a gray December
We part in smiles and yet we met in tears
Watching thy chilly dawn I well remember
I thought thee saddest torn of all the years

I know not then what precious gifts were hidden,
I under the mist that veiled thy path from sight
I know not then that joy would come unbidden
To make thy closing hours divinely bright

I only saw the dreary clouds unbroken
I only heard the splash of icy rain,
And in that winter gloom I found no token
To tell me that the sun would shine again

O, dear old year, I wronged a Father's kindness
I would not trust Him with my load of care
I stumbled on in weakness and blindness,
And lo, He blessed me with an answered prayer

Good bye, kind year, we walk no more together
But here in quiet happiness we part
And from thy wreath of faded fern and heather
I take some sprays and wear them on my heart
Sunday Magazine.

The Next Convention.

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN MUTS.
DEAR SIR:—The location of the approaching Convention is now being ventilated through your columns, so I think it not out of place to express my thoughts on the same. In the first place I would not even mention Toronto, for reasons below given. Hamilton has a very strong claim, that I will not dispute, but I would suggest London or Ottawa as the right places. Heretofore the Conventions have been held in central or partially central places of Ontario, leaving a large number of mutes, residing in the extreme eastern and western districts of the province, unable to attend by reason of pecuniary circumstances, not being able to pay high priced fares even at a reduced rate, especially many in western Ontario. These mutes have as much interest in the Convention as any of us, circumstances only preventing them from attending, which they would otherwise do were the Convention held near to their district. Why not give all mutes, even the poorest, a chance of meeting old schoolmates and cheering them up, they will go home again with pleasant recollections and greatly encouraged and enlightened in mind and heart. This could be done by locating the Convention in a different place and direction every time it is about to meet. What we want is more charity and consideration for one another, even for the minority. I do not agree in the Convention being held more than once in the same place, inside an interval of say ten years. Conventions are not only mutually beneficial to the members, especially the deaf, but also helps immensely to dispel the numerous errors entertained by the majority of hearing people, in their ignorant and unjust estimation of deaf mutes. I am personally acquainted with some hearing people in Brantford whom I invited with me to the meetings held during the progress of the session, and they were astonished beyond conception at the neat, tidy and smart appearance of those gathered there, and at the ability of its members to discuss and express matters from the platform in a clear business-like way as they did. I am sure the late Convention left behind it the very desirable effects in Brantford district, in dispelling bigotry and ignorance from the minds of persons who heretofore had a very poor opinion of the deaf. This is a very good reason why I would suggest that the Conventions meet in a new locality every time. This would give isolated mutes a chance to attend who could not go long distances, and at the same time it would sooner or later enlighten the whole country in their estimation of deaf mutes, look on them as their equals, and treat them accordingly. With the compliments of the season to all, I remain, yours in earnest,
Stratford, Dec. 8th J. R. BARK.

Here is a Funny Thing.

Take a string about a yard long to a common door key. Then take the string in the right hand and hold it so as the key will clear the floor four or five inches. If you can hold the string steady enough it will begin to swing back and forth in a straight line. Let another person take your left hand in his, and the motion of the key will change from the pendulum like swing to a circular motion. If a third person will place his hand on the shoulder of second person, the key will stop. Try it, and explain it if you can.