

FUTURE.

The great work now going on in Europe and America every year increases in importance and magnificence. The future of the deaf-mute in England will, no doubt, be a bright time for them. They have an army of powerful and influential helpers in the work of elevation—temporally and spiritually. The first in the rank is our beloved Queen, who has forwarded liberal donations to the Adult Deaf and Dumb Association, London, and who is deeply interested in the labors of their cause. A long list of aristocratic names might be quoted, as well as that of Charles Dickens, and others, who use their wealth and influence for their benefit.

It has been found that the building of the Polytechnic Institution, Regent Street, London, is insufficient for the purposes needed for deaf-mutes, and a movement has been set on foot to raise means for erecting a church, lecture-room, library, and offices necessary for the completion of all that may be wanted in future for the increasing number of deaf and dumb in the English metropolis. Her Majesty the Queen has headed a subscription list with £50 for this purpose, and noblemen and other gentlemen have followed her example, and the sum of £3,000, for the building alone, is now in the hands of a committee formed for the purpose of pushing this movement to a conclusion.

It was only the other day, as I was perusing a late English paper, the following little paragraph caught my eye:—

“It has been determined to erect a church in London for the deaf and dumb. The site is intended, if possible, to be in the western central district.”

This announcement brings a whole train of interesting events back to my memory. When I was in London, I was deeply interested in the movement for this church, and I know how hard the indefatigable minister (the Rev. S. Smith) and his committee labored to get a site suitable for the building. When people heard of the scheme, their astonishment was great—“A church

for deaf-mutes?—how novel!” Some were incredible about such a scheme existing, except in the imagination of some inmate of a lunatic asylum. But such a movement was really begun, and will be speedily accomplished, and the building will be numbered with the hundreds of sacred edifices whose spires grace that city of cities. The foundation-stone would long ago have been laid if a site could have been obtained; but the Londoners were loth to sell the land for such a purpose as a church. The paragraph above quoted, uses the uncertain words, “if possible,” which shows the great difficulties they labor under to secure a site in the western central district—a locality literally paved with gold, so to speak, on account of its enormous rents and its high value.

When this noble edifice is erected, it will be one of the wonders of London, and a beacon of light and civilization, standing as an example to the nations of the world to “go and do likewise.”

In France, little or nothing seems to be doing for the adult deaf-mutes, but the work going on in London astonishes the French, and is rousing their energies to increased efforts in the right direction. Prussia is ahead of France now, and a recent conference of British teachers of the deaf-mute was attended by those of Germany, who returned to their land full of English ideas and schemes. Russia, Italy, Turkey, and proud and benighted Spain have their deaf and dumb schools. Even Athens and Rome in their decaying grandeur are doing what they left undone in past ages of glory. In idolatrous India the good work is begun. Madras and Calcutta have their deaf-mute schools, under missionaries and others, who are extending the work, even into China! Australia has given her attention to the deaf-mute, and in Melbourne and Sydney the English system is adopted. The education of the children in this distant land was originated by a deaf-mute who originally emigrated from England in quest of gold, and when the “gold fever” abated he took to a more laudable occupation.