

## Literature, Historical Notes, &c.

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### JESSIE CLAY—THE NATURAL METHOD.

[In our issue for the month of February, a short sketch illustrative of the natural method of imparting instruction, was inserted under the above title. Through some mishap or want of space, the story, though all in type, was given in an incomplete state. The remainder is given below, though it may cause the reader a moment's pause to remember the connection. The blind girl, seated with Mr. Allan, the teacher, on the brow of the hill overlooking the valley of Kartdale, has received her lesson on the topography of the surrounding country, and the sketch closes in this way by describing the short examination which follows.]

It is needless to say that Mr. Allan's pupil followed him with the greatest of interest, until at last in her excitement she urged him to tell her in the same way of the surrounding country. She was not learning the names of the places for the first time: these she already knew as familiarly as household words. It was the interest which attaches itself to the artist's work that excited her; she was painting her first picture.

"I am glad you like the lesson" laughingly exclaimed the schoolmaster, "but we must hasten slowly. We must have our examination now; and you will probably be glad to learn that you are to examine me."

"What! the pupil examine the master?" she exclaimed.

"Yes, the pupil, the master."

"But why should I examine you?—you know where all the buildings are."

"Then I shall pass a good examination."

The blind girl was being amused, but she was puzzled all the same.

"It would be rather a waste of time to examine any one on a subject he didn't know" said the schoolmaster.

"But is it not just as much a waste of time to examine one who knows how to answer all your questions?"

"I think not. The truth is, Jessie, I want you to examine me only to perfect your own knowledge, and thus prepare yourself to pass a creditable examination on your own account. You will first examine me on the positions of some of the buildings we have named, and those with which you are familiar, and then I will examine you on what you have learned of the whole picture of the town of Kartdale as it lies before us."