

dangled from his vest, and two or three gold rings glittered on his fingers. Another thing I also noticed was that one of his little fingers were missing. I afterwards learned that this was due to some of his own mischief, and it seemed strange to me that this strict important looking gentleman should ever have been a mischievous little urchin like myself, although, his appearance was such as would undoubtedly excite the hearty laughter of any school-boy of the present day. After I had finished gazing at him, I took a survey of the school room and its occupants, when to my delight I saw a large number of boys and girls, some of whom were near my own age and size, and some too, my quick eye readily detected were like myself, brimful of mischief.

I was perfectly charmed ; never before had I seen such a collection of boys and girls ranging from the tender age of 5 and 6, to manhood and womanhood.

But despite the disparity of age, size, and temperament, they were all alike in one respect—like myself not one could hear a sound, either pleasant or harsh—not one could utter a word of either love or hatred—a sad state dear reader you will say, but not so sad as you may imagine. While the deaf mute is deprived of two great senses, double power seems to have been given to the remaining. The “eye” is quick and sharp, the “feelings” acute and sensitive to a degree, at times almost painful, and although he cannot easily converse with those around him, a deaf man can almost read the thoughts of others in the various expressions of the face with that eye.

“An eye that seems to hear
E'en by observing, and that gathers more
From flickering lights and shadows of a face,
Than duller minds can gain from spoken words.”

But I am wandering from my subject, to return to the school-room and its occupants, there were about 85 scholars attending at that time and besides the Principal there were four male and two female teachers employed.

In a short time I was duly established in the class for which my intellectual attainments qualified me, and soon becoming acquainted with the rest of the scholars, I was as happy as the day was long. On going to school I could only make known my thoughts by signs, but I quickly learned to talk with my fingers, thus being enabled to talk more freely and with much less difficulty.

So things went on in the usual routine of school life. Sometimes I would become tired of learning my lessons and try to get clear of them, but I soon learned that there was no mercy shown to lazy boys in that well-regulated school, so I resorted to another plan, that of feigning to be ill, but I was immediately sent to bed and a most shocking dose of salts were brought to me and I was forced to drink it. Ugh ! I have hated the sight of salts ever since, and you may be sure that I did not pretend to be sick again.