

### VISIT TO H. M. S. BELLEROPHON.

By the kindness of His Excellency, Vice-Admiral Sir A. Cooper Key, the inmates of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb were yesterday afternoon favored with a rich treat, in a visit to the Flag-ship "Bellerophon." In addition to other recent proofs of His Excellency's thoughtful and considerate interest in the "children of silence," this pleasure had been promised at the time the school broke up for the holidays in July last. Kindly mindful of the expectant youngsters, notwithstanding the pressure of other and more important affairs, not Cooper embraced the first favorable opportunity before leaving for the West Indies, when most of the pupils had returned from their summer vacation, to fulfil his pledge. At the hour appointed, under the care of Mr. Hutton, the principal and the teachers, the silent party, numbering about forty, marched down to the Dockyard steps, where a large boat, manned by sturdy blue-jackets, conveyed them to the ship lying out in the stream. Ascending the steps and arriving on board, the party were courteously received, and conducted, by order of the captain, all over the noble vessel. The Admiral's and Captain's apartments, the various decks from the upper to the lowest, the gun rooms, armory, midshipmen's and officers' quarters, the sailors' quarters, the engine rooms, furnaces, etc., were in turn inspected, and the various objects of interest pointed out and explained by the officers, the Principal interpreting in sign language for the benefit of his pupils. The mode of working the massive 12 ton gun, of effecting the simultaneous discharge of a broadside of ten guns by electricity, the use of breech-loading rifles, cutlasses, and boarding-spikes, the mysteries of the engine and machinery, and other matters, were duly noted, exciting the wonder and admiration of the visitors. An amusing example of sleeping accommodation was given by rigging up a "hammock," and hoisting one or two of the little fellows into it, to let them feel how they would like a swinging cot.

After inspecting the ship from stem to stern, the pupils were invited to the Admiral's cabin, where a further treat awaited them in the shape of a bountiful tea with cake and fruit, to which the guests did ample justice, gratefully appreciating the condescension of the ladies of His Excellency's family, who with the Admiral himself, and the officers of the ship, kindly waited upon the pupils and administered to their wants. At the close of the meal, grace was said in sign-language by one of the mutes, and the heartfelt thanks of the pupils tendered through the Principal to His Excellency for his very great kindness. After spending about two hours and a half on board they took farewell of their kind benefactors, and were conveyed ashore by the ship's boat, delighted with the afternoon's entertainment. The day will doubtless be a red letter one in the calendar of the Institution,—long and gratefully remembered even by the youngest recipients of His Excellency's Christian beneficence.—*Reporter, October 12, 1876.*

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