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OUR BLIND.

BY I. ALLEN JACK, A. B.

[THE writer of this article begs to acknowledge the most valuable services of C. F. Fraser, Esq., of the Blind Asylum, Halifax, of M. H. Richey, Esq., Secretary of the same Institution, and of Dr. Wiggins, Principal of the Institute for the Blind, Brantford, Ontario, who have all taken great pains in supplying him with information. As he has in many instances adopted whole passages written by these and by other gentlemen, from published reports and communications to himself, without giving credit, he feels that he is liable to a charge of literary piracy. He trusts, however, to the magnanimity of the writers, who will also see that such a course would necessitate the introduction in this article of a large number of foot notes and references. While speaking thus generally, however, he desires especially to acknowledge the aid afforded him from a number of letters on the subject of the education of the blind, written by Mr. Fraser, and published in a Halifax newspaper. He would also state that the scheme proposed for the establishment of a common Blind Institute for the Maritime Provinces was suggested by Mr. Fraser in the letters in question.]

“AND God said, ‘Let there be light and there was light.’”
Such is the brief statement of the first divine mandate for creation and its wonderful fulfilment, and since then millions of eyes have watched the sun bursting through morning mists and have seen the moon shining in the vaulted sky of night. Age after age have children clapped their hands for joy at the rain drops glistening on the leaves beneath the sunbeams, glinting from the rifted clouds, and jaded hearts have felt new life at the sight of nature’s panoramas unfolded far and wide. Age after age have birds fluttered with painted wings among flowers of bright and tender hues, while the gifted hands of genius have fastened on the canvas many visions of ethereal as well as earthly beauty to gladden the eye of man. Perhaps we scarcely pause to think, as we wander