

language was used. How they expected to benefit the poor children by chanting Latin and preaching unintelligent doctrines was a mystery to me. On entering, I could see no sign of life, but on glancing round, my eye caught the figure of a female deaf-mute at her devotions. She was crouched down on the floor behind the door, facing the shrine, with a book in her hand. Our entrance did not disturb her, and she continued as immovable as a statue, with her eyes fixed on the crucifix and images in the distance. A pious look played over her countenance, but ignorance, so common in deaf-mute Papists, was traceable on her features. I could guess that habit or custom had led her there, and to assume that position, for I well know that she could not understand the mysterious characters in the volume she held in her hand, to which she did not once look, or turn over a page while I went round the chapel.

We next entered the school-room, which is divided into two sections—English and French. The girls were all assembled and pursuing their Sunday lessons. On entering the whole company arose, and made a graceful courtesy, and remained standing till I had responded by an awkward English bow, when they resumed their seats, and continued their studies. The English division attracted my notice, and I took up the slate of the nearest girl, on which she was writing an affectionate letter to her "Dear brother." I was much pleased with her hand-writing and the composition of the epistle. The letter contained the ordinary school-girl expressions peculiar to the deaf and dumb, in which they tell their friends and relatives most of what they themselves know, such as what the weather was, now is, and what they think it will be; the pleasure of letter-writing to them, and the state of health they enjoy, and concluded with the familiar *finale*—"your affectionate sister." On the blackboards were religious lessons, well written; and the tutor was expounding the same by the one-hand alphabet, with a rapidity too great for my unaccustomed eye to catch, but I could

see that the story of Balaam and his ass was the subject of study. Not knowing the French dialect, I could not tell what the other division was learning.

As I turned to leave, they again arose, and courtesied simultaneously as I bowed myself out. We then entered the work-room, where about a dozen sewing-machines were standing. I was told that they were in want of sewing for these machines, which had performed all the work in the house. The girls devote their leisure in learning the operations of these excellent implements, and no one will dispute their usefulness, and the instruction and pleasure they give young girls. They will save the precious eye sight of the unfortunate children, which is always more or less defective, and far from possessing that penetrating power which ignorance and superstition has assigned them to possess in compensation for the loss of hearing and speech; and moreover, the occupation is profitable to them when they turn out into the world, if they are spared the monotony of a convent incarceration for the rest of their lives.

Upstairs, we enter the bedrooms of the inmates. The neat, tidy, and well-arranged room where the little girls pass the nights is large, light, scrupulously clean, well ventilated, and heated by steam in winter,—the sight of pipes around the rooms gave me thoughts of the terrible arctic winter we have just passed through. The snow-white sheets and counterpanes over the little beds reflect credit on the domestic management of the matron. The arrangements for every convenience and comfort are here almost perfect, and much superior to many European institutions. Apparently, no pains or expense has been spared to secure the health and comfort of the pupils.

I next paid a visit to the boys' school at Mile-End, near the city, where I was very kindly received by M. Belanger, the principal, who supplied me with every information I required respecting the place and its workings. This institution, like its contemporary, is well built and pleasantly situated