

degrees of the true understanding, fall into errors, fail in their course, or die doubting and almost despairing.

O my soul, seek thou the substantial wisdom which cometh from God, and which time or rather eternity itself, cannot diminish, but will only brighten and improve.—Though other knowledge may be valuable for the purposes of this world, yet this alone can ripen for heaven, and is therefore most earnestly to be sought for by thee, whose business and calling, whose citizenship and hope, are principally there.—*Ambrose Serle.*

PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

A few years ago the only substitute in the institution for printing for the blind was the ingenious but inconvenient system of figuring on twine. Subsequently books printed in relief, from angular types, were introduced by Mr. Gall, of Edinburgh. Both of these systems, notwithstanding their respective difficulties, were mastered by the inmates of the institution, whose habits of attention overcame obstacles which a theorist would consider insurmountable. Mr. Gall's invention was a great step in advance in this kind of literature, and it does credit to his ingenuity and perseverance; but it partakes of the disadvantage common, with the exception we are about to state, to all the systems hitherto proposed for the literary education of the blind—a disadvantage arising from the mistaken notion that a unique and arbitrary character was indispensable to the object in view. Mr. Alston, the treasurer to the Glasgow Asylum, has for some time been trying the practicability of a system as remarkable for its simplicity and adaptation to the wants of the blind as the others have been found to be complex and inoperative. Every new experiment he made was tested by the blind

themselves, and the result of the whole has been most satisfactory. We may also mention here, that the Rev. Mr. Taylor, of York, to whom the Society of Arts in Edinburgh submitted the specimens of the arbitrary characters sent to them by competitors for their medal, recommended to the society just such a system as Mr. Alston was preparing, and to which Mr. Taylor has since given his unqualified recommendation. Mr. Alston's system is simply to print in relief the capitals of the ordinary Roman capital, without any arbitrary marks whatever; and we are happy to announce that he has now added to the other improvements of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, a beautiful fount of types, and a printing-press, which will very soon supply this and kindred institutions with the Scriptures and other books, in a character which can be read by the touch of the blind, with little less fluency than by the eyes of the seeing.

To afford a practical example of the entire fitness of this admirable invention to the instruction of the blind, a meeting was recently held in the Asylum, when the children gave specimens of their reading from portions of St. Matthew's Gospel, and the book of Ruth, printed at the Institution press. The ease with which the children perused the passages pointed out to them at random, and their promptness in announcing chapter and verse, called forth the warmest admiration. Still further to exemplify the extreme practicability of the system, and that the facility with which the children read was not the result of previous cunning, the chairman wrote a sentence, which was carried to the printer, put in types, and copies thrown off for the use of the company. This was placed in the hands of the blind children, who, unassisted, read aloud the sentence at once.