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What Will You Do ?

As all our subscribers know the 'Messenger' has a most helpful Temperance Department. Many a man acknowledges that he got his first ideas of Temperance from reading the 'Messenger' when he was a boy, and mothers, who read the 'Messenger' in their girlhood, are to-day bringing up their families upon temperance principles. Many have testified to this in letters accompanying their renewal subscriptions. Such being the case, we do not think we need apologize for suggesting that when our friends are going about securing pledges they endeavor afterwards to secure subscriptions for the 'Messenger.' Thirty cents a year is a very small price for such an interesting and helpful publication, and most people will be glad to subscribe for themselves or for their children. It makes a good Christmas present, and is out of all comparison better than a Christmas or New Year's card, costing the same amount. Those securing the subscriptions are, of course, entitled to the club rates or commissions or premiums announced elsewhere in this paper. What will you do ?

A Blind Man's Life-Work

MR. FRANCIS J. CAMPBELL, LL.D.—
ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR
THE BLIND.

(G. B. and M. S. Osborn Howe, in 'The Christian'.)

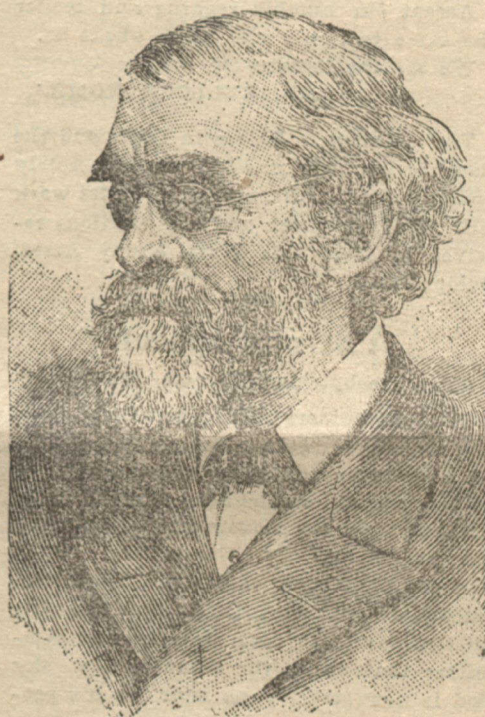
Born in Tennessee on Oct. 9, 1832, for three and a half years Francis Joseph Campbell romped with his brothers in the sunlight, until one day, not a fatal day, when playing in the yard the thorn of an acacia tree was run into his eye. Unskilful treatment deprived him entirely of the sight of both eyes. It was a sad day at the farm house. But the calamity of 1836 has been instrumental in bringing hope and gladness and comfort to numberless homes in subsequent generations.

But we must go back. In those days the blind, if cared for at all, were forbidden to do many of the thousand things that make up daily life, lest they should injure themselves. It followed, therefore, that the boy Francis Joseph stood a good chance of being spoilt; in truth, he was a spoilt child until he was six years old, when, almost by accident, it was found that he could cut wood without cutting himself. From that time the good sense of the father over-ruled his fears, and he took special pains to train the boy in farm work.

How, when twelve years old, young Campbell was sent to school, how he was tested as to musical talent, but could not tell one tune from another; how he learned to play, but secretly—all this is best told in the pages of 'Plain Speaking,' a volume by the author of 'John Halifax, Gentleman,' in which will also be found the story of Mr. Campbell's early struggles to give himself a university education.

After a strenuous life, which had made its mark on methods for teaching the blind in America, a complete breakdown compelled this restless man to visit Europe, but not to rest; he had but one aim, to ameliorate the condition of the blind, and every subject was studied that could help towards the fulfilment of this purpose.

In January, 1871, accompanied by his wife and son, Mr. Campbell turned his face homeward, but while detained for a few days in London, a gentleman staying at the same hotel proposed his attending a meeting for indigent blind, to which he himself was going. That night, we are told in his own words, was to him 'a sleepless night,' and with the decision



MR. F. J. CAMPBELL.

which characterizes him he informed Mrs. Campbell in the morning that they must delay their journey. A letter of introduction to Dr. Armitage, the well-known friend of the blind, was now made use of, and with united energies they set to work. Dr. Armitage had lost his sight when serving as medical officer during the Crimean War; in 1868 he established the British and Foreign Blind Association, and he now, with Mr. C. A. Miner, urged Mr. Campbell to remain in England.

The homeward journey to America was not completed, but instead three small houses near the Crystal Palace were secured, and a school begun, March 1, 1872, which, two years later, was removed to the present site of the Royal Normal College for the Blind. Here the work has grown and prospered. Dr. Campbell's system of educating the blind is a marvellous success, and what his pupils can accomplish is almost incredible. Visitors are admitted to the college, and may see for themselves what it is difficult to describe.

One of the most striking results is seen in the happy demeanor of the pupils. All are occupied, all are happy. The hopeless

and helpless become changed beings, fearless and self-reliant, under the influence and training of 'the doctor,' whose own life is a daily inspiration. A glance at the last of Dr. and Mrs. Campbell's Christmas letters, sent out yearly to their old pupils, tells us of the brilliant success of two of the girl students, one of them having won two prizes for English literature and English history, as well as a scholarship, and the first prize for hygiene. All the other competitors had the blessing of eye-sight.

The other achievement was that of a young lady who won one of the Mendelssohn prizes at the Royal Academy of Music, Berlin; this was rendered the more remarkable because of the blind being excluded as students from this Academy. The hall of the Normal College bears on its walls eloquent testimony to the successes and honors gained by a former student who has recently passed away. It has been proved beyond doubt that music, when properly taught, is the best profession for the blind, and the fact that Dr. Campbell's Academy of Music has received the cordial recognition of the musical profession, settles the question as to the thoroughness of his system. Our late beloved Queen, as patron, took a kindly interest in the college from the beginning, and a few weeks before her death an intimation was sent to Dr. Campbell that she would be pleased to receive the pupils again at Windsor.

The great object the Principal and his executive committee have always kept in view, is to qualify the students to become self-supporting; for this reason, therefore, in addition to giving a good general education, their aim is to impart a musical training and technical instruction equal to that which is given to the sighted in the best schools of music. Dr. Campbell insists that it is necessary not only to have good teaching and superintendence of practice, but an ample supply of good musical instruments. At the college, five organs and 100 pianos are employed. As in literature, the Braille system is in use for music. It was introduced from Paris by the late Dr. Armitage, through whose untiring efforts and generosity the blind throughout the English-speaking world may now obtain the best literature and the best music. It is an interesting fact that a Braille typewriter has recently been invented in America, and a Braille short-hand-writing-machine at Birmingham.

It would be difficult to convey an idea of all that comes into the department of physical education. We are told that ordinary lessons are of far less importance than teaching the children to be active and playful. This they become soon after their admission to the college, every inducement to activity being offered in the play and other beautiful grounds, which, it should be observed, were not laid out by Dr. Campbell with assistance, but from his own design. This may sound strangely to those who do not know the subject of our sketch. It may interest them yet more