

Pereire's secrecy in keeping the art of manipulating the muscular organs, from the world, may be accounted for in the plain fact, that his pupils were SEMI-MUTES—those who *had learned language before they lost hearing*. This will appear in the conflicting testimony of Buffon the celebrated Naturalist, and Biornstahl the eminent Swedish Linguist. The former testifies, that Fontenai \* “spoke like other men,” while the latter states, that although a master of several languages “he never spoke a word.”

Dr. Johnston, of wide-world fame, having witnessed the articulative powers of Braidwood's pupils, testifies that “they not only speak, write, and understand what is written; but if he that speaks looks towards them, and modifies his organs by distinct and full utterance, they know so well what is spoken that it is an expression scarcely figurative to say they hear with their eyes.” Dugald Stewart, the “*Scottish Philosopher*,” writes:—that the results of Braidwood's efforts to give his deaf mutes the power of speech, “*ranks a little above parrots and starlings*.” The remarks of both are correct, as those whom Dr. Johnston heard were semi-mutes: while Dugald Stewart saw, and heard deaf mutes from birth.

When men of such distinguished literary ability; of such intense reflection, and laborious research in physical science, &c., as Buffon, Mayran, Biornstahl, Johnston, Dugald Stewart, and a host of others—among whom I may mention Dr. Kitto, the learned semi-mute, were imposed upon by some vain teachers of the Deaf and Dumb, I cannot be surprised that our justly celebrated educationist of Ontario was led captive by the flashy curriculum of studies presented in the Report of the N. Y. Institution, to which I shall refer in its proper place. Should I succeed in showing to the satisfaction of the Government that Dr. Ryerson's views of the great mental ability of those *born deaf*, and who have been educated in the States, are founded on false premises, I may apply the words of the prophet in reference to the literary celebrities above mentioned:

“Howl fir trees, for the cedar (Dr. R.) is fallen.”

The Chief Superintendent regards Mr. Braidwood as the father of deaf-mute education in Britain. He writes:—“that a nephew of Braidwood, Dr. Joseph Watson, was the first, and for thirty-seven years, the master of the London Institution,

\* Fontenai was one of the pupils of Pereire, whose proficiency in articulate language was tested before the Academy of Science, Paris, in 1749, of which Buffon, Mayra, &c., &c., were members.