

Dr Ryerson quotes the opinion of the President of the National Deaf-mute College Washington, that "success can only be obtained by instructors who have secured the acquisition and mental discipline afforded in a collegiate course of training." Well, well, that casts into the shade the opinions of the Master minds of ages past and present. Mr. Morris, teacher of the highest class in the New York School, has been the most efficient teacher in that Institution; is a *Magisterium Artum*. (A. M.) by virtue of his knowledge of Ancient History, and like myself, and other teachers of Deaf-mutes in England, Ireland, and Scotland, was a self-taught man, and a common School-master. Heinicke the founder of the German system was also a self-made Schoolmaster.

If this collegiate training were required in the Institutions in the States, why is it that the Principal of the New York Institution, follows the plan long since adopted in Britain, that of training young boys for the office of teachers? Any man of moderate literary attainments can easily obtain degrees in the Colleges of the States, from which a large crop of these black-berries have, from time to time, been imported into Canada, and of which Dr. Ryerson is the recipient of a D. D.

The sign language of Bebian, "who rose like the sun, partially dispelling the murky clouds which lowered on the imposing metaphysical processes, circuitous and cumbrous artificial instruments of Sicard, proved to have been natural, simple and efficacious."(?) His signs are developed in equal range and perspicuity with the deaf-mutes' progress in English. From this it is quite plain that the unfortunate pupil must study two languages at the same time; the sign language under that form in which ideas are conceived in the mind, and the English language after the form in which we express our thoughts and feelings. In the former the subject is placed before its qualifying word, the object before the action, and more frequently both subject and object, object and subject, before the verb, while the want of inflection in our mother tongue leads the pupil into confusion. Apart from this, the sign language of Bebian, the same as that pursued in the American Schools, is completely destitute of pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and the moods, and tenses of verbs. Its idiom differs from any known language, that of the barbarous jargon of the uncivilized savages of New Zealand excepted. Now I would ask Dr. Ryerson a simple question: Has this language a definite syntax, or has it a syntax at all? If it has a definite syntax, it is "comprehensive and complete," though not "perfect;" if it has no syntax, then it is *incomprehensible, incomplete and imperfect*. I would ask

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