

There are now 23 institutions for the education of the Deaf and Dumb in Great Britain and Ireland.

Turning to the United States, the Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut, has the proud distinction of being the Parent Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in America. This institution completed its fiftieth year the 15th of April, 1867. The report for 1867 reviews the progress and work of the institution during the last half century. "The noble men [says the report] who took an active part in its establishment—who contributed so liberally to its funds, and, by their energy and counsels, set it forth so successfully on its course of usefulness, have nearly all passed away. Yet the school they founded with so much forethought, and watched over with so much care, still continues to dispense its blessings, and has never pursued its beneficent work more efficiently and successfully than it is doing at the present time." The 22 institutions for the Deaf and Dumb in the United States, are the offspring of that at Hartford, established in 1817. The establishment of that institution is traced to the illness of a lovely child in a well known family of the name of Caggswell, in the city of Hartford. The report says: "Had the malady (spotted fever) of little Alice Caggswell been less severe—had it yielded more promptly to the remedies which skill and the most assiduous care could suggest, the sad condition of the unfortunate Deaf-mutes of the country, without knowledge or instruction, might for a still longer period have failed to awaken the active efforts of the benevolent. When, however, after the elasticity of health had returned, it became evident that the ear of the beautiful child was closed to the voice of affection and all the sweet sounds of the outward world, a fountain of sympathy was stirred, that, in its abundant flow, went forth to the aid of thousands whose mute and silent affliction had hitherto appealed in vain for relief." In 1812, a Committee appointed by the General Association of Connecticut to investigate the subject, reported that there were 84 Deaf-mutes in that State, and upwards of 400 in New England, and 2,000 in the United States, where there are now 13,000. The public mind was thus prepared for some action on the subject.

"On the first of May, 1815 (says the report), a company of seven gentlemen met in a private parlour in this city (Hartford), to take the subject into consideration. After consultation, they decided to send abroad a competent person to acquire the art of instruction, and establish a school for the education of Deaf-mutes in this country. The sum necessary to defray the expense was soon subscribed, and the Reverend Thomas H. Gallaudet was fixed upon as the proper person to undertake the responsible mission. A more fortunate choice could not have been made. Graduating with the second honour in one of the most noted classes of Yale—distinguished for his proficiency in English literature—particularly eminent in mathematical science, with attractive social qualities, polished address, and devoted piety, he entered with characteristic ardour upon the new enterprise."

Mr. Gallaudet visited the institutions of the Deaf and Dumb in London, Edinburgh, and Paris. It is singular that the art of teaching the Deaf and Dumb in Great Britain was then regarded as a *secret*, for the profit of its possessors. Doctor Watson, of the London Institution, was willing to furnish an assistant to go to America, and inaugurate the system there, but would not consent to communicate his mysterious art to a stranger for that purpose, unless he would enter and remain in the institution for