Fouth's Corner.

A DEAF MUTE'S LETTER, ABOUT POLITO'S MENAGERIE.

From " The Contrast" by Dr. Orpon of Dublin. My dear Priend .- I went to Mr. Polito's, Lower Abbey-street. I saw many beasts, playing in the eages of iron. I saw three lions, walking in cages; their bodies were brown : several panthers; bodies were spotted and white. The spotted, or laughing hvena. was wild in a cage; he was unpleasant. The fiery lynx was grey; his ears are pointed. The great water buffalo, from Bombay; his horns are black; his body black; on the floor. A beautiful Egyptian camel was eating hay, in rail of wood; his back was curved, and brown; his under-neck is curved. The horned horse, or nylghau, was eating hay, in a stable; his body was grey. The beautiful zebra was in a cage of wood; his body was beautifully striped. A bear was lying upon the floor, in a cage; his body is white. The ursine sloth is all black, and was jumping in a cage; his hairs and claws are long; his nose was long; he was jumping to Daniel, with some cakes. A kangaroo's forelegs were small and short; his legs were long; he was jumping to my glove, I was shaking it at him. The lion was sleeping in a cage; his tail was down pendulous through rail to my hands were touching tail. I saw a live serpent, lying in a cage, upon blankets; his body is slender and long; he was striped with rings; his tongue is forked, and was black; he was yawning. A large elephant was eating hay; his body is large and black; was standing on the floor; his trunk took cakes from Daniel who has some gingerbread-cakes; his legs are short and thick; his hoofs were large and black; and his body has not hair. A porter went to the door, and spoke to Daniel, who was with us; he opened the door. We saw an elephant in the stable; his body is all mark my ignorance. I put it under my improved rapidly under his unceasing black; his cars were pendulous, and were arm, as if to go out, but my father refused care; and soon he had advanced suffiwiping his little eyes; his tusks were me the permission I requested; making ciently to convey the certain intelligence little, of bone; his mouth was sucking trunk. Daniel had some cakes. Its huge body is covered with a callous hide: he has not hair; his legs are thick, black, and are curved; his head is large. A porcupine; quills are thick; he was in a cage; his quills are long, and black and white. I felt his quills: he went walking; his forelegs were short, on the floor: we were afraid; porcupine's front was black; his tail is thick. The ocelot, or tiger in miniature, is from the Brazils. The tiger-cat, from Amboyna, was in a cage. The great emew, or southern ostrich; his body is yellowish; his legs are slender, and he was standing long on straws: his body was large; his neck is from the school. slender, long, and straight; he was curved on his upper back; the feathers gave it up. I often thought of writing familiarity with the scene. Soon he was of his tail were pendulous; his bill is bone, and long; he opened his bill, and old:—I attempted alone to form with the took cakes; he was eating: Daniel had pen the writing signs:

which crowded upon him. It was he, now, some cakes. My hand was shaking at In my childhood, my father made me that began to lead the way, until, with a ostrich; he opened his bill. The silver vulture, from Brazils, was in a cage of morning. I threw myself on my knees, sion of Count Solar. This nobleman was wood; his bill is large, and was black; I joined my hands and moved my lips, well known to have had a son deaf and wood; his bill is large, and was black; he opened his bill. A monkey's face was grinning, and speaking, in a small cage; his hair was blackish; his arms were brownish; he was kneeling on his hands, and was eating cakes. Daniel had some gingerbread. His tail is long, and was hot God. I did not see God;—I did your, but his claim was indignantly reblack; his arms were black: he and I see the heavens. black; his arms were black: he and I see the heavens.

were friends; he was scratching his thigh,

I did not know either, whether I had cause was brought before the Châtelet, a and pulling the rail of irons; his feet were | been made, or whether I had made my- Court of Justice at Paris, and the decilong and black. The monkeys were little. and pretty; their bodies are small, and were whitish; they were grinning their teeth, which was white-white.

I am yours, THOMAS COLLINS.

The above letter, we think, will be a cu-

riosity with our readers. At first it may seem only amusing; but it will acquire far deeper interest, when it is considered how much pains must have been taken with the writer of it, before he could make use of language so as to call the variety of things and qualities which he mentions by their names, and to make use of pen and ink so as to write them. Let the reader remember, that this poor boy had to be taught hy instruction every word, used in his letter, nearly every one of which those boys who can hear have learned as little infants, simply by hearing them constantly in use by the people around them. Take the first three words. Thomas Collins knew by observation that some things belonged to him, and that some belonged to other people; but until he was actually taken under training of that particular kind which was adapted to his sad condition, he did not know that he might use the word my, when he wanted to write that a thing belonged to him. So also, he was no doubt fond of many things; but until he was actually taught, he did not know that the word dear expresses that feeling in him. He looked upon some persons as being fond of him too; but only when he received instruction did he find out that to such persons the word friend is applied. All my readers learned the sweet words "my dear friend" without any effort at all, by the pleasure only

Some of my readers perhaps think school a

very tiresome place, and shrink from study as I vidence, and immediately applied himself a great trouble. Will they carefully read the to the relief of his bodily wants and to account which a deaf and dumb boy gives of the awakening of his mental faculties. himself, how hard he begged, that he might But the interest which he took in the unlearn, and how distressing it was to him, that fortunate boy at first sight, grow into the he was not permitted to go to school? May it most intense anxiety by the proofs afstir up gratitude in their hearts towards God forded in a variety of ways, that this boy who has so kindly dealt towards them, and to was not the offspring of vulgar parents, a fuithful use of the great benefit bestowed upon them in that they have speech and hearing, and that schools are open for them in which to be instructed.

The account is from Jean Massieu, a French deaf-mute, who improved so exceedingly, and bearing fully convinced his aged that he astonished all who put questions to him, by the powers of thought which he showed in his answers .- EDITOR OF THE life. Yourn's Corner.

"I was born at Semens, in the Canton of Saint Macaire, department of La Gironde ;-my father died in the month of perty and title, and have unnatural rela-January, 1791, my mother lives still.

Until the age of thirteen years and

or by gestures. The signs, which I at that time used, to express my ideas to my parents, and to my brothers, and sisters, were very different from those of the Deaf

neighbours understood us. I saw oxen, horses, asses, pigs, dogs, when I had seen all these objects, I remembered them well.

Before my education, while I was a child, I knew neither to write, nor read. I desired to write and read. I often saw young boys and young girls, who were sources of mental gratification, he would going to school; I desired to follow them, be giving him the power of telling at last and I was very jealous of them.

eyes, permission to go to school. I took less, in the street. Theodore—that is the a book, and opened it upside down, to name given him by his kind instructor--signs to me, that I could never learn any that he had been brought up in the style thing, because I was Deaf and Dumb.

knew the letters, nor the words, nor the conclude, the object was, that all traphrases, nor the periods. Full of vex- ces of him might be lost, and another enation, I put my fingers in my ears, and joy his title and estate. demanded with impatience of my father, to have them cured.

my father's house, and went to school, placed him under the charge of another myself to the master, and asked him by

they are praying to God.

who is the Creator of heaven and earth, the Count's son and heir. A thousand see the heavens.

my instructor, Sicard, my mind would Deaf-mute entitled to his paternal name not have grown, as my body : for my and property. mind was very poor: in growing up, 1

was like a dog.

I amused myself alone, in playing at

I knew the numbers, before my instruction; my fingers had taught me them, I did not know the figures :- I counted with my fingers, and when the number passed them, I made notches in a stick. During my childhood, my parents sometimes made me watch a flock :- and often those who met me, touched with

my situation, gave me money. One day, a gentleman, who was passing took a liking to me, made me go to his home, and gave me to eat and drink.

Afterwards, when he went to Bordeaux, he spoke about me to M. Sicard, who consented to take charge of my educa-

THEODORE.

THE FRENCH DEAF-MUTE. One evening, about the year 1780, a boy was found wandering in the streets of Paris, ragged and destitute, and yet very different in his manner from children used to a vagrant life. Notice was taken of his exceedingly forlorn state, and questions were put to him; but the poor boy only shook his head, pointed at his cars and at his lips, and thus showed that he was both deaf and dumb. Among the persons who began to gather around him, one was acquainted with the celebrated Abbé de l'Epée, who was known to be devoting his energies to the instruction of hearing them constantly in use: the deaf- of the deaf and dumb; and the ragged mute had to learn them by much painstaking boy was brought to him. The Abbe received him as sent by God's special pro of the Bergun.]

nor by any means accustomed to wear the wretched garments which the Abbe made him lay aside. He showed very promptly how well he knew the use and treatment of better clothing; he exhibited perfect gentility of manners, and his appearance guardian that he had before him the child of parents in the higher ranks of

But who are they, and what can have thrown the unfortunate boy into the destitute condition in which he is now found? Is he perhaps the legitimate heir of protions turned him out into helpless misery, in order to rid themselves of a troublenine months, I remained in my country, some being whose natural incapacity will where I never received any instruction. mar the lustre derived through a line of I expressed my ideas by manual signs, ancestors valiant in battle or influential in council?

The poor deaf-mute can throw no light upon these dark surmises. He is destitute of means for communicating ideas. and Dumb instructed. Strangers never The few signs with which he is familiar, understood us, when we were expressing do not suffice to convey any information to them, by signs, our ideas, but the upon his origin and the cause of his present destitution. Questions put to him his cars do not hear; intelligence which cats, vegetables, houses, fields, vines, and he might wish to communicate, his tongue has not learned to utter.

The Abbé de l'Epée was not discouraged. He took his young pupil under instruction, and hoped that, besides unfolding his faculties and opening to him the sad tale of those wrongs or mistor-I begged of my father, with tears in my tunes which left him, friendless and homeused by the nobility, and had been vio-Then, I cried very loud. I again lently placed in the wretched condition in took the books to read them, but I neither which he had been found; it was easy to

The indications which Theodore gave of the nature of his former place of resi-He answered me, that there was no dence, directed the attention of his aged remedy. I was quite distressed. I quitted friend to some large city. And now he without telling my father. I addressed Deaf mute, Didier, who had advanced far in his instruction, and who was to go signs, to teach me to read and to write. with him on a search for his former dwell-He refused me roughly, and drove me ing place. After much truitless wander-from the school. ing, they arrived at the city of Toulouse. This made me cry much. But I never Here Theodore began to show signs of make prayers in gestures, evening and piercing shrick, he stopped at the manin imitation of those, who speak, when dumb; but the report had been spread they are praying to God.

At present, I know that there is a God, died at Paris. Theodore claimed to be sion was in favour of Theodore. I grew tall. But if I had not known year 1781 the judges declared the young

This decision was appealed from, by the should have thought that the heavens was family of Solar; but the young man had a powerful protector in the Duke of Pen-Then, the children of my own age did thievre who befriended him, and during not play with me, they despised me; I whose life he bore without hinderance the title of Count Joseph of Solar. In course of time, however, both his tutor de l'Epée ball, or marbles, or running about on and his protector the Duke were removed by death, and in the year 1792, the decision of the Chatelet was reversed, and Theodore a second time left destitute of name, family, protection, and support. Despair seized the unfortunate young man. Religious consolations—how difficult was it for them to reach him who had so little intercourse with those who could have imparted scriptural instruction. He desired to die; and probably it was through a sinful compliance with this wish that he was admitted, notwithstanding his infirmity, as a private in a regiment of Cuirassiers. Soon he found himself in an engagement with the enemy. He charged furiously, while the trumpet, unheard by him, called the regiment to retreat. Pierced with wounds, he fell, and his friend Didier, who had followed him even into the field of battle, returned to bring the news to those who yet took an interest

We must lament the murmuring spirit against divine providence which threw a cloud over the close of Theodore's existence; but we must sympathize with the sad destitution of the Deaf-mute, who is so little approachable by the motives of the gospel through which alone we are enabled to see that "our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding, and eternal weight of glory."

[The facts translated from the French, and the narrative adapted to the columns

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Ps. oxix. 57.—Thou art my portion, O Lord!
I have said that I would keep thy word.
Ist Samuel, 111. 10.—Speak, Lord! for thy servant heareth. Quebne, 4th April, 1844.

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