

been asked a thousand times before, only to receive almost as many discordant answers.

7. "What or who put it into the hearts of Satan and the wicked angels to rebel against God and destroy their happiness?"

This lad, only eleven years old, and but two years under instruction, has already advanced so far as to ask the great question concerning the origin of Evil; a "vain and interminable controversy," as it has well been called, but one nevertheless some solution of which seems to be necessary to the repose of every thinking mind.

It is interesting to reflect that the foregoing questions were the spontaneous offerings of a class of persons, who, at one period of the world, before any attempt had been made to instruct them, were almost universally regarded as but little, if at all, higher upon the intellectual scale than "the beasts that perish."

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VISITS TO SOME OF THE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND.

BY LAURENT CLERC.

[The writer of the following article is well known to many of our readers; first, as one of the most distinguished pupils of the Abbé Sicard; next, as a professor in the Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Paris; then as the associate and co-laborer of Mr. Gallaudet in the establishment of the American Asylum; and, finally, as having been connected with the Asylum for more than thirty years, as one of its best and most highly esteemed instructors. It should be remembered that Mr. Clerc writes in a language that is twice foreign to him; first, as a Frenchman, born and resident in that country till mature age; and, next, as a deaf-mute, to whom all written language is, in a certain sense, foreign.—ED. ANNALS.]

IN the spring of 1846, I obtained leave of the Directors of the American Asylum to visit France on private business; but I did not avail myself of this permission till the month of August following. On the 8th, I embarked at New York on board the packet-ship *Argo*, Capt. Anthony, bound to Havre, accompanied by my younger son, whom I intended to leave with my

relations in Lyons for two or three years, for the purpose not only of enabling him to make further improvement in his knowledge of the French language, but also of placing him in a school where the theory of manufacturing silk is taught. Our voyage was prosperous and pleasant, and we reached Havre within twenty-two days, a very rapid passage indeed, which would still have been more rapid had we not had several days of calm. From Havre we proceeded to Paris, two days after landing, by railroad. The railroads in France, and elsewhere on the continent, I found in fine order, well managed and very safe. There are policemen in uniform, placed at short distances, whose business is to march to and from a post, to see that there is nothing on the road to obstruct it, and to place a bar at every crossing-way to prevent accidents, and sometimes, also, to warn the engineer when he must stop. This information is conveyed to him in this way: When the policeman hears or sees the cars coming, he immediately stands up on the border of the road like a soldier or sentinel, with his hand extended in the direction the cars are going, which means to say: *go on, proceed*; if, on the contrary, he wishes to give notice to the engineer to stop, on account of some obstruction which may happen to be on the road, he thrusts his hand forward and repeatedly moves it upward and downward, and this is understood by the engineer, who then endeavors to stop, or at least to slacken his progress as much as he possibly can.

The next day after my arrival at Paris, my first thought was of visiting the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Accordingly I got into the first omnibus that passed by it, and at half past twelve I was set down there. I rung and the door was opened. The entrance was through the lodge of the *concierge* (door-keeper.) He spoke, and I believe he asked me what I wanted. I told him that I was deaf and dumb and wanted to see the Institution. He said, by spelling with his fingers, that it was now vacation, and that there was nothing to see. I told him who I was and whence I came, and insisted upon entering. "Ah! Monsieur C.," exclaimed he, "are you really Monsieur C.? I know you by reputation and am glad to have the honor of seeing Monsieur C., but really I cannot let you enter when there is no one to wait upon you. Such are the rules of the Institution, and it is not I who made them." Not liking to be

thus treated, I took out my card, and handing it to him, I requested him to hand it to the Director, Mr. Delanneau. Monsieur D. has gone to Normandy, answered he. Then hand it to Prof. V. Monsieur V. is in the country. Then to Prof. M. Gone to Strasburg. Then to Prof. B. Gone to Bordeaux. Then to Prof. L. Gone out to dinner, but will return at two o'clock. And taking off his cap, he invited me to walk into the waiting-room, close to his lodge, assuring me that he would let me know when Prof. L. should return. From the waiting-room, seeing some boys at play, I beckoned to them and they came to me, and I talked with them until Prof. L. made his appearance. He knew me and I him. He gave me a hearty welcome, and ushered me into the Institution, where I beheld about fifty pupils at work in the shops, the others having gone to pass their vacation at home. Of course I had no opportunity of witnessing their exercises in the school-room, but I promised to call again at some future time and bade them good bye and went away.

I soon left Paris for Lyons, where I arrived early in October, and, after spending a few weeks with my friends there, I proceeded to La Balme in Dauphiné, my native place, and passed the winter with my sisters, with occasional excursions into the neighboring villages to visit other relations. On my return to Lyons, I twice visited the school for the deaf and dumb. It is located in the western suburbs, and stands upon a bold hill, overlooking the city and a vast range of country, which can only be ascended by a circuitous paved way; and, on account of the distance and the fatigue of ascending, is but little visited and consequently little known. The school was established some twenty years since by Mr. Comberry, a deaf and dumb pupil from the Bordeaux Institution, who had previously married a lady that could hear and speak. They both died not many years ago, at a short period of time from each other, and left an only daughter endowed with all her senses, whom Mr. Forestier, a former pupil of the Paris Institution, married not long since. Himself and lady are now the principals of the school. They had about forty pupils at the time of my visit, nearly as many girls as boys, supported by the bounty of the Department and the generosity of some benevolent persons. I saw nothing there worth mentioning, except that Mr. F. had

the sole superintendence of the establishment and was assisted in the instruction of his pupils by two other young men, deaf and dumb like himself, and Madame Forestier that of the girls, with the assistance of two females also deaf and dumb. In fact, there was no one save Mrs. F. that could hear and speak, the servants of both sexes being likewise deaf and dumb. This is, I believe, the only school of this kind in the world. I examined some of the scholars, in compliance with the request of the teachers, and found they had made pretty good proficiency; but I took the liberty of advising Mr. Forestier to associate with him a clergyman, or a gentleman of respectability and talents, who could hear and speak, for the greater prosperity of the school and the better improvement of the children in written language and religious knowledge; my opinion being that, however instructed a deaf and dumb person might be, he was still less so than those who hear and speak. But he did not appear disposed to adopt my suggestions; so I bade him good bye and departed, not without wishing him all the success he merited, in spite of his pretensions.

I had also an opportunity of visiting, another day, two other schools for the deaf and dumb, at St. Etienne, a large city about sixty miles south of Lyons, famous for its manufactories of ribbons and its mines of coal and iron. One of the schools is located in the eastern part of the city, and contained, at the time of my visit, upwards of fifty poor girls, under the care of four or five sisters of charity. The house which they occupied was beautifully situated and overlooked the city and country. The girls appeared happy and contented, and were making very respectable progress in their studies, but I remarked nothing extraordinary in the system of instruction, it being derived from that pursued in the other schools of France, and the ladies had learned it from some educated deaf and dumb. I had a short discussion with one of these ladies with respect to abstract qualities. For instance, I maintained that *white* was the color which we saw in objects: but that we did not see *whiteness*, as we had only received the impression of it, and we kept the remembrance or image of it in our minds. She thought differently and tried to convince me, but to no purpose, that we saw both *white* and *whiteness* with our bodily eyes.

On inquiring of these kind ladies how their school was sup-

ported, they answered: "By Divine Providence." Upon further inquiring by whose instrumentality Divine Providence thus supported it, they gave no answer, but I guessed their modesty; for I was informed elsewhere that some of these excellent sisters had inherited a considerable property, and that instead of employing their money to live the lives of the rich, they had chosen to practise the precept of our Lord, who said that it was more blessed to give than to receive. What benevolence is this! And how few we see in the world disposed to do the like!

The other school, for boys, is located in the western part of the city, in one of the wings of a splendid seminary where young men are educated for the priesthood. Two of the brothers residing in this institution were charged with the task of teaching those poor boys, who numbered about ten; the school for their reception was opened too short a time since to permit me to speak of it with justice.

One day, in walking through Lyons, seeing a crowd of persons reading a notice stuck on the wall at the corner of a street, I had the curiosity to examine it. It announced that a Mr. La Fontaine would give in the evening, at the hotel Du Nord, an exhibition of experimental magnetism, at which he would operate on a young girl and present the physical phenomena of magnetism, and produce ecstasy under the influence of music; that he would also introduce a deaf and dumb young man of Lyons, whom he said he had succeeded in making hear by magnetism, and submit to the magnetical operation many other deaf and dumb, whom he would try to enable to hear also. I immediately concluded to attend the exhibition, and to request Mr. La Fontaine to experiment upon me, should he succeed, that the operation might be decisive; but, as says the proverb, what I proposed, God disposed; for I was prevented from attending by the sudden illness of my son. I however visited the deaf and dumb the next day to learn the result of the experiment, and they told me that it had been a complete failure.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]