

silence" shall yet go forth from our Institution trained for the struggle of life, to bless the prayers of anxious parents and friends.

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RETIREMENT OF MR. CLERC.

WE mentioned in our last number that Mr. Clerc was about retiring from the place he has so long and honorably filled in the American Asylum. He made his *cong e* at the close of the term, April 28th, 1858; on which occasion he gave a parting address to the Instructors and the pupils of the Asylum, who were assembled with some other friends in the chapel of the Institution.

Mr. Clerc gave a brief review of his history, particularly as connected with the Asylum. He dwelt with much pleasure upon the unbroken harmony which had always subsisted between him and all with whom he had been associated here; also of his happiness in his domestic relations. When he proposed to unite himself with Mrs. Clerc, the marriage of deaf-mutes with each other was objected to by many friends, and even by Mr. Gallaudet. It was feared they would suffer too many inconveniences; also that the number of deaf-mutes would thereby be multiplied. But such fears had proved groundless. Mr. Clerc related how the first thing he did, on the birth of his first child, was to satisfy himself by experiment that the child could hear, and how pleased he was to find that the discouraging predictions of his friends had failed to come to pass. Now, many deaf-mutes were happily married, and several of his hearing friends had married deaf-mutes, and with only now and then a deaf child among their offspring. Mr. Clerc also addressed some appropriate words of advice to the pupils.

Mr. Clerc has been forty-two years connected with the Asylum, and had previously, as he stated, served ten years as an Instructor in the Paris Institution, having thus been constantly employed in this good work for over half a century! He is

certainly entitled, as a veteran soldier, to repose quietly on his laurels, the remainder of his days. He has seen twenty institutions for the deaf and dumb springing up and established in this western world, as centres of light for his fellow deaf-mutes, over whom, before he came, there rested everywhere an impenetrable night of mental darkness. The instructors in these schools have all, either directly or indirectly, derived from him the art and method of instruction here practised. He has therefore, very properly, feelings as of a father toward these institutions and their numerous beneficiaries.

Mr. Clerc is now over seventy-three years old, and enjoys a remarkably green and vigorous old age. Indeed, such was his native vigor of constitution, that he has seldom, if ever, been disabled for duty by illness, a single day, since his first connection with the Asylum. So accustomed is he to regular work, that it will take him some time to accommodate himself to different habits of life. We trust he will enjoy yet many years of quiet repose after a life so well spent, and will long remain among us, to remind us of the past, and encourage us to strive after still higher and more beneficent results in the future.

*Complimentary Resolutions.*

At a meeting of the Instructors of the American Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, on the 28th of April, 1858, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

*Whereas*, Mr. Laurent Clerc has this day resigned his office as Instructor in this Institution, in consequence of advancing years,

*Resolved*, That we take this occasion to express our high appreciation of the long-continued and faithful labors of Mr. Clerc in this Institution, and especially of the important services rendered by him during the period of its infancy.

*Resolved*, That we gratefully recognize that good Providence by which Mr. Clerc was led to these shores, and made

instrumental in the introduction here of that system of deaf-mute instruction, which has since been so widely extended, and of the excellence of which he is of himself a signal illustration.

*Resolved*, That as he now withdraws from this Institution, with which he has been so long identified, we bid Mr. Clerc a respectful and affectionate farewell, proffering our warmest wishes for his personal happiness, and our hope that he may be spared yet many years to witness the increasing fruits of the good work to which his life has been devoted.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be signed by each member of this body, and presented to Mr. Clerc, and that copies be furnished for publication to the American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb, and to the daily journals of this city.

*Reply by Mr. Clerc.*

To the Principal and Instructors of the American Asylum for the education of the Deaf and Dumb.

GENTLEMEN,

For the Resolutions which you have seen fit to pass on my resignation as Professor at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and published in the Hartford papers of this day, please to receive my heartfelt thanks, as also for the courtesy which has been extended to me since your connection with it. From its foundation, I can with truth affirm that my best capacities have been wholly devoted to it, and while life lasts, my heart will cling to it with the truest and deepest affection. I leave it in a very flourishing condition, and I trust that it will stand from generation to generation, to attest what you, Gentlemen, by your ability, energy, faithfulness and perseverance, are endeavoring to do, "to increase the fruits of the good work to which my life has been devoted."

That the blessing of God may rest on the Principal and his Assistants, and the Asylum, is the sincere prayer of

LAURENT CLERC.

HARTFORD, ASYLUM HILL, June 14th, 1858.