

THE SILENT



NEWS-LETTER

And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to lay his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude privately, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat, and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And his ears were opened, and the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well.—St. Mark VII:32—37.

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Editorials

The vacation period of both the Missionaries and their people is rapidly drawing to a close. By the time this issue of the Silent News-Letter reaches them the signs of a general resumption of both church and mission work will have begun to re-appear. In a majority of the large cities the advent of the Twelfth Sunday after Trinity or Ephphatha Sunday (August 30) will be the signal for full activity. We extend to the returning vacationists congratulations upon their renewed health and strength and dare express the hope that their re-invigoration will mean greater devotion and more fruitful spiritual results during the coming year. Undoubtedly both the Missions and the Silent News-Letter have suffered in the absence of these friends, but as such absence will soon have been only temporary we are very much inclined to take to the role of the cheerful optimist and to look forward to an era of better things.

The first united and successful movement in which the educated Deaf of America participated for the purpose of demonstrating their gratitude to their Teachers, Benefactors and Friends was inaugurated on September 6, 1854. In explanation of the comparatively recent date it should be recalled that the first School for the Deaf in this country had been opened in Hartford, Conn., only thirty-nine years previously, April, 15, 1817.

This movement took form in the presentation of a beautiful silver pitcher and salver, suitably inscribed and costing \$300, to Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, the founder of the Hartford School, and a like set to Mr. Laurent Clerc, his colleague, a brilliant Deaf man, educated in the wonderful School of De L'Eppee in Paris, France. Mr. Clerc came to America for the express purpose of assisting Rev. Mr. Gallaudet in his pioneer work.

Since that time there have been many notable occasions when the Deaf have presented valuable gifts, dedicated buildings and works of art or erected memorials of bronze and stone, to those whom they loved and venerated. The movement now going on to erect a \$50,000 Administration Building on the campus of Gallaudet College for the Deaf, Washington, D.C., in memory of its first president, Dr. Edward Miner Gallaudet, a son of Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, is a case in point.

And when a few weeks hence, September 4-7, the Deaf of the great state of Pennsylvania assemble in convocation in Philadelphia, we presume they will take adequate and proper steps to perpetuate in some visible form the memory of their great and good Teacher, Benefactor and Friend, Dr. A. L. Egerton Crouter, who passed to his reward, greatly lamented by them, on June 26, 1925.

----- A Little More History.

(Continued from the July Issue)

The brief visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Louis Metty, #150 N. Center Street, Cumberland, brought on a flood of joy and hope. Their cordial reception, their unstinted encouragement, their unreserved promise of help were as friendly winds blowing away clouds of doubt and timidity.

The shadows of evening were gathering when the Rectory of Emmanuel Church was reached and the gladsome tale had been told to the Rev. Mr. Howden. As he took in its import and suspected our inexperience merry twinkles seemed to dance in the corners of his eyes. Perhaps he was young; perhaps he was a humorist, we thought. In any event, after a generous repast over which Mrs. Howden presided with grace,

he departure for the church was made. Entering the sacristy, there stood an enormous colored sexton, Harris by name, ponderously and with suspicious solemnity, ringing the church bell. What use is a church bell to summon a congregation of stone-deaf people? The question was put to the Rector. "Ah, we are rejoicing with you!" he said.

Both the chancel and the body of the church were brilliantly lighted. It was a very large church and the seating capacity ran well into the thousand. Grouped together, well forward and eagerly attentive, were a mere handful of silent people. They were Mr. and Mrs. Motty, Mr. Andrew Schwankhaus and his sister, Miss Annic; Miss Margaret Mullan, Mr. Charles Morgan, Mr. Carl Speelman, Mr. Frank Carroll and one other, a hearing man, the organist of the church, who came probably at the suggestion of the Rector in order to furnish the music or, more likely, was induced to come at the unwonted ringing of the bell. These silent people were few indeed, but in the fulfillment of our expectancy they were as costly gems. The vast and lofty interior of the church was fascinating to them, the decorations of the choir and chancel awed them, the robes of the clergyman enthralled their fancy and the atmosphere of sanctity and peace intrigued their souls, as they afterwards confessed. The Prayer Book service, in shortened form, was read in the language of signs and the sermon dwelt upon the Ministry of Jesus Christ with particular reference to His command: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."--St. Matthew 28:19,25.

Shortly after the blessing had been pronounced and while the people were still standing in groups of twos and threes, exchanging comments of admiration and wonder and seemingly reluctant to leave, Mr. Motty quietly entered the sacristy and in words filled with emotion asked if he could not then and there receive the holy sacrament of baptism. Assured on the point, it was but a few short moments before the silent people were gathered around the beautiful stone font at the door of the church and were afforded the inestimable privilege of witnessing for the first time the solemn rite which mystically cleansed their friend from all sin and made him an heir of everlasting salvation.

While the departure for the night was proceeding Mr. and Mrs. Metty joined in an earnest plea that their infant son, then two months old, be baptized on the morrow. Their plea was granted.

(To be continued.)

Scripture Text for this Issue: "But blessed are your eyes for they see; and your ears, for they hear."--St. Matthew 13:16.

News and Comment.

To be deprived of sight, hearing and speech is truly a sad thing. It is considerably worse when one suffers the deprivation in middle age or late in life. We count among our good friends a number of such people. Happily all of them have partially overcome their handicaps by turning their talents to self-forgetting and remunerative pleasures and employments. Miss Dinah Turnt has learned to read Braille, to crochet and to weave baskets, Mr. Harry Thurlow is a successful magazine and newspaper agent, Mr. Charles McClary, with the aid of his brave little wife, has managed a profitable concession at Tolchester Beach during the past thirty years, Mr. Benson, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Suhre and the Dulkan brothers make cane seats, brushes and brooms, and Mrs. Mary E. Birchett at the advanced age of ninety-four finds her way about and enjoys ocean bathing, automobiling and conversation as much as any young lady in possession of the five senses. All honor to these brave and cheerful friends!

During the various festivities of the past summer months a large number of our Deaf friends have come to Baltimore from the counties of Maryland and from other states. Among them were Mrs. Tschiffoly of Florida, Mr. Earl Motty, Miss Louise McLain, Miss Ellen Peake, Mr. Alan Cramer, Mr. Walter Swope, Miss Berta Shockley, Mr. Kambarn, Mr. Davis and the young Rosenbergs.

Miss Joan Spencer is proud of her father as a weather prophet, author, lecturer and poet. Mr. Spencer's latest is a dainty little volume of verse under the caption, "The Sunny Side of Life."

Master George Kelly, a nephew of Mrs. Harry Kemp of Frederick, Md., is a member of the Oral Class in the Baltimore Public Schools. He is a bright, manly little boy of fourteen and weighs 175 pounds.

Miss Ellen Peake will enter Gallaudet College in the fall. Congratulation