

State Library

Daily Concord Standard.

Vol. XL.—No. 2709

CONCORD, N. C. MONDAY, OCTOBER 17 1898

WHOLE No 11799

AN INTERESTING LETTER

the Mind—First You Must Think, then Think of the Thing That is Doing the Thinking.

In our last communication a few hints in regard to mental facts were given. In this it is proposed to examine ourselves to see if the mind can be found, and after finding it to examine it carefully for the purpose of ascertaining what it is.

It is the mind, remember, that we are going to hunt for, and not the motions of the mind. If we do not succeed in finding the mind of course it cannot be examined.

To begin, then, think of the paper that you are reading; now think of the thing that thinks of the paper. Can you do it? Probably the paper is not a good object to think of. If that be the case with you, select some other object you prefer, and think of that. Then think of the thing that thought of that object. Here probably you will have the same trouble you had with the thing that thought of the paper, to wit: You can not think of it.

But it may be that you will succeed better if you try to think of the mind of one of your pupils. Try it, and note your success. I do not mean the actions of his mind, but his mind. Can you think of that? Take away the actions of the pupil's mind, and what is left to think of? Now as a teacher you are trying to develop the minds of your pupils, and, more, you are trying to do so by using your own mind. If you can not think of your own mind and cannot think of your pupil's mind, is it not plain that you are trying to use something of which you can not think to develop something of which you can not think?

Now to rest yourself after going through the effort suggested above, stop thinking for a minute. Look at the watch or clock to see when the minute is out. Did you succeed? Do you feel relieved of the mental strain experienced when you were trying to think of your mind? You ordered your mind to stop thinking. Did it obey your command? Now if you get over-fatigued in school, just tell the pupils to stop the actions of their minds, and after you have succeeded in getting them to do that, then let your mind stop acting and perfect tranquility will reign.

But you tried to stop thinking and failed. The more you tried the more you thought till you had to give it up as an impossible undertaking. What is true of yourself is true of the pupils. They could not stop their minds from thinking.

Now it ought to be clear that you can not think of your mind as not thinking. In fact, what kind would a non-thinking mind be? Is it possible to think of a mind that does not think? The mind is that which thinks, feels and wills. The thinking, feeling and willing are not the mind, no more than the falling of an apple is the force of gravity.

In the material world as mechanics, inventors and scientists, men accomplish work "by putting objects where they will be subject to new influences, so that the forces of

nature may do the work we wish to have done." In dealing with mind we work in the same way. What happens in nature is due to the laws of nature. What happens in mind is due to the laws of mind. As teachers we endeavor to follow the laws of mind, so as to secure the best results from our labor, just as in the mechanical world men are constantly trying to improve machinery in order to get the best results from the operation of natural law.

H T J LUDWIG.

THE GREAT

Psychological Prodigy—Hellen Keller's Amazing Powers.

The most interesting and amazing psychological prodigy to which we ever had our attention called is Miss Hellen Keller. She is a native of Alabama. At about three years of age she suffered severely from diphtheria.

The senses of sight and hearing were lost. Hence she was termed a deaf mute. She is under the tutorage of a Miss Sullivan, who has been her constant companion as well as instructor.

The Success says:

"After only nine years of study, Helen Keller has made wonderful progress. The constant efforts of her teacher and companion, Miss Sullivan, have enabled her to learn to speak, by the sense of touch alone, until now she can talk better than any other natural mute in the United States. Miss Keller's advancement in all the subjects she has studied is far beyond that of the average seventeen-year-old girl in possession of all her senses.

The sensitiveness of her touch is almost incredible. With the tips of her fingers resting lightly on the speaker's throat, she understands all that is said to her, and she enjoys music in the same way, always detecting the slightest discord. She can tell the color of a flower which she holds; but, more wonderful than this, she can detect a mistake in her typewriting by passing her hand over the paper, not even a misplaced punctuation mark escaping her. Having found an error it is rapidly corrected, with all the ease of an accomplished operator.

Even Miss Sullivan is sometimes surprised when her pupil answers a question yet unspoken, though contemplated. She can always tell when her companion is joyful or sorrowful, as soon as they meet. Miss Keller is a general favorite among her mates; she enjoys her life and is bright and happy, having no consciousness of being in any way handicapped. What a rebuke is the life of this girl, who has learned in a world in which she can neither see nor hear, from the tips of her fingers, infinitely more than thousands of listless boys and girls will ever know."

These statements look incredible but there are even more. We are told from most credible sources that her penmanship is absolutely uniform and beautiful.

She announces the approach of persons, sometimes calling their names, and we are told that having once met and become somewhat acquainted, even with but one short interview, she will know that person on next meeting a year afterward.

Her touch is so sensitive and her perceptions so bright that given a bug she will handle it and write or

give verbally a more minute and intelligent description than most persons can who possess all the faculties.

She has been turned loose in a well furnished room and allowed to examine everything in it. Then she gave a very minute description of all the furnishings, including the various colors. She has attended Gentry's Dog and Pony show and intelligent persons say she probably got more out of it than any one else.

The knowledge of everything pertaining to death had been withheld from her. Apparently knowing nothing of the king of terrors, death, she was allowed to make researches in a cemetery. She quickly became nervous with a sense of horror and unhappiness and begged to be taken out of the place.

She wrote a letter to one among the many that she regards as her friends and in telling of her studies and her progress said, "I am now cultivating a smooth, soft voice.

She is proficient in all the leading languages of the age.

This case, we believe, is candidly stated. Is it a miracle in which Omnipotence has given Helen Keller, in touch, what she lost in sight and hearing, or have we all the same endowments (in different degrees of course) but undiscovered because dormant, while special organs supersede them, and undeveloped because unused?

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Mr. Wm. Reid, of Salisbury, is visiting his brother, Mr. Joel Reid.

—Mr. Jay Harris spent Sunday at his home near Harrisburg.

—Messrs. Jno. Yorke and C L Smith, of Charlotte, spent yesterday here.

—Morrison King came in from Davidson college Saturday night to spend Sunday.

—Mr. Prue White, freight clerk at the depot, spent Sunday at his home in Greenville, S. C.

—Photographer Z E Scott spent Sunday at home. He is doing business at Gastonia.

—Misses Blanche McAllister and Mabel Barrier, accompanied by Messrs. Dan Barrier and Jno. Fulenwider, spent yesterday in our city.

—Mr. Bede Hamilton and sister, Miss Ethel Hamilton, returned to their home at Newells Saturday night, after visiting at the home of Mr. A S Hamilton.

—Mr. J Wiley Rush, of Asheboro, the candidate for solicitor, arrived here last night. Editor Varner, of the Lexington Dispatch, accompanied him, but returned home this morning.

—Mr. J G Hall and wife returned to their home at Chattanooga last night, after spending a day or two at the home of Mr. Victor Blackwelder. They stopped here on their way home from New York.

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