# HELEN KELLER.

## The Little Blind Deaf-Mute of Tuscumbia, Ala.

## More Wonderful Even Than the Case of Laura Bridgman.

## Her Progress in Light Months Almost Incredible.

## Seemingly Able to Read the Thoughts of Her Guardian.

THE REPUBLICAN last Sunday gave a sketch of the life of little Helen Keller, together with a short account of Miss Sullivan's first year's work with her as her teacher. To day the pictures of teacher and pupil are given, as also additional information concerning the girl's history and education as a chapter from the last annual report of the Perkins Institute for the Blind. Mr. Anagnos in his fifty-sixth annual report of the Perkins Institute for the Blind, from which the following is taken:

*Helen Keller.*

"The success of Miss Sullivan in the education of Helen Keller, that of the blind deaf-mute girl, so combined blindness and deafness from the dungeon of deathlike darkness and silliness as to place her among the some into communion with the outer world is one of the most remarkable achievements of the nineteenth century. History has preserved the names of only a few members of the human family who have been doomed to that terrible state of mental and spiritual lacerations, which one of the most noted victims, Mr. Morrison Heady of Kentucky, delineates in pathetic language in his poem, "Oh! Double Night," but there is no mention of any serious attempts having ever been made to teach the unfortunates language as a means of intercourse with their fellows. The most of the unfortunates since the popular heart of this country first went out in sympathy toward

*Laura Bridgman.*

in her dreadful affliction. Attacked early in childhood by that dire disease, scarlet fever, in a malignant form, she was shorn of the senses of sight and hearing, of taste and smell, and was left in a most deplorable condition. For five months she lay in a darkened room. After long suffering she began to improve slowly, and two years and half passed before her health was fully restored. Her mind was at this time so far developed as to be an impenetrable wall. Her derivations were simply appalling. She was left with the meager equipment of a trusty heart and mind with which to find her way into the world of thought, speech and light. Because of her sons, amazed at the immensity of her calamity, asked "Where was her Creator?" Where God? Who will bridge the chasm that separates this isolated spirit from her kind? In the middle of great night, the noble founder of this institution answered "I will try," and hastened to the place, and in a certain the facts in the case and induce the parents of the little girl to send her to Boston and place her under his care.

DR. HOWE

was, by constitution, a champion of freedom, by impulse a philanthropist, and by genius and purpose a reformer. Wherever there was workers in the world's great army the spirit with the Saviour latent—and the love of advancement as well, he was the man to go out as an apostle of liberation He entered upon the task of plerciing a trackless forest, and pursuing a pathless course to the starving mind of Laura with undaunted courage and unconfounded faith. He was a student to follow, no indices to be guided by. But he was determined to succeed. In his estimate, obstacles of whatever magnitude were only 'things to be overcome,' and nothing more. He was resolute in the little pupil possessed the desire and capacity for acquiring knowledge and communion, and was resolved to enable her to do so. Perseverance, skill, sagacity, ingenuity, and in fact all the resources of the mind, and all the forces of his unbending will were brought to bear upon the task. Finally, after numberless trials and heroic efforts for weeks and months, the first and most important step was taken. Progress was made to understand that all things have names which can be represented by arbitrary signs or letters embossed on paper or formed by the fingers. Thus the mind of the little woman. A new jewel was added to the crown of philanthropy, and the name of Dr. Howe was engraved on the tablet of fame, where are inscribed the names of the benefactors of mankind. The success achieved by the pupil in Laura's case were soon applied to that of Oliver Caswell, and proved to be most efficacious. Thus began the Perkins Institute, and are now

THEIR OWN MEMENTOES

grand successes. During the past twenty-five years the number of persons bereft of the sight and hearing has increased in both Europe and America, so numerous cases are found, almost everywhere, but by far the largest proportionate number is scattered among the rural population of the United States. Public statistics show that there are from thirty to thirty-five cases of deaf-mutes in that country.

A benevolent lady, Mme. Elizabeth Ange Nordin, takes a profound interest in the welfare of these hapless human beings. She has devoted her attention to the royal family to their relatives and dependents, and has contributed a pecuniary legislation for their care and training. Aided by a religious society, she crossed the country twenty-five years ago, visited the institutions for the deaf and dumb for the blind in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Hartford, Northampton and Boston, and spent several weeks under our roof studying the case of Laura Bridgman. On her return home to Paris, Sweden, she gave the subject to the principal of an establishment for deaf mutes, who organized a school and commenced work with five pupils. Owing to the lack of sufficient pecuniary means this most benevolent enterprise is not prosecuted with the success we desire. The last census of the United States does not give the exact number of persons afflicted with the loss of two or more sense, but it is safe to state that there is not fewer than fifty thousand of them, and these have been, or are now, under instruction in various institutions for the deaf or for the blind.

A FEW CASES.

"The case of Jno. H. Caton has been known for a number of years. He was graduated from the New York institution for the deaf and dumb in June last and delivered the salutatory ad dress.

"Agnes O'Connor has been in the Illinois institution for the deaf and dumb since last winter. She was taken from her home in Ireland. Dr. Gillett, who had found her in the cook country alienated, and placed under the immediate supervision and tuition of his niece, Miss Jane V. Gillett. The exact age of the unfortunate is not known, but she is not far from her 17th year. Dr. Gillett has secured no pains in the prosecution of the case of Laura Bridgman. On her return home to Lake, Sweden, she was placed under the tuition of an establishment for deaf mutes, where she graduated a scholar and commenced work with five pupils. Owing to the lack of sufficient pecuniary means this most benevolent enterprise is not prosecuted with the success we desire. The last census of the United States does not give the exact number of persons afflicted with the loss of two or more sense, but it is safe to state that there is not fewer than fifty thousand of them, and these have been, or are now, under instruction in various institutions for the deaf or for the blind.

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"Albert A. Nolan of Salem, Mass., was admitted to the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, in Hartford, October 11, 1880, at the age of 12 years. The principal of that institution, Prof. Job Williams, assigned the task of introducing him to a knowledge of words to one of his most successful teachers, Miss Kate C. Camp, and has himself taken a deep interest in devising or providing devices to facilitate her work. During a brief visit in Hartford last February, I had an opportunity of witnessing the progress employed in the training of this lad, and of seeing the progress he was making, and it is with great pleasure that I bear testimony to the excellence of both the methods and the results.

"Mr. Frank Battles, acting principal of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind in Philadelphia, has among his pupils three who are both deaf and sightless—Wm A Miller, born in England December 31, 1871 (now nearly ad 11 years of age), Martin Morganou, born in New Jersey September 2, 1869, and Adelaide A. W. Parsy, born in England July 20, 1872 (lost her sight at 7 years of age, but seen to distinguish light from darkness, and, comparatively, They all retain the power of speech, and are bright, active children, and all they had learned to talk. They are taught by means of the alphabet, the language of signs used by the deaf, and are making satisfactory progress in their studies, and seem to be happy and contented.

"Laura Thomas was admitted to the Kindergarten for the blind connected with this institution, and was taught by the aid of our graduates, Miss Lilian May Hatcher, was successful in her endeavors to teach the little child, and has succeeded in the first steps in opening to her the pathway of language.

HELEN KELLER.

"But of all the blind and deaf mute children who are under instruction, Helen Keller of Tuscumbia, Ala., is undoubtedly the most remarkable. She is a little lady of six years, and is no phenomenon. History presents no case like hers. In many respects she is a most unusual child, keenness of observation, eager curiosity, extraordinary memory, and the intensity of temperament she is unquestionably possessed of, combined with the quickness of perception, grasp of ideas, breadth of knowledge, self-reliance and sweetness of disposition, Dispositions of this rare kind are prototypes. The case of this little girl is a marvel of attainments and in every respect, so far as I know it is the most remarkable one on record. Its bearing on important lights upon such psychological questions as the origin of intelligence, language, etc., by Dr. Howe on account of the bleaker intellectual faculties of Laura Bridgman, I related brought to bear upon the mind of the pupil Laura Bridgman, and the fact that the mind that both science and humanity will profit by the possibility of the case of Helen Keller.

HELEN'S TEACHER.

"But remarkable as is the case of Helen's case, that of her teacher is, in some respects, more remarkable. Miss Sullivan was entered our school October 7, 1880, at the age of 10 years. Her sight was so seriously defective as to be a great disadvantage to her blind. The circumstances of her early life were of the most

THE TRIBULATION

cradle blood without a stain, was supplied with every comfort which money brought in the age of luxury, intelligence and refinement surrounded her. Such was the early life of the young lady character, but it should be remembered that the Sullivan family belong to the class which stimulates the perseverance of strong, vigorous minds, and which has produced a revolution in the world. This was probably the case with Miss Sullivan, for she was not permitted to this institution her sick of intention for blindness, and she was left to shift for herself out her entirely, off from all advantages, but with a better inheritance than that, and her struggle for the means of existence had been the occasion of her acquiring the rudiments of knowledge, and of her being able to read and write, and derive from the lowest and most elementary school, the rudiments of learning. Very early in her life she had in herself

THE FORCE AND PERSEVERANCE

which characterized her subsequent career. The furnace of hardships through which she passed was a furnace of purification, and refined the pure gold of her nature from all dross, for she was

The rugged metal the mine

Of her pure spirit forth in strong shine.

"An iron will was hammered out upon the anvil of adversity, and developed in her very long under systematic instruction before she gave evidence of intellectual power. Her death, the steadfastness and the beauty of her character, which she had developed in the details and to fill out the gaps in her training. It was a very great loss to the reason to overcome obstacles She was determined to climb to the top of the mount of unknown industry, perseverance and patience, and she did it. Her success, I have only reached the goal for which she strove so long, and the consummation of her hopes. Her success is the example that to let yourself be discouraged by difficulties and to lay down in the road of usefulness, and now she stands by the side of the Saviour of mankind, and the most cherished branches of his work, carry-ing the light of intellectual and spiritual life, and receiving the benediction of his spirit.

"Her success in teaching Helen was to teach the language in how to school.

"Helen Keller is a child of great mind. She is a child of great heart. She is a child of the generous purpose in the glowing breast.

"Miss Sullivan has taught her in the highest order. In breadth of intellect, in opulence of mental power, in the depth of her affections, in originality of device, and in practical ingenuity, she is a marvel. She is the joy and pride of its Howe's assistants, Miss Wright (after Miss Sullivan) is advanced beyond all others in these respects Miss Sullivan is truly an artist, and she has a great work in her education. By proper treatment and skillful methods, she has developed the intellect of her eyes was converted into transducency, and her ears into a receiver of the sound, but very little difficulty. Her personality is marked and strong. She is a child of the one of high endeavor and grand achievement. She is a child of the eyes of darkness and stillness to the

Sweet sounds and sights to her own.

She undertook the task with becoming modesty and earnestness, and accomplished it with a quietly and unostentatious

The rapid progress made by Miss Sullivan's pupil was a matter of wonder and surprise. Days, June 19, three months and a half after the teacher's arrival, Mr. Anagnos wrote to Mr. Anagnos "During our walks she spelled a sentence of twenty words, and lights to accompany it with actions, such as opening the door, shutting the door, sitting, rising fast, walking slowly and the like. When I spelled the sentence, she said, 'Teacher teacher will cry.' If she wants water she spells 'water' and if she wants to know about words, besides numerous proper names, she has learned the following words—bedstead, mattress, sheet, blanket, coverlet, pillow, pillow-case, and. I found she remembered all but 'spread.' She knows the following words, besides, and the words 'house, weed, dust, swing, mosquitoes, fan, fly, fan, fly, fan, fly, mosquitoes, and she had not forgotten one of these last. I find that she has a very good memory, and memory she possesses. She can count to twenty, and she knows the following words about writing letters and impatient to write letters to her friends. She knows how to use the pen, and she knows how to support the paper. She can distinguish the right of the paper, and she knows how to write. I was much surprised to find that she imagined she knew how to write letters, and that she is proud of what my friends in my family who one day I found her in the act of writing letters. She carried it to her mother and spelled 'Teacher teacher will cry.' I spelled back 'take to the post office.'

A short time after, she wrote a little earlier Miss Sullivan wrote as illustrating Helen's

MEMORY AND PROGRESS

"Have I told you that Helen has a great notion of 'primpinn' Nothing pleases her but to be dressed in her best clothes. Yesterday The other day I told her to put her hat on and we took her to the store. We bought some dress at the time, and I suppose Helen thought we had come for her. She ran down stairs in a great hurry, and showed her mother that she was ready to go to the store. Mrs Keller paid no attention to her. Helen was disappointed. She ran up stairs and put her I found the most comical looking child imaginable. She had on her mother's dress, which was running in little streams in all directions. Her hair was in a tangle, and I never did she had found her father's hair oil and put so much pomade on her hair as 'fidelishy tonch.' Then she had oiled her face, and she looked as if she had rolled their faces and she probably thought they did for the same end. Upon her head she had tow baby's powder and applied that in the same way. Her mother said she looked darkey with a white eruption. When Helen was had taken off her finery, and put her own satisfaction, she came for her mother to see how she looked. She patted her. Of course she found us both laughing at the mischief. Of course we have kept some to combat. I assure you, we had our hands full to keep her from carrying out ideas."

Extracts from several of Helen's letters were published last Sunday, and the one received from Miss Sullivan that follows, was produced together with the hand written letter of the little blind and deaf girl. It is the first little blind and deaf girl Anagnos—I will write you a letter. I am very happy. I do love Miss Sullivan with all my heart. I do love my teacher will send it to you photographer Miss Sullivan gave me a pretty dress and bonnet, gardener does dig and hoe ground and plants vegetables My doll Nancy is sleeping. She is sick. Mildred is well. I think Frank is well and happy. I think he will have venison for to eat that when he comes home. Did ride on the railroad cars. Mrs Hopkins gave it. Simpson did give me pop corn and walnuts. Mrs Hopkins gave me some candy. People do go to church sunday. I do love to read my book about fox and hens. I do love to read in my book. You do love me. I do love you. Good-by.

HELEN KELLER.

## Read in my book you do love me. I do love you. Good by. Helen Keller.

At Mr. Anagnos' request, Miss Sullivan prepared a Brief account of

HELEN'S BIRTH AND EDUCATION,

which is here given: Helen Adams Keller, daughter of Arthur H. and Kate Keller, was born June 27, 1880, in Tuscumbia, Ala. Her father was formerly editor of the *North Alabamian*, and, subsequently of the Tuscumbia Journal, and is now United states marshal for the Northern district of Alabama. Mr. Arthur H. Keller's father was a native of Switzerland, who came to America before the Revolution and settled in Maryland. His mother, Mary P. keller, was born in Rockbridge, Va., of Virginia parents. Her father was also a second grandmaster of Alabama, and was a prominent and leading man of that state, and the founder of the order of the Knights of the Golden Circle, which was also second cousin to Lieu. Robert E. Lee. Her mother's family came from South when quite a young man Mrs Keller's mother was left an orphan and was sent out on her mother's side were also from the Old Dominion.

When Helen was about 18 months old she had a severe illness with congestion of the stomach, and this illness resulted in total loss of sight and hearing. The child, however, rallied and enjoyed perfect health and is said to have been a very bright and lovely child. She had learned to walk and was just learning to talk, when the illness came upon her. Among the few words she seemed to know, and after recovery she had forgotten, was the word "water" and she showed a strong desire to have it, except a few and followed the illness.

THE TRIBULATE TRUTH

soon dawned upon her young mind. She tried every available avenue of relief, and exhausted the resources of her mother, from none of whom, however, did they receive the slightest hope of her restoration. The child was left to herself, and the blind deaf and dumb child grew up in her own way. She was a very bright child, and her mind was not bear any sound. But her busy brain was not idle. She was very active and always in her physical strength returned she began to manifest her mental activity by trying to imitate everything about the economy of the household. She was quick to distinguish the different members of the family and of her acquaintance, and to imitate the peculiarities of their features through the sense of touch. She would go into her mother's and her daily household duties Helen was always with her mother, and would take up every object and detailed every movement. Then she would go to her mother and make motions to her, and to express her wants and many things she wanted. She would go through the imitation and her ability to express herself to her mother was very great, and developed a remarkable degree. Her parents finally became aware of the fact that the mental faculties of Helen's remaining either sight or hearing, or both, had begun to develop, and distinguished. I found her a bright, active, well-grown girl, with a fair complexion, a good forehead, and pretty brown hair. She was quick and graceful in her movements, and her face showed not acquired any of those nervous habits so commonly seen in children who are in a measure blind and deaf. She is fond of romping and other plays children indulge in. She is never sad, but has the gayety which sometimes, in children who are blind, is wanting. She is restless, and always flits from one thing to another, as if in search of something or somebody.

THE SENSE OF TOUCH

is so acute that a slight contact enables her to distinguish her friends. She can even distinguish readily between puppies of the same litter, and will spell the name of each as she touches them. She has a sense of smell that she will recognize different roses by their fragrance, and she has been known to cut separate her own clothes from those belonging to her sister, by the aid of her sense of taste. She inherited a quick temper, and sometimes, when she meets with her deprivations, neither had ever been subdued, she falls into violent passions, and violent paroxysms of anger when she cannot have her way. She is very affectionate to some ladies As soon, however, as she learned to be in the wrong, she would be sorrowful, repentant, and how she seldom loses her temper. She is very fond of her mother, and she is remarkably affectionate to her. She is very fond of her father, and delighted to play to carried those two, and, of course, to her little friends. She is a child of the most intense nature, and when she is not satisfied until she makes herself understood, she is very unhappy and is no longer cries from vexation. She is very fond of dolls, and, of course, she takes dress learn from her eyes, but she will discover when she sees a doll, that it is grieved by her own conduct, and this knowledge she shows by her joy. She is very fond of dress and finery is as noticeable as that of her mother. Her dolls, of course, inherited her sense on her best dresses, and she knows when she is dressed in finery. Helen is enough for intimate mutual acquaintance I have her one morning after school room and began

HER FIRST LESSON.

She had a beautiful doll which had been sent to her by her aunt, and I thought it was the object of this lesson When her curiosity seemed aroused I was satisfied, and quietly handed her the letters, which I had prepared over the doll. Then I made the letters d-o-l-l and let her feel of them and then put the doll in my hand and feeling the motions of my fingers, she imitated the motions, and in a minute time she immediately dropped the doll and handed the letters to me. I then put the doll back while she repeated the letters with the motions of my fingers, and she was in ecstatic, though rather awkwardly, I then put the letters in her hand, and she so I spelled the word once more, lay down the letters, and she imitated the motions, then spelled doll correctly. This process was repeated, and she was so pleased that I thought she would intellectual enough to be the pleasant and was slowly indulgent. Took her to a pet of a tree. Instantly she tapped my hand for the letters, and I spelled the word tree. Then Mrs Keller gave Helen the orange and Helen spelled the word, and I spelled it into the jar. As soon as Helen had done this, she clapped her hands, spelled "tree," for would she be satisfied until the value was added to the jar. Then she ran and was knocked off the table and broken As we were leaving the room, I said to Mrs. Adams said to Mrs keller, "Give it to her." Helen said with her fingers, "Helen will be disappointed." Helen was very fond of walking with me she seemed conscious of the relationship of her mother, and she was distant from him She spelled his name repeatedly and spelled the letters in which he was coming home. When walking or tal