

little favourable, apparently, to the development of mind, they were yet not without their peculiar balance of advantage. Lads born deaf and dumb rarely master in after life the grammar of the language ; for, though they acquire a knowledge of the words which express qualities and sentiments, or which represent things, they seem unable to attain to the right use of those important particles,—adverbs, conjunctions, and prepositions,—which, as the smaller stones in a wall serve to keep the larger ones in their places, give in speech or writing order and coherency to the others. But the deaf lad had not been born deaf : he had read and conversed, and even attempted composition, previous to his accident ; so that his grandmother could boast of the self-taught boy,—not without some shadow of truth,—that her “ Johnnie was the best scholar in all Plymouth.” And now, writing having become his easiest and most ready mode of communication,—the *speech* by which he communicated his ideas,—he had attained to a facility in the use of the pen, and a command of English, far from common among even university-bred youths, his seniors by several years. He had acquired, too, the ability of looking at things very intently. It has been well said by the poet,—

“ That oft when one sense is suppressed,
It but retires into the rest.”

And it would seem as if the hearing of this deaf lad had retreated into his eyes, which were ever after to exercise a double portion of the seeing function. All this, however, could not be at once understood by his friends. There seemed to be but few openings through which the poor deaf and dumb lad could be expected to make his way to independence, and what is termed respectability ; and it was suggested that he should set himself to acquire the art of the common printer, and attach himself to a mission of the English Church,—still we believe, stationed in Malta,—that sends forth from its