

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE DEAF AND DUMB,
HELD AT THE
OFFICE, 15 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON.

30th April, 1855.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P., IN THE CHAIR

The Meeting was opened with prayer.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. Moved by Rev. E. AURIOL, of St. Dunstan's, seconded by Rev. JOHN DAVIES, Rector of St. Clement's, Worcester.

"That the Report now read, be adopted, printed, and circulated."

2. Moved by ERNEST BUNSEN, Esq., seconded by SHIRLEY WOOLMER, Esq.

"That the Meeting highly approve of the objects of the Association, and considering the same calculated to advance the temporal and spiritual interests of the Deaf and Dumb, earnestly recommend the Association to public support."

3. Moved by Rev. J. B. OWEN, of St. John's Chapel, Bedford Row, seconded by Mr. SLIGHT, of Brighton.

"That the following Gentlemen be the Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number:

T. D. ARCHIBALD, Esq.

ARTHUR BIGGE, Esq.

H. BLACKBURN, Esq.

E. BUNSEN, Esq.

G. L. P. EYRE, Esq.

J. F. FORTESCUE, Esq.

E. FUTVOYE, Esq.

J. MICHAEL, Esq.

SHIRLEY WOOLMER, Esq.

4. Moved by G. L. P. EYRE, Esq., seconded by JACOB MICHAEL, Esq.

"That the thanks of the Meeting be presented to the RIGHT HON. LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR, for his kindness in presiding this day."

RULES.

NAME :

Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb.

OBJECTS :

- 1st. The employment of qualified Agents to impart Religious and Moral Instruction to the Deaf and Dumb at their homes.
- 2nd. The establishment of Religious Services for the Deaf and Dumb throughout the Metropolis.
- 3rd. The encouragement of the Early Training and promotion of Piety among Deaf and Dumb Children, preparatory to their admission into Educational Institutions.
- 4th. Advice and Friendly Aid, when required by the Deaf and Dumb suffering from oppression or any other cause.

FUNDAMENTAL LAWS :

I.—Annual Subscribers of a Guinea and upwards, shall be Members of the Association.

Donors of Ten Guineas and upwards shall be Life Members.

II.—The Business of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of at least seven Members, to be chosen annually at the General Meeting of the Subscribers. The Treasurer and Acting Secretary to be *ex-officio* Members of the Committee.

III.—A Meeting of the Subscribers shall be called in the month of April in each year, when the accounts and proceedings of the Association shall be fully detailed. Special General Meetings may be held after a week's notice, on a requisition in writing of not fewer than three of the Committee, exclusive of the Officers ; or by not fewer than ten Members of the Society.

IV.—The Committee shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Regulations, which shall be binding on the Association and its Agents until the next ensuing General Meeting.

V.—No change in the Laws shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting, or at a General Meeting specially summoned for that purpose, and any change in the Bye-Laws shall be submitted to the next ensuing General Meeting for confirmation.

REPORT.

THE Committee of the ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE DEAF AND DUMB have much pleasure in presenting to the Subscribers and Friends of the Association the Report of their proceedings during the past year.

Through the blessing of God on their labours, the Committee feel assured that their efforts have not been in vain.

In order to bring out the first and most important object of the Association, that of imparting religious instruction to the Deaf and Dumb at their houses, the Committee in January last, engaged as a Missionary for that purpose Mr. E. Chalmers, who had been employed for upwards of seventeen years as a Teacher of the Deaf and Dumb, and who is qualified by his acquaintance with their habits and sign language, as well as in other ways, to act in this capacity.

The Committee were occupied with enquiries preparatory to the work of employing a Missionary until February last, when Mr. Chalmers commenced his labours. He was then supplied with the statistics and the particulars relating to the Deaf and Dumb throughout the metropolis, which the Committee had been enabled to obtain from the census tables and by means of the assistance afforded them by the City Missionaries, and he has already visited the districts of Marylebone, St. Pancras, St. George's Hanover Square, Kensington, Chelsea, St. James's, St. Martin's, the Strand, Holborn, Clerkenwell, Islington, St. Luke's, East London, City of London, St. George's in the East, Whitechapel and Stepney.

The result of his domiciliary visitations shows that the Deaf and Dumb are emphatically migratory in their habits, and that since the census tables were verified by the Secretary of the Association, with the help of the City Missionaries, many of them have changed their residences, but the number in the Metropolitan Districts doubt-

less amount to 1325 (including those in the Kent Road Asylum,) as already announced by this Association.

Mr. Chalmers in his report thus refers to this subject:—

“I have found that the majority of those mentioned in the lists of the above Districts have removed to new residences, which has, for the present, prevented me from visiting them; notwithstanding this however in each District I have been able to find out as many as will enable the Association to prosecute its benevolent undertakings—and I have no doubt that ere long all those whose places of abode are at present unknown will be discovered.”

“There are scattered throughout the Districts visited by me 229 whose residences are unknown, but who will be found out after the Association has appointed a visiting agent to each district; so I calculate that in the districts already visited by me at least 380 Mutes will come under the auspices of the Association. And when I take into account that in the sixteen Districts I have yet to visit there are probably 350 Mutes, the Association will ultimately have upwards of 700 Deaf and Dumb under visitation.

In every quarter the visits of Mr. Chalmers have been most welcome; and it is gratifying to know that the hearts of many of the Deaf and Dumb have been cheered by the message of mercy, and an earnest desire manifested for the reception of Divine truth.

Mr. Chalmers on this head says:—

“I have now on my roll the names of 151 Adult Mutes, who are anxious to receive spiritual instruction, and who have, assuredly, as strong a claim as any class of society—in fact they stand forth most prominently in this respect. Is it said that thousands, as well as they, are dying for lack of knowledge. Alas! we know that such is the case, but while the ordinary Missionary can lift up his voice, and to the most illiterate proclaim the glad tidings of Salvation—the poor forlorn mute stands alone without being able to participate in the blessings of a spoken Gospel. But some may say ‘Have those 151 Mutes not been taught?’ We answer, yes. The 151 Mutes referred to have been for a limited period under instruction, *but if we who are in the full possession of all our faculties require constantly to repair to the Fountain of Grace to receive new supplies for our ever-returning wants, surely the poor Mute who only for a few years enjoyed, in an educational seminary, the lessons of Divine Truth, must require that limited knowledge which he possesses to be kept up and improved.*”

The attention of the Association has been called by their Missionary to the sad condition of many of the Deaf and Dumb who have grown up without any education.

Many of the children also are uneducated, and are in a state of gross darkness, and not a few of them are approaching the age

when they will be too far advanced in life to receive instruction. If they are now neglected, they will soon grow up, to swell the ranks of the uneducated Deaf and Dumb. In speaking on this subject, the Agent reports—

“Of the thirty-three uneducated Deaf and Dumb on my list who have been allowed to pass on to manhood, ignorant of all that dignifies humanity and gives the hope of eternal life, I fear little can now be done to open their minds, for *written language* is indispensable to a knowledge of abstract subjects. Yet I shall ever consider it to be the duty of the Agents of the Association to do all they can to smooth the trials of their lot.”

Another subject has also been brought under the notice of the Committee. In this country there are numerous valuable institutions for educating and training Deaf and Dumb children. It is the practice of many, the Committee are assured, after the children leave such establishments, to exercise some superintending care; but some of those who have been educated in institutions for the Deaf and Dumb, it is painful to find, are sent into the world without any care having been apparently taken to keep alive the good seed sown under favourable auspices. Mr. Chalmers thus reports:—

“During my visitations, I have found, of course, different degrees of intelligence; and it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be able to state, that in several instances I have found their minds well stored with the lessons of gospel truth. While admitting this happy fact, however, I am also bound to show the dark side of the picture, for many of those whom I have visited *have been left, since their school-boy days, gradually to recede into the gloom of spiritual ignorance*. To endeavour, then, to dispel this spiritual and moral darkness—to recal to their minds the truth as it is in Jesus—and thereby to make them feel that peace which the world can neither give nor take away, is the work not only of this Association, but of all who lend their aid to advance its praiseworthy aims.”

The Committee would also earnestly direct attention to that portion of the Deaf and Dumb who are either too young for educational institutions, or who have failed in the attempt to enter them. Much may be done to mitigate the evil and to compensate for their lost disadvantages, and the Committee trust that some systematic effort will be made to meet this emergency. Mr. Chalmers reports on this point—

“I have already on my list FORTY-FIVE from five to fourteen years of age. While I am aware that a regular asylum is the best place for a Mute to receive instruction, yet when such provision is not made, it must be of great

importance that some means should be adopted to supply the want. So soon, therefore, as I have completed my visitation, I shall endeavour to carry out this object of the Association, by sending those who are too young to enter an asylum to ordinary schools, where, under my direction, they may receive the rudiments of education; and in the other cases where no provision has been made, or is likely to be made, for their education, I shall place them under a similar process of instruction.

The necessity of such an agency as this Association employs is, therefore, very evident; but it is important to consider the extent to which it must be carried, in order to extend its advantages to the whole Deaf and Dumb, scattered as they are throughout the metropolis. Mr. Chalmers expresses the following opinion:—

“I am convinced that London will require to be divided into at least Six Districts, with a qualified Agent appointed in each, so that having his whole attention directed to a separate division, all the mutes within it may be found out, and the blessings of Divine Truth brought before them.”

The second object of the Association, that of establishing Divine Service on the Sunday in different parts of London, can only be carried out by such a subdivision as is suggested by Mr. Chalmers.

The Committee rejoice to say that already one room is opened for divine service, at No. 25 Castle Street, Oxford Street, where it was performed on Sunday the 22nd April, to an assembly of forty persons, and they doubt not, that when it is more known, a larger attendance will be obtained.

In order to carry out more extensively this important object, the Committee earnestly appeal for funds, to hire rooms and defray the expense attending the worship of God, as by opening places for divine service in different parts of London, all the Deaf and Dumb will have the opportunity of hearing the glad tidings of salvation.

By such an extended agency, none of the Deaf and Dumb would be left to perish without the Word of Life being laid before their minds, and many who it is feared are now sunk in vice and misery, might be reclaimed from the ways of evil.

Whilst the Committee have chiefly directed their attention to the spiritual condition of the Deaf and Dumb, their temporal welfare has not been overlooked. The limited means at present at the disposal of the Association, have permitted the Committee to give

only a small amount of temporal relief; moreover if indiscriminately given, it would destroy self-reliance, and take away the stimulus to exertion. But there are cases in which, from the peculiar disadvantages under which the deaf mutes labour, the withholding of pecuniary assistance would almost show a want of right feeling. During the last two months, upwards of twenty-two indigent Deaf and Dumb have received some assistance from the funds of the Association.

The Committee direct attention to the state of the funds. The receipts during the past nine months, ending March 31st, 1855, have been only £120, which, with the balance in hand, and the money arising from sale of old furniture, make £169 9s. 6d.; the expenditure has been £119 1s. 8d.; leaving a balance in hand of £50 7s. 10d.

The Committee thus offer a brief statement of the operations and claims of the Association, which they trust will prove that the work is based on sound principles, and that henceforward every year will present fresh ground of encouragement and of increasing and extensive usefulness, to effect which adequate funds must at once be placed at their disposal.

To those who are acquainted with the peculiarities and privation of the Deaf and Dumb, it is apparent that neither the Clergy, City Missionaries, Scripture Readers, nor District Visitors, are competent to meet their wants, but only agents who have been trained as teachers of the Deaf and Dumb, and have a thorough acquaintance with their mental characteristics, habits, and the sign language in use amongst them, must be engaged as their spiritual instructors.

The Committee commend the objects of this Association to the consideration of those who, having themselves experienced the inestimable blessing of the Gospel, are desirous of communicating the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in Christ Jesus to these afflicted brethren, and earnestly trust they will assist in making known to the Deaf and Dumb the blessed knowledge of that Saviour who, in the days of his flesh, made the Deaf to hear and the Dumb to speak.

THE TREASURER OF THE ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

Dr.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand, on June 1st 1854	40	14	6	By Missionary's Salary and Travelling Expenses	16	6 8
Sale of Furniture	8	15	0	„ Relief to Destitute Deaf and Dumb	3	0 0
Contributions	120	0	0	„ Rent, Secretary, and Clerk	73	18 6
				„ Postage	9	14 10
				„ Poundage	3	2 0
				„ Stationery	3	14 6
				„ Coals, Candles, and Petty Outgoings	9	5 2
				Balance in hand, April 1, 1855	50	7 10
					£169	9 6

Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb.

	Subscriptions.			Donations		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Anonymous, in Postage Stamps				0	2	0
Archibald, P. D., Esq., 3 Tanfield Court, Temple	1	1	0	5	5	0
Ashley, Hon. William, Stable Yard, St. James's	1	1	0			
Bailey, Mr., 5 Russia Row, Milk Street, Cheapside	1	1	0			
Benham, J., Esq., Regent's Square, Gray's Inn Rd.	1	1	0			
Bevan, Rev. F., Carlton Road, Norfolk				10	0	0
Bigge, Arthur, Esq., Brighton	1	1	0			
Blaine, Robertson, Esq., 1 Tanfield Court, Temple	1	1	0			
Blackburn, U., Esq., Doctor's Commons	0	10	6			
Carberry, Lady, Freke Castle, Co. York				5	0	0
Cholmondeley, Marquis of, Cholmondeley Castle				5	0	0
Corfe, A. T., Esq., Salisbury	0	10	0			
Cornthwaite, Rev. Tullie, The Forest, Walthamstow				10	0	0
Coverdale, Messrs., 4 Bedford Row	1	1	0			
Courthope, Miss, per Messrs. Hoare	1	1	0			
Currie, Hon. Mrs., Manor House, Seven Oaks	1	0	0			
Darke, Arscott M., Esq., Yatton, near Bristol				1	0	0
Evans, William, Esq., Allestree Hall, near Derby	2	0	0			
Eve, W., Esq., North Ockenden	1	1	0			
Eyre, G., Esq., 59 Lowndes Square	1	1	0			
Eyre, G. L. P., Esq., 9 Montagu Place, Russell Square	1	1	0			
Farnaby, Sir C. F., Bart., Wickham Court, Hants.	2	2	0			
Futvoye, E., Esq., 23 John Street, Bedford Row	1	1	0			
Glyn, Mrs., 1 Eccleston Street, Belgrave Square	1	1	0			
Goring, Sir H., Bart., Oxford, per Messrs. Coutts & Co.				5	0	0
Grosvenor, Right Hon. Lord R., M.P., Park Street	2	2	0			
Haigh, Mrs. E., Warwick Road, Leamington				1	0	0
Hardy, J. Esq., M.P., Dunstall Hall, Burton-on-Trent				10	0	0
Howse, Thomas, Esq., St. Paul's Church Yard	1	1	0			
Hooper, Mr., Lewes Bank	1	1	0			
Holford, Robt. S., Esq., 145 Picadilly	2	2	0			
Houblon, Mrs. A. M., Coopersale, Epping				2	2	0
Irvine, Miss, Luddington House, Staines				10	0	0
Lowndes, Miss Selby, Cosgrove Priory				2	0	0

	Subscriptions.			Donations.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Lushington, Sir Stephen, 18 Eaton Place . . .				5	5	0
Martin, John, Esq., 40 Bedford Place . . .	1	1	0			
Meyers, C. P., Esq., Brighton . . .	1	1	0			
Michael, Jacob, Esq., 7 Old Jewry . . .				1	0	0
Montagu, Major, Clapham Common . . .	0	10	0			
Moore, Rev. Robert, Hunton Rectory, Maidstone . .				3	3	0
Morland, W. C., Esq., Lamberhurst . . .	1	1	0			
Neill, Mr., Deaf and Dumb Institution, Newcastle				0	10	0
Pryor, W. S., Esq., Old Broad Street . . .	1	1	0			
Romer, John, Esq., 48 Gloucester Square . . .	1	1	0			
Shaftesbury, Earl of, 24 Grosvenor Square . . .	1	1	0			
Smith, R. G., Esq., 35 Ebury Street, Pimlico . .	1	1	0			
Tebbs, H. V., Esq., Highgate . . .	1	1	0			
Tapling, Mr., 105 Wood Street, Cheapside . . .	1	1	0			
Walford, Miss, per Messrs. Stone & Co. . .	1	1	0			
Watchurst, Miss, per Messrs. Stone & Co. . .	1	1	0			
Wax Chandlers' Company, Gresham Street West .				5	0	0
Winthopp, Mrs., per Gosling & Co. . .	1	1	0			
Woolmer, Shirley, Esq., 11 Chancery Lane . .	1	1	0	5	5	0
Young, C. Baring, Esq., Bishopsgate Street . .				10	0	0

FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.—15 BEDFORD ROW, LONDON.

"I GIVE unto the Treasurer for the time being of 'THE ASSOCIATION IN AID OF THE DEAF AND DUMB,' the sum of _____ pounds, *exclusively out of such part of my personal estate as I may by law bequeath to charitable purposes.* The receipt of the Treasurer, for the time being, of the said Society, shall be a sufficient discharge for the said Legacy."

If a Testator wishes the legacy to be paid free of duty, he will add the following words to the above form:—"And I direct that the said legacy shall be paid free from legacy duty."