

# The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

THE DALLES MORNING

### HELEN KELLER'S GENIUS.

Blind and Deaf, Yet She Talks and Writes to Perfection.

There is now in Washington, the temporary guest of Prof. Alexander Graham Bell, a beautiful little girl who was born blind, deaf and dumb. Her name is Helen Keller, and, though handicapped by the loss of the two most important senses and as yet but thirteen years old, she already shows a brightness of intellect that promises to make her famous as a writer.

Prof. Bell, who told the thrilling and pathetic story of this second Laura Bridgeman at the recent annual meeting of the national academy of sciences in Washington, considers the case of Helen Keller as incomparably more re-



HELEN KELLER.

markable than that of her sister unfortunate. He regards her as a wonder, both relatively and absolutely. He declares that, handicapped as she is, she need not fear to be measured intellectually with other girls who have had every advantage.

Helen Keller has not only learned to read by the raised letters and to communicate swiftly by means of the touch, but has actually gained the power of oral speech and can understand what anyone says by merely placing her finger delicately on the lips and under the chin. Prof. Bell spoke of finding Helen one day in one of the institutions for the blind in Boston, sitting in the midst of a group of blind girls who could hear and reading aloud to them.

Since she has learned to speak one of her delights is to tell stories to her little sister Mildred, and she fills these with the most quaint and beautiful fancies, weaving in all that she has learned in her lessons, or heard from other people, or remembered from past reading, for she never forgets anything. Helen has already read more books, including the classics, than most grown men and women.

It is touching to see the eager graspings of this imprisoned intellect after the knowledge that the best of us, with all our eyes, are often as far away from as she. During her early years, on account of some peculiar notions of her parents, religious questions were not introduced upon her. The child at the age of nine knew nothing of God or of Christian teaching. She had attributed everything in her fanciful way to mother nature. One day, however, some over-zealous woman told Helen a lot of things which she believed were necessary for the child's well-being. The result was that Helen was thrown into a state of great mental distress and wrote in her diary that night a thoroughly agnostic view of the subject of her origin, which indicated the untaught condition of her mind, of a high order.

Helen Keller is to be Prof. Bell's guest for some time in Washington. He has known the little girl ever since she was six years old and loves her dearly. Helen is a fine French scholar and has recently received a large price for a magazine article.

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