

The STORY of LOUIS BRAILLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

"AND THE BLIND SHALL LEAD THE BLIND!"...THAT WAS THE GENERAL ATTITUDE A CENTURY AGO! BUT THIS BRAVE TEACHER DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO PROVE THE WORLD WRONG!

HIS BRAILLE SYSTEM HAS TAUGHT THOUSANDS OF SIGHTLESS PEOPLE TO READ AND WRITE...A MILESTONE IN HUMAN PROGRESS!

CC-844

AT A MODERN SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN...

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE COULD LEARN BRAILLE? PAUL WAS IN THE THIRD GRADE WHEN THAT...THAT TERRIBLE ACCIDENT HAPPENED!

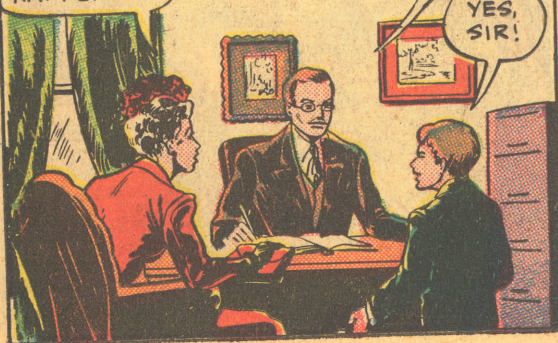
OF COURSE, MADAM! HE'S A SMART-LOOKING BOY! YOU'LL WORK WITH US, WON'T YOU, PAUL?

YES, SIR!

THAT VERY SAME DAY...

NOW ONCE AGAIN, PAUL! REMEMBER...YOUR FINGER-TIPS ARE YOUR EYES NOW!

THIS ONE IS "A"... AND THIS IS "B"... WHY, I'M LEARNING TO READ!

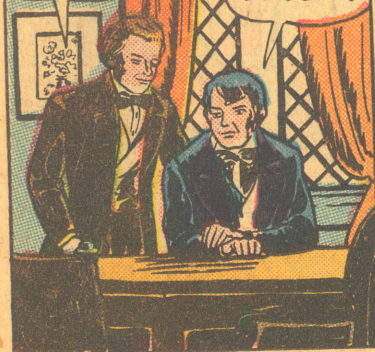




AFTER THE RECITAL...

YOU PLAYED BRILLIANTLY TONIGHT, LOUIS! BUT YOU SEEM SO TIRED! HOW ABOUT A GAME OF DOMINOES AT MY HOUSE?

GOOD-- IT WILL RELAX US BOTH!



PIERRE, LOOK HOW QUICKLY WE READ THE NUMERALS ON THESE DOMINOES! IF THE DOTS WERE RAISED INSTEAD OF DEPRESSED, WE COULD READ THEM EVEN FASTER! ...THIS GIVES ME AN IDEA!



IN MAY, 1826, STILL A STUDENT AT THE PARIS INSTITUTE...

AH, GOOD EVENING, BRAILLE! STILL WORKING ON A NEW SYSTEM FOR THE BLIND! WELL, I BEAR GOOD NEWS! YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO JOIN THE FACULTY!



IT IS A GREAT HONOR, SIR! PERHAPS NOW, MY NEW SYSTEM WILL BE GIVEN A TRIAL!

A SHORT TIME LATER, IN THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE...

GENTLEMEN, I ASK ONLY A CHANCE! IF BOOKS FOR THE BLIND WERE PRINTED IN MY NEW SYSTEM, STUDENTS COULD LEARN SO MUCH FASTER!



NO, NO, BRAILLE! WE'RE SATISFIED WITH THE OLD METHOD!

BEHIND LOCKED DOORS, LOUIS BRAILLE TAUGHT HIS PUPILS THE FORBIDDEN SYSTEM!

MY SYSTEM CONTAINS 43 NUMERALS, THE COMPLETE ALPHABET, PLUS DIPHTHONGS AND PUNCTUATION MARKS!

MR. BRAILLE, IT'S WONDERFUL! IT'S SO MUCH MORE PRACTICAL AND CONVENIENT!



AS THE MONTHS WENT BY, STILL FURTHER PROGRESS WAS MADE!

WHEN WE SLIP PAPER BETWEEN THE TWO ZINC PLATES, PRESSING WITH AN AWL ON THE PERFORATIONS OF THE UPPER PLATE--THE IMPRESSION APPEARS ON THE PAPER!



MARVELOUS! NOW WE CAN WRITE, TOO!

THEN, THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE OF A SYMPATHETIC PROFESSOR...

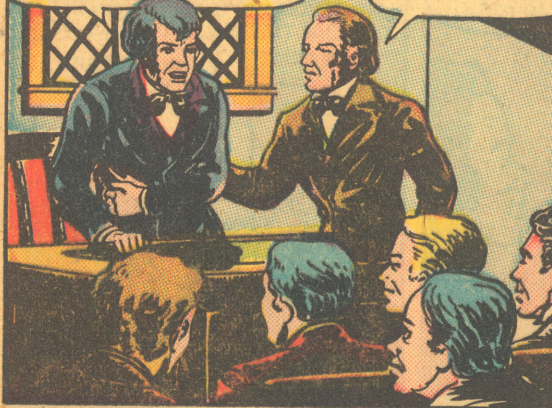
WITHOUT YOU TO READ FOR US, PROFESSOR, WE SHOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO CUT THE PLATES FOR THE FIRST LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND!



FIVE YEARS LATER, WORK AND STRAIN FINALLY TOOK THEIR TOLL!

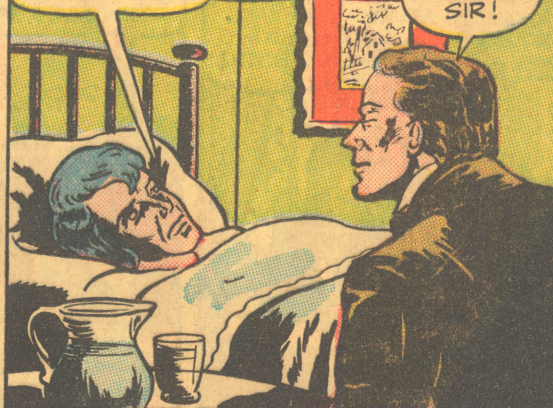
STUDENTS, I'M DISMISSING THE CLASS EARLIER TODAY! MY LUNGS... OHHH...!

MR. BRAILLE, YOU ARE ILL! COME, I WILL TAKE YOU HOME!

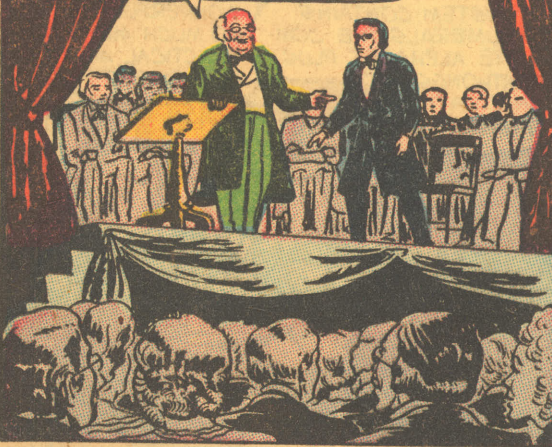


THIS IS THE END! I MUST RETIRE... EVEN THOUGH MY SYSTEM HAS NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED! MAY I BE GRANTED STRENGTH TO ATTEND TOMORROW'S GRADUATION EXERCISES!

I HOPE YOU CAN MAKE IT, SIR!

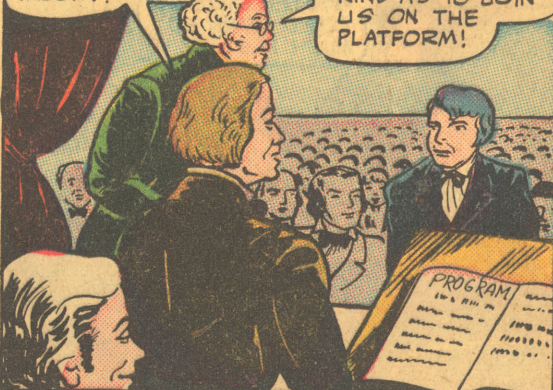


...AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE STUDENT WHO HAS WON FIRST PRIZE FOR ACHIEVEMENT! STEP FORWARD, YOUNG MAN!



MY HONOR IS EMPTY INDEED... UNLESS MR. BRAILLE, WHO HAS DEVOTED HIS WHOLE LIFE TO THE BLIND, IS ALSO RECOGNIZED FOR THE BRILLIANT NEW SYSTEM HE HAS DEvised AND TAUGHT!

WHAT'S THAT? THIS IS MOST UNUSUAL! HMM! MR. BRAILLE, BE SO KIND AS TO JOIN US ON THE PLATFORM!



AT LONG LAST, AFTER YEARS OF FRUSTRATION...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO QUOTE THE LATIN PROVERB... "LABOR OMNIA VINCIT!" PERSEVERANCE TRIUMPHS IN THE END! IN THE FUTURE, ALL STUDENTS' BOOKS AT THIS INSTITUTE WILL BE PRINTED IN... THE BRAILLE SYSTEM!



WITHIN A FEW BRIEF DAYS, IN THE YEAR 1852, AFTER A PITIFULLY SHORT LIFE...

YOU BOYS ARE PROOF THAT MY WORK HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN! LET THERE BE LIGHT!



TODAY, THOUSANDS OF BLIND PEOPLE LEAD VIRTUALLY NORMAL LIVES, THANKS TO THE MAGIC OF THE BRAILLE SYSTEM! THE WORLD WILL NEVER FORGET THE GALLANT FRENCHMAN WHO KINDLED HOPE WHERE ONLY DESPAIR HELD SWAY!