

which children are placed in towns and villages are of a very inferior character. It is taking a favourable view of the position of a servant-of-all-work in the house of a small tradesman, or of a nurse girl in the family of a mechanic, to say that it is no better in Canada than it is in England. Some of the places indeed, are worse than a Board of Guardians would consent to place a child in in England. Finally, many of Miss Rye's children are in the States, some of them having been placed in service there : others having been induced to leave their Canadian service and go over the border.

I have said so much with reference to the character of the service and homes in which these children are placed as it may enable you to appreciate more fully the character of the supervision that is exercised over them and the view that I venture to take respecting it.

The children brought out by Miss Macpherson are, as I have already explained, distributed from three Homes—Belleville, Knowlton, and Galt. Miss Barber and the friends by whom she is assisted profess to visit and watch over the children who have been committed to their care. Miss Bilbrough and Miss Reavell perform the same duty in respect of the Belleville and Galt Homes, but they are assisted by Mr. Thom, who was formerly the schoolmaster at Miss Macpherson's Home in England, but who now devotes himself very assiduously to the duty of visiting the children in the Province of Ontario. Miss Rye does not profess to have any regular or organised means of supervision at all. Gentlemen like Mr. Ball at Niagara, and Mr. Robson at Newcastle, undertake voluntarily the duty of assisting in placing the children out in service, and of visiting them afterwards. Unless Miss Rye hears an unfavourable report with reference to any particular child, she appears to assume that it is doing well, and that it does not require attention from her. A very extensive correspondence, however, is maintained with employers. How far this is a satisfactory substitute for systematic visiting I shall consider presently.

Having described briefly, but I believe quite fairly, the system of emigration of children under the care of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye, from their being collected in England to their being placed out in Canada, I shall now direct your attention to what appear to me to be defects in each stage of the proceedings, and then take leave to submit to you the conclusions at which I have arrived, upon the whole system as now conducted.

Of the children sent out, a large proportion, as I have observed, are described as being of the very lowest class—the semi-criminals of our large cities and towns. It appears to be thought that within a few weeks, in some cases indeed within a few days, these children who have grown up with the habits and associations that Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye and others describe can be brought under such moral and religious influence as to make it safe to place them out in service in a new country, and under conditions that are certainly not favourable to their future success. With these children are immediately associated the pauper children who are sent out by Boards of Guardians. These latter usually have had some few years preliminary education and industrial training. It might be difficult, even if it were desirable, to trace separately the career in Canada of these two classes of children, and to strike the balance of success or failure between them. In spite, however, of the prejudice, unfounded I believe it to be, that prevails in this country, as to the effects of workhouse training, it is most unfair to the children of Poor Law Unions that they should be associated in this scheme of emigration with the class of children to