

by drunken or vicious parents to grow up without salutary parental control and education, or found destitute or deserted by their parents, or because of imprisonment or otherwise. The Children's Aid Society is made the legal guardian, and decides, subject to the contrary order of a judge, whether or not, in the child's interest, it shall ever be returned to the parents.

It is clear that even if successful as it deserves to be, the Ontario system will not remedy all the defects in the position of children, especially those arising through poverty. Still, taken with the excellent compulsory education provisions of that Province, much has been attempted. Whether the Superintendent, the Children's Aid Societies and the Visiting Committees will rise to the full measure of the State's duty, even within the limits of the attempt; whether enough foster-homes can be found, or cases effectively discovered, or technical flaws in the statute be overcome, will only be proven in practice. As it stands, the scheme seems to depend on the fitness of one extraordinary official. I fear that there is an irresponsibility and incompleteness about it which render it hopeless to expect it to perform the functions the State ought to perform. These functions are too heavy for charitable sentiment alone to undertake. And why leave to charity what is a right?

The suggestions which we uphold would include State provisions for the case of the child abandoned by its relatives, and especially for that of the foundling infant; and this leads to the difficult case of the illegitimate child. Through all history there is no class for whom my heart bleeds more. The sorrows of a few are as nothing compared to the heavy burden or the perpetual ignominy and wrong under which this innocent unfortunate has passed through life. Ought he to be left with his parents or with either of them to bear the scorn of the association or is it due him in his own right that he be taken from them, cut off from his sad history, and launched in life unstained and fully equal to his fortunate brethren? The problem has several sides and special difficulties, but I leave it, and that of his right to share the property of his parents, recording my conviction that they ought to be solved solely from the point of view of the right of the child. During the French Revolution some laws of the kind were in operation for several years, but the principles though good were applied in a bad Jacobinical spirit.