

CRAYHURST, 3rd May, 1875.

MY DEAR MADAM,—I received your two circulars, both asking Mr. Johnson and myself to forward the photographs of the two little girls we got from your Home.

I would have enclosed them herewith, but we live some thirteen miles from the County Town, which is the nearest place at which we could have them taken, and the roads have been, and are still in such a state from the frost coming out, that it is at present almost impossible to travel. I am sorry I am not able to forward them, for I think that even Mr. Doyle himself, seeing with his jaundiced vision, would hardly be able to find fault with their appearance. I have always rejoiced that I was led to you, for the two children I took have turned out remarkably well—neither of them have ever known a day's sickness, and we have found them remarkably truthful, obliging, and particularly affectionate, they thinking as much of us as if we were their natural parents, and we looking on them in the light of our own children, giving them such schooling and care as our own would have received. As soon as they are able to write well enough they both intend to write to you. The greatest punishment we can threaten them with is that if they do not behave well they will be sent back to Enfield.

I sincerely sympathize with you on the very unkind and partial statements Mr. Doyle made in his report, which I carefully read through,—the only suggestion which he makes, which I consider worthy of being alluded to, is about the children being visited by the School Superintendents. I think that if such impartial judges as these should visit the children in their respective counties their reports would show you in your true light, as one who spares no pains in placing your children where they will be well looked after, and who is in reality a benefactor to these poor unfortunates.

I will forward the photographs as soon as I can get them taken.

I hope you will not overlook the letter* I wrote you last fall, about the younger brother of our two children.

My sister-in-law (Mrs. Craig) is desirous of getting a little girl from you, the next lot you bring out, and will come over when she hears of your arrival.

I am, dear Madam,

Sincerely yours,

R. A. KENT.

Miss Rye,
Niagara:

35 HAYDEN STREET, TORONTO.

MADAM,—I am exceedingly sorry to tell you that the little girl you let me have to bring up as a servant has left me: she either ran away, or has been taken away, late last Saturday night. Monday morning early I sent the police to hunt her up, but except a very small clue as to her whereabouts, we have not been able to discover her yet.

I had a young lady (?) staying with me who thought "Polly" such a good servant, and wished me to leave Polly with her, which I would not promise to do. I find, or, at least, I hear, that while she was with me, she was working on Polly's naturally weak mind, by a false and injurious sympathy for her, and so I imagine has induced the child to run away. I only hope that my supposition is correct, for the child will be in hands that are respectable in a way, though not very honourable.

Mary has been a very good girl, and with the exception of her being so very extraordinarily untruthful and some childish thoughtlessness, I have had no trouble with her at all. When I first got her, I found her guilty of some little peculations which did not amount to much at the time. I could not overlook them, and punished her by keeping her in her room for a couple of days, and since then I have not had these faults repeated, and I am in hopes she will be cured of the other vice as well.

*A letter asking me to bring the little brother from Enfield Workhouse School, for adoption into the Kent's family, to be with his sisters.