

PREVENTIVE WORK.

LETTER FROM MRS. L. J. HARVIE, LATE PRESIDENT OF THE
HAVEN BOARD.

Toronto Parliament Buildings, Oct. 25th, 1897.

Dear Dr. Rosebrugh,—Your note enclosing report of rescue work done at your newly opened "Cottage Home for Girls" in connection with the Prisoners' Aid Association, duly received.

I desire to congratulate you upon this new department of work, and to note the success of the efforts of your Bible woman in the short space of six months.

Having been personally engaged in reformatory work for the past twenty years in the Haven and Prison Gate Mission, I can speak very decidedly as to the importance of saving your girls before they wander far away, into the ways of sin and folly. Preventive work is the noblest in the world, and by far the most encouraging as to results, therefore, in this police work the Prisoners' Aid Association has scope for the energies and capabilities of their consecrated Bible woman, Mrs. Bellamy.

The visitation of the Police Court, the Lock Ward of the General Hospital, and disorderly houses on our own streets, fell to my lot years ago, as Secretary and President of the Haven, and I can truly say that our most hopeful and successful work was accomplished along these lines. I am inexpressibly glad that those thirteen girls from the Police Court found shelter in your Cottage Home, rather than confinement in the Toronto Jail.

I am not in favor of the increase of machinery or institutions for dealing with the helpless and the depraved, but I am free to say that no other organization in our City, or in our Province, is doing or can do the work undertaken by the Prisoners' Aid Association.

We cannot do the preventive work for girls at the Haven and Prison Gate Mission that you are accomplishing, simply because it requires all the time, strength and energy of a large and devoted committee to provide food, clothing, employment and spiritual care, for the daily average of 86 persons who look to us for these things.