

them would then nearly, if not entirely, cease, and so my time, money, and strength would be at the absolute disposal of fresh children.

Practical experience has shown me that I was in a measure mistaken on this point, and that a certain per-centage of the girls require to be removed many times before they will settle down to life-work. Mr. Doyle's great cruelty consisted in quoting these cases as representative, and not as exceptional. Even these exceptional cases may be subdivided. For instance, a girl may have two, possibly three, homes found her, into neither of which can she be fitted or comfortable, for it must always be remembered that the whole of these children have strongly marked characters and developments; but the majority of these exceptional cases are the cases of girls returned for violent temper, laziness, insubordination, and tendencies to immorality (very little petty larceny). It will be seen from the Synopsis that we have placed out such girls, three, five, eight, ten times over. Now, will any one in their senses suppose that the latter placings out of such a girl can equal the first start in life? "Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap," is as literally fulfilled now as on the day when first penned, and the latter end of such girls is worse—lower and lower place by place—than at the beginning. Am I expected to overturn and reverse the guidance rules of the world simply because I carry children to Canada? There is also, however, this great fact to be borne in mind on this point, that in Canada we *can* get ten places for such girls; here in England after a first, and certainly after a second, failure in a situation we all know the pauper child finds herself an inmate of the house, and shut up and shut off at 15 or 16 years of age from almost any hope of respectable service. At any rate we are not in that position in the colonies. The work of the future, for I sincerely hope and trust there is yet to be a great future for this work, should, I confess, involve a separate Home, with strict discipline for these exceptional cases. They may be and are remarkably few in number, but yet requiring the utmost vigilance and closest care; neither is it advisable that such children should be in the same Home with the newly-arrived children, not only because of their evil communications, but because the management and discipline of the Homes should be so different, and such a subdivision of children will simplify matters materially.

I gather from Mr. Doyle's report that one of my great failings in this matter has been the failing to secure the affections of this vast army of children. Poor little things, had such a feat been possible, perhaps I might even have attempted it, and certainly it would have been very easy to have made the profession; but, to say nothing of the uncontrollable nature of our affections (the children's as well as my own), think of the variety of natures, dispositions, talents, tempers, for one woman to fit into; think of the cruelty such a course of proceedings would have involved for the children, of the injustice to the foster-parents and guardians, of the parting agonies for myself and the little ones, of the time required to win so great a boon, of the inevitable separation with the ever-increasing circle of friends that surround these children; it seems to me that I have exercised a truer wisdom and a better discretion in remembering that no woman, however devoted to her work, or, if you will, loving and large-hearted, could be the centre of a thousand young lives; and that I have been contented to decrease in the children's regard and affections that the foster-parents and guardians should increase, and gain all their confidences, commends itself to my mind as the best and most honourable and kindest course I could have pursued.

We may take also the opposite side of the picture, for at 15 or 16 nearly all these young people have what I call freedom-fever; they are restless, discontented, disaffected—with me? yes; with themselves, yes; and with everything and every one else; *just as foolish as you and I were at their age, and just as unreasonable*. Then they all need counsel, plain advice, possibly liberty to go where they will. It becomes a choice of evils. We have to deal with each case as occasion needs. Am I their enemy because I tell them the truth? Or can any reasonable person suppose that we can plant out these children in rows like poplars and expect them to remain growing where we place them till decay comes on and ends all? The miracle and the mystery to me is that so many of the girls are doing so well, and that after all the plain dealing and plain speaking I have had to use, not that so few, but that so many, do love and respect me. I was greatly touched, and I am sure you will not fail to be struck, with the