

number of them are placed out without any such formality as an indenture of service, but simply upon a verbal agreement to the effect that after a certain age the child shall receive, either in addition to clothing or in lieu of clothing, so many dollars a year. I met with several cases of "adoption" in which the indenture of adoption had not been signed by the employers. The view that many of the children take of this form of "adoption" was expressed to me by one of them, an intelligent shrewd girl of between sixteen and seventeen. "Doption, sir, is when folks gets a girl to work without wages." The whole of this machinery of "Indentures," though it has a look of being business-like, appears to me to be worthless or delusive. To the employer it affords no security for the service of the child: to the child it affords no protection so long as there is no efficient agency to see to the fulfilment of conditions.

The object avowed both by Miss Rye and Miss Macpherson in settling children in Canada is to place them, if possible, in farm service. The cases in which children are "adopted" by people of the better class may be considered so exceptional as not to call for any particular notice. Those who are so adopted—I saw some of them—appear to be very fortunate indeed. A much larger class are cases of "adoption" with a view to the future service of the child. A good deal has been said and written about such cases, as if this sort of "adoption" were a matter of religious feeling or of sentiment rather than of business. Some such idea seems to have been in Miss Rye's mind when, in 1871, she wrote thus to the Board in reply to their question, what she does with children as young as five or six years old in Canada?—"There are three distinct sets of people who apply to me for the children. 1st. There are those who apply from the very highest motives, viz., pity for orphan children, and a desire to be fellow workers with fellow Christians here who are desiring to lessen the amount of sin and suffering among children in England. This class is limited, but a large class still in Canada, as Christian works are necessarily limited in a country where there is very little sickness, no poverty, or destitution. 2nd. There are those who, having married young, and whose children have followed their example, find themselves at comparatively an early age, say 45, childless and alone in life with more than they want in every sense of the word, to whom a young child in the house is a boon and a blessing. 3rdly. There are those who require children on account of their services, and who willingly take them on account of their future usefulness." From my observation, and from inquiries that I have made, I am afraid that those who apply for children "from the very highest motives" are a very small class indeed. I think the first and second class of applicants taken together may be dismissed as really not providing for more than about ten per cent. of the young children who are sent out. There is indeed a very large class in Canada "who require children on account of their services, and who willingly take them on account of their future usefulness." In Canada it is as easy, as one of these good people expressed it, "to feed a child as a chicken," and that being so, "in view of their future usefulness," but without any thought of "lessening the amount of sin and suffering among children in England," there is great readiness on the part of farmers and others to "adopt" in other words, to take into their service, children of tender years. Although I believe this is generally done as a matter of business, the very young children so adopted by farmers are usually treated with kindness, becoming practically members of the