

“conduct and intelligence both indifferent.” This girl when in Canada was “bound for service,” and although “bound” was “returned as too young, “dirty, and obstinate.” This child has been in 10 different places, in one of which she was kept “just 24 hours.” She had been in an hospital at Toronto, and examined “as to the state of her brain, not considered bad enough for “confinement.” She is now in the “Home,” and Miss Rye writes, “either an “incorrigibly naughty girl or else a semi-lunatic: such a girl should never have “been allowed to emigrate.”

437. J. T.—This child was taken to Canada in 1871 and “adopted.” Her character in the workhouse before she left was “not good.” She was returned by the person who adopted her for insubordination; she was upon one occasion “locked up for safety;” she is now in her ninth place, where she is “doing a “little better at last, under threat of being sent to a reformatory if returned to “the ‘Home’ again.” Miss Rye describes her as being “an indescribably “naughty and aggravating girl, with plenty of capability.”

453. G. P.—Miss Rye saw this girl at the workhouse before taking her out; she now writes of her, “decidedly below par, intellectually; ought never to have “been sent.” She is in her fourth place.

These cases, to which, however, I could add very many more of a similar character, are, I think, sufficient to prove that pauper children of advanced years, who are taken out to be immediately placed in service in Canada, are collected without regard to special fitness, and are, from whatever cause, unsuited for such a mode of life.

As to the second objection, I must repeat here what I said in my report, that the conditions under which the children are placed in service are far too unfavourable to them. In no other way can one account for the eagerness of Canadian employers to get them, and the unwillingness of the working people in Canada to send their own children into service upon the same terms. Nor is it easy to understand why managers do not avail themselves of those “splendid “homes” that are spoken of for the children who may be found in such numbers in the various charitable institutions of the chief cities of the Dominion. With every wish to abstain from making statements at which any class of people in Canada could reasonably take offence, I must repeat, without qualification, what I said in my report, that “there are few boards of guardians in England, “who would not feel indignant if fully aware of the light in which the children “sent out by them are too often presented to the people of Canada.” “Starvelings,” and “Miss Rye’s guttersnipes,” are expressions that I find upon my notes applied to these children in my hearing. Nor can Miss Rye be acquitted of having some share in aggravating this evil, notwithstanding her assurance that she is ever “moved by Divine love and compassion for my own little “ones.” When I complain, for instance, of the filthy condition in which children are sometimes sent into service, her prompt published reply is, “This is too “true, and as we get the children chiefly from the workhouses, this cannot be “very much wondered at.” Nor does she hesitate to publish, and allow to be circulated in Canada, the letter of a foolish and insolent correspondent, who “only has to say, for the benefit of Poor Law Guardians, that my dogs have “more good fresh meat than any poorhouse child ever had.” I refer to such statements simply as illustrating the sort of impression that has been produced in Canada with reference to these children, and of the existence of which I had abundant evidence in my intercourse with persons of all classes. Nor, it must be said, is Miss Rye even now, after attention has been called to the subject, at much pains to mitigate or soften such adverse impressions. What object can that lady propose to herself in printing and publishing, as she does in her letter to you, such a story as this: “On one occasion, when we were leaving the Mersey, “and slowly steaming away, while the other passengers were waving their handkerchiefs and raising a true English cheer for the dear old land they were “leaving, my large crowd of workhouse children took up the strain from the “other passengers almost before it had ceased, and burst into a long, loud, and “terrible groan, and ‘three groans for England’ were raised and given before “I had power to gain silence.” If indeed such be the feeling that these children carry out to Canada, boards of guardians may feel assured that the fewer of them that are sent there the better, for in no other part of the world would this juvenile cargo of ingratitude and disloyalty to “the dear old land they “were