

tions and agencies at work for reclaiming these poor wandering, neglected children, I believe that no more ready, practical, efficient, or economical means of effecting the object could be devised than that being carried out at the Institution under the management of Miss Macpherson and her sisters. These young emigrants are, in almost all cases, well cared for by the Canadian farmers,—the youngest they gladly adopt, and bring them up as if belonging to the family. By their early training, the boys gain an intimate knowledge of the peculiar habits, and necessities of Colonial life, which those who go out at a more advanced age, with fixed home-notions, and prejudices, are seldom found to acquire.

For the suppression of crime, and the support of the poor,\* vast sums are now appropriated to the maintenance of prisons, reformatories, and workhouses, while it is proved by experience that restrictive laws, and vigilant surveillance, have failed to control, in any great degree, those classes devoted, by habit and profession, to habitual crime. Does it not seem, therefore, like beginning at the right end to cut off at its source the supply to those classes, by rescuing from their perilous condition the large number of vagrant children, not yet actually criminal, but hovering on the verge of criminality, and whom, having once embarked on a criminal course, there is so little hope of reclaiming?

But it will probably be said that, since the establishment of School Boards, the necessity of providing Homes of Refuge for those destitute Children of the Streets is no longer necessary, as they will have been swept into their Schools. The reply to this is, that, notwithstanding the compulsory powers of the School Boards, it would appear by their own admission, that with all their elaborate machinery, there still remains a large margin of

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\* Pauperism and crime cost England alone more than £15,000,000 every year,—a large percentage of the poor must be able-bodied men and women, and children. Would not some portion of the great sum required for their support be wisely expended in securing homes for them where, without much difficulty, they could support themselves, and increase, in time, the resources of the country they make their home, by their own industry?