

“during their confinements, all I can say is, she must think so, for I certainly shall never do it; and if Mrs. Barclay instead of writing insulting letters to me, repeating village gossip, would open a Home for the ‘Orphan’ and the ‘Fatherless,’ about whom she so pathetically writes, I think it would be much more to the purpose, and probably you will let me send her the next such case that I hear of. At any rate, I am thoroughly ashamed of anyone, who like your wife, can make a profession of Christianity, and yet be as wickedly spiteful and malicious as she is to—

“Mr. Barclay, 71 Seventh-street, Buffalo.”

“Yours truly,  
“*Maria S. Rye.*”

“P. S.—I just remember that we have in the Home, an incorrigible ‘orphan and fatherless’ girl, for whom we have found 10 good homes. On my return to Niagara I shall send her by express to Mrs. Barclay, and no doubt she will be delighted to welcome her.”

Whatever may be the merits of that case, I do not think that any person of good feeling and good sense should be satisfied to leave these emigrant children with no better protection than is afforded by the “supervision” of the writer of that letter. The circumstances under which the girl is alleged to have made the confession and signed the paper referred to by Miss Rye are, if authentic, most discreditable to all parties concerned.

In accounting, or trying to account, for cases of children “lost sight of,” Miss Rye has a peculiar way of dealing with facts. Assuming that her responsibility ceases when the girl has attained the age of 18, she either directly questions the age as given by the Board of Guardians, or seeks to convey that the age of 18 was attained at the time that the child was “lost sight of.” Thus Harriet Howell, from the Alverstoke Union, certified as being 10 years old in 1871, is assumed by Miss Rye to be “nearly 18” in 1875. In the “Synopsis” this child is described as “a second edition of *Potiphar’s wife*—an incorrigible.”

Mary Jane Green (222), Miss Rye states, “Girl 19 years old.” It appears, however, that she was 13 years old in 1870. “Had a child in 1874.” So that although she may be “19 years old now,” she can have been barely 17 when she became a mother.

Mary McNulty, reported by the authorities of the Bristol Workhouse as “industrious and well conducted,” is reported by Miss Rye in the “Synopsis” as having “thrown herself on the town.” “Girl 20 years old.” She may have been 20 years old at the date of Miss Rye’s letter to you, but she could not have been yet 18 when she “threw herself upon the town.”

Alice Parsons was 15 when taken to Canada, and “bound for service” in 1871. “Replaced herself” the following year, 1872, when she would be 16. That was all Miss Rye could tell me about her, though she is now able to add, “Girl 20 years old.” Possibly 20 years old now, or at the date of Miss Rye’s letter to you, but barely 16 when “lost sight of.”

Another easy way of accounting for a similar class is to take the initials that I have given of particular cases to look out for successful cases that the same initials will fit, and thus imply that I have misrepresented the facts. For example, I have given the initials M. C. as the case of a child who has changed places several times, and whose address is not known. Miss Rye chooses to convey that M. C. stands for Mary Anne Craddock, and refers you to Synopsis 708, where, of course, you will find that the address of Mary Anne Craddock is known, and that the child is doing well. Why should Miss Rye suggest that the initials M. C. represent Mary Anne Craddock, rather than Mary Anne Cook (No. 14), lost sight of in 1874: Or Mary Anne Campbell, also lost sight of? Or Maria Cooper (No. 985), brought out to Canada and placed in service in 1873, but address not known in 1874. Why again should Miss Rye suppose that the initials C. C., whom I described as having “left her second place a year ago, present address not known,” represent Catherine Cousens, who is still in her first place, and “doing well,” rather than Charlotte Crowley, of whom Miss Rye could give me no information, though I had been told by Mr. Robson, that after some negotiation, she had just consented to pay one-third of the expense of sending the girl to the United States, to avoid the scandal of her being confined of an illegitimate child in the neighbourhood of her place of service—where by the way the poor creature, whose story is a sad one indeed, died in childbirth. The initials E. W. do not, as Miss Rye would assume, represent Emma Western. Why pitch upon that particular name, which does not

answer