

PAUPER CHILDREN (EMIGRATION TO CANADA).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 27 July 1877;—for,

COPY “ of LETTER addressed by Miss *Rye* to the President of the Local Government Board, referred to in Mr. *Doyle's* Reply thereto, of the 14th day of May last, already presented.”

Local Government Board, }
2 August 1877. }

JOHN LAMBERT,
Secretary.

THE EMIGRATION OF PAUPER AND OTHER CHILDREN TO CANADA.

To the Honourable *Sclater-Booth*, President of the Local Government Board.

Sir,

December 1876.

At last I have the honour of placing before you my papers and figures relating to the children whom I have between the years 1869 to 1874 (both inclusive) taken to Canada from various workhouse schools in England, and from this “Home,” from which I date.

The long delay that has elapsed since the appearance of Mr. Doyle's Report upon my work, and this my answer to the same, demands an explanation.

The apology and the explanation are both contained in the papers I now lay before you.

Time and labour, a long time and constant labour, have been needed for one pen to collect and arrange such a mass of information as I now offer for your consideration. Moreover, as all ships, no matter how well appointed, or how strong, stagger under sudden storms and cross seas, even when clever captains command and strong men stand at the helm, so I staggered for a long, long time, and grew more than sick at heart when your Inspector's words, written in England, so absolutely reversed his *vivá voce* declarations made while in Canada about this work, not only to myself, but also to many and influential friends in Canada.

Some months, Sir, had to elapse before I could see any sense in endeavouring to establish facts as well known in Canada as that night succeeds day, or the mortality of mankind, and I should quietly have left my post in despair had I not at length fully realised the great injustice done to the hundreds of Canadian families who have equally with myself struggled with and for these poor little pauper children. (I need not say anything about the injustice done to myself, for the great glory of all true work is that *in* the keeping of His commands THERE is the reward, and a thousand Mr. Doyles could not touch me upon that point.)

Now I suppose no criticism is so severe as that which it is possible for us to apply to our own labours, and no questioning so keen as the scrutiny by which we query a creation of our own. I am thankful now that I have tested my work to the very uttermost, for in the testing it I have found that the heart of Canada is with me, and that the capabilities of the expansion of the work are even greater than I had previously imagined.

The great point which I find so difficult to make you, your predecessors in office, and the general public understand, is the class of Canadian men and women who come forward to take our children. If you could only understand and realise the substantial, orderly, comfortable, and well-established class of people who are the custodians of these children in Canada you would the better understand the enormous boon you are placing within their reach, and why I think inspection of the children of comparatively so small moment, and the