

EMIGRATION OF PAUPER CHILDREN TO CANADA.

Llandulas, Abergele,
1st December 1874.

SIR,

IN compliance with your instructions I have inquired into the system of emigration of pauper children to Canada under the supervision of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye, and have the honour to submit, for your information, the result of the investigation that you directed me to make.

In this Report I propose to refer briefly to the system of emigration originally conducted by Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye; then to state

The circumstances under which pauper children came to be included in it;

The mode in which children of both classes are collected and sent out to Canada;

The arrangements for their conveyance from England to their destination and for their subsequent reception in the Dominion;

The mode of placing them out in service;

The conditions under which they are so placed;

The nature of the service and character of the Homes in which the children are placed;

The character and extent of the supervision subsequently exercised over them; and

I shall then, in conclusion, take leave to call your attention to what appear to me to be defects in the detailed arrangements of this scheme of emigration, and to submit to you such general remarks as occur to me upon the system generally and upon the results of it, so far as they may be judged of from an experience that as yet covers a period of barely four years.

The Report which I submit to you is founded upon statements of Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye as to the character of a large class of the children who are sent out as emigrants and as to the way in which they are collected; upon personal inspection and inquiry as to the arrangements for their conveyance from England to their destination; upon inquiry made at the several Homes as to the present position and past career of every pauper child who has been sent to Canada under the care of Miss Rye and Miss Macpherson; upon visits to about four hundred children, "arab" and pauper, widely distributed through the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario; upon correspondence with several employers; upon visits to schools; and upon personal communication not only with the children and their employers, but with people of all classes. By such means I have endeavoured to carry out your instructions, and to put before you the result of a sufficiently full and, I believe, quite impartial examination of the system. The difficulties of such an inquiry were very great. The information afforded to me at the Homes, notwithstanding the willingness of those in charge of them to give it, was very incomplete. The whole of that information, such as it is, I have arranged separately for your inspection. The task of visiting the children at the houses of their employers was most difficult and laborious. I had frequently to drive forty or fifty miles a day through a rough country to