

I am persuaded, sir, that the visit at an early period of a judicious friend, who took an interest in her, might have saved that child from the trouble that I greatly fear is in store for her, as such visits might have saved Annie McMaster and other children from the fate that has befallen them. Before you read Miss Rye's account of this child in her "synopsis," I would ask you to look, in confirmation of my view, at this short letter, addressed to her brother in England not very long since:—

"Dear Edward,—I take the greatest pleasure in writing to you these few lines, as I suppose that you have long been expecting a letter from me, but you must please pardon my neglect; give my best love to darling Willie, and tell him that I feel very anxious about him; I hope that both of you may see better days to come; I hope my dear sister Jane has been to see you, and I hope, dear, that you are improving in your lessons, as I feel very anxious about you. I have been very sick for a long time, as the winter has been very cold, but summer has been very warm, and I hope in time to come, that I may be able to take you both out of the poorhouse, but I can think nothing more now, but perhaps, in my next letter, I may have more to say.

[Then follow some childish verses.]

"My pen is bad, my ink is pale,

"My love for you will never fail."—And so on.

"Your affectionate Sister,

"Mary Ford."

Here is what Miss Rye says of Mary Ford in her "synopsis":—"Mary Ford, 15. Bound for service, 1st place, Mr. Dallas, Wellington-street, Hamilton, returned; girl unmanageable, mistress impertinent. 2. Mrs. Sorby, Rice Lake, Ontario; girl returned, absolutely unmanageable; ran away from the 'Home,' returned to Mrs. Sorby, who sent her back (some 60 miles) by a confidential servant; replaced. 3. Mrs. Bayly, Oakville; returned to the 'Home' since my return to England; an unmanageable, ill-conditioned girl, who ought never to have been sent abroad. Illegitimate. One year-and-a-half in workhouse school. Doing very badly in 1875." That case in all its circumstances, is not an unfair illustration of the method and the consequences of Miss Rye's system of supervision." [The name of this child is erroneously placed by Miss Rye amongst the Bristol children.]

The particulars of another case which occurred after I left Canada, indicates very clearly the hardships to which children may be exposed, and the sort of protection that is afforded to them. Towards the close of 1875, an American lady, Mrs. Barclay, of Buffalo, accidentally heard that a girl named Charlotte Williams, who had been brought out to Canada by Miss Rye, was an inmate of the poorhouse at Lockport. Mrs. Barclay saw her, and was informed by her that she had been placed in service with a farmer, a neighbour and friend of Miss Rye, that she continued there for three years and two months, when she was discovered to be pregnant. (It is not necessary at present to repeat the particulars of the case as they are detailed by Mrs. Barclay, and by a Mrs. Campbell, the wife of a dissenting minister in Niagara, further than to say that Miss Rye's "presumption" as to the paternity of the child was considered to be more than doubtful.) Mrs. Barclay states that she wrote to Miss Rye, a perfectly civil note, in which she expressed regret "that though rightfully dismissed, some shelter had not been found for the orphan girl other than an "American poorhouse." The only notice taken of Mrs. Barclay's communication was the following letter addressed to Mrs. Barclay's husband by Miss Rye:—

"Sir,

"11 October 1875.

"Are you aware that your wife is constantly interfering and annoying me with absurd letters concerning matters about which she really knows nothing? Will you kindly tell me how long I am to bear this nonsense, and why I am subjected to this interference? The last letter I have received is about a girl, named Charlotte Williams, aged nearly 18 years of age, who confessed to me before witnesses, and signed a paper to that effect, that she had had criminal connection with three men (I can give you their names if you wish them), one of them a coloured man, and we presume the father of her child, and she certainly left her last situation in the night in his company, and was seen driving about with him all round Niagara afterwards." [This black man may not have been quite so black as Miss Rye would paint him, for I observe that Mrs. Campbell, the minister's wife, writes to her friend Mrs. Barclay underlining the announcement with exculpatory emphasis, "*The child is born white.*"] "If Mrs. Barclay thinks that I am to turn my Home into a bad house for the reception of such girls