

"house." As yet at least the object then proposed has not been attained, so far as Union children are concerned. No Union boy above nine years of age has remained in this Home for a longer period than six months. The average duration of residence would be three months. I should think that the same statement would apply to the arab children. The building appears to have been originally a small farmhouse, to which Miss Macpherson has made considerable additions, providing separate dormitories for boys and girls. The various duties that in these Homes devolve upon the superintendent, are in Blair Athole discharged by Miss Reavell with a degree of zeal, intelligence, and good sense that appear to fully justify the great confidence placed in her by Miss Macpherson. The Home at Niagara has been for four years under the very efficient management of Miss Alloway, who, however, upon her marriage has just left it. There are in this Home a paid matron and servant.

In accordance with the municipal laws of Quebec and Ontario, the children upon arrival in these Provinces come under the absolute parental control of Miss Rye or Miss Macpherson, or of others to whose care they may have been committed by persons who have or are assumed to have authority over them in England. Whether children who are brought to Canada have been legally placed under the care of the persons who bring them is a point left wholly unnoticed by the authorities of the Dominion or of the Provinces. Indeed there appears to be nothing in the laws either of England or of Canada to prevent any person of a philanthropic or speculative turn, who can collect money for the purpose, from gathering any number of "waifs and strays and street arabs," and with their easily obtained consent shipping them to Canada, and through Canada to the States. Acting upon their legal authority, Miss Macpherson and Miss Rye proceed, upon the arrival of the children at the "Homes," to "distribute" them or place them out in service. The mode in which this is done differs somewhat, as do also the conditions of "adoption" or service.

Applications for children are usually made in anticipation of their arrival, and always, I am assured, in excess of the means of complying with them. Applicants for children to Miss Macpherson's Homes are required to send with their application a "recommend," as it is termed, from his or her "minister," and from a respectable resident. Upon the receipt of this "recommend" the application is usually complied with, and an agreement is signed by representatives of Miss Macpherson. A copy of this agreement lettered D. will be found in the Appendix.

In the eastern townships, in which the children from the Knowlton Home are distributed, the applications are sent to and determined upon by Miss Barber. In what may be called the Mid-Western District, which is supplied from the Belleville Home, the applications are disposed of by Miss Bilbrough, and in the Western District the applications to the Galt Home are disposed of by Miss Reavell. In addition to the information furnished in the "recommend" already referred to, the ladies who decide upon the applications have frequently some personal knowledge of the applicants or, as the districts are comparatively speaking small, have the means of making personal inquiry. It will be seen, however, in a subsequent part of this Report, that the persons who place the children out are often either misled or very imperfectly informed as to the character of applicants for children. Miss Rye has only one "Home," that at Niagara, though the area over which her children are distributed is very much larger than that of all the other "Homes" put together, comprising, as it does, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and the whole of the Province of Ontario, extending in