

Before the European nations begin to indulge in hopes of a dark continent made bright by white colonization, they should bethink them of the still vast expanses of productive land that await the hand of skilful, patient toil in this western hemisphere. While our great prairie country is still only dotted here and there with a settler's cottage, it would be the height of folly for England, at any rate, to be encouraging schemes of emigration to the torrid zone. The work to be done in Africa is of another order. To do away with tribal wars, with slavery, with savagery, and to raise the people who have sat so long in darkness to a higher plane of life, while enabling them to appreciate and develop the natural wealth that lies around them, is a task that will benefit the world, while transforming Africa. But for colonization, in any normal sense, by European nations, all but the temperate southern portion of the continent offers no available scope.

OUR NEGLECTED WAIFS.

A meeting took place on the 11th of June in the Royal Albert Hall, London, in which, as well for the subjects discussed as the character of some of the speakers, Canada was not a little interested. It was convoked in connection with the work of Dr. Barnardo in the rescue and training of poor neglected children, gathered off the streets of London or sought out in the homes of the thriftless and the profligate. It was not a meeting of an ordinary nature, called simply for the purpose of reviewing the past and taking counsel as to the future, but was meant to be a sort of exhibition and illustration of the methods pursued and the results attained. There was a large attendance, a number of special invitations having been previously made that the Marquis of Lorne, K.T., formerly Governor-General of Canada, Sir Arthur Blackwood, K.C.B., kinsman of another most distinguished and popular Governor of the Dominion, the Marquis of Dufferin, and the Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, the great pulpit orator of the Baptist Communion, would deliver addresses. Lord and Lady Kinnaird, the Rev. Canon Fleming, the Dowager Countess Cairns, the Rev. Canon Girdlestone, the Rev. Styleman Herring, Col. Moreton, Major Frobisher, and other personages well known from their association with enterprises of charity and benevolence, mainly in connection with emigration, were also present. The proceedings comprised the presentation to the audience in succession of the boys and girls of the institutions under Dr. Barnardo's charge, classified according to age, condition, or occupation, with drill and music, and the passing of several resolutions favourable to the cause of child-rescue. The last issue of "Night and Day" contains illustrations of these groups, as well as portraits of several of the illustrious speakers—the Marquis of Lorne, Mr. Spurgeon, Sir Arthur Blackwood, Canon Fleming, Lord Kinnaird and Mr. Wm. Fowler. The most interesting features of the programme (apart from the speeches) were those which exemplified the character and effects of the industrial and moral education which the young people receive. The musical drill would hardly, perhaps, admit of being classed as either directly moral or directly industrial. Yet it cannot be doubted that it has an important influence in both directions. It is said that children who have been taught music can work more satisfactorily at certain handicrafts—a discovery which was made by those pioneers in educational methods, the ancient Greeks. The appearance of the children—who were of all ages, from helpless infancy to dawning manhood and womanhood—was much admired, and certainly it would be difficult to refute a mass of testimony, as that which was produced on the occasion in favour of the system in vogue.

The Marquis of Lorne, who had participated just a lustre ago in a similar exhibition, spoke of the progress that had been achieved in the interval. When last he lent his aid to Dr. Barnardo's mission, the total income was £60,000 or so. It has since risen to £106,000—which

shows a steady increase. The total number of children who had been taken in and provided for by the several institutions, up to the former date, was 8,000. It was now between 15,000 and 16,000. The last year had been a severe one on the relief agencies, owing to the extraordinary distress that prevailed among the London poor. The Dock and other strikes had also contributed to the depression, and over 109,000 free meals had been given to necessitous children, to homeless adults and other destitute persons, while 21,000 more had been sold at cost price. In the Homes 71,000 destitute children were dealt with. During the year 4,642 boys and girls had been sheltered in the Homes, and on the 31st of December last 3,259 were actually in residence. The whole number emigrated during the year was 503—396 boys and 107 girls. Besides these, 821 were restored to friends, or otherwise settled in life in the United Kingdom. The principle, continued the Marquis, on which the Homes were conducted was that of never rejecting a destitute child—in twenty-four years not a single helpless child being turned away. Altogether 15,600 children had been thus saved from a life of possible shame or crime.

The portion of the Marquis's address in which we are especially concerned is that which treats of the emigration of these children to Canada. During the last few years 4,300 boys and girls have been sent to the colonies—the great majority to the Dominion. As our readers are aware, Dr. Barnardo has established branch Homes in this country—one in Ontario, the other in Manitoba. Last fall, in connection with the Governor-General's western progress, we published a view and description of the latter of these institutions. That they are well managed and that the young people who have the advantage of training in them are, for the most part, so settled as to give them the opportunity of attaining, in due time, positions of competence and thus of becoming useful citizens we have reason to believe. There have, it is true, been occasional complaints, and we saw not long since that they had been renewed in connection with the inquiries of the prison reform commission. How far such complaints have been brought home to the young people of the Barnardo Homes we cannot say, and it would be well that, whenever they are made, they should be definite and accompanied either with proofs or sufficient indications, personal and local, to ensure their being confirmed or refuted. Vague charges are simply columnies. Dr. Barnardo, who has, we believe, been in Canada this season, would doubtless like to know whether in any, and, if so, how many instances, the training received at the Home has proved incompetent, once the boys are removed from its stricter supervision, to prevent their yielding to temptation. One thing is lamentably certain—the number of boys—mere children sometimes—who, for offences of various kinds, are sentenced to terms of imprisonment in our gaols and penitentiaries, is deplorably on the increase. The officers—governors, chaplains and physicians—of those establishments have again and again protested against the inhumanity of dooming mere boys to consort with criminals of the deepest dye, and thus to be apprenticed to a career of crime. What seems to us inconsistent, short-sighted and unpatriotic to an extraordinary degree, is that, while we commend these Homes of Dr. Barnardo and extol their influence for good on the little waifs of London and other English cities, we never dream of adopting a like plan for the rescue of the constantly increasing number of our own poor little homeless, or worse than homeless, children, but leave them to the tender mercies of criminal associates, the police and the magistrate. There is not, we believe, in all Canada, a single institution for guarding and training Canadian boys and girls in the same merciful principle that Dr. Barnardo applies to the street arabs and waifs of the metropolis.

We knew, of course, that Dr. Barnardo's methods have not escaped criticism. He has been accused, not merely of excessive zeal in the rescue of unfortunate children, of defying the law rather

than risk the perdition of the helpless child exposed to evil influences through wicked or reckless parents, but also of carrying on a systematized proselytism. At least one case, which lends colour to such a charge has come before the courts this year. With these charges we have nothing to do except in so far as they may place Canada unconsciously in the position of an accessory. But surely we might adopt what is undeniably good in Dr. Barnardo's system without copying its defects or excesses. What is there to prevent us establishing Homes on the same humane and generous plan? For never, we believe (as men like Lord Lorne, Sir Arthur Blackwood, Canon Girdlestone and Mr. Fowler have so gladly testified), have children, taken from the haunts of misery, been more tenderly dealt with than in Dr. Barnardo's nurseries and training homes. Therein he has set an example (religious prejudice apart) which Canada might profitably follow.

MR. BLAINE'S PRETENSIONS.

Mr. Blaine has been doing his best to make those who deprecated his return to power as hostile to British interests good prophets. His course on the Behring Sea question has fulfilled their worst fears. His recently published reply to Lord Salisbury reveals a disposition to address asides to the populace of his own country rather than to consider the matter in dispute from the standpoint of law and equity. He has elaborately confused two quite distinct questions—the acknowledged expediency of taking measures (which should, of course, be of an international character) to protect the seals from wanton destruction, and the extent of the jurisdiction of the United States over Behring Sea. He tries to win the sympathy of superficial readers by charging the British Government with an offence *contra bonos mores* for espousing the cause of the Canadian sealers, as though the latter hunted only out of season and were the only persons who did so. At the same time he ignores the known fact that England has all along been anxious to come to an arrangement by which the seals would be safely guarded during their breeding time and their migration to the breeding grounds. Such an agreement ought to have been the first care of the Washington Government as it was, two and a half years ago, the care of Lord Salisbury. The latter was willing, as he informed the American Minister of that date, to conclude an agreement as to the close season, altogether apart from the question of proprietorship. If the sealeries have been injured through lack of proper protection, the fault is Mr. Blaine's.

As to the claim that Behring Sea is a *mare clausum* to the United States, we have already shewn it to be untenable. On general grounds of international law it is wholly inadmissible, and the wording of the treaty on which Mr. Blaine falls back, really gives it no countenance. The Russian edict of 1821 was resented by the United States as well as by England. Mr. John Quincy Adams protested against it in vigorous and unmistakable language. Mr. Blaine wishes it to be believed that Mr. Adams simply objected to Russia's pretensions to jurisdiction over the whole "Southern" ocean and makes much of Lord Salisbury's omission of the final clause of a quoted paragraph. But the clause in question clearly referred only to the ordinary territorial jurisdiction north of the 55th degree, and certainly never contemplated a closed sea. Mr. Blaine's interpretation is a novelty, for which he will find no support in any of the great commentators on international law. The treaty of 1824, between Russia and the United States, and that of 1825, between Russia and Great Britain, removed all doubt on that point. In 1842 the Russian American Company applied to its own government for cruisers to prevent United States whalers from entering Behring Sea, but Count Nesselrode's prompt reply was that the treaty of 1824 made the right of fishing common throughout the whole Pacific.

If the Russians, then, brought no such right with Alaska, on the transfer of the latter to the