

of Guardians would not be justified in allowing the children, for whom they are responsible, to be mixed up and disposed of indiscriminately with these "Arab" children for whose welfare Miss Rye as well as Miss Macpherson are mainly interested. Of what these ladies have done, and are endeavouring to do, for that class of children it is impossible to speak too highly. Assuming that there is no exaggeration in the accounts that are given of the state out of which these children are "rescued," no person who has not seen them in their Canadian homes can realise the contrast between the past and present condition of a large number of them. But there remains a very considerable proportion indeed to whom the change is simply of country and climate, not of habits and character. No one can mix with the people, listen to their unreserved talk about these children, and hear the facts that are stated by them,—and in these respects I believe I have had opportunities not open to Miss Rye or Miss Macpherson or their representatives—without feeling strongly that the system is becoming discredited through the incapacity, unfitness, too often the gross misconduct of many of the children who are sent out. The fact that these children get places, and when they leave them get other places, and manage to keep them for a year or two, must not be taken to prove that their employers are satisfied with them, even while they keep them. So great is the demand for the sort of service that even young children can render, that, as I have often heard it expressed, "we must put up with anything." The conditions of service too are generally so much in favour of the employer, that in consideration of getting cheap labour he may be willing to "put up" with serious faults of character and conduct. However that may be, it is certain that there is much greater dissatisfaction with these children, though it may not be as yet very openly or very generally expressed, than probably Miss Rye or Miss Macpherson are aware of. This feeling arises, I am sure, in a great measure from the fact that children are sent out who are wholly unfit for the position into which they are suddenly thrown.

No child, boy or girl, of the age of say 12 years or upwards, ought to be put out to service in Canada unless after two or three years preliminary industrial training. For girls that training should be, if possible, in the families of Canadian householders. To gather children of that age off the streets, or to accept them from guardians without satisfactory assurance of their fitness for service, and to send them out to take their chance of finding those "splendid homes" in Canada that are written about, is really to do serious injury to the children, and to permanently prejudice a system of emigration that, if properly organised, might effect infinite good to the Dominion if not to England.

The mode of removing these children from England to Canada would be less open to objection than it is if they were not brought out in such large numbers at a time. Parties of about 50 would be much more manageable on board ship, on that tedious and fatiguing journey from Quebec to their destination, and above all in the placing of them out in service. I have already stated that the party (150) whose departure from Liverpool with Miss Rye I witnessed was under the charge of a matron, who appeared to be a kind and intelligent woman. But her duties, children who came out under her care told me, did not involve the sort of service of which children under such circumstances stand most in need. Nor would the attendance of one person, even if wholly given to so large a number of children, mostly girls, be sufficient. Describing her first passage out with a hundred boys, Miss Macpherson speaks of "nearly all the lads being very sea sick" for the first few days. "They lay like herrings in a barrel around the funnel on