

my call upon you to assist in introducing a system by which you might secure a respectable class of female immigrants. To discover a way of securing to Canada such desirable immigrants has been one object of my mission to Europe. I had felt persuaded for a long time that the Continent could sooner serve you than England, because in England the wages paid are even higher than those given in Canada, and the object a woman has in view when she emigrates is to better her condition. In France people do not emigrate. In Germany and Switzerland there are many provinces and cantons laboring under a surplus of women, who find it hard to live because the work is badly paid. In Austria, too, there is a superabundance of useful elements which might be most acceptable to the American Continent. It is, therefore, towards the Continent that we must direct our steps. But there is an obstacle to a successful female emigration, and one which has prevented me also from entering at once upon an energetic prosecution of the work, and that is the fact of this, like all other emigration, lying in the hands of the very lowest speculators. During my several voyages from Europe to Canada, I have closely watched the people through whose hands emigrants have to pass; the houses in which they have to stop on the road. I have learned to know the dangers which are attendant on a girl who undertakes so long a journey, and I have listened to tales of shocking abuse of this special kind of emigration; the traffic in fact, which is made with women as a purchasable merchandise. Is it to be wondered at, though? Whom has a woman to apply to for advice in the choice of the country to which she might go? It is the agent or the sub-agent of a shipping firm who will send her to that country, or that person who will pay him the largest commission. Secret agents are continually traversing the Continent, engaging women for evil purposes, while making fair representations of a brighter future, and misery listens to their representations; for "better for worse" they will try the new world—worse than at home it could not be; and, again, who is there in the New World ready to bring them to a protected home? Who gives them the kind word of advice that will lead them and keep them in the right path? Who have they to apply to in cases of imposition or persecution? In Europe, the police have introduced some superficial measures of protection; but is the destiny of our needy sisters for ever to remain a "police measure? Are we not called upon to know exactly their condition, and are not we to help and protect when help and protection are needed? Would not the condition of these things generally, with regard to women, be a better one if the educated classes had not ignored the fate of the others for generations past, and left the unfortunate ones to the care of the police? In the United States the Castle Garden institution is certainly doing a good deal of useful work, in placing and distributing the arriving immigrants, and in Canada the Government has entrusted the care of them to some efficient agents; but women require more care than agents can bestow, and a more complete system than we have at present must be introduced if female emigration is to be treated with success, and to become a matter of satisfaction to this country. You will, no doubt, admit that I have followed the proper course in trying to engage the attention of our different Ladies' Associations in Europe to the necessity of offering, in the first place, a better protection to the female emigration already going on, as a