

Upon arriving at Quebec the children receive at the emigration sheds such attention as they may seem to require before starting by rail for their respective destinations. The emigrant agent at Quebec, Mr. Stafford, and the officials of the Grand Trunk Railway are always very gratefully spoken of, and most deservedly so, for their uniform attention to these children, as well indeed as to all other classes of emigrants. The children under the charge of Miss Macpherson frequently break the journey at Montreal, a distance of 180 miles. They are lodged upon such occasions at the St. George's Home, an emigrant dépôt in the Côté St. Antoine, formerly under the control, I believe, of Mr. Pell. I visited that establishment, of which all I can say is, that under its present management the shorter the time children are allowed to remain in it the better. There are not, and indeed cannot be, such arrangements for the accommodation and classification of a large and sudden influx of young children as might be reasonably required, even though they stopped for only one night. The journey of Miss Rye's children is sometimes broken at Toronto, where she informed me room is found for them during their short stay at a hotel near the railway station. The children are then sent forward, those of Miss Macpherson to Knowlton, Belleville, and Galt; those of Miss Rye to Niagara. In addition to those distributed by Miss Rye from Niagara, she has also distributed 193 in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, where she has no "Home," the children being consigned to the care of persons in whom she reposes confidence.

Before I refer specially to the several "Homes," I may observe of them all that they are described as being simply "distributing" homes, houses in which the children are received and lodged for a few days pending their being placed out in service.

"The Western Home" of Miss Rye at Niagara is the old gaol of the town, bought for Miss Rye by subscription, and so altered and improved as to be in many respects a suitable building. It is in a healthy position, and is a very cheerful residence. The situation, however, is far from convenient. It is close to the United States frontier, and is at the terminus of only a connecting line of railway. As girls alone are received in it there would be no necessity for arrangements to classify them, provided that the house was only a "distributing" home. But to this, as to the other "Homes," children who, from whatever cause, cannot keep their places are liable to be returned until fresh places can be found for them. Neither in "Our Western Home," nor in Knowlton or Belleville, is there any suitable provision for the reception and employment of children of that class. The necessity of some such provision is freely admitted, though if it were not admitted it would be easy to show, by reference to particular cases, not the inconvenience only, but the evil that arises from the want of such provision. The sleeping accommodation is quite sufficient for 120 children. But for so large a number the offices, washing accommodation, &c. would fall short of the official requirements of an ordinary English workhouse. The house upon the occasion of my visit, which neither here nor to any of the other Homes was unexpected, was in very good order, and scrupulously clean in all departments.

The structural deficiencies that I noticed at Niagara are still more striking both at Knowlton and Belleville. The sleeping accommodation at Knowlton consists of fixed wooden guard-beds one placed above the other—a very objectionable arrangement. Boys as well as girls are received in these "Homes," but beyond the provision of separate sleeping rooms there is no attempt at classification. In Niagara and