

and strong and well equipped to earn my own living. I don't mean to be an idle son of luxury another day as long as I live. To-morrow I strike into an unknown world to try my fortune. If in time I make good, you share it with me, Melinda?" He caught her hands and held them close.

Melinda half opened her lips to speak, but the abrupt entrance of Mr. Branham cut short her words. "Daddy," this is Mr. Richard Barfield. You know his father—"

"Well indeed. And I've already talked to Mr. Barfield about hanging out his shingle in Brookside. I think it'll be a first-rate arrangement."

A glow came to Melinda's face, and in a tone that vibrated through young Barfield's heart, she said: "I hope you will be successful, Dick." The name escaped her unconsciously, and when she recovered from her blushes and looked up, Mr. Branham was gone.

"Was that an answer to my question, Melie?"

"It seems queer that both of us, in less than three months, should have gone from affluence to poverty, doesn't it?" she asked evasively.

"You mean," said Barfield, as he took her to his heart, "from poverty to—riches."

### Children's Shelter at London

Jos. Sanders, Supt. London Shelter.

The value of the work in connection with the various Children's Shelters, is more generally recognized than ever before and meets with approval everywhere. Many new societies have been formed and now nearly every city and town in Ontario has a Children's Aid Society. London is looked upon as the central Society of Western Ontario, being one of the oldest Societies in the Province. It compares favorably with any in existence.

Some may ask, "How is it, that after the Society has been in operation for 15 years, there are still so many neglected and incorrigible children in the community to look after?" There are two answers to this question. One is that there has been a constant influx of strangers to the country, the other is that there have always been cases where the Board felt convinced that the children ought to be removed from their surroundings and the necessary evidence has not been forthcoming and these children are now growing up in circumstances leading them into idle and dissolute ways and are a constant source of trouble. We are forced to the conclusion that we can never rest in the work for children, we can never get through with our task.

The extent of the Society's work can in no wise be judged by the number of children removed from their homes, as it is becoming increasingly manifest that the chief field of operations lies in the adjustment of difficulties in the home that threaten the moral well-being of the child and in endeavoring to restore such conditions

in the home as would make for the child's proper up-bringing.

There were quite a number of neglected and incorrigible children who were taken under my care temporarily and placed in the Shelter Home the past year until such times as the home conditions had improved and the parents had come to a realization of their responsibilities, in cases of incorrigibility, until the boy or girl had been taught a much needed lesson and promised to amend his or her ways.

They were then returned to their homes and nearly always with good results. In many of these cases I have allowed the boy or girl to return home with great hesitation and have insisted that they come to see me once a week for some time afterwards, and the talks which I had with them on these occasions and the advice given has, I believe, helped them to resist the temptations to which they were subject. Children whose parents had been neglected, were likewise returned to them merely on trial and the knowledge of this supervision has resulted in a better care of the child. Indeed it is only after all other means have failed that children are permanently removed from their homes, and in such cases the children are as speedily as possible transferred to foster homes where they will receive the love and care their natural parents could not be induced to give them.

#### PLACING IN FOSTER HOMES.

Many of the Society's wards who were placed in foster homes 10 to 15 years ago are now young men and women who compare most favorably with other young people in the community in which they live. They are bright capable, self-dependent, and a credit to the Society and their foster parents, whereas had they been left in the surroundings from which they were rescued they would now probably be either criminals or dependents upon charity. A goodly number are in fact now married with homes, and in some cases have children, of their own. I have every confidence that these young parents will bring up their children on the good training and instruction which they received in their foster homes.

Thus it will be seen that there is much to encourage us in this work. We are not building for the present alone, because we are building for character, for the future as well as for the present. Every child whose home surroundings are now being improved, every boy and girl whose feet are being guided into the right path, every child being removed from vicious surroundings and placed in happy and respectable foster homes, every homeless little one who is found a home, will one day be an asset instead of a burden to this country, for whose future we hope so much.

Following are some figures which will give an idea of the work done during the year ending November 30, 1908, at the London Shelter.

#### WORK ACTUALLY DONE.

The number of children who passed through the Society's hands during the year was 112. There were in the Society's Shelter Home, at the beginning of the year, 20 children. Wards of the Society in the care of the Sisters of St. Joseph at the beginning of the year, 1; returned from foster homes during the year, 22. City children taken in charge during the year transferred to the Society by parents 14, delivered by the police magistrate 4, taken on remand for police station 7, taken off streets 1, incorrigibles taken at request of parents 4, made ward by resolution of Board of Management 1, transferred from Salvation Army home 1. Total 32.

#### CHILDREN DISPOSED OF.

These children were disposed of as follows: Placed in foster homes for the first time 33, re-placed in foster homes 16, returned to parents or guardians

22, returned to Kent County Children's Aid Society 5, sent to Provincial Superintendent 1, committed to Victoria Industrial School, from city 1, from county 3, runaway Industrial School boy returned to Mimico 1, committed to Alexandra Industrial School, from city 2, from county 13, wards in Protestant Orphan's Home on Nov. 30th, 1908, 2, wards in care of Sisters of St. Joseph on Nov 30th, 1908, 4, in Shelter Home on Nov. 30th, 1908, 20. Total 112.

Of the children placed in foster homes for the first time, 17 were girls and 16 were boys, total 33. The Society has now in foster homes 232 girls and 215 boys, total 447. Since its inception, the Society has had the legal care, charge and guardianship of 695 children. The 447 represents the number at present under its supervision in foster homes, the remaining 248 being either now old enough to look after themselves, or having been returned to the care of their parents or guardians.

The number of children cared for in the Society's Shelter Home in the year was 102, and of these 13 were in twice and two were in three times, making in all a total of 119, counting each one returned as a new arrival. The largest number in the Shelter on any date was 28 and the smallest number at any time was 12. The success in placing homes for the children and the suitability of the children for the homes offered are the factors that influenced these results. The Shelter Home of the Society has been in existence since May 20th, 1899, and since that time has received 706 children.

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## The Upward Look

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man.—James 1, 13.

When we are tempted, as we are all constantly and as we must expect to be continually, it will help us to gain the victory if we will only remember what we are told in God's word about temptation. Temptation assails most of us differently. Some of us are tempted to give way to a bad temper, others to feelings of pride, others to lack of faith in God's promises to provide for all our needs, others to the lusts of the flesh or to the love of strong drink. Sometimes, when we realize that temptation has overcome us and that we have sinned, we are apt to wonder why God tempts us so. We feel that if he loved us he would not put us so much in the way of temptation.

When we allow such thoughts to occupy our minds we make a great mistake. It is not God who tempts us; it is the devil. We must not forget that.

If we do, we have a false and misleading conception of God. The devil is constantly endeavoring to lead us into sin. He tempts us continually to do wrong. Christ ever stands ready to help us to resist the temptations of the devil. He has promised to give us the victory over the devil if we will but ask Him. But! we must be persistent in our asking. Just in proportion as we find that we are tempted by the devil to sin so must we ever be faithful in praying to God for the help we require. Christ, Himself, while on earth, sometimes prayed all night for the strength He

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